

# REFLECTIONS

May—June 2013

## Two Men and A Truck

By Moby Finfgeld

This is a story about two men and a truck.

The two men are Steinar Undheim and Bob Read.

The truck is a 1928 International.

How the two men and the truck connected recently is fascinating.

Steinar lives in the country of Norway, and Bob Read is the long-time general manager of Read Bros. Case-IH dealership in Henry.

In 1961, Steinar was a young man in Norway who wanted to come to America for a year to work as a farm hand on a diversified Midwestern farm. He ran an ad in the *Prairie Farmer* magazine seeking a host family that he could live with and learn about farming.

He received several responses including one from Arnold and Florence Petersen and family who were operating a 520-acre Hickory Hurst farm northwest of Varna owned by A.R. and Louise Wright.

Steinar chose the Petersen family and farm for several reasons. Among the crops it produced were corn, soybeans, hay, and silage. It had a full-line of equipment including a Caterpillar D-4, Allis Chalmers tractors, a new two-row John Deere corn picker, and supporting equipment such as a truck. It had a confinement hog

set-up, a herd of 80 Angus cattle, chickens, and sheep. And it was operated by a forward-thinking young farm family.

It so happened that during his year living with the Petersen family, Steinar took many pictures of what he saw in every-day farm activities.

He saved the pictures, and during his August visit in the United States, he showed more than an hour's worth of pictures to members of the Petersen family and friends.

A few of Steinar's 50-year-old pictures showed a pre-1930's International straight truck at work on the farm hauling hay to the Angus cattle.

When I saw a picture of the old IH truck, it struck me that my friend Bob Read might like to see it as well.

So the next morning, I took Steinar to see Bob Read.

What a coincidence! It turns out that Read Bros. still own the 1928 Henry Fourth of July parade and several other area parades.

The Petersens eventually traded the truck to Althaus Bros., the former IH dealer in LaRose. Francis Read, Bob's dad, purchased it from



the Althaus firm in the 1970's.

Bob Read started up the '28 IH truck for Steinar and pulled it out into the daylight. It is still in good condition.

The story is the truck was originally a tank wagon before it saw service on the Petersen farm as a straight truck. After Read's acquired it, they had Dick Bazyn, the retired Henry math teacher and woodworker, build a new box.

After seeing the 50-year-old picture of the truck and talking with Steinar, Bob Read exclaimed, "That made my day!"

After seeing the actual truck, engine running, Steinar said, "That made my day, too".

And all the members of the Petersen family were pleased that Steinar, who had kept in touch all these years, was "shutter happy" way back then.

## Marshall County Historical Society

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*President* – Larry Leighty  
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### 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

Thomas C Ryan  
Robert Jones  
Dale Wheeler  
Ronald & Christine Webster

Due to postal regulations and cost of postage, the newsletter will be printed on a quarterly basis in the future.

# OLD SETTLERS CORNER

## Colonel Greenbury L. Fort, of

Lacon, who departed this life January 13, 1883, was for a long period a member of the Marshall County bar and left the impress of his individuality, clear understanding and masterful grasp of problems upon the law-making bodies of state and nation.

A native of Ohio, he was born in French Grant, Scioto County, October 17, 1825, and was descended from a family which in its lineal and collateral branches has been distinctively American through many generations. His first ancestor in this country was Roger Fort, born about 1675 in Pemberton, Burlington County, New Jersey. Family records show that a large percentage of the Forts have been professional men and that they have been represented in every American war.

In his early boyhood days Greenbury Fort accompanied his parents to Marshall County, Illinois where the family home was established amid pioneer surroundings in April of 1834.

The early years of his manhood, he devoted to teaching school and reading law, and following his admission to the bar in 1860, he presented his first brief in Woodford County Court, where Senator David Davis was Judge and Abraham Lincoln the opposing counsel.

Allied with the Wig party, he was first called to office in 1850 by election to the position of sheriff. He served successively as County Clerk, County attorney and county judge being elected to the last named position in 1857.

The following year he was married, on May 25, to Miss Clara E. Boal, a daughter of Dr. Robert Boal, and entered upon a home life which as allegedly ideal.

He continued in practice until April 1861 when he responded to the first call for volunteers. He was chosen lieutenant of Company B, 11 Illinois Volunteer Infantry and later chosen as Captain. Following the battle and mustering out in 1866, he returned home to resume the practice of law but was soon called again to public life, being called to serve in the State Senate for several years.

