

REFLECTIONS

July-August-September 2014

Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Marshall County

WILLIAM BROWN - died in 1841 and is buried at Cherry Point Cemetery in Wenona Township. (source: *Genealogical Records, Illinois Society DAR, 1939, compiled by Mrs. Edward J. Filbey*)

LEMUEL GAYLORD - was born February 14, 1765, in Bristol county, Connecticut; died November 17, 1854, and is buried in Cumberland cemetery, Evans township, Marshall county, Illinois. Lemuel Gaylord's father was killed in the famous massacre of Wyoming, July, 1778. His mother at once started for her old home in Connecticut, suffering untold hardships on the way. Three years after her return, Lemuel enlisted, serving as ensign in Col. Roger Enos' company. After the war he removed to Illinois, settling in what is now Marshall county. Kathryn Gaylord, his mother, was the first Revolutionary heroine, for whom a public monument was erected, and the Bristol Chapter, D. A. R., of Connecticut, is named in honor of Kathryn Gaylord, the mother of this hero of the American Revolution. "Illinois Revolutionary War Veteran Burials", 1917. He died 17 Nov 1854 and is buried in Cumberland Cemetery in Wenona Township. (source: *Genealogical Records, Illinois Society DAR, 1939, compiled by Mrs. Edward J. Filbey*)



William Brown



Lemuel Gaylord



Joseph Warner

JOSEPH WARNER - was born in Anne Arundel county, Maryland, March, 1738; he removed to Fairfax county, Virginia, and enlisted from there; was in the battle of Germantown, 1779. In 1802 he removed to Ohio, and in 1838, at the advanced age of 100 years, he came to Illinois, coming the entire distance on horse-back, residing at Cherry Point, Marshall county. He longed for his old home in Ohio, and when 102 years of age, he started back, walking twelve miles across the unbroken prairie, where friends gave him shelter and persuaded him to return to Cherry Point. Another incident illustrating the indomitable courage and zeal, both Christian and patriotic, with which these pioneer-patriots were endowed: One cold, sleety Sunday, his daughter thought Mr. Warner ought not to attend church, but fearing he would be left at home, he started on foot. There was a creek to be crossed which he did by lying down and crawling over on two icy poles. This when he was 102 years of age. The aged patriot died September 5, 1842, and lies buried in Cherry Point, where a monument marks his last resting place. "Illinois Revolutionary War Veteran Burials", 1917

: *Genealogical Records, Illinois Society DAR, 1939, compiled by Mrs. Edward J. Filbey*)

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 – Rick Keating
Vice President – Ed Glaser
Treasurer—Bob Weber
Rec. Sec. – Theresa Thimm
Managing Director – John Wabel
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 2014 BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings are on Saturday at the museum at 10 am

January 18 (Annual/Board Meeting)
April 19
June 21
Aug 16
Oct 25
Dec 13 (Annual/Board Meeting)
Closed Dec 14 thru Jan 12

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you like genealogy?
Researchers are badly need in the genealogy department or we'll train. Do you know your alphabet? Sometimes it's just filing.



Obituaries

We are saddened to announce that our past Managing Director has recently passed away.

Jean L. Davis, 74, of Lacon died at 6:35 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2014, at the Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

Jean Stange was born on Jan. 2, 1940, to the late Raymond and Cecelia Engelbrecht Stange and raised in Henry. She married Earl Davis on July 2, 1960; he passed away on June 11, 1994.

She is survived by her daughter, Anita (Kelly) Thul; son, Errol (Karen) Davis; brother, Raymond (Debbie) Stange; and sisters, Patricia (Frank) Poskocil, Rita (Lewis) Simpkins, Jan (the late Tom) Simpkins, Margi Koors and Sharon Bumgardner. She also is survived by her grandchildren, Sarah, Karen, Renee, Aaron and Karina.

Jean served the public as the Marshall County circuit clerk for 25 years, later taking the job of managing director of the Marshall County Historical Society. She also served as an alderman for the east ward on the Lacon City Council until her death.

