
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 19, Issue 1

January - March, 2013



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SECOND GRADE TEA PARTY
ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE
APRIL 15 - 19

ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE
PLANT SALE
MAY 4, 9 AM - 12 PM

PIONEER DAYS FOR WHITE
COUNTY 5TH GRADERS
WITH THE RETIRED TEACHER'S
ASSOC.

MATSEL CABIN
OCTOBER

FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6 PM, NOVEMBER 4

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from White County Illinois,

We are so happy to be getting a newsletter out again. This is the first one we have done in almost a year, and we hope you enjoy reading it. We welcome all suggestions for improving our newsletter. Send them to any addresses listed below for consideration.

I have learned so many things this past year about our local history. I also discovered we have some very knowledgeable people in the community when it comes to its past. The stories are so captivating and always seem to lead to yet another story. I hope that as you read this newsletter you will remember a story from the past and will share it with the society perhaps through our newsletter. I would hate to see those local anecdotes slip away because they were not shared.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank Kristin Land for her wonderful work on this newsletter. She volunteered for the big job of getting us up and running again; and, she certainly has succeeded. She is one of our young and well-informed members. That is a great combination. Thank You, Kristin, for all your hard work.

Enjoy reading this newsletter, and let us hear from you.

Paula Pierson, President ✍

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

David & Lisa Cowling & Family - Grayville
Gene & Diana Jordan - Carmi
Joe & Rose Newcomb - Norris City

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

Interesting Obituaries from "Gone But Not Forgotten" Books 1 & 2

- 7-27-1855 The King of Spain roasted to death while his attendents (sic) were debating whose duty it was to remove him from the fire.
- 10-11-1893 Joseph L. Cornelius, while insane, crawled into a hospital furnace and was cremated.
- 5/2, 9, 16 Seven children of Rev. Benjamin and Mary Helm Hutchins, Albion, have died in the
-1857 last two weeks, and the remaining two children are ill with malignant scarlatina.
- 7-2-1914 William R. Austin, 70, Shelbyville, died of complications of diseases, said by specialists who conducted a postmortem to have been caused by a small snake which lived in his stomach for more than three years. Austin coughed up the snake last Feb. and since that time has been on the decline. He is supposed to have drunk in the field where he was accustomed to drink while working his farm.
- 10-11-1893 Eliza Dent, cld., Paris Ky., and Houston Kelly, cld., killed by unknown party by placing a dynamite cartridge between them.

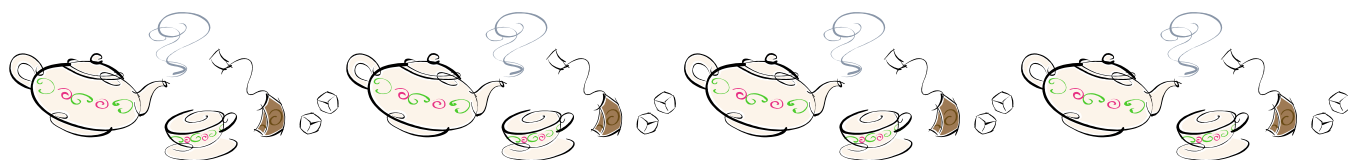
Story found in Genealogy Family Files:

A boy named Truman worked for a farmer that complained all the time. One day when the farmer was complaining he said that he wished someone would just shoot him and put him out of his misery. Truman spoke up and said he would be glad to do the job if that was really what he wanted. The farmer said yes, so they got the rifle, loaded it and went to the apple orchard out back. Truman selected an apple tree with a suitable crotch in the trunk, wedged the old man's head firmly in the crotch to hold it steady, backed off a short distance, took careful aim and fired a few inches above and to one side. The old fellow almost tore his ears off yanking his head out of the fork of the tree. ✍

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.



SECOND GRADE TEAS AND TOURS

The Historical Society is preparing for the annual second grade Teas and Tours at the Robinson Stewart House. This will be the eleventh year that the society has hosted this event for all the second graders in White County. The Teas will be held April 15 to 19 at the Robinson Stewart House. The students will get to tour the house and garden and learn some local history. They will then take their seats in the parlor of the Robinson Stewart House where they will have a story and discussion on manners. Then there will be a short discussion on the history of tea. Then tea is served to the students by the hostess at each table. As the students enjoy their tea and snacks, their hostess engages them in "polite conversation" at each table. The students are told that Mary Jane Stewart, whose parlor their sitting in, loved to entertain her friends with tea parties so the Historical Society likes to entertain the children with tea parties. This has become a very popular event for students teachers, and volunteers. If you are interested in joining in the fun, just call Marjorie Fechtig at 380 2106. ✍

ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon in the backyard of the White County Historical Society's Robinson-Stewart House on Main Cross in Carmi. All proceeds from the sale go toward landscaping the grounds of the Robinson-Stewart House. The House will be open for tours & refreshments will be served.