*Colonel Greenbury L. Fort taken from "Past and Present of Marshall and Putnam Counties"*



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

**MUSEUM HOURS:**  
**TUES. & WED. 9 AM – 12 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY evening 5:30—7:30 PM**  
**SATURDAYS 10 AM – 12 PM**  
Or call the Museum for appointment

## Rave Reviews for the 1-Room School Program

The "One-Room School" program at the Marshall County Historical Society banquet is receiving rave reviews.

The annual event was held Wednesday evening, April 10, at the Lacon American Legion building. It attracted an audience of 170 plus.

The program was presented by researcher Alba McDonald who declared that "every one-room school has left a story which needs to be uncovered".

Photos and files for the program were done by Rick Keating, and technical and computer work was by John Wabel.

Special guests for the program were Linda and Dale Hartwig, who have restored the Harrison one-room school, shown here, a mile north of Henry. This school



was built in 1882 and closed in 1943. The Hartwigs have owned the school for about a dozen years and have done an outstanding job of restoration down to desks, stove, books, maps, and dinner pails.

Rick Keating took several photos of the inside of the school especially for the program. The Hartwigs conduct tours of the restored school by appointment.

Also honored, in absentia, was Evelyn Edge, long-time Museum volunteer and pie baker extraordinary, who was observing her 92nd birthday that day. Mrs. Edge's daughter Judy related that her mother had taught in a one-room school in Wisconsin in the early 1940's. She was paid \$450 for nine months and taught all eight grades. Discipline was not a problem.

Mrs. McDonald showed pictures and told about numerous early one-room schools in Marshall County, starting with a log school in Roberts Township before Marshall County was formed. At one time the county had over 70 one-room schools.

Next was a picture of the 1856 teaching certificate of Thomas Judd II, who taught 25 to 30 pupils for \$10 a month.

Other one-room schools she talked about included:

- The Forrest Grove school in the southeast corner of LaPrairie Township which had 16 students in 1904.
- The Ramsey school in section 13 of Richland Township with an 1895 picture of the interior.
- The Merritt School and coal shed two and one-half miles south of Henry on Old Route 29, complete with anecdotes.
- The Marshall School two miles east of Lacon on the north side of Route 17 which was housed in five different school buildings.
- The Sherman one-room school specialized in music and had a marching band under the direction of Helen Anske.

-- The Red Town School in Whitefield Township, which was one of the last one-room schools in the county. The school building was moved in 1944-45 when it became a private residence.

After the formal presentation of pictures by Mrs. McDonald, emcee Rick Keating opened the meeting up to "One-Room School Story Time". Keating took the microphone around the large room and had a stop watch and school bell which he rang when the speakers reached the announced two-minute time limit.

Some of the highlights of the story time were as follows:

Jim Frank told of the Turnbull School where his mother, Margaret Frank, taught from 1939 through 1942. Roger Marshall was one of her students. Bill Kemnitz told of the Fairview School two miles east of Varna in 1935.

Marjorie Spangler said that her grandmother, Mildred Tuttle, was the last teacher at the old Red Town school attended by the Stange family and one of her students was Rita Simpkins. (*Continued page 4*)

(Continued from page 3)

Bill Kemnitz told of the Fairview School two miles east of Varna in 1935.

Marjorie Spangler said that her grandmother, Mildred Tuttle, was the last teacher at the old Red Town school attended by the Stange family and one of her students was Rita Simpkins.

Others speaking during story time were Cathy Shimp Brown, Turnbull and Senachwine Schools; Marilyn Palm, Fairview School; Pat Burnell, Maple Grove School; Dorothy McAllister, school south of Lacon; Bob Kemp, Morgan School; Karla Scherer; Justine Budd, whose teachers at Harrison School were Hollace Rickey, Rose Stadel, and Hazel Crain.

Others reminiscing during story time were Shirley McKee, Mary Jane Mattingly, Eugenia Morse Wallace, Larry Leighty, and Anita Kenyon, a niece of Alba McDonald.

Evelyn Bade called in a report on the Fairview School where the teachers were Joseph Munk of Lacon, Doris Johnson of Wenona, and Elsie Guderjan of Varna.

President Larry Leighty of the Historical Society welcomed the throng to the banquet and led the pledge to the flag. Rev. Tom Mizeur gave the meaningful invocation.

Florence Finfgeld was chairman of the event. The committee for table decorations and the display of one-room school photos and memorabilia was Rita Simpkins, Juanita Wilson, Bev Meils, Kathy Brown, Theresa Thimmes, and Valeria Hawksworth.

