

REFLECTIONS

November—December 2012

The Tesmer House



In 1869, the Tesmer house was built on the hillside of Sparland by John Y. Cotton. At the time, Cotton owned much of Sparland. He and an architect from St. Louis designed and built the authentic French chateau, the only home of its kind in the Illinois River Valley.

After the home was built, Cotton and his family moved for a few years. In 1877, Cotton ran into financial problems and was forced to sell the house, the three-story barn and the well-house.

The day Cotton sold the house, Dr. Henry Tesmer came to live in Sparland. Tesmer bought the chateau and planned to put a statue in a niche on the house's east wall. Being a native of Germany,

Tesmer planned to put a statue of the German political and military genius, Bismark. A switch of statues occurred, and instead of receiving the statue of Bismark, he received a statue of Minerva, the Greek goddess of wisdom. Tesmer decided to keep the statue of Minerva, however, because it remained in the niche in the house until the day the house was destroyed.

The Chateau had three levels, or stores. It swept up the hill and its west side of the first level, with its stone walls, were set into the hillside. The second level was made of hand made brick. The second story windows were tall and curved topped, each with a balcony below. The second and third floors were

separated by a corniced eave. The final floor, the third floor, had two false chimneys to its one real central chimney. They extended from a roof with sharp convex roof-lines that curved to a flat top.

The house contained ten rooms, that were all small, except the living room and each was a part of a maze within the house. No electricity was added until 1930 and until then, kerosene lamps were used.

Mr. and Mrs. Tesmer became American citizens after moving into the home. Mrs. Tesmer was known for her knack of writing and was a correspondent to local papers for many years.

Mr. Tesmer preceded Mrs. Tesmer's death in 1927. After her death, the McCartney's niece and her husband moved in with their children, Isabelle and Miles. The furnishings remained the same after the McCartneys moved in but Nathaniel McCartney added plumbing, a coal-burning furnace and electric lights.

After Mrs. McCartney's death, her children inherited the house but left it empty for five or six years and it deteriorated. There was talk about turning the home into a wayside inn or museum but the cost of renovations was too high. The house was destroyed but still lives in artist's pictures and people's photographs.

Author unknown

Marshall County Historical Society

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President – Ed Glaser
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Managing Director – Jean Davis

MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL – \$10
ANNUAL FAMILY – \$15
LIFE – \$150
LIFE HUSB/WIFE – \$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

Deborah Hansen
Hazel Hansen
Dennis Readey
Cherian Lautermilch
M J Langner
James Finn Family

Is your extended family and
friends members of the
Historical Society?
Why not invite them to join?
Or give a membership gift of
history for Christmas.

OBITUARIES

Franklin L. Feazel, age 88, of Washburn, Ill., passed away Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012, at his residence.

He was born Sept. 19, 1924, in Linn Township, Woodford County, Ill., to Elmer and Mae (Laible) Feazel. He married Nancy M. Downey on Nov. 25, 1950, in Washburn, Ill. She passed away on Oct. 13, 1994.

Franklin was a Korean War Army veteran and was a lifelong farmer.

He was past commander of American Legion Post No. 661.

He was a handyman who could make and fix anything. Farming was his life and in the early days Franklin and his father would farm with horses. He was very proud of the Feazel Farm that was established in 1876.



William Raymond Nighsonger, 82, of Henry died Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012.

Bill was born Sept. 29, 1930, at the Henry Hospital in Henry, Ill., to Isaac Raymond and Gertrude (De Bolt) Nighsonger. He married Mary Tuttle on July 10, 1955, at the Henry United Methodist Church in Henry, Ill. She survives.

Bill had served his country in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. He was a member of the Henry United Methodist Church. He was a die-hard Chicago Cubs fan. Bill had a great love for his family and his grandchildren.

He will be remembered for his sense of humor and his “positive thinking” sayings. He always looked on the bright side of things.

Bill was a volunteer at the museum, working on a number of special projects. He will be missed by many.

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

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



LACON CUB SCOUTS VISIT THE MUSEUM

David Lenz, Cubmaster brought his Tiger Cubs to the Museum for a tour on Friday, Sept. 28. Mr. Lenz indicated that this was the first tour for the new Scouts of Pack 69 in Lacon. Jean Davis, Mg. Director of the Museum made comments about the early settlers in the area, while John Wabel assisted with the tour of both floors of exhibits and explained some of the artifacts as the boys asked questions. During their outing, the pack members also toured the Lacon-Sparland Fire Department facilities on East Fifth Street and the Lacon Home Journal publishing plant on S. Washington to complete the requirements for their badge.

WINDOW DISPLAYS



Baby bibs, bottles and cradle

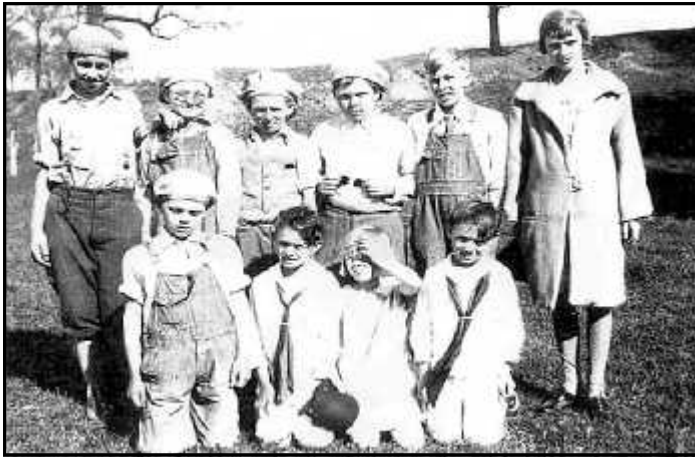


One of the windows this summer was dedicated to old fashion baby things. Everything from sleepers, kimonos, bibs, bottles, shoes, and a pram, which was an old fashion buggy.



