

# REFLECTIONS

March—April 2012

## Outstanding Cemetery Program at MCHS

Visitors have called the Historical Society Museum in downtown Lacon the best kept secret in Marshall County.

The cemetery program at the Museum last Wednesday morning may have blown the cover on that secret.



The program was presented by Hal Hassen, an Illinois Department of Natural Resources archaeologist, and Dawn Cobb of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Justin Meierkord, a Museum board member, arranged for the two experts to present the program, and John Wabel, another Museum board member, introduced the guest speakers who kept the undivided attention of the more than 40 persons in attendance for the entire 90-minute program.

This special program on cemeteries was a prelude to the Museum's annual banquet scheduled for Monday evening, April 23, at the Club LaCon when Rick Keating and his wife Debbie will present the program on "Forgotten Cemeteries of Marshall County."

Keating is a well-known local historian and former editor of the Museum's newsletter.

One of the main themes of the speakers at last Wednesday's program was that cemeteries tend to reflect general society's changing values. Hassen noted that early cemetery markers were of sandstone, a relatively soft material, followed by marble, and then the much harder granite.

Hassen also discussed numerous types of cemeteries. His classifications would put most of the larger local cemeteries in what he described as the Rural classification with various influences imported through the years from the larger population centers in the East.



In her part of the program, Dawn Cobb addressed numerous cemetery maintenance problems. She said that mower weight, grass clippings on flat stones, and clipped corners of monuments can be problems. She especially recommended the use of nylon string on weed whippers.

Other hazards she mentioned included watching for dead wood on tree limbs, stress lines from

carvings on monuments, and leaning or shifting grave stones. She said that graves should never be pinned and that concrete should never be used to patch or repair.

She added that tips on maintenance can be obtained from the Historic Preservation Agency website or from their periodic workshops. The next workshop is at Macomb

In answer to questions about repair of graves, she said that volunteers and family members do practically all of that work.

This cemetery program rated a feature article in the Peoria Journal-Star by reporter Gary L. Smith.

Historians often uncover valuable information by doing research in local cemeteries. A case in point is a Michigan couple who spent several days gathering information on the Meridian family and taking pictures in the Henry cemeteries, Lacon cemeteries, Stark county cemeteries, Chillicothe cemetery, and Springdale cemetery in Peoria.

The Marshall County Historical Society is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization and operates under the steady hand of Managing Director Jean Davis. In addition to the major officers, the Society has numerous committees.

***Why pay money to  
have your family tree  
traced; go into politics  
and your opponents  
will do it for you.  
~ Author Unknown***

## 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  
*Treasurer* – Robert Weber  
*Managing Director* – Jean Davis

### MEMBERSHIP

**ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL \$10**  
**ANNUAL FAMILY \$15**  
**INDIVIDUAL LIFE \$150**  
**HUSB & WIFE LIFE \$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

Patricia Keedy Hiser  
Suzanne Starling  
Rod Monier family  
Arlene Adolphson  
Richard Ong  
David Dunagan  
Jon Doshier



## Annual Banquet

April 23—Social Hour 5 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

LaCon Club

Program:

Forgotten Cemeteries in Marshall County  
presented by Rick Keating.



Harris Cemetery—Section 28, Hopewell Township

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The Museum has many wonderful displays commemorating  
the county's history.

Come in a visit and walk through time with us.



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

# OBITUARIES

**LaVada M. Cook**, 80, of Washburn passed away Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. She was born July 18, 1931, in Bell Plain Township to the late Anthony and Emma (Schmellen) Schock.

She married Dewey Cook in 1955 in Peoria. He preceded her in death on Nov. 17, 1992.

She is survived by her son, Daryl Cook of Washburn; and her nephew, Lee, and his wife, Josie Gill, of Princeville. She was preceded in death by one brother.

LaVada gave much to her community. She was a life member of the Marshall County Historical Society, a past Board Member and a long time volunteer at the Museum.

She was also a member of the Lacon Women's Club and the Marshall County Republican Women's Club.

Memorials may be directed to the Marshall County Historical Society.

**Dean P. Deffenbaugh** 90, of Lacon passed away Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012, at his home. He was born on Oct. 19, 1921, to the late Edward and Ruth (Pembrook) Deffenbaugh in Held, Ill. He married Beatrice Schilling on Oct. 30, 1944, in Chelyan, W.Va. She survives.

