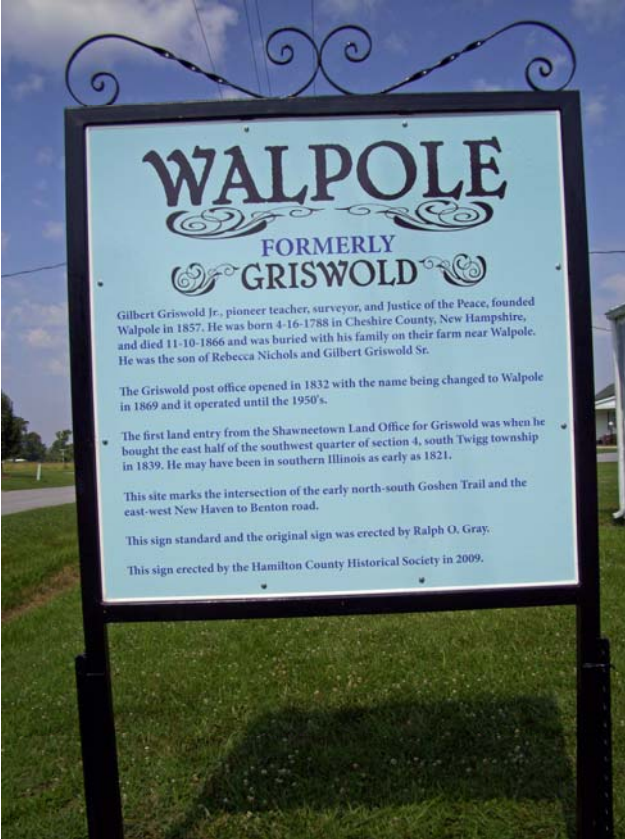


Hamilton County Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2009

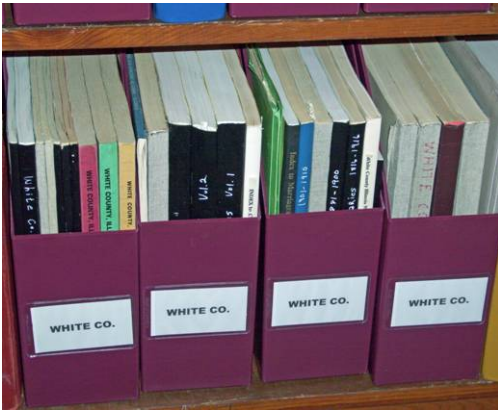


New Historical Signs Erected in 2009!

The Historic Sites Committee erected two signs in 2009. A sign commemorating the formation and history of Walpole was placed on July 9, 2009 in Walpole. A similar sign had been originally erected by Ralph Gray at the same site. The committee also replaced a sign denoting the dwelling of John Anderson as the place where Hamilton County's government was formed and the first officers were elected. The original sign was erected in 1981 near the McLeansboro Reservoir spillway. Many thanks go to Bob Barker, Rick Moore, Ronald Nelson, Dan Chapman, and W.N. Malottke for making these signs a reality. Pictured at right: Ellis Stafford standing next to the original John Anderson sign in the early 1980s.



Genealogy Library Improvements Noted, Family Histories Wanted



Recent patrons have noticed the improved labeling and organization in the genealogy library. The Society has purchased 50 new hard plastic shelf files that can accommodate computer-generated labels. In addition, more than 150 of the family history, general history and cemetery binders have been replaced and uniformly labeled. Many thanks to Doris Nelson for making the labels, Ryan Nelson for donating binders and sheet protectors, and Micki Faruzzi for organizing the materials. We have recently added more than 25 genealogy books from Saline, Gallatin, and

Williamson County. We have more than 100 family histories or genealogies but we could always use more. If you wish to donate your genealogy or family history, please call the McCoy Library at (618) 643-2125. In addition, we have a complete set of “Saga of Southern Illinois” quarterlies from 1974-2002. If anyone has “Sagas” post-2002 they would like to donate, they should call the same number.

Poor Farm Information Needed

Historical Society member Marion Russell is currently seeking more information about the Hamilton County Poor Farm that stood northeast of McLeansboro where Bill Ingram now lives. According to Russell, the Poor Farm existed in the 1800s and continued until the 1950s. Individuals who have information or photographs are encouraged to call Marion Russell at (618) 231-7110.