Another window this summer was all about cook-books. Many books were once printed as church projects or other organizations. And of course Betty Crocker was included.





YANKEE STREET SCHOOL

by Alba McDonald

This one room school was located in section 32 in Steuben Township. It stood on the south-west corner of Yankee Street and Steuben roads. (Yankee Street was later changed to Yankee Lane).

Very little is known about the early years, but a 1930 picture shows 10 students. They came from the Kelemback, McDonald, Sutherland, Paulson, Oltman, Mathias & Lewis families.

Mrs. Hettrick was their teacher and she took the picture. The boys from one family rode ponies to school for a time but the other students walked to school.

In the 1930 picture the two Sutherland boys were wearing sailor suits. Ironically when Bob Sutherland grew up he joined the navy. It was his misfortune to be stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

His ship was bombed and he was thrown into the water. Burning oil was floating on top of the water and he was severely burned

Many months of hospital care was unsuccessful and he died the following summer. He was buried in the cemetery at the LaPrairie Church.

The site of this one room school is still there. It is privately owned and was used as a residence for many years.

No buildings remain but the site is partially fenced and one lone tree remains on the grounds.

In 2007 the land owners in that area are all new; none of the original owners remain.

Only a few names of teachers who taught at Yankee School were obtained and they are Mrs. Miller, Grace Carr, Mrs. Hettrick and Viola Van Ostrand.



Henry Bankrupt Store

Don't you forget to remember that the boom is still on at the Bankrupt Store at Henry on the corner, in Weis's block, selling clothing, boots, shoes, notions, cheaper than any store in Marshall County. We sell men's fine calf-skin shoes at \$1.69, worth \$2.50; ladies button and lace shoes 99c, and \$1.25, worth double the price; misses school shoes 99c, worth \$1.50; men's suits of clothing \$4.95 and \$5.49 worth \$8 to \$10; men's good cotton worsted pants 99c; jeans 75c; fine pants \$1.25 to \$1.99; boys' long jeans pants 49c; men's hats 49c; boys' 35c; two spools good machine thread, warranted 200 yards on a spool for 5c; 2 papers pins full count 5c; 2 papers needles 5c; best garter web 5c per yard; hose supporters 9c a pair; pretty hair ornaments for pretty

Time for Annual Dues

It is time for membership renewal - letters have gone out to the affiliate and annual members. If you didn't receive a renewal notice, please let us know. Also please provide your e-mail address and we will send the e-newsletter to you.

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$15.00
- Life \$150.00
- Life – Husband & Wife \$200.00

Affiliate Membership:

- Gold \$100.00
- Silver \$50.00
- Bronze \$25.00
- Platinum: in-kind services

girls, 10c; ladies' misses' and children's black hose, warranted fast colors, 3 pair 25c; with thousands of other bargains all marked in plain figures. You don't have to pay us two or three prices, as we sell our goods at one price to all. Will be glad to see you at our store whether you buy anything or not, as we want you to see for yourself whether we lie or tell the truth about our bargains. New goods coming in every day. Come once and you will come again, as you find us very frank and strictly honest to deal with. Henry Bankrupt Store, on the corner.

Political Status 1870

Marshall County

Republicans	1180
Democrats	975

Putnam County

Republicans	441
Democrats	325

Population of Marshall County 1870

<u>Township</u>	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
<u>Born</u>		
Bell Plain	1092	178
Bennington	1020	205
Evans	1989	242
(Wenona City)	(879)	(107)
Henry	2613	588
(Henry City)	(2162)	(475)
Hopewell	753	151
Lacon	2440	489
(Lacon City)	(2105)	(452)
LaPrairie	1400	255
Richland	920	146
Roberts	883	194
Saratoga	1163	222
Steuben	1478	242
(Sparland City)	(558)	(88)
Whitefield	<u>1205</u>	<u>186</u>
Totals	16,956	3098

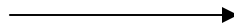


Dr D.B.W. McCartney of Sparland, with that smile and look of pride, as he poses in his stovepipe hat. His response comes from the fact that Sparland's centennial-celebration revolved around his house built in 1869. He led the big centennial parade, wearing the very hat and sitting high atop a carriage.

His home was razed in 1961 after many years of overlooking Rt. 29 in Sparland.

(Dr. McCartney and family lived in the house after the death of Mr. & Mrs. Tesmer. He died in 1956)

Alexander Hoagland Home
in Henry.
1873 Atlas of
Marshall-Putnam County



Whitfield Grocery Store. Does anyone have any information regarding this? Time period, etc?

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

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Home- Henry
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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
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Patrick Murphy, Atty at Law
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Bronze Affiliate

Citizens 1st National 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
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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*