Also surviving are one son, Phil (Joyce) Deffenbaugh of Nekoosa, Wis.; one daughter, Christine (Bob) McMahan of Longwood, Fla.; grandsons, Shane (Mackenzie) Deffenbaugh of Franklin, Pa., and Ian McMahan of Longwood, Fla.; granddaughters, Stephanie and Erin McMahan, both of Longwood, Fla.; and great-grandson, Norman Shane Deffenbaugh of Franklin, Pa. Dean served in the United States Coast Guard from 1943 to 1945, during WWII. He gave much to his community. He was a member of the Lacon-Sparland Methodist Church, Methodist Men, a life member of the Marshall County Historical Society, the Marshall County Board and the Lacon Community Center. He also was a member and past commander of the Walter Guede American Legion Post No. 593, the Shriners International, the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley and a member and past Master of the Lacon Masonic

**Kathryn M. Ehringer**, 99, of Lacon passed away Monday, April 2, 2012.

She was born on Feb. 13, 1913, to the late Charles and Vada (Kizer) Vandever. She married Wayne Ehringer in Lacon on Oct. 10, 1954. He preceded her in death on March 28, 1975.

She is survived by one son, Gary (Mary Lou) Ehringer; four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Katie was a life member of the Historical Society; and donor with her husband, Wayne, of the building that houses the museum. She will be missed by all who knew her.

**Robert Fort Cowan**, 98, of Peoria passed away Tuesday, March 20, 2012. He was born on Sept. 15, 1913, in Colorado Springs, Colo., to the late George and Wave (Betts) Cowan. From 1937 to 1941, he was married to Fay Eastman. In May 1944, he married Caryl Jean Carman of Princeville. She preceded him in death in 1967. He was a life member of the Historical Society, an active member of Walter Guede American Legion Post 523, a lifelong hunter and fisherman. Fort was in the U.S. Army and the Merchant Marines from 1943 to 1945.

His great-grandfather, George Wightman, was a civil war veteran and well known civil engineer in the area, involved in the layout of many roads and rail lines.

Fort was featured many times in the Peoria Journal Star as "Central Illinois' Oldest Duck Hunter" as well as when he shot a turkey at age 95.

If you are not receiving the newsletter in color, would you like to do so??

Just send us your email address and help us save on postage as well.

Email to:

[marshallcountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:marshallcountyhistory@gmail.com).

Are you searching for ancestors?

Helpful links:

[www.FindaGrave.com](http://www.FindaGrave.com)

More helpful links on our webpage

[www.marshallcountyhistory.org](http://www.marshallcountyhistory.org)

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**TUES. & WED. 9 AM – 12 PM**  
Open most  
**SATURDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM**  
Or call the Museum for appointment



# WAR OF 1812

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**1812...**The War of 1812 was a military conflict fought between the forces of the United States of America and those of the British Empire. The Americans declared war in 1812 for several reasons, including trade restrictions due to Britain's ongoing war with France, the impressment of American merchant sailors into the Royal Navy, British support of American Indian tribes against American expansion, and outrage over insults to national honor after humiliations on the high seas.

*(Wikipedia)*



**2012...**“The War of 1812 is virtually forgotten. But Canadian and American officials are trying to drum up interest in the often-overlooked conflict, gearing up for its bicentennial this summer, Wall Street Journal's Chip Cummins reports from Ontario, Canada.

The war "is a hard and confusing story to tell," says Bill Pencek, executive director of Maryland's War of 1812 bicentennial commission. Maryland is organizing what is shaping up to be the biggest commemoration in the U.S., including a parade of U.S. Navy and tall ships this June. But it is building events around the U.S. national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and its inspiration: the flag that flew over Baltimore's Fort McHenry during a British bombardment during the conflict.”  
*(Wall Street Journal)*

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“Today, American popular memory includes the British capture and the [burning of Washington](#) in August 1814, which necessitated its extensive renovation.

Another memory is the successful American defense of [Fort McHenry](#) in September 1814, which inspired the lyrics of the U.S. national anthem, [The Star-Spangled Banner](#).



The successful Captains of the U.S. Navy became popular heroes with plates with the likeness of Decatur, Steward, Hull, and others, becoming popular items. Ironically, many were made in England. The Navy became a cherished institution beloved for the victories that it gave against all odds.

The war remained in the American popular consciousness as late as the later 20<sup>th</sup> century due to the song [The Battle of New Orleans](#).”  
*(Wikipedia)*

See the official war of 1812 Bicentennial website is:

<http://www.visit1812.com/>

Site includes history, time lines, sites and museums. Copy & paste in your browser or click here.

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## Research

Need help searching the archives; come to the museum and we will help or email [marshall-countyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:marshall-countyhistory@gmail.com).

You may also send a letter with information about the topic or person you are researching and we can assist you. We appreciate a donation commensurate with the extent of your request. We will tell you what we have available but we can not guarantee that we will be able to find what you need.

