

REFLECTIONS

July-August 2012

Marshall County Airport Organized 65 Years Ago

By Moby Finfgeld

The Marshall County Airport east of Lacon was organized 65 years ago in 1947.

The first president was J.P. Grieves of Lacon, Clark Harter of Wenona was secretary, and the third board member was Harold Bullington of Henry. The three members of the Airport Board were appointed by the chairman of the County Board of Supervisors.

This information and much more is contained in the Airport's minute books from 1947 through 1978 which the Airport recently presented to the Marshall County Historical Society's Museum for safe keeping.

The Museum has made a copy of the minutes which will be available to the public for research, and the originals are being held in safe-keeping.

The founding of the Airport in 1947 followed the conclusion of World War II in 1945.

On January 20, 1947, the Airport Board had a discussion with Norman Bird, chief engineer of the Illinois Department of Aeronautics, concerning four possible sites for the airport. They were listed in the minutes as the Laible-Bestold-Freeman property, the Shearer-Wier property, the Chicago Gun Club-Flood property, and the Cook-Younger-Jones property.



After inspecting all four possible sites, on February 20, 1947, the Airport Board tentatively decided that the Cook-Younger-Jones property located on Route 17 east of Lacon would be the most desirable site.

This site was approved by the State in March of 1947. The following month the Board decided to employ Attorney O.B. Pace, Jr., to pursue negotiations for the purchase of the site. This resulted in an agreement to purchase the 140-acre site for \$27,400.

The Department of Aeronautics then requested that the Airport arrange for the removal of some obstructions on the airport property, including telephone lines and power lines, and some trees along the south boundary of the airport. The airport also leased portions of the property to Amos Tomasson for farming.

The Airport Board then decided to construct the airport with funding on the state level without waiting for approval of federal funding, and the Governor orally approved

\$35,000 of state funds for construction of the airport runway. The airport tax levy for 1949 was set at \$12,500.

In March of 1949, a contract was signed with the F.D. Powers Company for \$7,323.00 for two steel hangars with installation by the Flying 20's, Inc. at a cost of \$2,206.00.

Two months later, a proposed lease of the Airport to the Flying 20's was discussed. Present for this meeting, in addition to the Airport Board, were B.L. Nickerson, Leslie C. Scott, and Melvin Budd of the Flying 20's of Lacon, Inc.

In June, 1949, the Airport Board met at the court house in Lacon with the finance committee of the county board which consisted of Roy Miller, Eugene Turnbull, and C. O. McKee.

In the early days, the Airport Board negotiated separate contracts for almost everything. There was no general contract to build the airport as there probably would be today. There were separate contracts for such things as farming the airport land, all kinds of insurance for the airport, supplies such as sheet metal, the first hangar buildings, an office in one of the hangars, doors for the hangars, and asphalt for the runways.

(Continued on page 5)

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 – Ed Glaser
Vice President – Larry Leighty
Asst. VP – Justin Meierkord
Rec. Sec. – Marge Watkins
Treasurer – Robert Weber
Managing Director – Jean Davis

MEMBERSHIP

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

MCHS 2012 BOARD MEETINGS

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

January 21 (Annual/Board Meeting)

March 17

May 19

July 21

September 15

November 17

*Committee Chairpersons may
schedule committee meetings at
9:30 or immediately following board
meeting if needed.*

NEW MEMBERS

Len Mathies
Leroy Dunbar



OBITUARIES

Neil L. Pobanz, 73, of Varna, Ill., died at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 26, 2012, at Proctor Hospital in Peoria. Neil was born June 7, 1938, in Geneseo, Ill., to Clifford L. and Enid (Drehmer) Pobanz. He grew up in Galva, Ill., and graduated from Galva High School. He resided most of his life in East Moline, Ill., but moved to Varna, Ill., in 1993. He attended Parks College in Cahokia, Ill.

