

REFLECTIONS

March—April 2013

Beckwith School History by Robert Holz

Beckwith School District #9 was located on the southwesterly corner of Section 29 in Evans Township.

When the consolidation of county schools occurred, the property was sold.

My Uncle Albert Guderjan bought the school house and tore it down.

He then built a house on the site which still stands two miles north and a half mile west of Toluca.

The last teacher of the Beckwith School was Mildred Carrithers, and the last class was the school year of 1938. The following year the school was closed with only two or three students left in the district.

They were sent to the town school.

The directors of the school were William Holz, Sr., clerk; Herbert Volker, president; and Floyd Johnson.

When I (Robert Holz) started school in 1930, there were 17 students.

They were Eleanor Junker, LaVerne Junker, Virgil Kellpher, Eileen Guderjan, Leila Guderjan, Robert Holz, Mildred Servin, Gilbert Servin, Aldean Guderjan, Helen Lindgren, Velda Volker, Vernon Becker, Gilbert Holz, Robert Guderjan, William Holz, Herbert Wenzlaff, and Marshall Foster.

After that, enrollment was less each year.

Our well water would get to tasting real bad, and upper class members would be sent across the road to

a building site to get water in a pail, which we drank from with only one dipper for everyone.

When the weather was bad, we had recess indoors. We played upset-the-fruit-basket and often had competitions that required knowing multiplication tables. The teacher held up large flash cards.

In winter, we always had snowball fights at recess, and one winter we built an Eskimo igloo that was large enough to hold eight or ten of us.

Our teacher was also the janitor. She dusted the desks, swept the floor, and scrubbed when needed. She started the fire, and would have the upper class members get the coal and cobs for her.

At noon and recess, we played softball. We had a basketball court, tag, andy-over-the-school house, and marbles.

The girls played hop scotch and jacks. The boys also played mumbly peg. It was played with a two-bladed pocket knife. By the fourth grade, every boy had his own knife.

Our teacher was the nurse, taking care of cuts, bruises, and illnesses. I do not remember anyone going home before the end of the school day.

We had a wiener roast outside at the end of October. I do not remember where the brush for the fire came from. We decorated the school in red and white for Valentine's Day and had a Valentine gift exchange.

We decorated the school for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The students also presented a program for the parents and the school district; again, this included a gift exchange. We always in some way respected the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln.

When Sheriff Axline of Marshall County was killed, our teacher let us watch the funeral procession pass by the school.

I did not finish school at the Beckwith School. My parents sent me to the school in town for my eighth grade year.



Unknown School

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
Asst. VP – Justin Meierkord
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

Kim Janke
Sandra Moore
Norma Calbert



OLD SETTLERS CORNER



Sampson T. Rowe

One of the most prominent representatives of the agricultural interests of Marshall County is Sampson T. Rowe. His landholdings are extensive, embracing about 1000 acres.

He is one of the county's native sons, having been born in Whitefield Township on April 15, 1837. His father, William Rowe, was a native of Cornwall, England and in that country was reared and educated. He was married there to Miss Harriet Peters, a native of that country they crossed the Atlantic to the new world in 1834. After arriving in New York, he and his family proceeded directly to Cincinnati, Ohio. His younger brother, who had visited Illinois, advised William to not tarry in Ohio but go directly to the Prairie state. Therefore, securing teams, the brothers at once started out for Illinois. Only two years before, the Black Hawk war had broken out and a few Indians lingered in the neighborhood.

Following their arrival, William made his selection of a tract of government land on section 13 of Whitefield Township, but not being accessible to market, he squatted on a claim near the present village of Henry. His first home was a log cabin such as was typical of the pioneer period. Later this home gave way to a brick house built in the mid '40s.

(Continued on page 3)

Read the newsletter online:

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

(Continued from page 2)

Mr. Knock, who had traveled with him, settled 2 miles below Henry, while the brother Sampson located near Henry but later moved to Sugar Grove in Whitefield Township. For a time he lived in Missouri, returning to Marshall County until after the war and died there.

The family of William and Harriet Rowe consisted of 10 children of who lived beyond childhood.

Sampson, of whom this account speaks, was educated in the district schools, which he attended in the winter months, while in summer, he worked on the family farm. After his father's death, the property was divided and Sampson moved to a farm of 390 acres on section 24 of Whitefield Township. He was a raiser of sheep, horses, cattle, and hogs.

He was married Mach 20, 1872 to Miss Ellen S., Tidmarsh, who was born in Wiltshire, England and was brought to American when but six years of age with her parents Abel and Elizabeth Wilts Tidmarsh.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe had 7 children and several grandchildren.

From a very early period in the history of this county, the name of Rowe has been an honored one here and the life of Sampson T. Rowe has added new luster to the record.

(*Past and Present of Marshall and Putnam Counties. 1907*)



This N' That

The dentist's hymn—Crown Him with many Crowns.

The IRS agent's hymn—I Surrender all.

The geologists hymn—Rock of Ages.

Museum Wish List:

- Pictures or history of one-room schools.
- Old city plat maps of Toluca, Henry, Sparland, Pattonsburg, Rutland, Lawn Ridge, or Camp Grove.
- Your family tree on paper or computer file.
- Family Tree Maker 2006 or later.
- Wood for building storage shelves.
- Magnifying glass or telescoping mirror.
- Pliers: channel lock, needle, side cut.
- Electric drill, socket set or hand saw
- Long handle window washing tools.
- Long handle floodlight bulb remover.

