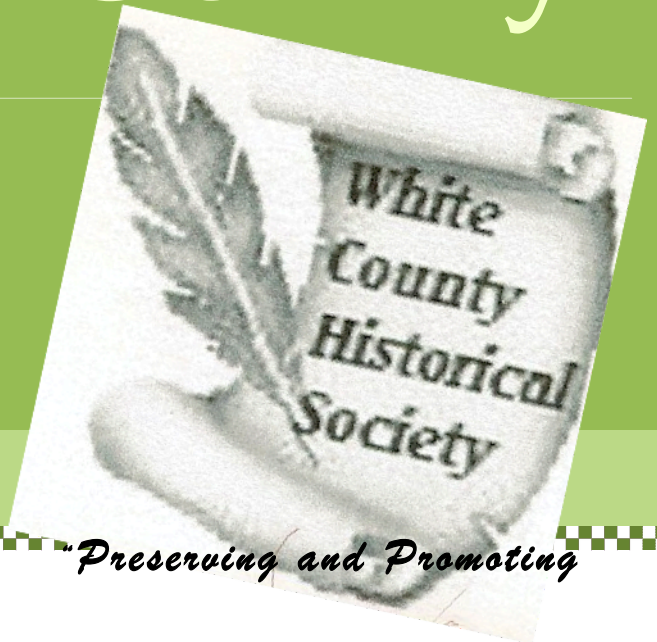


# The White County Historian

July, 2011 Vol. 17 No. 3



*"Preserving and Promoting  
Our History"*

## 2011 Board

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Jeff Bohleber  
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## Changing our Format

I am sure you have noticed the difference in the WCHS newsletter already. Since many of our members are now receiving the newsletter online, we are trying to make it more attractive. Previously, because we could only print black and white copies, adding color made no sense. Let us know how you like what we are doing to try to make the history of White County come alive.

Henry Lewis  
Kent Boeger  
Jan Cleveland, Editor



# L. Haas Museum Quarterly Report

## Memorial Day

The L. Haas Museum was open for the busy Memorial Day weekend. The following volunteered their time : Dee Ann Maurer, Beverly Walker, Art Saunders, Connie Saunders, Debbie Bunting, Jeanette Drone, Dorothy Garrett, Don Garrett, Rosellen Jones, Nancy Armstrong, Tom Smith and Suellen M. Smith. The Museum saw a total of 21

cans away with the purchase of a new sewing machine. We have two Singer machines so I was pleased to receive this gift.

Betty Doerner of Carmi, IL donated a picture and letter from the Tin family, four Asian children, who sang and danced at the Corn Day Celebration in 1966. The picture and letter are both in excellent condition and the picture is in an 8x10 frame.

## A Big Thank You

I am really learning to appreciate all the hard work that Glen and Loretta Vangampller did at the L. Haas Museum. I really have big shoes to fill. We are lucky to have them in our organization. I tell Loretta I have her phone on "speed dial". She has really been a help to me. I encourage everyone to visit our museum and we welcome

**"I encourage everyone to visit our museum"**

visitors over the three days and received \$32 in donations.

## Artifacts Donated

Henry L. Kiesel from Ft. Branch, IN donated a small Singer Oil can. He told us the company used to give.

Winnie Rector has donated her 1940's era dollhouse. It is in excellent condition and has all the original furniture in it. It is really a nice addition to our children' area. I also learned the identity of some pieces that we previously been unable to identify.



donations relating to White County.  
Suellen M. Smith, Curator  
L. Haas Museum

# News from the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library

By  
Librarian-Diane Waggoner

## *African Americans in White County*

Parts of the following is taken from an article written by Barry Cleveland in 1980, and the rest is research that was done by Marjorie Brown, Lecta Hortin and myself, here at the Library.

When the first settlers came to Carmi, some brought slaves with them. So some African Americans were here as early as 1806. By 1818 White County listed 11 free blacks & 57 slaves. That same year a man by the name of Willis Hargrave & other men were trying to persuade congress to admit the territory into the Union & also keep it legal to keep slaves, when Illinois became a state. Law was passed, but only the wealthy could afford to have slaves. The slaves were given food, clothing, lodging and medical aid when needed. If slaves behaved, some owners gave them much more. Some slaves even took their owners name. Obituary taken from the Gone but not Forgotten Book-Vol.2

3-28-1929

Alfred Hockaday, one of the most respected colored residents of Carmi, passed away in Worchester, Ky. Thursday, age 85y 5m 10d. He was born in Clark Co., Ky. Oct. 11, 1843 as a slave in a family named Webb. He longed for his freedom, and fought in the Civil War. His wife ,Nancy Green, died 3 years ago. He is survived by a brother, Isaac Haws. Burial: Maple Ridge Cemetery. Married in Kentucky in 1864. Took the name of the family who bought him, as did his brother Isaac.

We will have more next time.





Home of James A. Walsh, Jr. in Hawthorne Township, later razed.

## History In The Making

White County has experienced a daunting spring, plagued by flooding, tornadoes, buffalo gnats, and intense heat. The White County Historical Society has been collecting pictures to document this for future generations. History isn't always just the past, it is what we are living today.

The White County Historical Society Board has appealed to the public to share pictures and stories of the recent floods in White County. It is the intent of the Society to

develop documentation of the April 19<sup>th</sup> tornadoes and the near record flooding that followed. Recording history is a critical part of the Society's work.

