

REFLECTIONS

June/July 2011

2011 Annual Banquet Held in Henry



The annual banquet was held at the River Valley Bowl in Henry, IL on Wednesday evening, April 27th. A buffet dinner of chicken, spaghetti and the trimmings was served to one hundred and one members and friends.

Ken Williamson led the traditional singing of "Illinois". Rev Thomas Mizeur of the Henry and Lacon Catholic Churches gave the invocation before the dinner was served.

The guest speaker, John Hallwas was funded by a grant

from the Illinois Humanities Council. MCHS Managing Director, Jean Davis was successful in securing the grant. John Hallwas has been a professor at Western Illinois University in Macomb and still lives there today. John has been an editor, historian, archivist and professor and is a distinguished professor emeritus at WIU.

His program was titled "Desperadoes: Notorious Outlaws of Early Illinois". Display pictures on the screen related to his topic and added to

the interesting information he presented. John has written and edited many books on Illinois, Midwest, library and history. One of his most recent books is "The Dime Novel: The Notorious Maxwell Brothers". Professor Hallwas provided an informative and entertaining evening for all those in attendance.



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

Hours—Tues. & Wed. 9-12
Group Tours by appointment

President – Ed Glaser

Vice President – Larry Leighty

Asst. VP – Justin Meierkord

Rec. Sec. – Marge Watkins

Cor. Sec. –

Treasurer – Robert Weber

Managing Director – Jean Davis

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE – \$150

ANNUAL – \$10

AFFILIATE – \$25-\$100

Renewals are due in January

MCHS 2011 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are on Saturday at
the museum at 10 am

July 16 – Board Meeting

September 17 – Board Meeting

November 19 – Board Meeting

January 21, 2012

(Annual & Board Meeting)

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

The following holidays will be
observed if they fall on a Tuesday
or Wednesday:

Presidents' Day, Memorial Day,
Independence Day, Labor Day,
Columbus Day, Veterans Day,
*The Museum is closed from mid-
December to mid-January*

NEW MEMBERS

Ray McDonald

Lynette Marshall

Karl Koehler

Jennifer Koehler

Joan Scoon

Tim Halik

Wendy Jones

Welcome to one and all!

OBITUARIES

Jacqueline Maloney, 82, died April 14, 2011. She and her husband, Larry resided at Lake Thunderbird in Putnam County. Jackie was a long time member of the Historical Society. She was an artist, painting many local sites and buildings. Jackie has won many awards for her painting, several of which are on exhibit at the museum. Her work won "Best of Show" at the Marshall-Putnam and Bureau County fairs for six years. She was a lover of art and animals. Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Church in Henry, with burial of ashes at St Francis of Assisi Cemetery at Lake Thunderbird.

Paul Christian Sancken, 87, of Henry died Sunday, May 1, 2011. Paul was born Sept. 25, 1923, Livingston County, Ill., to Theodore J. and Eleanore (Mund) Sancken. He married Edith Harms on Aug. 3, 1947. He worked for 37 years with the Farm Service Inc. in four different locations and retired while at Grandview Service Co. in Henry.

Paul was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Varna, where he served on the church board. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Henry Rotary Club. He served as a charter member and director of the Henry Home and Indian Town Home Associations.

During World War II, Paul served in the Army Air Corps and was a member of the Henry American Legion and the Marshall County Historical Society.

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference Comes to Springfield in September

FGS and local host, Illinois State Genealogical Society, are proud to announce the FGS 2011 Conference "Pathways to the Heartland" will be held on September 7-10, in Springfield, Illinois. This year's conference offers an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in researching their family history. Over 165 educational sessions are designed to balance the needs of genealogists at all levels, exploring a wide variety of topics including Midwestern research, migration and immigration, military, strategies and techniques, technology, and writing. The early registration deadline is July 1, which offers a savings of \$50 for a full conference registration. Additional details can be found on the FGS website: <http://fgs.org/2011conference>.