She published the History of St. Mary's Church in Henry and was a Rotarian, past president and cultural exchange member to Sweden.

Jean was a board member for Boy Scouts in Lacon, supporting the program as her husband, Earl, did.



Jean freely shared her insight and unbounded energy with her community, friends and family.

As a Master Gardener, she helped create beautiful gardens at the Marshall County Courthouse, Henry and Lacon Catholic churches, and Heading House in Peoria.

As a public official, she unwaveringly strove to do what was right and best for others.

A lover of travel, Jean traveled the world, enjoying gardens and the company of friends and family.

The lasting difference she made in so many lives was truly a gift to those who had the opportunity to know Jean.

Services were held Monday, Aug. 4, 2014, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Lacon, with Father Tom Mizeur officiating.

Memorial gifts are being accepted at the Historical Society Museum in her honor for improving the technology services in the genealogical department.

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

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

A Bit of Wenona History

In 1852, Wenona was established as a shipping point for the Illinois Central Railroad. Before that time, the area was uninhabited.

The line from LaSalle to Bloomington was completed in 1853 and a station was built at Wenona.

The village of Wenona was established in 1855.

By 1856 Wenona had a population of 1,200 people, 300 homes, 2 churches, 3 schools, a hotel and a sawmill.

In 1865, coal was discovered and the mine employed 200 men.

In 1982, the railroad line was abandoned leaving 41 grain elevators and a brick yard with no rail service.

On October 8, 1895, inhabitants of Wenona were greatly alarmed by an earthquake. The shock occurred at 1:20 in the morning with a rumbling noise. Minutes later more quaking came with more rumbling.

People ran to the streets. The shock was so violent that a good deal of damage was done to the coal mines in the vicinity. Slack and rock were shaken from the roofs and veins causing considerable damage.



Wenona Coal Co

The Wenona mine opened in 1883 and closed in 1925 according to the Directory of Coal Mines for Marshall County (September 2013)

Taken from the Henry Republican, May 13, 1880

Wenona - On Monday, May 10th, the earth was broken for the coal shaft, and notwithstanding the mud, a large number of citizens and farmers were present to witness the long talked of event. At the instance of Mr. Dixon, the foreman of the work, the privilege of first breaking the ground was accorded to the ladies. Accordingly a trio consisting of Mrs. W. H. Merrill, Mrs. A. H. Stateler, and Miss Libbie Hood, each armed with a new shovel, took their position within the space staked out and after a short speech by Hon. J. O. Dent, began the work of excavation of the shaft, Mrs. Merrill casting the first shovel of dirt (or mud), which ceremony being concluded, Mayor Stateler and Thomas Judds, Esq., the former representing the city and the latter the farming country, came in for second honors. The work will not be continued we hope to completion and ultimate success.



Post card circa 1915 of Wenona Coal Co.

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.



Annual Pie Sale Saturday, October 18

Saturday, Oct. 18 is the date set for our annual pie sale. The event begins early as members and friends bring in an assortment of home baked fruit pies. Selling starts promptly at 9:00 AM and usually by 11:00 AM nothing is left but the crumbs.

As our local membership ages, we no longer have the number of bakers we once did. To compensate we've asked the nearby high school home economics classes to furnish pies made from provided ingredients. This not only enlarges our offerings but gives those students the dual experience of pie baking and community service.

Our pie sale is our main fund raiser each year and we count on those of you who cannot be there in person to help us out with a "folding pie".

This tradition was started years ago by one of our founders, Eleanor Bussell, and is a much needed addition to the foot traffic we expect. "Folding pie" contributions should be made out to MCHS".

We invite all who can stop in for a wonderful fruit pie and enjoy a visit with our members and friends. The coffee is always hot and the company is good. We hope to see you Saturday Oct 18th. Theresa Thimm (Chairman)

Pie Sale Committee: Kathy Brown, Marilyn Hurt, Rick Keating, Bev Meils, Brandi Moo-berry & John Wabel

Lacon Tornado 1942

The tragic storm that struck with full blast in our neighboring city of Lacon about 4:30 pm Monday evening leveled many homes & tore huge trees up by their very roots, taking six lives & injuring many others. The twister hit at the southwest corner of town, near the cemetery & tore thru to the northwest its path of destruction 2 blocks wide & at least 30 blocks long.

