
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 22, Issue 4

October - December, 2016



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
APRIL

SECOND GRADE TEA PARTIES
ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE
APRIL

ROBINSON-STEWART HOUSE
PLANT SALE
MAY

CORN DAYS
CORN TASTING &
MUSEUMS OPEN
OCTOBER

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

FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

This last quarter of 2016 was a busy one with Corn Days, Pioneer Days, our Fall dinner, Thanksgiving and of course, all the festivities that surround Christmas and New Years. It truly has been busy final quarter as we wrap up this bicentennial year and say hello to 2017 that is suddenly upon us.

On Corn Day, the L Haas, Ratcliff Inn, and Robinson-Stewart house museums were opened for residents and out of town guests to visit and explore. Our very popular corn tasting was held at the Ratcliff Inn and was once again, very successful. The Society entered a float designed as a birthday cake in honor of Carmi's 200th birthday for the annual Corn Day parade and we won second place in the best theme category. We also added some Christmas lights and garland and used the float in the 26 November White County Christmas parade.

Nice weather and many dedicated volunteers provided us another successful Pioneer Days on October 18-19. We hosted approximately 175 county 5th graders at the Matsel Cabin for lessons on early pioneer life in the area. As we have mentioned in numerous forums, educating the youth on our local history and the importance of preserving it is a major objective of the White County Historical Society. I can't emphasize enough how much we appreciate the many volunteers who help us in this endeavor and give freely of their time in support of these programs.

The Fall Dinner and meeting was held on November 14 at the First Christian Church in Carmi with Chris Vallillo entertaining us with his program called "Abraham Lincoln in Song". During the business meeting portion of the program, we welcomed Kathy Fridley and Brock Bolerjack as new WCHS board members and said farewell to Judy Cutchin and Suellen Smith who are stepping down as board members after many years of faithful service. Also, we announced that David Brown will be replacing me as the White County Historical Society Board President.

On a final note, I wish everyone a blessed New Year and heart felt thanks for your support of me and the White County Historical Society these past two years. I also want to extend my gratitude to all the members of the board who kept me focused and between the ditches during my two years as President. As I pass the keys to David Brown, I am confident everyone will give him the same superb support as was given me as we enter 2017.

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

White County Democrat-Oct.1,1908

Her Small Boy

A fond mother sent her small boy into the country, and after a week of anxiety received the following reassuring letter:

"I got here alright, and I forgot to write before. It is a very nice place to have fun. A fellow and I went out in a boat, and the boat tipped over, and a man got me out, and I was so full of water that I didn't know nothing for a while. The other boy has to be buried when they find him. His mother came from her home, and she cried all the time. A hoss kicked me over and I got to have some money to pay the doctor for mending my head. We are going to set an old barn on fire tonight, and I am not your son if we don't have some real fun. I lost my watch, and I am very sorry. I shall bring home some snakes and a toad, and I shall bring home a tamed crow, if I can get 'em in my trunk."-Pick -Me-Up.

Legal document at the Courthouse

State of Illinois

White County

I James Ratcliff Clerk of the County Commissioners Court in and for said county do hereby certify that sometime in the summer in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty four Gen John M Robinson(now deceased)brought in to the County of White in the State of Illinois a Negro man calling his name Thomas Dawson and that the said Thomas Dawson has resided in the town of Carmi in the County of and State aforesaid from the said year of 1834 until the present time and that by virtuo and operation of law he has become a free man of color.

In testimony whereof

I have hereunto set
my hand and officed
the seal of Said

Court at Carmi this
24th day of April AD
1844

Ja. Radcliff clk

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.

CORN DAYS

The L. Haas Museum and Robinson-Stewart House were open on Saturday during Corn Days and bustling with visitors. The Corn Tasting at the Ratcliff Inn was a huge success this year! We had 24 different corn dishes, from cornbreads and dips to casseroles and desserts. Thanks to all our volunteers who brought corn, and to all our visitors who came to sample. It was fun!



The Society entered a float designed as a birthday cake in honor of Carmi's 200th birthday for the annual Corn Day parade and we won second place in the best theme category.



PIONEER DAY

Approximately 175 5th graders enjoyed the Historical Society's annual Pioneer Day, a glimpse of what life was like in the 1880's, on October 18 & 19.









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:

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