Neil's extensive and dedicated career in aviation included military service: U.S. Army from 1961 to 1963, and after discharge, he continued employment as a civilian at Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, and after 32 years experience he retired from the position of Army Material Command Aviation Officer. From 1995 to present, Neil was the manager of Marshall County Airport in Lacon, Ill. He was also previous owner/operator of the FBO of Lacon Aero Service Inc., Marshall County Emergency Services Disaster Agency coordinator and senior technical consultant for American Bonanza Society. Neil was a member of the Historical Society and a friend to everyone who knew him.

Jack and Elaine Parker

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of long time members Jack and Elaine Parker. We were recently informed that Jack passed away on March 29, 2012 in Chicago. Elaine Jeanette Held Parker died June 17, 2012 in Portland, OR. Elaine will be remembered as the daughter of Conrad J and Grace Shepard Held who grew up on the family farm near Lacon. She graduated with honors from Varna Township High School and Illinois State University in Normal. She was 83 at the time of her death. Elaine and Jack traveled widely and spent many years living in the Aurora area where Elaine taught elementary school for more than 25 years. They were very active in community affairs for which they received many honors over the years.



Doll House display created by the late Darlene Wilson of Lacon

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

MUSEUM HOURS:
TUES. & WED. 9 AM – 12 PM
Open most
SATURDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM
Or call the Museum for appointment
309-246-2349

June Windows Have Seasonal Themes

The two new June window displays at the Marshall County Historical Society Museum in Lacon both have appropriate seasonal themes.



The west window depicts the universal spring and summer activity of gardening, from veggies to flowers. Antique garden tools in the display are from the Society members' collections. Viewers will find this window display to be self-explanatory.



The east window is a tribute to men with an emphasis on fathers and businessmen. The display includes everything from shaving mugs and straight razors to a collar box with removable collars and a picture of a group of unknown businessmen.

Also included in the display are a vintage men's linen suit circa 1910 and a large collection of colorful neckties.

New window displays appear at the Museum throughout the year. The Museum is open from 9 to noon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Saturday mornings, and by appointment. The Museum is operated by volunteers with widely varying interests, and new volunteers are always welcome.



Since Flag Day also occurs in June, there is an American Flag on the left side of this display.

May Window



Lacon Congregation Church Window Display for May & June

The Lacon Congregational Church is celebrating their 175th year this year. The display included many pictures including original members names and artifacts.

Museum Wish List:

1. Electric typewriter with correction tape.
2. Large screen for showing videos.
3. Large city plat maps for our map wall
4. Pictures & history of local businesses, churches, and one-room schools.
5. Your family tree on paper/computer file.
6. White 3-ring binders - 1" to 4"
7. Clear sheet protectors for 3-ring binder.
8. Inkjet printer paper, blank DVD or CD.
9. DVD player that connects to a TV.
10. Flat Panel Computer Monitor 16" to 22"
11. Portable Hard Drive - USB
12. Family Tree Maker 2006 or later.

Thank you to those who have donated items from our previous wish list. All donations are tax deducti-

Annual Book Sale



The museum will be holding our annual book sale during July and August.

Please drop off any books you would like to donate to the cause. We accept all types of books, novels, biographies, recipe books, children's books, historical books etc.

This fundraiser is held to help keep our membership fees as low as possible while providing museum access at no charge.

Thank you for any and all donations.



Ships of 1812

From 1794 - 1797, [Old Ironsides](#) was built. It took more than 1,500 trees from along the eastern sea coast. The iron was casted from Rhode Island. The state also provided the cannons and the cannon balls, which the proud ship used to sink enemy ships.



1812....also know as “The Great Sea War” fought in wooden sailing ships. The US had only 16 ships against the British Navy’s 800, but its three frigates, the *Constitution*, *The President* and the *United States* were faster and better than any of Britain’s vessel. The most famous ship was the 44 gun frigate *Constitution*. She was built of live oak and red cedar, with bolts from Paul Revere’s shop, and carried about 450 men.

In a scrimmage with Britain’s *Guerriere*, after receiving many cannon balls at close range, the *Constitution*’s own hull stood up so well that the crew gave her the nickname of “*Old Ironsides*.” It took only 20 minutes to sink the British war ship. The world was amazed to hear that the young American nation had won a victory over the finest navy on the seas.