Countless huge Elm trees, for which the town was noted fell under the blast of swirling winds & made many streets impassable. Automobiles were buried beneath debris & all available tractors, road equipment & trucks were placed into use in an effort to dig out from under. Also aiding in the clean up work were conscientious objectors from the CCC Camp of Henry.

A survey of the American Red Cross and insurance companies showed that at least 64 homes were damaged to some extent.

Six people were killed and at least 75 were injured.

Approximately 75 of the injured were cared for in the emergency Red Cross headquarters established in the City Hall. Six people were killed and at least 75 were injured.

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The entire community was a maze of twisted plaster, wood, broken wires & trees, broken glass & pieces of lumber with nails covered the highways, which blocked all traffic in the section of town hit by the storm. Furniture, garments of clothing & bedding were strewn all throughout the neighborhood.

The 14 room home of Delmas Pettett was completely destroyed as the huge residence was lifted entirely from its foundation & dropped in the adjacent yard. Fourteen women in the home for a party were reported unhurt. They dashed to the basement when the tornado struck.

Also on the job cooperating with the Methodist church of that city was the Peoria Salvation Army. As rescue work was carried on these groups served hot coffee & sandwiches to the volunteer workers. Local Boy Scouts & those units of Peoria & vicinity were making a house to house check to determine extent of damage & housing conditions.

American Legionaries also are assisting. An all day clinic was arranged for at the City Hall for the purpose of administering anti-typhoid shots. Swollen streams & the resultant pollution of water created this additional threat

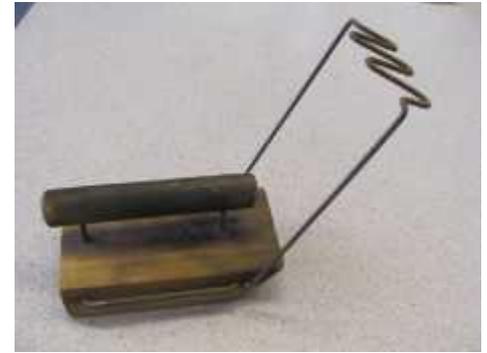


Toluca Star Herald, March 20, 1942

Wish List

Desktop Computer Windows XP or higher
Small 4 or 5 ft step ladder
Electric Drill 3/8" corded / cordless
2 or 4 drawer file cabinet, heavy duty.
One-room school pictures/histories
Mannequins for clothing display.
Clothes rack on rollers 5-6 ft tall
Donations are tax deductible.
Thank you for your help.

Unknown Objects



These objects were recently brought in to the Museum. Can you identify them? Please contact the Museum if you know what they are and what they were used for. They appear to be homemade.



Genealogy Department

This is a small portion of the collection of the genealogy department. Volunteers weekly add information to the files, including newspaper clippings of events and obituaries.

More volunteers are needed to keep the files up-to-date.



Summer Window Displays

Boy Scouts of America



With the help of Kathy Coyle of Lacon Troop 69 and Rod Rumbold of Henry Troop 74 we created a window display recognizing the Marshall County Eagle Scouts and some of their projects. The wooden plaques list all Eagle Scouts and the date of their award. The first Eagle Scout awarded was awarded to Richard Nash in 1947 of Lacon. It is an honor to acknowledge these individuals.

St Joseph Nursing Home



St Joseph Nursing Home celebrated their 50 th year this spring. The window also featured the vocation of nursing.



The July window was a salute to our women in the Military.



August Old Settler's theme was "Once upon a time". Our windows reflected the old time school with desk and books and compared it to now with a computer sitting in front of it. The laundry area displayed an old time washing machine with a picture of today's models. The east window reminded us of the beauty along the Illinois River.