Historical Society Supports High School Library and Gen. Project



The Historical Society voted to donate \$200 and a hardcover “Obituaries of Hamilton County 1926-1931” to the high school library to acquire books and materials for the “Southern Illinois Collection.” In order to assist high school freshmen in completing their genealogy assignment, the genealogy library maintained Saturday hours during the month of October. In addition, the Historical Society provided access to its extensive school picture collection to help the kids put faces to their ancestors. Pictured at left: Librarian Kenneth Kirkpatrick and Rick Moore, Hamilton County Historical Society President.

Historical Society Plans Cemetery Walk Set for Spring

Preliminary plans are being made to have a cemetery walk in the spring at Odd Fellows Cemetery in McLeansboro. Several volunteers will stand next to designated graves and dress and act as that individual. Date and time will be determined at a later date. For additional information, contact Donetta Reed at (618) 643-3315.

Recent Museum Acquisitions



Gary Burzynski recently donated a photograph and a commemorative booklet featuring Ray Blades. Blades was from Hamilton County and played for the St. Louis Cardinals during the 1920s and 30s and coached for the Cardinals and Cubs following his playing career. Another donation of several H. Allen Smith books came from Ryan Nelson. Smith was a McLeansboro native who had more than 4 million books in print. Titles include “Three Men on Third” “The

Pig in the Barber Shop” “Let the Crabgrass Grow” “Two Thirds of a Coconut Tree” “The View from Chivo” and “Low Man Rides Again.” A scrapbook of school pictures belonging to former teacher Bill Smith was also given to the museum.

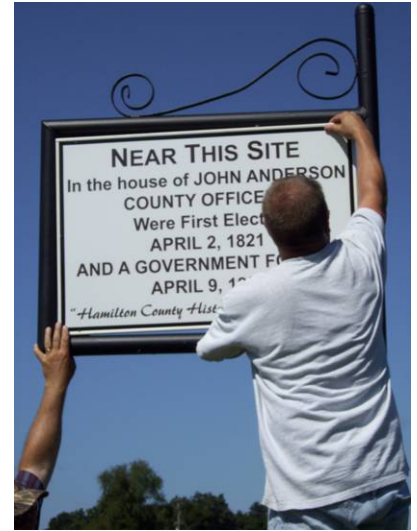
2010 Memberships now being Accepted

If you would like to join the Hamilton County Historical Society or renew your membership for 2010, individual memberships are \$10 per person. Business memberships are \$30 or more per year. Make checks payable to the Hamilton County Historical Society and send to: Doris Nelson, Membership Chair, 409 N. Pearl St., McLeansboro, IL 62859.

2009 Business Members

The Hamilton County Historical Society would like to thank the following businesses for their continued support:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 4-R Equipment | Harre Funeral Home and Ambulance |
| Auten’s Pizza | Hunt’s Hardware and Grocery |
| Banterra Bank | Irvin’s Jewelry |
| Chapman Insurance | Lisa’s Hallmark |
| Farris Family Restaurant | Max Hunt Tank Truck Service |
| Gholson Funeral Home | McDonald’s Restaurant |
| H&R Block | Peoples National Bank |
| Hamilton County Loan | Rapp Cabinets and Woodwork |
| Hamilton County Memorial Hospital District | |



W. N. Malottke, Ron Nelson, Bob Barker, Rick Moore, Dan Chapman

Bob Barker, Dan Chapman, Ron Nelson
Photos by Ryan Nelson



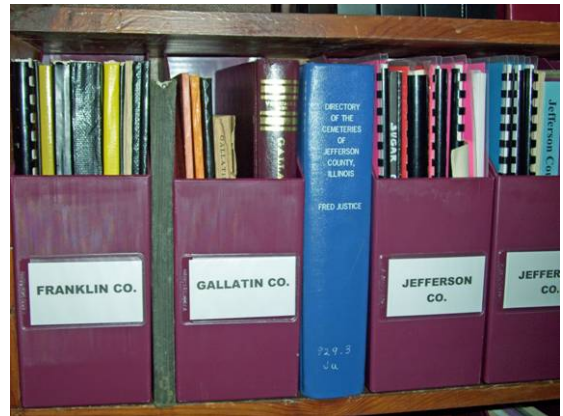
Old Binders



New Binders



Old Shelf Files



New Shelf Files



Family Histories



Some new resources available