

REFLECTIONS

September—October 2012

Minute Book Preserves Early Airport History

By Moby Finfgeld

The minute book of the first 30 years of the Marshall County Airport which was recently presented to the Marshall County Historical Society for safekeeping preserves the early history of the now 65-year-old development on the east edge of Lacon.

Prior to the establishment of the Airport in 1947, a group of 20 flying enthusiasts maintained a small flying strip between the river and Route 26.



The \$1.5 million runway extension project now under way will usher in another new era for the Airport. Earthmoving for the extension is being done this year with completion slated for 2013.

The Airport board is appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The original board members were J.P. Grieves of Lacon, president; Clark Harter of Wenona, secretary; and Harold Bullington of Henry, member.

Four sites were considered for the airport before the present location was selected. The Airport

board faced the formidable task of turning farm and timber land into an airport.

The first attorney for the Airport was O.B. Pace. The Airport Board had frequent dealings with County Treasurers Peter J. Aimone, Sr. of Toluca, J. Floyd (Cracker) Robinson of Toluca, and Iner Peterson of Varna.

An interesting excerpt from the minutes of August 28, 1950, reads as follows:

President Grieves promised that he would appear before the Board of Supervisors requesting an additional levy for the forthcoming year in an amount not less than \$3,000.00, and all of the board members individually expressed their intention that if the Board of Supervisors felt that it was not in the interests of the people to provide the funds necessary for the proper operation of the airport that the individual member would resign his position on the Board and ask to be relieved of any further duty.

The first manager of the airport was B. H. Nickerson. He was succeeded by long-time manager Art Blase on March 1, 1955.

The Marshall County Airport has had many contacts and negotiations with the Illinois Department of Aeronautics down through the years. Topics have included construction of the hangars, construction of the runways, testing the asphalt on the runways, lights for the runways, and various compliance issues. Board members have made numerous trips to

Springfield through the years.

One of the early farm leases the Board had was with Ralph and Charles Wier. Civil engineers mentioned in the minutes are O. W. Boers and Frank Cramer. Early insurance was carried through the Walter Head Agency.

In addition to the original officers, other Board members in the first 30 years have included George K. Brayman, Robert Rankin,



Stanley Allen, Marianne Barnes, and Joel Jenkins.

The longest-serving Board member in the airport's history is current president Charles L. Allen of Lacon. One of the earliest mentions of Charles Allen in the minutes is November 18, 1964, and he has been president of the Board since October 5, 1966.

When the runway extension project was announced this past spring, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood suggested renaming of the airport as the Charles L. Allen Marshall County Airport.

Allen pointed out that the late Neil Pobanz, who died in May, deserves much of the credit for the progress of the airport in the 17 years that he was the airport manager.

(Continued Page 3)

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 – 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
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

Julie Novak
Robert Novak
Betty Vares
Jay McCracken
Pam Brashear
Duane Aitchison
Charlotte Schulte
Gary Kroeschen
James Durham



OBITUARIES

Jeanne Porter Dewey, age 92, of Henry passed away on Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, at Buehler Home in Peoria. She was born Oct. 15, 1919, at Round Hill, Alberta, Canada, the daughter of Grace Sehnert and Carl Hyers Porter. She married Robert V. Dewey on June 12, 1943, in Pekin.

Jeanne was active in many church and civic activities. She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, the Henry Library Board, a Boy Scout Den Mother and a co-chair of American Red Cross Blood Drives. She was a volunteer and board member of the Marshall County Historical Society, a charter member of The Charles Perdue Museum Association, a member of the Lacon Country Club.

Jeanne was a caring and loving wife, mother, grand-mother and friend. Along with her husband, she was a wonderful role model for their sons and granddaughters, teaching them the virtues of honesty, hard work and the Golden Rule.

A memorial service, officiated by the Rev. Canon Frank R. Dunaway III, was held at St. John's Anglican Church, 801 Third St. in Henry on Friday, Aug. 17. Burial followed in the Henry Cemetery

Old Settlers Celebration

Many people attending the 2012 Old Settlers Celebration visited the museum on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 24 and 25th.

The regular volunteers enjoyed showing the exhibits to the visitors and answering questions about the history of the County and related topics.



Recent Acquisition



Wringer & stand for washer

**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

"Wesley" Lands At the Museum

By Moby Finfgeld

Jean Davis, managing director of the Marshall County Historical Society at Lacon, announces that a significant three-quarter size carving of a crane or blue heron has been added to the Museum's collection.