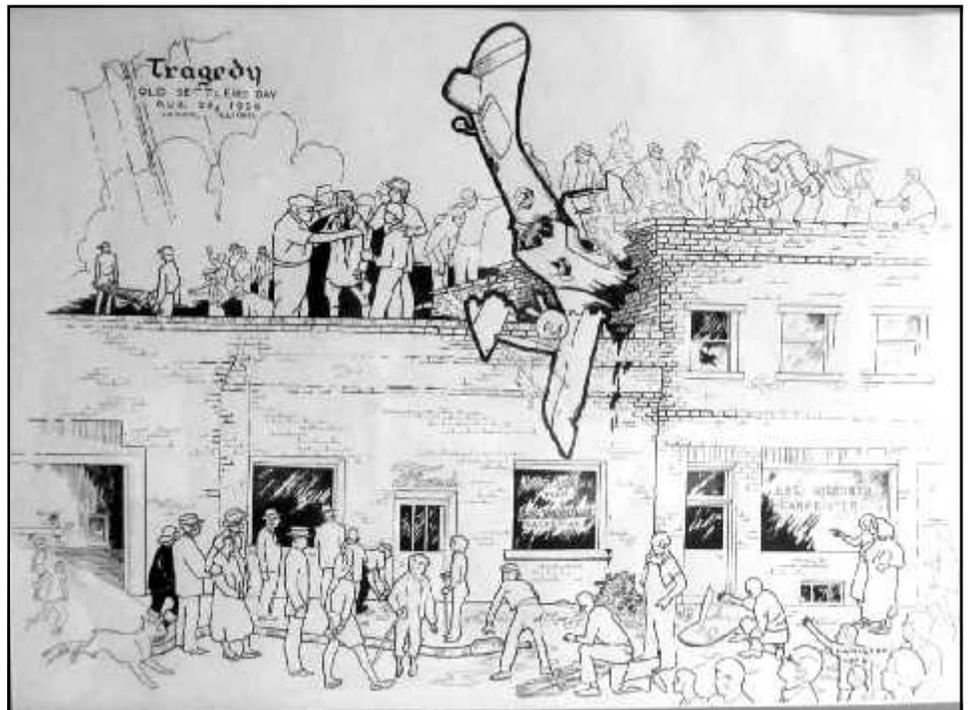
TRAGEDY OLD SETTLERS DAY
August 26, 1926

As a main feature attraction on Old Settlers Day, 1926, a World War I type airplane was engaged to give rides and later in the day to perform stunts over the city for the crowd.

The pilot was Dean Cunningham of Kewanee and the stunt man was Rex Broddis from Rock Falls.

About 4:00 P.M. that day, they did the usual stunts of looping the loop, climbing and diving. Then Broddis got out and stood on the wing of the bi-plane as it slowly flew over the business district at a very low altitude, perhaps only 500 feet or so.

Suddenly the plane stalled and went into a spin, nose diving in a slow spiral straight down to tragedy. The plane plowed into what is now the Lenz Apartment Building, then owned by Art Winters and used as a carpenter shop. It also did considerable damage to Kief's Service Garage, then owned by a W. G. Brow. C Longman was a salesman for Brown and later operated the garage himself for years.



Dean Cunningham, the pilot, was badly injured. Rex Broddis, the stunt performer, was killed.

At a meeting of old settlers at Lacon Saturday, Oct. 6th, 1869, for the purpose of founding an old settler's association, Robert Barnes was called to preside, and Thomas Judd was appointed secretary.

Newsletter Schedule

November newsletter deadline is Oct 15. Please be sure to turn in your news items by then.



OUR AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Gold Affiliate

Allen Partnership
 Calvert, Johnson 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 Mar-
 shall 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.
 Edward Jones Investments

Bronze Affiliate

Heartland Bank
 Columbia Antiques

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
 Charles Perdue Museum
 Burnell's Neat Wheat & Wood

Platinum Affiliate

Club LaCon

Gold Affiliate

Marshall County Veterinary Clinic

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