Pictorial and written contributions may be taken to the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library which is open Tuesday – Friday from 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The library is located at Church and Cherry streets.

## Visitors From the Stars and Stripes



James and Sue Mayo from the Stars and Stripes Museum and Library in Bloomfield, MO visited in Carmi on March 18, 2011. James is the president of the Board of Directors of the Museum and Sue is the librarian. They came to see where Robert F. Stewart and Guy Viskniskki

had lived.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 1861, Federal soldiers from Illinois and Iowa entered the nearly abandoned town of Bloomfield, MO and set up camps. Little did they know that they would soon be setting up an American military legacy, the birth of the military news-

paper, The Stars and Stripes. A group of Union soldiers noticed the abandoned newspaper office of the Bloomfield Herald. During the evening

## Continued

hours, ten of the soldiers entered the Herald and took possession of the printing office with the idea of published a paper that night. They called their newspaper The Stars and Stripes. Three of these first strippers were from Carmi: Robert F. Stewart, Walter A. Rhue, and James T.R. Bozman. Four issues were put out during the Civil War. After the Civil War no papers were published until another Carmi man founded the modern-day Stars and Stripes, in France during World War II. This man was Guy Viskniskki. The newspaper survives today and serves American

servicemen and women all over the world. The Stars and Stripes Museum/ Library Association, founded in 1991 is committed to preserving the

history of the United States' most important newspaper at its birthplace in Bloomfield, Missouri.

## Second Annual Old Graveyard Walk Scheduled

White County Historical Society and Carmi League of Arts will once again join forces to present the "Old Graveyard Walk". This popular event is scheduled for the afternoon of October 15, 2011. Last year over 250 individuals attended the first sponsored event.

This year we will see additional portrayals of historic Carmi residents. The individuals featured will be different than in last year's walk. Those who are critical to the Carmi heritage will have a new story to tell.

## Heritage Home Damaged in Spring Tornado

The Emma Township home of Jack and Gina Sailer, known as the James Logan House, suffered extensive damage on April 19th of this year when tornadoes bounced around the county destroying homes and properties.

Fortunately, no one in the Sailer family was injured.

According to Mrs. Sailer, the family will restore the house over the coming months.





## The James Logan House

### *Society Continues to Ask for Donations*

The L. Haas Store lost windows on the second floor during intense spring winds. The Society is facing expensive renovation of these windows. The replacements will be constructed of metal for endurance and will be exact replicas of the original windows.

*“This is a responsibility of this generation, we can’t pass it to the next.”*

Don Drone, Society member and owner of the Carmi Lumber Company, is consulting a company to assist the Society in the design and construction of the replacement windows. “We can’t pass this debt on to future generations to repair,” Drone said.

On a gently sloping knoll in Emma Township, about eight miles southeast of Carmi, stands the majestic Doric-columned home built by James Logan. The large two-story, white house with a red tile roof faces east and is on the blacktop road running to Emma, which is about two miles to the south.

The house was built in 1908 for James Logan, by J. A. Behrick, architect and master builder from Mr. Vernon, Indiana. Guy L. and Nigle Marline Johnson purchased the farmland and residence from the Logan family in 1948.

Four Doric fluted columns welcome visitors to the spacious porch extending the width of the house. Banisters encircle the second-floor porch and extend over the roof of the porte-cochere at the south entrance.

Leaded glass panels flank the large front door which leads to the entrance hall, on each side of which are Doric columns leading to the music room on the right and to the living room on the left. From the south living room, sliding doors lead to

the dining room. From here one moves to an office, then a spacious kitchen, which is net to a pantry with built-in cabinets. Between the kitchen and music room there is a telephone room.

A wide, graceful staircase leads to the second floor where there are four bedrooms. The spacious landing on the staircase is furnished and can be used as a pleasant room. Upstairs rooms are nine feet high and downstairs they are ten feet.

Ten small Doric columns at the back of the house support the upper porch and remind one of Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage near Nashville, Tennessee.

The triglyphs on the Doric Frieze above the tall Doric columns, the Palladian windows at the top of the south and north walls and the fan window in the front pediment are classic architectural features dating back to the best in Greek and Italian design.

(This article taken from Heritage Houses of White County, Illinois This is now the Sailer home.)



## Society Has Summer Intern

Celeste Mandley, a student at USI in Evansville, is doing a 150 -hour internship with the White County Historical Society. She will be working at the Robinson-Stewart House. The Society has a large collection of letters and pictures from the 1800s. The letters are handwritten in the writing style of that period. Each letter is being recopied, typed and then digitally stored on the computer and on a backup harddrive. She is looking into finding a person to restore some of the wonderful pictures that have been found from that period as well. Once all the information is organized, it will be catalogued for easier referencing.

Top picture: Intern Celeste Mandley, and volunteers Marjorie Fechtig and Suellen Smith. The picture is of Sen. Felix Grundy of Nashville, TN. He later became Attorney General and was a friend of John Robinson.

Bottom picture: Marjorie Fechtig and Celeste Mandley



White County Historical Society

## Museum and Library Hours

The museums, located in Carmi, Illinois, are open on advertised dates or by appointment only:

Ratcliff Inn, 218 E. Main Street  
 The L. Haas Museum, 219 E. Main Street  
 Robinson-Stewart House, 121 S. Main Cross Street  
 Matsel Cabin, East Robinson Street

The Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library is located at 203 N. Church Street in Carmi, Illinois.  
 Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Phone number is 618-382-8425.