The carving is by Bud Hinck of Washburn, a renowned area carver.

The detailed carving was presented to the Museum by Florence Dalrymple Finfgeld in honor of her late husband Frank Dalrymple.

Frank was a lover of local wooden birds and a friend of Bud Hinck from childhood. Frank always referred to the crane as "Wesley".

Frank was a State Farm agent in Lacon for 35 years, the former mayor of Lacon in the early 1990's, and a long-time volunteer worker and former president of the Marshall County Historical Society.

(Continued page 5)

Old Settlers Window Displays



In keeping with the Sun/Sand/Surf theme of this years Old Settlers celebration, our east window features vintage swimwear, bags, and hats. We have anchored this display with an umbrella, beach chairs and a sprinkling of sea shells to complete the scene.

ANNUAL PIE SALE SATURDAY, OCT. 6 9 A.M. TILL SOLD OUT!

Saturday, Oct 6 is the date set for our annual pie sale. The event begins early as members and friends bring in an assortment of home-baked fruit pies. Selling starts promptly at 9 a.m., and usually by 11 nothing is left but the crumbs.

As our local membership ages, we no longer have the number of bakers we once did. To compensate somewhat, we've asked the nearby high school home economics classes to furnish pies made from provided ingredients. This not only enlarges our offerings but gives those students the dual experience of pie baking and community service.

Our pie sale is our main fund raiser each year, and we count on those of you who cannot be there in person to help us out with a "folding pie".

This tradition was started years ago by one of our founders, Eleanor

Bussell, and is a much needed addition to the foot traffic we expect.

Folding pie donations made out to MCHS 314 5th Street, Lacon, IL 61540 also appreciated. Questions ? Call 309 246 2349.

We invite all who can to come in for a wonderful fruit pie and a good visit with our members and friends. The coffee is always ready.

Co-chairpersons of the pie sale are Kathy Brown and Theresa Thimm.



Our west window is a historic review of early settlers in Marshall County. Some family names are Thompson, Strawn, Hall, Weir, Seward, Howe, Powers, Fisher to name a few.

Old Settlers memorabilia from days gone by is featured in a pioneer home atmosphere.

Thanks to the ladies for always making the windows beautiful and interesting.



Stop by the Museum and see what's new. We continue to receive many excellent donations of equipment and artifacts

(Continued from Page 1)

Flying 20 Aces of 1947 were:

Back Row: Tuney Moreland, ___?___Osborne, Melvin Budd, Duane Carson, Earl Miller, Burdette Briner and a pilot who brought plane in.

Front Row: Don Carson, Larry Dunn, Paul Seaton, Frank Garrett, and another pilot who brought plane

The plane was a 1948 Stinson



You can Google "**Old Sandy Remembers**" on the internet to read in book format or text.



Visit us at the **Henry Expo** October 14 at the Marshall-Putnam Fair Grounds in Henry.



The recent equipment we have received includes a DVD player, typewriter, large viewing screen, several computers and software.

The Official War of 1812 Bicentennial Website

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF PEACE



WAR
OF
1812

illinoiswarof1812bicentennial.org/illinois.

ILLINOIS IN THE WAR OF 1812 Frontier Warfare

The War of 1812 was a defining event in the history and development of Illinois. For five years, from 1811 through 1815, the Illinois territory was on the border of a conflict between Great Britain, allied with the Native American Nations of the area, (including the Winnebago, Ottawa, Chippewa, Wyandot, and the Potawatomi) and a fledgling democracy, the United States of America. British forces occupied all or part of neighboring Michigan's Territory and although they did not have a large presence in Illinois Territory, their reign of oppression and fear was felt through the American Settlements in Illinois through their use of various and prolonged Indian raids throughout the territory for the entire duration of the war.

The British offer of food, weapons, ammunition, whiskey, and trade goods made allies of many of the Native Americans with the British. Their common cause was to remove the Americans from the

home in Illinois close to a fort or blockhouse where they might flee to on a moment's notice. Many, fearing for their safety, left the territory for more populated areas. The population of the territory actually shrank during this period and almost no settlement progress was made until after the war was over.

