
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 22, Issue 2

April - June, 2016



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

CORN DAYS
CORN TASTING &
MUSEUMS OPEN
OCTOBER 7 & 8

FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 14

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

We had a very productive second quarter to 2016. Our Spring dinner was held on 11 April at the First Christian Church in Carmi. Close to 100 people attended and were treated with a very interesting presentation by Dr Don Pitzer, Professor Emeritus of history at the University of Southern Indiana.

The annual 2nd grade tea parties at the Robinson-Stewart House were held 25-28 April and were once again a resounding success, thanks to Mary McRoy and her army of volunteers. We followed that event with the annual plant sale on 7 May orchestrated by Barbara Kearney. Barbara and the many members who donated plants or helped during the sale culminated in over \$1300 being raised.

Paula Pierson organized a Bicentennial Quilt Show. 164 quilts were entered in the show and more than 220 people attended this two day event. The show was a big hit and those of us of the male gender who attended received one heck of an education in the history and craftsmanship of quilt making.

In honor of Carmi's Bicentennial (1816-2016), the White County Historical Society (WCHS) will be selling short and long-sleeve Bicentennial T-shirts to raise funds for needed repairs at Carmi's oldest home--the Robinson-Stewart House. Ordering information is on page 6.

Bicentennial Banners identifying key events in Carmi and the world during the last 200 years are hanging on the L Haas Museum. I encourage you to take a look the next time you drive or walk down Main Street.

As I'm sure you know, maintaining our museums is a constant and costly effort. Several issues at the Robinson-Stewart house have been identified and we are in the process of initiating much needed repairs. The siding on the west side of the residence (by kitchen) has rotted through and it was replaced and painted in June. Minor leaks around the chimneys were patched as best as possible but it appears the roof will need to be replaced in the next couple of years. Finally, the large oak tree that has stood on the northeast corner of the yard will unfortunately need to come down and arrangements are in process with the city of Carmi to accomplish that. The tree is well over a hundred years old and after careful examination by professionals, it was determined that it has reached its life expectancy. Obviously, trees can be replaced—the Robinson-Stewart House and its contents cannot.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your dedicated support to preserving the history of this county.

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

This article was out of the Navigator-July 23, 1997-by Dallas Krumm

Teaching has been a very challenging profession for many years. The earliest teachers in this area were mostly male. Then during the Civil War, many women entered the teaching profession due to most of the male teachers going to fight in the war. There were very strict rules for the unmarried female teachers. They were expected to be good role models and set good strict moral examples for their students. When they became married, they usually ended their teaching days. This continued well into this century. The rules and restrictions were sometimes unwritten. Other school boards included these rules in a teaching contract. Each school district had its own system and set its own rules and salary.

The following teacher's contract was for a teaching position in a small city in Wisconsin in 1922. School in this area has similar rules to this contract.

WISCONSIN TEACHER'S CONTRACT FOR 1922

(75.00) month Miss(name)agrees

- 1 Not to get married. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher marries.
- 2 Not to have company with men.
- 3 To be home between the hours of 8p.m. and 6a.m. unless in attendance at a school function.
- 4 Not to loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
- 5 Not to leave town at any time without permission of the chairman of the trustees.
- 6 Not to smoke cigarettes. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found smoking.
- 7 Not to drink beer, wine or whiskey. This contract becomes null and void if the teacher is found drinking beer, wine, or whiskey.
- 8 Not to ride in a carriage or automobile with any man except her brother or father.
- 9 Not to dress in bright colors.
- 10 Not to dye her hair.
- 11 To wear at least 2 petticoats.
- 12 Not to wear dresses more than 2 inches above the ankles.
- 13 To keep the schoolroom clean:
 - a. To sweep the classroom floor at least once daily.
 - b. To scrub the classroom floor at least once weekly with soap and water.
 - c. To clean the blackboard at least once daily.
 - d. To start the fire at 7a.m. so that the room will be warm at 8a.m. when the children arrive.
- 14 Not to wear face powder, mascara, or to paint the lips.

As this contracts indicates, the teacher's morals and off- the- job behavior were closely watched. Indeed the teacher's reputation was at least as important as her academic preparation. But meeting these very strict standards may have been the reason that good teachers were very honored, respected, admired and important people in each community.

