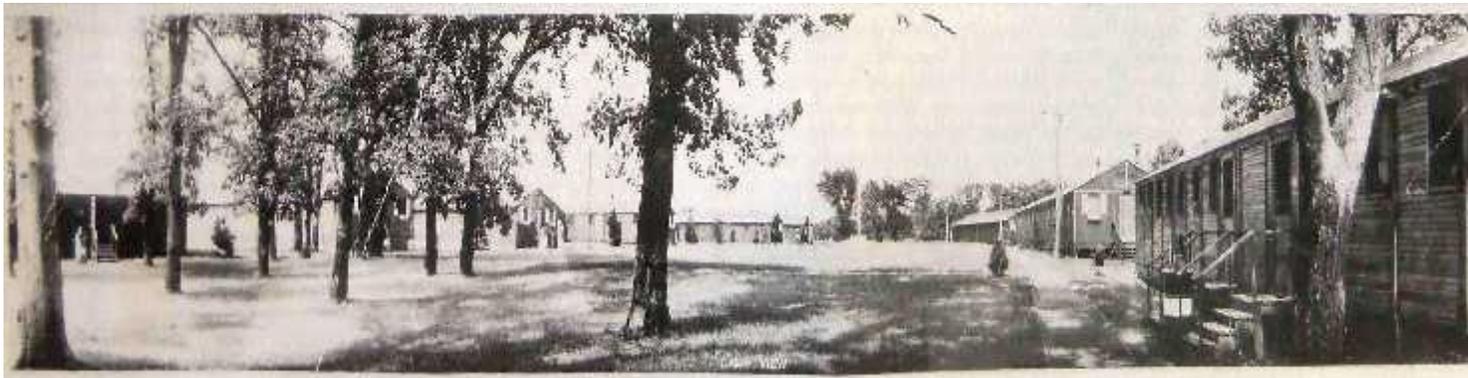


# REFLECTIONS

July-August-September 2013

## Camp No. IL-SCS-14 Company 1659 near Henry, IL



The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1942 in the United States for unemployed, unmarried men from relief families, ages 18–25. Each enrollee volunteered and, upon passing a physical exam and/or a period of conditioning, was required to serve a minimum six-month period with the option to serve as many as four periods, or up to two years if employment outside the Corps was not possible.

A part of the New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who provided unskilled manual labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources in rural lands owned by federal, state and local governments. The CCC was designed to provide jobs for young men, to relieve families who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression in the United States while at the same time implementing a general natural resource conservation program in every state and territory. Maximum enrollment at any one time was 300,000; in nine years 3 million young men participated in the CCC, which provided them with shelter, clothing, and food, together with a small wage of \$30 a month (\$25 of which had to be sent home to their families).

During the time of the CCC, volunteers planted nearly 3 billion trees to help reforest America, constructed more than 800 parks nationwide and upgraded most state parks, updated forest fire fighting methods, and built a network of service buildings and public roadways in remote areas.

The CCC operated separate programs for veterans and Native Americans.

By 1940 the CCC was no longer wholly a relief agency, rapidly losing its non-military character, and becoming a system for work-training as its ranks had become increasingly younger, with life-inexperienced enrollees.

Some former CCC sites in good condition were reactivated from 1941 to 1947 as Civilian Public Service camps where conscientious objectors performed "work of national importance" as an alternative to military service. Other camps were used to hold Japanese American internees or German prisoners of war.

The CCC performed 300 possible types of work projects within ten approved general classifications: Structural improvements, transportation, erosion control, flood control, forest culture, forest protection, landscape, range control, wildlife, and miscellaneous other jobs.



*(Continued on page 4)*

## Marshall County Historical Society

314 Fifth Street P.O. Box 123  
Lacon, IL 61540-0123  
Phone: 309-246-2349  
E-mail: marshallcountyhistory@gmail.com  
Web: www.marshallcountyhistory.org

*President* – Larry Leighty  
*Vice President* – Ed Glaser  
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*Rec. Sec.* – MJ Langner  
*Treasurer* – Robert Weber  
*Managing Director* – Jean Davis  
*Editor*—Connie Swanson

### MEMBERSHIP

**ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL** – \$10  
**ANNUAL FAMILY**—\$15  
**LIFE** – \$150  
**LIFE HUSB/WIFE**—\$200  
**AFFILIATE** – \$25–\$100  
Renewals are due in January

### MCHS 2013 BOARD MEETINGS

*All meetings are on Saturday at the museum at 10 am*

January 19 (Annual/Board Meeting)  
March 16  
May 18  
July 20  
September 21  
November 16  
January 18, 2014 (Annual/Board Meeting)  
*Committee Chairpersons may schedule committee meetings at 9:30 or immediately following board meeting if needed.*

## NEW MEMBERS

Dale Wheeler  
Ronald and Christine Webster

Due to postal regulations and cost of postage, the newsletter is being printed on a quarterly basis.