Thank you to those who have donated items from our previous wish lists. Donations are tax deductible



Lacon- Sparland Telephones

A new telephone system was installed in the Lacon-Sparland area in the 1950's.

The switchboard was in the home of Ethel Frisbey Burnett Johnston in Sparland for many years.

The switchboard can be seen at the museum.



The Whiffle Tree Place

On Route 17 in Sparland stands a familiar landmark known as the "Whiffle Tree Place." Frank O'Leary built the home around 1890 when he acquired the river-bottom land. The house is a two story red brick with 9 rooms with beautiful wood-paneled interior.

In the early 1930's, Charles Jackson remodeled into a summer home and hunting lodge. The name means "single tree".

The home has had several owners over the last few years. (*Taken from Sparland, IL. Sesqui-centennial Book.*)



Annual Banquet

Plan now to attend the Annual Banquet
April 10—Lacon American Legion
5:30 Social hour—Dinner at 6:00

Call 364-2041 by April 3 for tickets. No tickets will be sold at the door.

One Room School Houses By Alba McDonald and Rick Keating
Alba and Rick have been putting information together from items donated to
the Historical Society for some time.

They now share the gems of the county schools' histories.

Knights Templar

From the end of the Civil War to the turn of the century, the majority of people in temperance organizations belonged to fraternal



groups—highly organized secret societies requiring total abstinence, and aimed primarily at helping members stay sober, improving their character and helping other drunkards reform

The Independent Order of Good Templars, the largest temperance membership organization in American history, was so involved in reform work that it worried about being branded solely as an association of ex-drunkards.

While lifelong abstainers were important to the organization, a central focus of the Good Templars was helping inebriates to become and stay abstinent. Good Templars were urged to "run and speak to that young man who is contracting vicious habits--gain his consent that you shall propose his name for membership in the lodge."

In the initiation ritual of the Good Templars, those members "free from the undying curse of appetite" were encouraged to "fully sympathize with the confirmed inebriate."

Those being initiated into the Charity Order were urged to "study well the nature of this appetite;" they were told that reformed individuals sometimes relapsed, and reminded that their task was to go to "thy reclaimed brother" in his "awful hour." And they took pride in pointing out "the many official positions now filled by worthy men who have been reclaimed and reformed, given back to their families and community ... by the labors of the Good Templars."

(Editor's note: Sometimes a medal or insignia will be found on a tombstone or mentioned in an obituary.)



1870 Marshall County Demographics

Area in square miles—55,531
Population—2,539,891
(Population 1860—1,711,951)
Bushels sold:
Buckwheat 29,200,000
Corn—121,500,000
Oats—35,726,000
Cattle—2,320,500
Horses—1,340,320

Lacon Expo 2013



Rick Keating and Theresa Thimm represented the Museum at the recent Lacon Expo exhibit at the American Legion Hall in Lacon. Many people stopped by the booth and expressed interest in the work of the Historical Society. Rick and Theresa handed out brochures and copies of recent newsletters. They also informed their visitors about the upcoming program on Rural Schools which will be held on April 10.



My ancestors are giving me "Bad Heir" days.

Winter Window Displays

Our small window has taken on a wild west theme, highlighting all things cowboy. With the help of Sharon Freise's collection of saddles, hats, books, etc., the lifesize "The Duke" (John Wayne) loaned by John Wabel and some things "borrowed" from our own Ag Room we have created an interesting western display.

We are pleased that Ailsa Lionberger contribute some of her "gear" for us to use.



The west window is a re-creation of a One- Room School, complete with desks, a globe and the "Schoolmarm".

In 1912 there were 74 such schools in Marshall County.

The collection of photos in the window feature students of the one-room school era, school building, etc. and will be on display at the annual banquet on April 10 at the Lacon American Legion.

We have added books, lunch pails, slates and other items to bring back memories for some of us , even a little boy standing in the corner!



Genealogy Research

Remember the Museum has many files of family history as well as information on businesses that were once thrived in Marshall County.

A new collection of old obituaries are being organized into notebooks and indexed for quick reference.

New items are being added and displays change frequently.

Come in and see what's new today.

Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!

Have you ever stopped to wonder about the number of ancestors you have had? The following "tree" gives you a little food for thought

We all have
 2 Parents
 4 grandparents
 8 great grandparents
 16 great-great grandparents
 32 great-great- great grandparents
 64 great- great-great-great grandparents
 128 great-great -great-great-great- grandparents
 256 great -great- great-great-great-great- grandparents
 512 great- great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents
 After just ten generations!

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 34
Lacon, IL 61540

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
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
McCully Properties
Patrick Murphy, Atty at Law
Kenneth Poignant Bulldozing
& Excavating
Riddell Polled Herefords
Summitt Photography
Tanner's Orchard
Beverly & R Dale Bunch
LaPrairie Mutual Ins.

Bronze Affiliate

Heartland Bank
Columbia Antiques
Energy Specialists Co

Jim's IGA
Julie's Comer Store
Kenyon & Associates, Architects
Lynn & Penny Kunkle
M & D Printing
Marshall Co Publishing Co
Marshall County Title Co.
Mona's Italian Restaurant
Pontiac Granite Co, Inc
DeRubeis Insurance Agency Inc.

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