From 1815 until 1821, *Old Ironsides* was docked for costly repairs. During the times of 1822 until the 1860’s, *Old Ironsides* was a show ship and in charge of many expeditions of the waters. it fought many battles amid the high seas.

In 1907, US Congress had declared *Old Ironsides* a national monument.



Her tours as a [traveling](#) monument began in the year of 1931 but in 1954, the United States Congress passed a law to protect and to preserve *Old Ironsides*. She will be used as a national monument only and will not see war again.

In the summer of 1998, the *USS Constitution* was honored in her part of the stabilization of American History. Naval fleets from all over the world came to Boston to pay tribute to the *USS Constitution*.

The wonderful ship now rests in the Boston Harbor. She is truly part of what America stands for!

The ship was scheduled to be scrapped in 1830, but Oliver Wendell Holmes's poem "Old Ironsides" inspired a public movement to save it. Restored in 1925, The Constitution is now the oldest commissioned vessel in the US Navy. Presently serving as a museum ship at the Charleston Navy Yard, Boston, MA. moored in Boston

<http://www.schoonerman.com/iron.htm>

The Golden book of America
olden Press, NY



BALTIMORE (June 18, 2012) USS *Constitution*'s master gun team heaves an 18-pounder garrison cannon at Fort McHenry during Baltimore's Star-Spangled Sailabration. Star-Spangled Sailabration is the national launch of the three-year commemoration by the U.S. Navy and the State of Maryland of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the penning of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key.

Marshall County Airport Continued

Representatives of the airport made frequent trips to the state capital in Springfield on behalf of the airport's business. And they met frequently with the county Board of Supervisors in regard to the tax levy for the airport and paying the airport's bills in timely fashion.

B. H. Nickerson was the first manager of the airport. He was first hired as an interim manager and then as the permanent manager.

Now, 65 years later, the Airport has begun a \$1.5 million dollar extension of the runway to accommodate larger aircraft.

The Airport minute books were presented to the Museum by Charles L. Allen, current president of the Airport Board.

Jean Davis, managing director of the MCHS Museum, said, "The Historical Society is very appreciative of this gift of historical significance by the Airport Authority. This type of gift is the lifeblood of our organization."



Marshall County Old Settlers Celebration

Thursday Aug 23 thru Saturday Aug 25, 2012, Lacon, IL

The Museum will be opened Saturday from 10 - 2



John Marshall...

When Marshall County was established, it was named for Chief Justice John Marshall of the United States Supreme Court, who had died in office only 4 years before the county was created. Born in a log cabin on the Virginia frontier, John, a self-made lawyer, became the most renowned of American jurists. He is credited with being the 'father' of the United States Supreme Court. He died in 1835. (*Putnam & Marshall Counties, pub. 1955*)

Attention Genealogists

The **Illinois State Genealogical Society** is presenting monthly Webinars on various topics

On August 14 the presentation at 8 pm CST will be Major Midwestern Archives and Their Records

The September 11 program will be Researching your Famous and Infamous Relatives

For additional information and to register for the webinars use the link below.

<http://www.ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=227>

Ehringers Again Donate to the Museum

The Ehringer family has recently provided the museum with early photographs of Strawn family members, various photographs of locals, street scenes and diaries. Also in the collection is a vintage barrel piano that once graced the home of Col John Strawn, one of Marshall County's early settlers. A family member informed us that Col. Strawn used to play the piano at the Lacon Old Settlers Celebration.