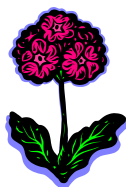
We are in need of plants and seeds to sell

Perennials are plants that return each year. Many will multiply over time and need to be divided. Herbs can be divided as well as flowering perennials. Many ornamental trees & shrubs will sprout under the original plants. If you have any plants that need to be thinned, please dig them before the sale & pot them in disposable containers. Label them and bring the plants to the backyard of the R-S House the week before the sale. If you are not able to dig the plants & pot them, please call Lana Anselment at 384-5320 or Barb Kearney at 382-8170.

Perennials that divide easily:



Iris
Lilies
Hosta
Mint



Vinca
Ornamental
grasses
Peonies



Primrose
Cannas
Gladiolas



to name a few..... ✍

SPRING DINNER MEETING

The annual spring dinner was held on March 4 at the First Christian Church. Tom Emery, an historical research and writer from Carlinville, Illinois, presented the program: Eddie: Lincoln's Forgotten Son. Long overlooked by the many scholars of Abraham Lincoln, Eddie's brief life of less than 4 years and sorrowful death in 1850 had a profound impact on the lives of both of his parents. He discussed a wide array of topics relating to Edward Baker Lincoln, the often overlooked second son of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. Topics included:

- the personal lives of the Lincoln's
- the effect of the boy's death on his father's religious views
- the effect of the loss of Eddie on his mother's mental instabilities
- the maligning of Mary Lincoln in popular history and belief
- myths and key topics surrounding the Lincoln home life
- the lives of the Lincoln's before his Presidency, the Civil War, and White House years

Mr. Emery has sixteen books and booklet titles in print and writes a bi-weekly newspaper column on Illinois in the Civil War. ✍

NOTES FROM MARCH 13 BOARD MEETING

by: Ranelle Hubele, Secretary

White County Historical Society Board of Directors met Tuesday, March 12 at the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library. The meeting was conducted by President, Paula Pierson with nine Board members present.

Lecta Hortin, chairman of the genealogy library, reported the Library was open 72 hours in February with 15 visitors and 5 letters received. There were 2 volunteers at the Library who contributed a total of 82 volunteer hours.

Paula Pierson, also membership chairman, reported that 10 memberships have been renewed and dues money is still being accepted. She reported two new members at Family Level: Gene and Diana Jordan. Membership forms are available at Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library which is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and at H.D. Bean Jewelers in Carmi. Dues can also be mailed to White County Historical Society at P.O. Box 121, Carmi.

Suellen Smith furnished a follow-up report from the Spring Dinner Meeting and a communication from the speaker, Tom Emery. Mr. Emery acknowledged the friendly welcome and the avid interest of the audience.

The Education report from Marjorie Fechtig confirmed the Tea Parties planned for all second grade students in White County during the week of April 15. Each second grade classroom has received an invitation with a specific time, and volunteers are needed to help host these events. A Tea Party Planning Meeting of volunteers will meet on Tuesday, March 26 at 10 a.m. at the Robinson Stewart House. Volunteers should call Marjorie at 380-2106.

The Board continues to pursue a way to publish the old family letters from the Robinson Stewart House which have been transcribed. ✍

CARMI LIONS CLUB 6TH ANNUAL CAR, TRUCK & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

July 4 at the White County Fairgrounds
Suellen Smith will have a table set up from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Floral Hall for the Historical Society to sell Christmas ornaments, cook books, books from the Genealogy Library and other items. ✍



DEFINITIONS

Have you ever seen the following in old letters or documents? Do you know what they mean?

<i>on the 5th ultimo</i>	<i>on the 15th inst.</i>	<i>on the 20th proximo</i>
on the 5th ultimo	on the 15th inst.	on the 20th proximo



All are adverbs of Latin origin.

Ultimo means "of, or occurring in the month preceding the present".

Inst. (short for instant) means "the present or current month".

Proximo means "of, or during the next month".

(Sources: dictionary.com, merriam-webster.com) ✍

GENEALOGY QUERY

If you have a query, please let us know 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.

ABOUT US

Read more "about us" in our next issue.

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 618-382-8435 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 2013 BOARD:

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

White County Historical Society
PO Box 121
Carmi, IL 62821
Membership Information

Welcome To All: Renewing and New Members of the White County Historical Society

Through your membership in the White County Historical Society you will be assisting in the promotion and preservation of our history through a variety of fun and educational programs.

We are strongly encouraging our members to provide us with an email address. With this address we can keep in touch faster and our newsletter will reach you in a more timely fashion. With printing and postage cost rising each year your email will assist us in better budgeting of our money. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.... we will not share it with others.

We welcome everyone and we thank you in advance for your support!

Paula Pierson
Membership Chr.

2013 Membership Form

- () Life Member.....\$1000 () Sustaining Member.....\$50
(one time payment)
- () Contributing Member.....\$500 () Family Member.....\$35
- () Patron.....\$100 () Individual\$25

New Member _____

Renewal Member _____

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____