# OLD SETTLERS CORNER

**Colonel John Strawn** was a native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania and was a son of Isaiah and Rachel (Reed) Strawn, both of whom were also natives of Pennsylvania.

Isaiah came to Putnam County, Illinois about 1835 and located on a farm where both his parents died and were buried in a cemetery south of Hennepin.

John grew to manhood in his native state and married Mary McClish of Scotch descent, but who was born in Scioto Valley Ohio. They were married in Pennsylvania in 1813 and later came to Illinois in 1829, locating on Section 4 in Richland Township, where he pitched a tent in which the family lived all winter. To Colonel and Mary Strawn were born 11 children.

Indians were numerous and no other white settlers were in the area. He built a log cabin in 1830 and lived in it for ten years. He made brick on the farm, and built a brick house in 1839.

Colonel Strawn mainly gave his attention to his farm, improving an entire section of land. He was very prosperous and added to his possessions until he became one of the wealthiest men in Marshall County.

Colonel Strawn was a noted man in the early history of Marshall County, which he assisted in organizing. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was a class leader for many years. Politically, he was a democrat but never did seek office. He was a soldier in the War of 1812 and also commanded a regiment in the Black Hawk war, where he received his title as colonel.

He assisted in the organizing of both Hopewell and Richland Townships, giving name to each. During his life he accumulated 3520 acres of land. When his children went out from under his roof, he gave each of them a farm.

*(Colonel Strawn died July 4, 1872 in Lacon and is buried in the Strawn Cemetery beside his wife and family. His obituary states he was born in Somerset County, PA. November 25, 1791. A genealogy wheel and many other items from the family may be seen at the Historical Society Museum. Article from The Biographical Record of Bureau, Marshall & Putnam Counties, pub. 1896 )*



**Read the newsletter online:  
www.marshallcountyhistory.org**

**MUSEUM HOURS:**  
**TUES. & WED. 9 AM – 12 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY evening 5:30—7:30 PM**  
**SATURDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM**  
Or call the Museum for appointment

## Helen Anske Brought Music to Country Schools

*Margo Danger saw the One-Room School article in the recent issue of the Marshall County Historical Society Newsletter and wrote the following in an Email to Jean Davis, the Managing Director of the Society.*

I was fascinated to read in the May-June 2013 issue of Reflections a name that I recognized from the past.

In the article entitled "Rave Reviews for the 1-Room School Program", the following appears, "The Sherman one-room school specialized in music and had a marching band under the direction of Helen Anske."

My first three school years were taught by Miss Goldie Wilson in a 1-room school located in Lawn Ridge. My parents subsequently moved from Lawn Ridge to LaPrairie Center, where I entered the fourth grade. This was a 4-room school, two classes to each room.

That is where I met Miss Helen Anske. It was years later that I came to realize what an amazing woman she was and in an arena I had no knowledge of at the time.

As a child, I perceived Miss Anske with awe. She carried many musical instruments from school to school - - all of which she was proficient at both playing and teaching.

At the time she had formed a marching band from all the small schools in the area. And the big event of the year was marching in the Santa Parade in Peoria.

Suffering bouts of severe asthma as a child, I found that did not have enough breath to play an instrument. Seeing my stricken face, Miss Anske quickly pulled from her 'bag of tricks' a majorette's baton. "What we really need," she assured me, "is several majorettes. I know you'll make a good majorette."

Inspired with new confidence, for the next four years in the band, and four more years in high school, I enjoyed being a majorette.

In later years, what I came to realize about the character of Miss Anske was her enormous sense of fairness and her absolute acceptance of every person on his or her own merit.

One year, after marching in the Santa Parade in Peoria, Miss Anske gathered the band together and announced that we were in for a treat -- lunch in the city. Before we entered the restaurant, she told us we would have to keep our voices down and be polite. While we were waiting to be seated, the manager appeared and had a short, low-voiced conversation with Miss Anske.