John Strawn

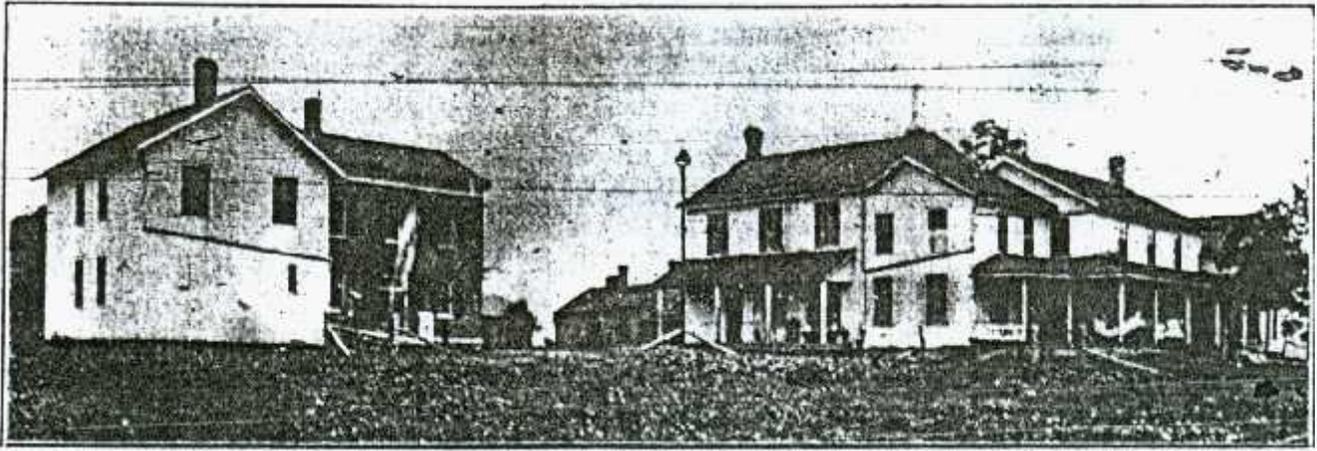


Mary Strawn

1812 Soldiers Buried in Marshall County Illinois per the 1956 Honor Roll by the Illinois Veterans' Commission (1956) & other sources

Name	Rank	Cemetery	Death Date
Babb, Jonathan	Gen	Lacon Cemetery	Apr 12, 1843
Bell, Robert F.	Col.	Bell Baptist	March 6, 1863
Bonham, Warford St	Capt	Bonham	July 23, 1869
Broaddus, Lunsford	Capt	Broaddus	Dec 6, 1864
Brown, William	Pvt	Cherry Point	1841
Butler, Ivory		Lawn Ridge	Jan 11, 1871
Camery, Christian		Sugar Grove	Mar 11, 1874
Cummins, John		Lacon Cemetery	Mar 21, 1873
Dever, James	Sgt	Fort & Dever	Dec 26, 1834
Dowdle, Robert		?	Dept 4, 1820
Erwin, John F		Henry City	June 4, 1878
Evans, Joshua	QM	Cherry Point	Jan 15, 1869
Hattan, Mark	Pvt	Martin	Apr 20, 1857
Hull, Alden		LaPrairie Meth	Jan 28, 1884
Jones, Joel		Henry City	Oct 21, 1870
Kibbe, Joseph	Pvt 27 Inf NY	?	?
Linley, John	Pvt 52 Regt	Wenona	July 9, 1863
Maring, Phineas		?	Dec 5, 1857
Martin, George	Pvt	Cumberland	July 12, 1838
Miller, Isaac C		Lacon Cemetery	Jan 22, 1860
Moon, Gibson (Gideon)		Sparland	Feb 11, 1875
Nesmith, Thomas J	Pvt	Cumberland	Nov 23, 1886
Orr, James		Broaddus	Oct 7, 1867
Padget, Daniel		Cherry Point	1886
Sickles, Harmonius		Lawn Ridge	1850
Snider, Henry	Col.	Henry City	June 13, 1855
Walker, Alexander	Capt	Sparland	?
Weir, John	Lt	Broaddus	Oct 22, 1872
Whitaker, Jesse	Pvt	Lacon Cemetery	Jan 26, 1879
Woolf, Henry		Wenona	Oct 14, 1875

Marshall County FarmAn article found in the Henry News Republican of 1903.



The Marshall County Farm and its several buildings of which we give a picture above, has been a public charity of the county upwards of 50 years. It is located in Steuben Township, three and a half miles west of Sparland village, among romantic scenery and in the bluffs leading up to the high prairie from the Illinois bottoms. The farm contains several houses. The larger one at the right is the main building, which embraces the residence of the superintendent and matron, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Dorsey. Also the kitchen and the dining room where all meals are served, and the women and children's dormitory in the second story.