Need a copy? The charge for a standard page is 25 cents and \$1.00 a page for microfiche copying.

Photos from our collection can be obtained for \$5.00 for a 4 x 6, \$10.00 for a 5 x 7 and \$15.00 for an 8 x 10 printed on quality photo paper.

Anyone know these people?



We have several photos of unknown people. Stop by the Museum and help us identify them.



More pictures are on our webpage:

[www.marshallcountyhistory.org](http://www.marshallcountyhistory.org)



## Research connections:

[Illinois Genealogy Research](#)

[Illinois State Genealogical Society](#)

Ancestry.com

Roots Web

Kindred Konnections

There are hundreds of sites on the web to help with research. Some are free to register and others have annual fees. If others have sites they found helpful, please let us know so we may share that information

.In 1874 the Henry schools were using "The Republican" weekly newspaper for class reading instead of the reading texts prescribed. Said the editor, "The paying of so much for readers is a monopoly that might be dispensed with." *Henry News 1874*



Harrison School  
Henry Township

## Museum Wish List:

1. Small Color TV 15" to 19"
2. DVD player
3. Flat Panel computer monitor 16" to 20"
4. External Hard Drive - connects to USB port
5. Flash drive (memory stick) - 2 GB or more
6. Laptop or Desk Top Computer - Windows XP or later, Processor - Pentium 4 or later, Memory - 4 GB or more, Hard Drive - 300 GB or more Must be reliable, reasonably fast, less than 5 years old
7. Microsoft Office - 2003 or later
8. Family Tree Maker - 2010 or later
9. White 3 ring binders, 2", 3", or 4"

## Are you Lost??

We have lost track of a few of our members and need your help. We need current addresses for these members: Maureen Drobitsky, Leon Lane, Todd Peabody, Dean King, Jeanne Grieves Wylie and Annette Reynolds. If you can help please send information to the Mu-

Do you know how many states were involved in the War of 1812? Who was President at that time? Many states are making plans for celebrations and memorial activities.

## *History of the War of 1812*

Visit this site for more information.

<http://www.visit1812.com>

## IN SEARCH OF THE ARTIST

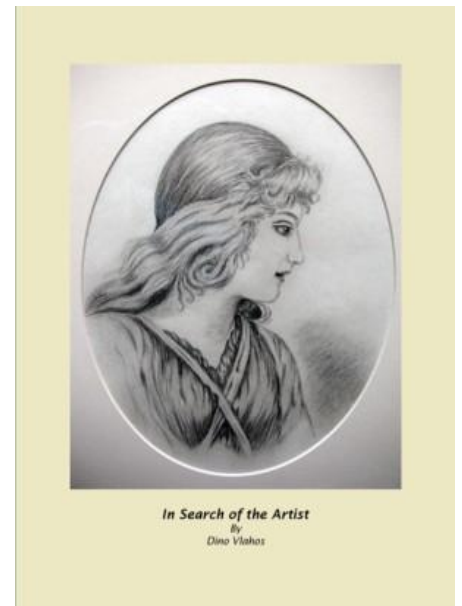
By Dino Vlahos

The Historical Society museum is the recipient of an autographed copy of "In Search of The Artist" by Dino Vlahos, a resident of the Chicago suburbs.

The book is about Frances Cook Steen, a remarkable woman who lived a good portion of her life in central Illinois including Wenona.

Vlahos found a couple of sketches that Steen had penned over a half century ago. The book chronicles the journey Vlahos made uncovering the life of Steen **Frances C. Steen** and an appreciation he developed for the Women of the early 20th Century.

Several of Steen's poems appear in the book, which is available for review in the research library at the museum and can be purchased at: [http://www.aleopublications.com/html/in\\_search\\_of\\_the\\_artist.html](http://www.aleopublications.com/html/in_search_of_the_artist.html) or by contacting the museum.



## Quilt Show At Museum

Vintage quilts will be on display at the Marshall County Historical Society Museum in Lacon during the special quilt show running from Saturday, March 17 through the end of April.

The show will feature quilts made by the members of the Marshall-Putnam Quilt Guild. The quilt show will be open to the public on the Museum's regular hours of 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and also from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays, from March 17 through April 28.