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

The annual 2nd grade tea parties at the Robinson-Stewart House were held 25-28 April and were once again a resounding success, thanks to Mary McRoy and her army of volunteers. Almost 200 White County second grade students, their teachers and table hosts were introduced to tea and crumpets along with lessons in tea history, manners, and a tour of the gardens and oldest house in Carmi.

ROBINSON STEWART HOUSE PLANT SALE

The Plant Sale was a resounding success! Thanks to our community support, so many wonderful plants were donated for the sale. And so many folks came to see us and went home with a great bargain and big ideas for their own gardens. Can't begin to thank our intrepid volunteers, most notably Tisa Gallup, Marge Pfister, and Lana Anselment for all their digging and knowledge. We could not have succeeded without them. Thanks also to Hargrave Mums & More and Tisa Gallup for donating the gorgeous hanging baskets. The winners of the baskets are Marjorie Brown, Sandy Choate, and Lori Allen.



BICENTENNIAL QUILT SHOW

Carmi's beautiful and historic old Presbyterian Church was the setting for the White County Historical Society's Bicentennial Quilt Show. "Two Hundred Years of Binding History" on Friday and Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 27 and 28. Over 160 quilts were on display. A booklet containing all quilt information was provided all attendees.

Votes were cast at the Bicentennial Quilt show for our visitor's favorite quilt. Viewer's Choice is the incredibly beautiful "Basket of Flowers" pieced by Peggy Whetstone, hand quilted by the Methodist Church ladies. The quilt is owned by Peggy Whetstone and will be a gift for her grandson Tyler, when he marries.

The second place finisher in the Viewer's Choice votes at our Quilt Show is Helen Ray-Cooper's stunning "Hunter Star". The quilt was begun in 1995 and is hand quilted.



BICENTENNIAL QUILT SHOW (CONTINUED)



BICENTENNIAL QUILT SHOW (CONTINUED)

The following letter was received by Paula Pierson on May 23, 2016 from Lois Sutton, a long time member of the Historical Society. Paula requested permission from Lois to share her wonderful quilt story.

Dear Paula,

I, too, wish I could see the quilt show as I did quite a bit of quilting until my eyesight failed. I had some quilt blocks made by my great-grandmother, Matilda Newman, who was a resident of White County. There was enough for a full sized quilt but I divided them into four quilts as memory quilts for my four children. I called them the hundred year quilts because it was that long from the time she made the blocks until I put them together. She made the blocks in the early 1900's - some from patterned feed and grain sacks. They were Dresden Plate pattern. Matilda is buried in Newman Cemetery in White County - I have never had the opportunity to visit her grave but my aunt who is 98 remembers going to her funeral as a child. This may be more information than you need to hear but I felt the urge to share.

Thank you again for all you do!

Lois Sutton ✍

BICENTENNIAL T-SHIRTS

In honor of Carmi's Bicentennial (1816-2016), the White County Historical Society (WCHS) will be selling short and long-sleeve Bicentennial T-shirts to raise funds for needed repairs at Carmi's oldest home--the Robinson-Stewart House. The price of the shirts will be \$20 for a short sleeve and \$25 for long sleeve. **To place an order please contact any WCHS board member.** We need to have all orders submitted by 15 July to insure delivery by early August. When ordering, include your name, contact number, and specify whether short or long sleeve, quantity, and size. Please confirm shirt size requested since we will be unable accommodate returns due to size issues. The front of the shirt will reflect the official Bicentennial logo and the back of the shirt will show a picture of the Robinson-Stewart House (photos below). Remember, this year's Corn Days theme is the Bicentennial so if you want a shirt in honor of this notable milestone, get your order in ASAP but no later than 15 July.



BICENTENNIAL BANNERS

David Brown and Gene Jordan (with research input from Marge Brown and Lecta Hortin) created two large Bicentennial Banners identifying key events in Carmi and the world during the last 200 years. These large 3'x8' banners—one listing events from 1816-1916 and the other 1916-2016—will hang above the two windows at the L. Haas Museum for the remainder of this bicentennial year



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 2016 BOARD:

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