Annual Pie Sale



Coming in October

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

**MUSEUM HOURS:
TUES. & WED. 9 AM – 12 PM
Open on select
SATURDAYS 10 AM – 1 PM
Call the Museum or check
the website for dates**

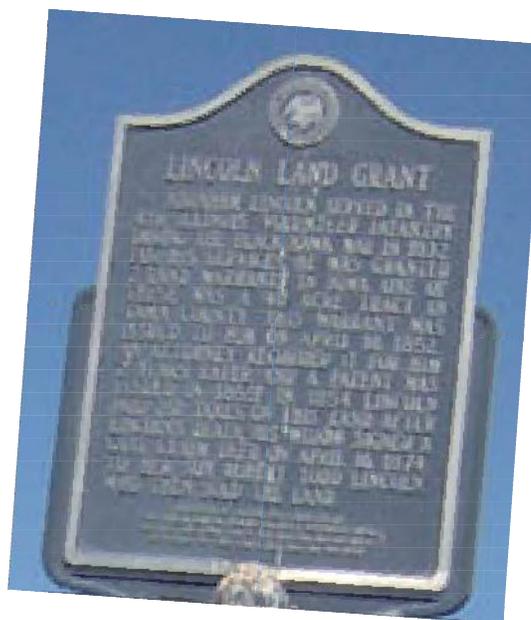
So here we were...

...driving along in central Iowa and saw a small, brown sign stating "Lincoln Historical Site". Having, by that time, spent several days in Iowa, we were thoroughly sick of driving those all-too-prevalent gravel roads. The revolting thought of taking even one more gravel road conflicted with the next question in my mind: "I'm not sure if Lincoln ever set foot in Iowa?" My curiosity got the better of me and I turned around and took the gravel side road a couple miles west then a quarter mile north and came upon this bronze marker in a desolate corner of Tama County, Iowa. There may be days when no car passes on that old gravel road, not even a mail carrier. We soaked in the quiet, peaceful expansiveness of Iowa countryside as we read the sign and pondered its meaning and started putting some pieces of a puzzle together in our minds.

Now travel in your mind back east to Southern Wisconsin: We had lived for 14 years in or within a half mile of a tiny place that was as idyllic as it's named implies called Cold Spring, Wisconsin. There is a small wayside park on the north edge of the village with a cool running spring, swingset, picnic shelter and a historical marker explaining that this is where Abraham Lincoln was released from service in the Black Hawk War. Legend has it that he had his horse stolen that night and he canoed and walked his way back to central Illinois.

Now put these two places together: Cold Spring was probably a military camp and I can imagine tents and desks with clerks doing paperwork related to discharging the soldiers from service. There may have been a section where these land warrants were written up and processed in lieu of payment for service in the militia. Tama County, Iowa was prime land available for settlers moving west of that time period. It was all coming clear to us as we sat there putting those tiny places together in this small story of what most believe is one of the most influential and important lives ever lived.

Ed Glaser, May 2011



Linda and Brad Glaser in front of sign pictured above

Annual Book Sale in Progress at the Museum



**Hardcover • Softcover
History • Fiction • Novels**

Stop in and browse our great selection of books, or donate some to the cause. This is an annual fundraiser for the museum and you can help make it a success! Buy a book or two today.

Brush College Country School

by *Alba McDonald*

Alfred Judd, a prominent farmer who became clerk of the Evans township board, built a one room school in the southwest corner of section 5 in Evans township. It was in a field where a new road was planned to connect with an existing road. However, the new road was never built. The school stood near Sandy Creek and was first called "Sandy Grove School." Students had to cross the creek by way of a log that served as a bridge, then push their way through dense brush and trees to reach the building. The children were soon calling the school "Brush College."

Many schools, at that time, were built among trees and brush thus the term was an often used slang phrase.

In time the brush was cleared away, the trees removed and a fence was built around the school yard.

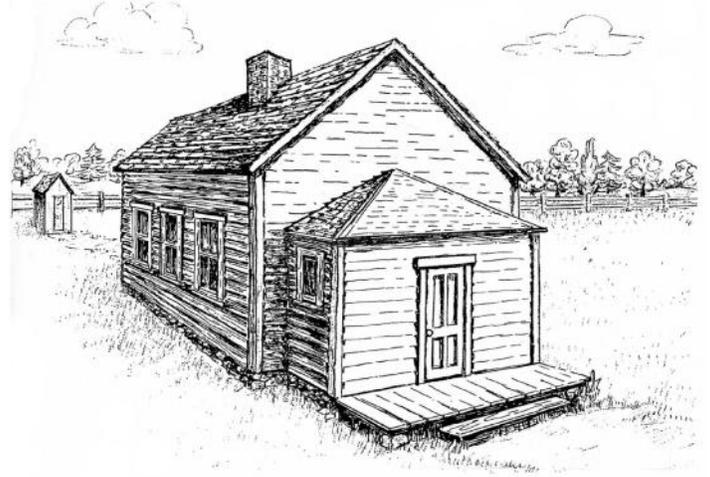
Thomas Gallager taught in this school in 1843 while it was still called "Sandy Grove." Then in 1846 Thomas Judd taught there. Eventually the school was named "Alfred Judd" after the man who built it.