In the earlier day the main building was a small structure, but as the demands required more rooms, additions were ordered by the Board Of Supervisors to the main structure, which at the present time is shown to be a large one, though not of modern architectural model or beauty. The white building at the left is the men's two story dormitory, built some 50 years ago, embracing some 10 rooms and the brick building just at the right of it is the hospital, where the sick and insane are kept having cells for the unruly or violent. Other buildings are the bath rooms, wash house, sheds, etc. required for a public institution of this kind. There are 31 sleeping apartments, connected with the institution and there has been occasions when it is thought more would be required. But the state having provided for the removal of the incurable insane, has lessened the responsibility, and relieved the house of many undesirable charges.

The farm contains 120 acres, 80 of which are under cultivation, supplying both animal and vegetable food, the requirements of the table as near as can be. A large garden produces the variety of vegetables required. A large orchard of trees, vines, and bushes, provide the fruit and preserves for the family.

Across the street as the farm is divided by the public road, is the barn and pens, meadow, pasture, etc. The barn contains several head of horses for the work of the farm and for driving purposes Twelve head of cows supply the milk and butter, and the pens have the usual number of porkers supplying the beef, the veal, the pork and bacon for the table.

Up to the time H.J. Adams became superintendent in 1877, no records had been kept. He introduced some new features, recording all names when entered, where from, disability, birth, age, etc. He kept a full account of all outgoers and receipts and made a report of all matters pertaining to the farm at every session of the Board of Supervisors.

From that time the County Farm became an important institution and has been a humane and valuable charity, proving a good home for a large number of our unfortunate and dependent people. Since Mr. Adams commenced keeping a record in 1877, the institution has admitted 440 persons, discharged 358 and has 56 deaths up to the present time.

The incurable insane have been removed to the Bartonville asylum, but the remaining inmates, 19 in number, 11 males and 8 females. Mr. & Mrs. Dorsey are the superintendent and matron having filled their respective places for the past 5 years. They are efficient in the discharge of their duties to these unfortunate people and do all in their power for their welfare and comfort. They have won the good graces of the inmates by their kindness, consideration and sympathy. It is not the most desirable of positions, but Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey have shown ability and skill in the requirements of the institution; and the Marshall County Farm under their management is a credit to Marshall County and a blessing and sweet charity for those we who receive its behests.

Address Service Requested

OUR AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Gold Affiliate

Abel Vault & Monument Co
Allen Partnership
Calvert & Froelich Memorial
Home- Toluca
Calvert & Johnson Memorial
Home- Henry
City of Henry
City of Lacon
City of Toluca
First National Bank of Lacon
Jim & Gail Frank
Haworth & Company
Henry State Bank
Dr. Richard P. June
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
Fecht Family Farms
Ed Glaser, Country Insurance
& Financial Services
LaPrairie UP Women
Phillip S McCully & Assoc
Patrick Murphy, Atty at Law
Kenneth Poignant Bulldozing
& Excavating
Riddell Polled Herefords
Summitt Photography
Eric S Swartz, Atty at Law
Tanner's Orchard
Bronze Affiliate
Animal Jim Racing and Classic Cars
Elizabeth Beck, Atty at Law
Beverly Bunch

R Dale Bunch
Citizens 1st National Bank
Columbia Antiques
DeRubeis Grain & Insurance
Energy Specialists Co
David A. Forbes, DC
Jim's IGA
Julie's Comer Store
Kenyon & Associates, Architects
Lynn & Penny Kunkle
LaPrairie Mutual Ins.
M & D Printing
Marshall Co Publishing Co
Marshall County Title Co.
Mona's Italian Restaurant
Pontiac Granite Co, Inc
Rice Electric
Sons of Union Veterans-
Simon Shafer Camp #134
Platinum Affiliate
Club LaCon
3 Times 1 Imprints

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