Special servers were these Midland students: Cody Brashears, Kody Robbins, and Cassie Forbes. The fried chicken meal was prepared by Carolyn Kasky and a crew of volunteers from the Lacon Auxiliary and Legion. Larry Leighty provided the cake for dessert.

Jean Davis is managing director of the all-volunteer Historical Society, which was founded in 1956 by Eleanor Bussell and is now approaching its 60th anniversary.

A new wrinkle this year was the advance sale of tickets with the deadline of April 3. No tickets were sold at the door.

*(The picture is of the Bethel School in Steuben Township, northwest of Sparland. The teacher in the picture is Della Taylor. Date unknown. Editor note)*



DISTRICT NO. 7L BETHEL SCHOOL. DELLA TAYLOR, TEACHER.



1928 International owned by Bob Read

### Marshall County Jail

The county court of this county have authorized the building of a new jail in this county to cost \$12,000. The contract was taken up by Mr. E. WHITE of Lacon. The building is to be built of brick and stone, 34 x 64, two stories high. The first division of the building will contain several rooms designed for the residence of the jailer's family. *"The Courier" Newspaper, Henry February 20, 1857.*

Thanks to everyone who has provided 2013 flooding pictures for the HS album.... if you have pictures, it is not too late to e mail them to the museum at [marshallcountyhistry@gmail.com](mailto:marshallcountyhistry@gmail.com)



# OBITUARIES

**Anna Lenore Litchfield**, 91, of Toluca, Ill., died at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at Heritage Health in Minonk, Ill.

Anna was born May 21, 1921, in Toluca, Ill., the daughter of John and Edna (Shreve) Schoof.

She graduated as salutatorian of the class of 1939 at Toluca High School.

She married Russell Litchfield on Oct. 12, 1940, in Tipton, Iowa. He died Nov. 6, 2011.

Surviving are three children, Pauline (Gerald) Fecht and Connie (Bob) Taylor, both of Toluca, and Greg (Mary) Litchfield of Bloomington; eight grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; an infant son, William; one brother, Lawrence; and two sisters, Lorene Pierman and Lelia McGhiey.

## Window Displays

Its spring and our east window is decorated with pastel hats of all descriptions. For added interest, we have included some of our parasols, hat boxes, shawls and accessories. The backdrop for this display is a lovely quilt in the flower basket appliqué design, created by Mary Schupp of Lacon.



In early May some may have noticed the new window display at MCHS. It might look like Troop 69 Boy Scouts of Lacon have set up camp in our window. Kathy & Dan Coyle brought some of their son, Conor's collection of keepsakes.



Along with a make-shift army green tent, also displayed is a lighted, wood fire and many things that go along with camping and outdoors. Our current Scoutmaster, Brian Foster, loaned some personal scout handbooks from the 70's, an old scout hat, a red collapsible drinking cup used with a mess kit, and a bicentennial Boy Scout neckerchief. Ken Villiger, a Troop 69 committee member and Order of the Arrow rep from Henry, graciously loaned his organized collection of patches and badges that belonged to John Raffensperger.

Other items to note: paddle oars, framed map, knot display, pine-wood derby cars, framed flag and certificate, marching drum, and a songbook.



## Recent Flood



Lacon Bridge



Waterworks Park in Henry



Henry Marina and the Landings



Wash out of railroad tracks Rt 29

## ANNUAL BOOK SALE

The book sale is now going on.

Please bring your good, used books in for resale. And

take home a fresh supply for yourself. This is one of the money making projects of the society.



### Museum Wish List

- Clothes rack on rollers. 4 or 5 ft wide straight bar, 5 to 6 ft tall.
- Mannequins for clothing display
- One room-school pictures
- &/or history
- Family trees and obituaries.
- Long handle window washing tools.
- Thank you for donating needed items. Donations are tax deductible.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE



Additional summer hours are being announced! The Museum will be open on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. as well as Tuesday and Wednesdays from 9 am to noon and Saturday mornings 10 to noon. Come and visit.

Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts and a few bad apples.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Historical Society and Museum are fully funded by individual donations and membership dues. If you have not paid your dues for 2013, please send it in today. If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation, that would be appreciated as well. We recently needed to purchase a new furnace and there are several maintenance projects needed at this time. Thank you for your support. (See page 2 for the membership information.)

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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.

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Documentation! The hardest part of genealogy. But most important!

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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  
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  
Grasser's Plumbing & Heating Inc

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

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## ***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*

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