
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 21, Issue 2

April - June, 2015



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

PIONEER DAYS FOR WHITE
COUNTY 5TH GRADERS
WITH THE RETIRED
TEACHER'S ASSOC.
MATSEL CABIN
SEPTEMBER 29-30

OCTOBER

CORN DAYS

NOVEMBER

FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

If you missed our Spring Dinner on April 6, you missed a very enlightening program that featured the funeral of Abraham Lincoln. Anthony Fleege, an Associate Professor at SIU-Carbondale, gave us a very interesting presentation on Lincoln's assassination and funeral 150 years ago. We had close to 90 members and/or guests present for the dinner.

From April 27 to May 1 we hosted the 2nd grade tea parties for children in the county at the Robinson-Stewart House. Once again, the tea parties were a resounding success, thanks to Mary McRoy and her army of volunteers that assisted in the event.

Our plant sale on May 2 netted more than \$600 that will be used to help maintain the grounds and garden at the oldest home in Carmi. Barbara Kearney and her team did an excellent job in making this year's sale a huge success.

Next on the agenda will be Pioneer Days for the 5th graders in the county scheduled for September 29-30. Contact me at 618-383-5330 if you would like to help in any capacity.

We are examining the feasibility of opening our museums on a more regular basis. Beginning the first Sunday in August and each Sunday thereafter one of our four museums will be open on a trial basis from 12-4 pm. The schedule will be publicized and expanded if the level of visitor interest warrants it. We will continue to open on Corn Day and provide tours by appointment on other days.

Finally, our membership numbers have been on a gradual decline over the past few years. Member dues and donations are critical to the life and health of our Society, aiding in maintenance related expenses at the museums, and supporting educational programs such as the tea parties and pioneer days. If you have yet to pay your 2015 or prior year dues, please do so. Also, if you have friends or relatives who are not members, encourage them to join.

Again, thank you for your support to the preservation of White County's history. Your ideas on how we can grow the White County Historical Society or improve our programs are always welcome and appreciated.

Gene Jordan, President ✍

NEWS FROM THE MARY SMITH FAY GENEALOGY LIBRARY

by: Librarian Diane Waggoner

PO Box 121, 203 North Church St., Carmi, IL
618-382-8425 email: w.c.h.s-genealogy@hotmail.com
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday - Friday

Story in the Carmi Democrat Tribune:
9-8-1932

Bad Luck Lies On Local Man's Trail

Max Endicott liked to see the ponies run up until Tuesday afternoon, but now he says he is off horse-racing for life-and thereby hangs a story.

Max went to Dade Park Tuesday in company with some friends and as he watched the finish of the race he beamed with satisfaction as he saw his horse go over. He sat on the steps of the grandstand and anxiously watching for the official odds to be posted before cashing his ticket, however, his attention was distracted by a fight just below him, two men scrambling over a ticket. Max got enjoyment out of the short fight for the ducat and called other members of the party to see the fun. His odds were posted, \$4.50 to \$2.00, and Max arose and started down to cash his ticket. He reached in his shirt pocket-but no ticket, then he realized that the fight he had seen had been over his ticket-which brought him no happiness whatsoever.

From then on Max's luck was bad and he didn't have a bit of fun. After the last race, when they went to the car, which had been locked, Max found that the car door had been forced and his new sweater stolen. Wednesday Max didn't like Dade Park nor anybody who had been there.

RESEARCH FEES

If you would like us to do research for you (White County area only), please contact us.
Cost of research is \$15 per hour. Copies are 20 - 25¢ each. Shipping & handling is \$5.

Come and visit us and we will help you do your research at no cost to you, all you pay for is the cost of copies.

LIBRARY NEWS

by: Suellen M. Smith, Library Director

I have had big shoes to fill overseeing the Genealogy Library. Lecta has done such a good job for so many years. Little by little I am getting settled in and having Lecta and Marge Brown still volunteering has made a big difference. Diane is always ready to help do research either by mail or if you want to come in to see her. We have so many good books for sale up there I thought I would just mention a few (and we can mail them to you).

Census Books, Cemeteries, History of Mill Shoals, Enfield, Sketch of Crossville, The Newcomb Family History, Land Grants, Maps, Marriage Books, Veterans, Wills and Court Papers, Yesterday's News, White County and Scrapbook of Clara Mae Hillyard. They vary in prices so if you have a question just call Diane at 1-618-382-8425, She is there Tuesday thru Friday from 11:30 to 4:30.

We recently received a donation of 4 books by Douglas Richardson called "Magna Carta Ancestry". They are really nice research books and we were so glad to receive them.

Have a good summer. ✍

ESTATE GIFTS - SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK

If you would really like to help the White County Historical Society but are not inclined to do so during your lifetime, you may be pleased to know that there are some simple ways to make a gift to the Society through your estate. Following are a few of the simplest and most popular ways to do so.

1. Simply instruct your attorney to name the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary in your will or trust using the language below.
2. List the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement account or tax-deferred annuity. Simply request a "change of beneficiary form" and use the language below to fill it out.
3. Fill out a Transfer of Death (TOD) form where you hold your investments using the language below.
4. Request a Totten Trust form from your bank and list the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary of your account(s), once again using the language below.

"_____ to the White County Historical Society to be used in the ongoing stewardship of its buildings and grounds, the conservation of its artifacts and the continuation of its educational programs."

GENEALOGY QUERY

If you have a query, please send it to the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library and we can add it to the next newsletter.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We know that many of you have stories about a historical event of White County. We would welcome having your story to include in future editions of the White County Historian. Write your story, include your name, and mail it to Mary Smith Fay Genealogical Library at P.O. Box 121, Carmi, IL or email to rshous@gmail.com. Then watch for it in future editions of the newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and promote the historical interest of White County through our stewardship of its artifacts and the historic sites and education programs and exhibits that we provide for its people

VISION STATEMENT

To make the history of White County come alive for the people of White County

MUSEUMS



Ratcliff Inn
218 E. Main Street



The L. Haas Museum
219 E. Main Street



Robinson-Stewart House
111- S. Main Cross Street



Matsel Cabin
East Robinson Street

Our museums, located in Carmi, Illinois, are open on advertised dates or by appointment only:

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ✉ Mailing Address: White County Historical Society
Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library
PO Box 121
203 North Church Street
Carmi, Illinois 62821-0121
- ✉ Email: rshous@gmail.com
- ✉ To make an appointment to visit our museums, contact the librarian at the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library: call 618-382-8425 or email w.c.h.s-genealogy@hotmail.com
- ✉ If you have an item you are interested in donating to the society, contact Suellen Smith at 618-384-5672
- ✉ Comments, suggestions or contributions for the newsletter can be mailed to the address above or to rshous@gmail.com. Please include "newsletter" in the subject line.

AFFILIATIONS

The Society maintains memberships in the following:
 Southern Illinois Association of Museums (SIAM)
 Illinois Association of Museums (IAM)
 American Association of State and Local History (AASLH)
 Illinois Historic Preservation
 Carmi Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERS OF THE 2015 BOARD:

President – Gene Jordan	Judy Cutchin
Vice President - Paula Pierson	Lecta Hortin
Secretary – Ranelle Hubele	Barbara Kearney
Treasurer – Jeff Bohleber	Henry Lewis
David Brown	Mary McRoy
Marjorie Brown	Honorary Member – Kent F. P. Boeger
Cindy Birk Conley	Past President – Suellen Smith