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# WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

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Volume 22, Issue 1

January - March, 2016



"Preserving and  
Promoting our History"

## 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING DINNER MEETING  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
APRIL 11, 6PM

SECOND GRADE TEA PARTIES  
ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE  
APRIL 25-28

ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE  
PLANT SALE  
MAY 7

BICENTENNIAL QUILT SHOW  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MAY 27-28

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

CORN DAYS  
CORN TASTING &  
MUSEUMS OPEN  
OCTOBER

FALL DINNER MEETING  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING  
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members

After a relatively quiet first quarter of 2016, Spring is here and several Society activities are planned in the weeks ahead. Our spring dinner is scheduled for 11 April at 6:00 pm at the First Christian Church in Carmi. Dr. Don Pitzer, Professor Emeritus of History and Director Emeritus of the Center for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana will be our guest speaker. Don has been a featured historical society dinner speaker in the past and we look forward to another very interesting presentation. Contact Paula Pierson to reserve your seat at the dinner and program..

The 2nd grade tea parties at the Robinson-Stewart House are scheduled for 25-28 April.. The tea parties have become a popular event for our members and the second graders never cease to entertain us with their wit and many questions. Mary McRoy has once again volunteered to orchestrate this annual event and she will be reaching out to many of you in the weeks ahead to seek your support. Please contact Mary if you would like to help this year.

We will hold our annual plant sale at the Robinson-Stewart House on 7 May. This event is designed to raise funds to help maintain the gardens and landscaping at Carmi's oldest house. Barbara Kearney will be heading this project so contact Barb if you would like to help or have plants to donate.

Paula Pierson is organizing a Bicentennial Quilt Show scheduled for 27-28 May at the First Presbyterian Church in Carmi. Please contact Paula or Mary McRoy if you have quilts you would like to display at the show. A booklet containing all quilt information will be assembled and included in the admission price.

Finally, if you have friends or relatives who are not members, encourage them to join the White County Historical Society. Thank you again for your help in preserving our county's history for future generations and I look forward to seeing you at our Spring dinner and quilt show.

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](mailto:w.c.h.s-genealogy@hotmail.com)  
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday - Friday

From the Carmi Newspaper-12-21-1916

John A. Robinson Paroled

Twelve years and a few months ago John A. Robinson of Maunie came to his home and found Shep Atteberry there in company with his wife. It was "the straw that broke the camel's back" and Robinson took his revolver, killed Atteberry and Mrs. Robinson, then placed the revolver to his right temple and pulled the trigger. John Robinson did not die, but the bullet severed the optic nerve rendering him hopelessly blind for the remainder of his life. Robinson was brought to trial for the murder of his wife and Atteberry. In vain he pleads the unwritten law; the jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to 25 years in the penitentiary at Chester. Monday, John A. Robinson, age 40 years, wearing a neat blue suit came to Carmi. The Pardon Board had acted with leniency and after serving 12 years and 2 months, Robinson was released. Mr. Robinson has learned to read the raised writing of the blind, he is well posted on the world's happenings and is a most interesting talker. He worked in the broom and brush factory at the penitentiary and is a skilled workman. Mr. Robinson comes from one of White county's pioneer families. He was born and raised on a farm in Hawthorne township.

**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 & TOURS



Second grade tea parties at the Robinson-Stewart House are scheduled for April 25-28. 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 618-382-8521 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 Saturday, May 7. 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



## BICENTENNIAL QUILT SHOW

200 Years of Binding History  
May 27 & 28 10 am - 3 pm  
First Presbyterian Church - 310 First St., Carmi, IL



If you would like to participate, please send your typed information requested below to rshous@gmail.com (preferred method). If you are unable to submit your information via email, you may mail or drop it off at: WCHS Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library - PO Box 121 - 203 N Church Street - Carmi, IL 62821-0121. Quilt information MUST be submitted NO LATER THAN MAY 6.

Please include the following information:

- Owner(s):
- Quilter(s):
- Pattern Name:
- Age of Quilt:
- Hand or Machine Quilted:
- Brief description of Quilt's History:

- Limit 3 Quilts per person
- Quilts must be signed in on THURSDAY, MAY 26 from 11-2 & 4-6 at the Church
- A booklet containing all Quilt information will be included in the admission price
- For more information contact Paula Pierson 618-382-7633 or Mary McRoy 618-382-8521

## SPRING DINNER MEETING



The spring meeting of the society will be April 11th at 6 pm at the First Christian Church in Carmi. The speaker will be Don Pitzer, Professor Emeritus of History and Director Emeritus of the Center for the Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana. 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 (618) 382-7633. ✍

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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        | Cindy Birk Conley                   |
| Vice President - Paula Pierson | Judy Cutchin                        |
| Secretary – Ranelle Hubele     | Lecta Hortin                        |
| Treasurer – Jeff Bohleber      | Barbara Kearney                     |
| Valarie Berekashvili           | Mary McRoy                          |
| David Brown                    | Honorary Member – Kent F. P. Boeger |
| Marjorie Brown                 | Past President – Suellen Smith      |