She turned and said, "Come, children, we are not welcome here. We will find another place to have our lunch." I was baffled at the turn of events, and it was years later, as a young adult, that the significance of that event became clear to me. One of the kids in the band was of African descent. Miss Anske, by her example that day, helped to teach each of us to be color blind.

The image of Miss Anske I have carried all these years is of a kind, sometimes gruff lady, who, like my grandmother, wore sensible shoes and brooked no nonsense. I don't know if Miss Anske ever married, or had children of her own. I do know that for the few short years I knew her she had many children, and I was proud to be one of them.

I just wanted you to know how important your newsletter is, and that, a single phrase, word, or name in print, may touch lives in ways you cannot even imagine. Keep up the good work.

- Margo Danger



This school was abandoned sometime before 1973. It has a sign that says "La Prairie Grade School — Unit Dist. No. 3".



Russell's Market and gas station  
LaPrairie Center

(Continued from page 1)

A camp was located in Henry, north of the Pavilion Park along the river bluff or what is now part of Stoner Park and Sawmill Lake Condominium areas. There were several buildings which included a large kitchen, library, mess hall and barracks.

According to the 1940 Marshall County census, there were at least 12 persons listed as staff. Among positions listed were civil engineers, foremen, mechanics, warehouse, teachers, cook, farm manager, and a company commander.

The number of residents is unknown at this time. The specific projects that were done at that time are unknown as well though the camp was listed as being a "Soil Conservation" camp. In March of 1936, 50 young men from a camp in Galva were transported here to work for a short time. There were times when the camp was vacant and in question of staying open.

In 1937, the buildings including the barracks, mess hall, recreation & camp headquarters, were all given a fresh coat of paint. Eighty gallons of paint were delivered by the government supply department

The date of the final closing and the destruction of the buildings is unknown at this time. If anyone has pictures or information, please contact the editor, Connie Swanson,



Camp Henry's Mess Hall



Camp Henry's Library



Camp Henry's Kitchen

## Window Displays



Wedding dresses from our collection:

Mary Ball Barr Algoe 1883, Rose Darman Pettett 1874, Emma Quiram 1903, Florence Webber Summitt 1925, Norma Schneider Dalrymple 1949, Sharon Van DeVeer Musselman 1957, Andrea Lemons Jury 1977, Vada Waughop Blackwell, Patty Bell Reil Strong.

at 309-364-3272 or [cswanson01@mediacombb.net](mailto:cswanson01@mediacombb.net).

A large picture dated 1940 of the view of the camp, the residents and their names, can be seen at the Museum. The picture was donated by Bill Greek of Henry.

Information from:  
[wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian\\_Conservation\\_Corps](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_Conservation_Corps) website, *Henry News Republican* 1936, 1940 Marshall County Census, National Association of Civilian Conservation Corp

## THE SAWYER SCHOOL

by Alba McDonald

The Sawyer School that once stood in Hopewell Township has left a rare document that needs to be preserved. The minutes of every meeting held by this school's directors from 1876 to 1951 is in this ledger. Every teacher that taught in this school is listed.

The first teacher hired was W.S. Wentchinam, on August 14, 1876, for a five month period. He was paid thirty-five dollars per month. Early students came from the Schmitt, Sawyer, Schlosser and Stoner families.

There is a growing interest in the teachers that once taught in the one room schools in Marshall County, thus every effort is made to document as many as possible. The Sawyer School ledger not only lists each teacher's name, it lists the years they taught and what they were paid. What a rare find!

Sawyer School also was the first rural school in Marshall County to have a group of band students. Other rural schools soon followed and it wasn't long until the band director brought them all together to form a marching band.

If by any chance there is the possibility of a picture of this band it would be greatly prized. Copies would be made and the original would be returned to the owner.

*Editor's note: From Henry News Republican, June 29, 1952*

*Sawyer School reunion attendees:*

Arnetta & Linda Bowen, Marjorie Bowen, Mr. & Mrs. George Carlson, Mr. & Mrs. Sigfred Carlson & Leroy, Mrs. Lizzie Hank, Mr. & Mrs. August Larson, Mrs. Anna Marshall, Mr. & Mrs. John Neuhalfen, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Nott, Mr. William Perkin, Mr. & Mrs. Anton Schlosser & Merle, Mrs. Emma Schlosser & Harold, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Schlosser,

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Schlosser, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Schlosser, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Schlosser & Patsy & Ronnie, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Selquist & Marsha, Mrs. Virgil Sweeney & Kathy, Alvin Glaub, Shirley Lump



1921 - 1922

### Society to hold family school picnic at Harrison School

*By Rick Keating*

The Marshall County Historical Society and Museum will sponsor an old-fashioned box lunch school picnic on Sunday, September 22, 2013 at the restored one-room Harrison School north of Henry. The festivities will begin at 11:30 am with tours of the school.