The accompanying drawing was done from an old photograph of the school.

Teachers at that time earned about twenty dollars a month and not all in cash but in grain, livestock, or store goods.

Some early students were children from the Judd, Simpson, Beckwith, Darnell, Jones, and Griffith families.

Information on one room schools in Marshall County has depended on individuals sharing what they



remembered, donating pictures to be copied or kept on file, and writing short articles for the historical books that are in the Historical Society and Museum in Lacon.

In 1912 Marshall County had seventy four one room schools. To learn about any of these schools, one needs to know in which township it was located, then what has been collected can be found. Not all schools are covered and some may never be, but an effort is being made to find as much as possible. The above information on Brush College is the first school to be featured in this newsletter. Other one room schools that once dotted the landscape will be written about in future newsletters.

New acquisition:

Taylor-Wilson Mangle-Wringer

Taylor-Wilson mangle/wringer. The company was founded in Lancashire England in 1866, The bottom support is curved to make room for a bucket to catch the water. They were expensive when they first came out and women that did laundry advertised "have a mangle" to attract clients. The main advantage was folding sheets, etc. and running them thru before drying on a line to save any ironing later. The table attached was patented by Taylor-Wilson and advertised as an aid to folding before and after wringing the articles. Circa 1930



The research was done by John and Pat Sloma of Columbia Antiques. The



artifact was donated by Jeanette Fawcett of Lacon.

Board Meeting Minutes May 14, 2011

Reports on many recent and upcoming activities were reported when the Marshall County Historical Society board met at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 14, at the Museum in Lacon. The Society was founded by the late Eleanor Bussell, long-time curator, in 1956, and is now in its 55th year.

President Ed Glaser presided at the meeting. Secretary Marge Watkins read the minutes of the March meeting, and Treasurer Bob Weber gave the financial report.

A book sale will be held at the Museum this summer with Melody Fairbanks as chairperson of the book sale committee.

John Wabel of Lacon was elected to the board to replace the late Mamie Fleming, who was an active member of the board for many years. Charles Fleming has indicated that he will continue to support the Museum on special projects.

John Wabel reported that a camera has been purchased for use in the Society's upcoming oral history project. The goal is to interview persons with knowledge of such topics as agriculture, the river, and the Lacon woolen mill for the benefit of future generations.

Rosana Benson reported on the April 27 Society annual banquet at the River Valley Bowl in Henry when Prof. John Hallwas spoke on the topic of "Illinois Desperados". The 2012 banquet will be held on April 23 at the Club LaCon with Rick Keating, editor of the Society's newsletter, speaking on the topic of "Forgotten Cemeteries of Marshall County."

Managing Director Jean Davis distributed an amended list of committee assignments for this year. Moby and Florence Finfgeld were assigned to the publicity detail previously capably handled for many years by the recently retired Clarabel Riddell.

The Society's annual baked pie and folding pie sale will be held on Friday, Oct. 14, with Bev Meils and Florence Finfgeld as chairpersons. The Midland and Henry-Senachwine high school home ec instructors are being contacted about furnishing pies for this sale.

Several groups are planning to tour the Museum on Fifth Street in Lacon (Route 17) in the coming weeks. Recent displays in the Museum's front windows have been outstanding. Current displays feature dresses and clocks. The window display group includes Rita Simpkins, Marilyn Hurt, and Florence Finfgeld.

Clarabel Riddell has had a keen interest in barns for many years, and she announced the upcoming Western Illinois Barn Tour on July 9-10 at Fulton, Illinois, and Clinton, Iowa. She also mentioned that retired Appellate Court Judge Kent Slater, a native of Augusta, Illinois, has restored the barn on his family farm.

President Glaser stated that there will be an auction of the 1850 Judge Shaw farm house on Century Road near Varna on Friday, June 3. The next meeting of the Society's board will be July 16.

Scenes from the Annual Banquet

Photos by Jean Davis



President Ed Glaser welcoming banquet attendees



MARSHALL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM
314 Fifth St.
P.O. Box 123
Lacon, IL 61540-0123

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Lacon, IL 61540

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Support the Marshall County Historical Society & Museum

Become an Affiliate Member of the Marshall County Historical Society. Contact Ed Glaser, Membership Chairperson, or any Board Member to set up your Affiliate Membership.