
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 21, Issue 1

January - March, 2015



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
APRIL 6, 6PM

SECOND GRADE TEA PARTIES
ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE
APRIL 27 - MAY 1

ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE
PLANT SALE
MAY 2

OCTOBER
CORN DAYS

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

NOVEMBER
FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

The White County Historical Society is a team comprised of many people dedicated to preserving our county's history. We could not maintain our museums and programs without your support and involvement.

We experienced a problem with the heating and air conditioning system ductwork in the west wing of the Robinson-Stewart house in February prompting professional repair. The repairman suggested during his replacement of the bad ductwork that some of the undamaged and working ducts be reinsulated. David Brown and I obtained insulation and rewrapped the attic ductwork on the north and south areas saving additional Society maintenance funds in both repair costs and future utility bills.

On March 21st the Illinois State Society Colonial Dames 17th Century marked the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library with a very nice plaque, a picture of which and a brief article can be seen later in this newsletter.

Our spring dinner is scheduled for 6 April at 6:00 pm at the First Christian Church in Carmi. Mr. Anthony Fleege, Associate Professor of Mortuary Science at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale will be our guest speaker. His presentation will focus on Lincoln's funeral—a fitting topic considering this April marks the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination and funeral. Contact Paula Pierson or me to reserve your seat at the dinner and program.

The 2nd grade tea parties at the Robinson-Stewart House are scheduled for 27 April – 1 May. We anticipate one of the largest groups of county second graders ever to participate in this annual program. Mary McRoy and Suellen Smith are orchestrating this event. Please contact Mary or Suellen if you can support this year in any capacity.

The Society will hold our annual plant sale at the Robinson-Stewart House on 2 May. Barbara Kearney will be heading this project. Please contact her if you would like to help.

Finally, one of my goals is to open our museums to the public on a more regular basis—such as every Saturday from 9:00 am to noon. Please contact any board member if you could give an hour or two once a month or so to help achieve that goal. Additionally, contact me or any board member if you are available to help with periodic cleaning and/or arrangement of exhibits at any of the museums.

I wish all of you a blessed and joyous Easter and look forward to seeing you at the Spring dinner on 6 April.

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

Thank You Tom Smith who found this article from the Wayne County Press.

Testament Given
Through A Farmer

Last Will and Testament of a Farmer: I Leave:

To my wife-My overdraft at the bank. Maybe she can explain it.

To my son-Equity on my car. Now he will have to go to work to meet the payments.

To my neighbor-My clown suit. He'll need it if he continues to farm as he has in the past.
To FMA-My unpaid bills. They took some real chances on me and I want to do something
for them.

To ASCS-My grain bin. I was planning to let them have it next year anyhow.

To the farm advisor-50 bushels of corn to see if he can hit the high market. I never did.

To the SCS people-My farm plan. Maybe they can understand it.

To the junk man-My machinery. He has had his eye on it for years.

To my undertaker-A special request: Six implement and fertilizer dealers for pallbearers,
please-they're used to carrying me.

To the weatherman-Rain, sleet and snow for the funeral please. No sense in having nice
weather now.

To the grave digger-Don't bother. The hole I am in should be enough.

And last-To the monument maker-Set up a jog for the epitaph "here lies a farmer who has
now properly assumed all his obligations".

By a farmer who has struggled.

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.

SPRING DINNER MEETING

The spring meeting of the society will be April 6th at 6 pm at the First Christian Church in Carmi. The speaker will be Anthony Fleege, from SIU, who will give a program on Lincoln's funeral. Cost is \$15 per person, guests are welcome, but everyone needs a reservation. Members should get a call from the calling committee, others can contact Paula Pierson or Gene Jordan. ✍

LECTA HORTIN RETIRING AS LIBRARY CHAIR

by: Suellen Smith

Lecta has been the Board Chairperson over the Mary Smith Fay Library for the last 15 years. The end of December she retired from active work, but will continue to volunteer in the library and also serve on the board for the White County Historical Society. She has been a very valuable asset to our library. Suellen M. Smith is taking her job and she has very large shoes to fill. We had a small party for her on January 23, 2015 and the above picture shows some of the people who stopped by to wish her well. ✍



First row - Henry Lewis

Middle row - Suellen M. Smith, Lecta Hortin, Honoree, and Diane Waggoner, Librarian

Back row - Marge Brown, Barbara Kearney and Mary McRoy

LIBRARY MARKED BY COLONIAL DAMES 17TH CENTURY

by: Suellen Smith

The historical society was honored to host a marking ceremony for our Mary Smith Fay Genealogical Library, originally a Carnegie library on March 21st. Nancy R. Schultz, State President of the Illinois State Society of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, presented the award, with National President General Fran Harrington Davis as a special guest. Nancy has roots in Burnt Prairie. Both the library and the order are 100 years old in 2015.



Nancy R. Schultz, State President of the Illinois Society of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, presenting the marker.



Carolyn Kraft, Honorary State President of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century; Suellen Smith, Past President of Historical Society; Nancy R. Schulz; Gene Jordan, President of Historical Society; Jeff Pollard, Mayor of Carmi.



Lecta Hortin, Historical Society Board Member, and Fran Davis, National President General of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century.



Carolyn Kraft, Honorary State President and Nancy R. Schultz, State President of the Illinois Society of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century.



Linda Mizell, Regent of Shawnee Chapter of Southern Illinois, and Fran Davis, National President General of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century.



SECOND GRADE TEAS & TOURS



Second grade tea parties at the Robinson-Stewart House are scheduled for 27 April – 1 May. We anticipate one of the largest groups of county second graders ever to participate in this annual program. 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 they are 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, and one of the Society's flagship programs to build interest in local history with our county's youth at an early age. If you are interested in participating in the fun, just call Mary McRoy at 382-8521 or Suellen Smith at 384-5672 if you can support this year in any capacity. ✍

ROBINSON STEWART HOUSE PLANT SALE

The Society will hold our annual plant sale at the Robinson-Stewart House on 2 May. Plants and seeds are needed. Herbs, shrubs, bulbs, as well as any annuals or perennials would be welcome. If you have any plants that need to be thinned, please dig them before the sale and put them in disposable containers. Label them and bring them to the Robinson-Stewart House the week before the sale. All proceeds go to the landscaping and yard maintenance of the Robinson-Stewart House. The House will be open for tours & refreshments will be served. Barbara Kearney will be heading this project. Please contact her at 618-218-8249 if you would like to help. ✍

Perennials that divide easily:



Iris
Lilies
Hosta
Mint



Vinca
Ornamental
grasses
Peonies



Primrose
Cannas
Gladiolas



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:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 |