A history of the Harrison school will be presented and you'll have an opportunity to examine the relics acquired by Linda and Dale Hartwig, owners of the property. Many of the items were used in the Harrison School.

A box lunch will be served which will include a ham sandwich, chips and cookies. Ice tea, lemonade and water will also be available as well as some surprises.

This is a family event and we encourage you to bring your children and grandchildren. We'll have period games for the kids to try.

We are also considering a silent auction and more information will be available via the local newspapers and our web page: [www.marshallcountyhistory.org](http://www.marshallcountyhistory.org) at a later date.

This is fundraiser for the Marshall County Historical Society and Museum. Your \$10.00 donation for the picnic will help fund activities at the Museum. Children's lunches will be \$6.00 each.

Tickets will be sold at the museum and must be purchased in advance. There will be no tickets available at the picnic. Quantity will be limited to the first 100 people.

For more information call 309-246-2349 or Rick Keating at 309-463-2304.

## ANNUAL BOOK SALE

We have all kinds of books. Come see what we have for you. This is one of the money making projects of the society.



### Museum Wish List

- Small 4 or 5 ft step ladder
- Motion sensor security lights.
- 2 drawer file cabinet, heavy duty.
- One-room school pictures/histories
- Mannequins for clothing display.
- Clothes rack on rollers 5-6 ft tall, 4-5 ft wide.

Thank you for donating needed items. Donations are tax deductible

### Marshall County Old Settlers Lacon, Illinois

**August 22—August 24**  
“Fins, Fur, Feathers”

See local newspaper for more information.

Check out our window displays.

## OLD FASHIONED SCHOOL PICNIC

An old fashioned school picnic is being planned for September 21 at the Harrison School. Advance only tickets will be available in mid-August and includes a tour and a box lunch. Join us for a day of fun and remembrance of the “Good ole school days”.

The Museum has new maps available of the locations of the one-room schools around 1912. They are 16 x 26 and are \$15 (\$10 for members). Thanks to Ray McDonald for having them made for the Museum. Contact the Museum.



My hobby is genealogy and I raise dust bunnies as pets!

Please help support the Museum and our local history by becoming an Affiliate member and be listed below.



Harrison School  
North of Henry on Rt 29,  
turn east on Goodrich road  
(County Road 1450)



Before renovation

If you would like to receive the colorful newsletter by email, please send us your email address. This will also help reduce our cost of postage.

## OUR AFFILIATE MEMBERS

### Gold Affiliate

Allen Partnership  
Calvert, Johnson & McKittrick  
Memorial Home- Henry  
City of Henry  
City of Lacon  
City of Toluca  
First National Bank of Lacon  
Haworth & Company  
Henry State Bank  
Lenz Memorial Home  
Marshall County  
Meta Tec, Inc  
Jackie Padesky State Farm Agency  
Wilson Insurance Agency  
Windsor Foods  
Wyoming Monument Co

### Silver Affiliate

JD Belcher Electric LLC  
Classic Floor Covering  
Country Financial Services- Ed Glaser  
LaPrairie UP Women  
Patrick Murphy, Atty at Law  
Kenneth Poignant Bulldozing  
& Excavating  
Riddell Polled Herefords  
Tanner's Orchard  
Beverly & R Dale Bunch  
LaPrairie Mutual Ins.

### Bronze Affiliate

Heartland Bank  
Columbia Antiques  
Energy Specialists Co

Grasser's Plumbing & Heating Inc  
Rice Farms & Trust  
Animal Jim's  
Kroeschen Plumbing & Heating  
Jim's IGA  
Julie's Comer Store  
Marshall Co Publishing Co  
Marshall County Title Co.  
Mona's Italian Restaurant  
Pontiac Granite Co, Inc  
DeRubeis Insurance Agency Inc.  
Lynn & Penny Kunkle

### Platinum Affiliate

Club LaCon

## Support the Marshall County Historical Society & Museum

Become an Affiliate Member of the Marshall County Historical Society. Contact Larry Leighty, Membership Chairman, or any Board Member to set up your Affiliate Membership