Among the Historical Society's vintage quilts on display in the window will be the following:

- 1930's crazy quilt made by Lillian Burkholder Murphy.
- Bicentennial quilt made in 1976 by Marshall County women under the guidance of the Museum's founder and long-time curator, Eleanor Bussell.
- "Chips of Wood" quilt made by Margaret V. White from family shirt and dress fabrics.
- "Temperance Tree" pattern quilt donated by Patricia Seibold of Sparland.
- "Fan" crazy quilt made by Mrs. Paul Roberts, who began the quilt in Sweden and finished it in the United States after they immigrated.
- Flower basket appliqué made by Mary Schupp, a well-known quilter from Lacon.
- An 1890's crazy quilt made by the LaPrairie Presbyterian women's group and given to the Greens as a wedding gift.
- A Dresden plate quilt made by Mrs. Ines Held circa 1930 and given to Eleanor Bussell when she went to Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL.
- A child's log cabin quilt/comforter, history unknown.
- Also on display will be quilts loaned by some of the Museum's great volunteers.

The other display window at the Museum features the War of 1812 as part of the bicentennial observance of that conflagration.





## Gen. Henry Nominated for Illinois Governor

March 178 years ago.....a very important meeting of the state of Illinois was called to order in New Salem.

As it was time for the election of a new governor, a political meeting was called to nominate a suitable candidate.

Hence, the following business was transacted:

### Public Meeting

At a respectable meeting of the citizens New Salem, held pursuant to public notice, on Saturday, 1st March, 1834, for the purpose of nominating a suitable person to fill the office of Governor of this State: Bowling Green Esq. was called to the chair, and A. Lincoln appointed the Secretary. The object of the meeting being explained by the chair, Dr. John Allen and Messrs. Nelson Alley and Samuel Hill were appointed a committee, to draft a preamble and resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting; who, after an absence of a few minutes, presented the following, which were unanimously adapted:

Whereas the election of our executive officer is always interesting to the people, and should at all times demand deliberate attention and united efforts of its inhabitants, for the election of a Chief Magistrate, who is free from and above party and sectarian influence; who respects the rights of his fellow citizens, and who has wisdom to devise, and energy to execute such laws as are conducive to the political happenings of the people, and to the development of the great resources of our State: and, whereas, there is at this time no candidate for that high and responsible office before the people, to whom we can, or to whom, in our opinion, the people in this section of country will give a cordial and hearty support:

and whereas we have the most implicit confidence in the honor, integrity and firmness of our fellow citizen, Gen. James D. Henry - therefore:

Resolved, That the patriotic services, discreet and unassuming character of Gen. James D. Henry, are such as to merit the confidence of the people of this State; and to place his title to the gubernatorial chair paramount to that of any of the candidates now before the people.

Resolved, That we will use every laudable effort to promote the election of General James D. Henry to be the person for the office, believing that by choosing him they will confer due honor on an individual, and advance the paramount welfare of the State.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and forwarded to the editors of the Sangamo Journal for publication. And, On motion, the meeting adjourned.

A. Lincoln, Secretary Bowling Green, Chairman.

The chosen candidate, General James D. Henry was a hero of the Blackhawk War, for whom Henry was named.

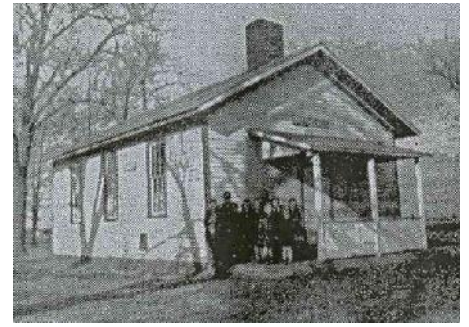
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## Garfield Rural School

*by Alba McDonald*

The first school in Richland Township was known as Old Salem. It was built in 1840 on the bluffs of Crow Creek in the south end of the township.

It was built of logs and long slab benches and accommodated as many as fifty children. Mrs. J.B. Spangler was one of the early teachers.



The log schoolhouse was replaced in 1846 by a frame building located one mile east of the log site.

Early students of this school were the Bucks, Owens, and the Strawns. Early teachers were; Laura Henthorn, Lizzie Clark, Greenbury Fort, Ling Hewett, Judson Durham, Amelia Farner and Nellie Hade

Then in 1879 population growth and needed space made it desirable and feasible to locate another school in the Crow Creek area. Part of Old Salem district was consolidated with the Monahan school district.

Early pupils at Monahan were; Lincoln Kunkle, Jennie Kunkle, Frank McGrath, Darley Boone and the children from the Redigers and Marlowe families.

An early teacher at Monahan was a Miss Gaston who graduated from the Lacon high school. She obtained her first teaching experience at Monahan school in 1877. She later gained world-wide recognition as a crusader against the use of tobacco and cigarettes.

Five years after the Monahan and Old Salem schools were consolidated a new building was erected a mile west of the Monahan location and somewhat over a mile north of the Old Salem site. The new school was named Garfield, by its first teacher, Maggie Taylor.

The year was 1882. Emma Bennington was the school's teacher in 1932 when the school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

Address Service Requested

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## 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*