Admittedly, not every Indian in Illinois territory sided with the British but it was difficult for some to remain neutral and often these were accused of things that others had done. During this period it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, to determine which were friendly and which were not. Therefore, the only 'safe' way was to assume that none were friendly. This added significantly to the constant anxiety or fear of the settlers. It was extremely difficult to live and hunt in the same areas and sometimes Indians who meant no harm were mistreated because of the threat.

After the Fort Dearborn incident, there was only one small company of Regular U.S. Soldiers, about 35 men, who were stationed at Fort Russell in Edwardsville and their primary function was to protect the

Headquarters and the Territorial Governor. All of the rest of the protection in the territory was provided by citizen soldiers, either militia groups, or the four Companies of U.S. Volunteer Rangers that were formed and expected to protect the entire Territory. These men generally rode in groups of ten to twenty and spent many days in the saddle of their own horse, trying to provide some level of protection to all the settlers. Without them, the settlers of The Illinois Territory would have been killed or driven out of the territory and the settlement of Illinois would have been set back many years.

There were at least 94 known different Forts and Blockhouses scattered across the southern part of the Illinois Territory that were active as Indian raid shelters for the duration of the war. Some of these were simple structures meant for only a few people, while others were very large and well constructed. Once inside, one was relatively safe, but those that were able were expected to man the walls and rifle ports to aid in the group protection. the forts or blockhouses being overrun in Illinois Territory. *(Continued page 5)*

There are no documented cases of one of the forts or blockhouses being overrun in Illinois Territory. In order to strike the greatest fear and not put themselves in positions they couldn't get out of, the Indians generally chose to attack isolated cabins or small groups who were away from shelter. This accounts for the large number of women and children who were killed during this period. The Rangers and Volunteer Militiamen, who lost their lives in the Illinois territory for the most part, were either on guard duty or on patrol. The Soldiers who lost their lives at Forts, Dearborn, Hills, and LaMotte were all outside the forts when their struggles occurred.

For some months after the war was over, there were still hostilities in the Illinois Territory. The U.S. Volunteer Rangers in Illinois Territory continued to patrol until October of 1815.

The Treaty of Ghent, which ended the war, was followed by a slow release of tension in the territory, but eventually it became safe to work homesteads, build communities, and to raise children. In 1818, the Rush-Bagot Agreement limited naval Armaments on the great Lakes, a reaction to the powerful fleets that were built on their waters during the war. Peace also set the stage for a steady inrush of settlement over the next few decades. The city of Chicago bloomed out of the ashes to become one of the major metropolitans of the entire nation.

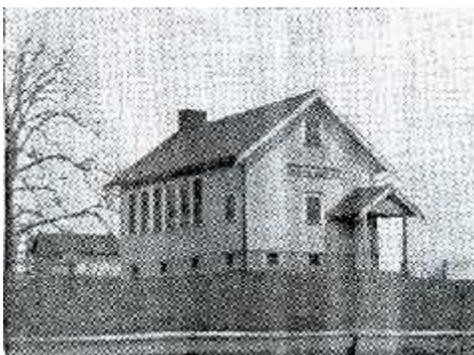
The Territory of Illinois survived the War of 1812 and went on to gain statehood in 1818. The Bicentennial of that conflict is worthy of observance for its impact on the history and development of our state.

Used by permission from Illinois War of 1812 bicentennial commission

Marshall Rural School

By Alba McDonald

The Marshall rural school was one of the earliest established schools in Marshall County. During its early years it was located in several places in Hopewell Township. In the beginning, classes were held in a cabin until 1835 when a log cabin was built for a permanent school. It was heated by a large fireplace along one wall. Benches for the students were made of small logs split in half with the broad sides hewn smooth.



A few years later a brick building was built to house this school. The brick building was used until 1870 when a frame building was constructed on a site one half mile north of the brick building.

This building was used for the school until 1924. Then the last building to be built for the Marshall school, stood on the north side of route 17, and two miles east of Lacon.

Recently an abundance of memorabilia was donated to the Marshall County Historical Society in Lacon. In sorting through these items several were found concerning the Marshall Rural School. "Certificates of Examination" were most interesting. They were earned by seventh and eighth grade students and are dated February 22, 1889 and June 30, 1890.

The subjects these students were graded on were: Orthography, Arithmetic, Reading, Modern Geography, U.S. History, Spelling and

Grammar. Penmanship and neatness was important and was judged as part of their final grade.

A number of essays, written by one student, covered topics of General La Fayette, an Indian chief called "Red Jacket", "Camels" and "Gold".

In examining one booklet a beautiful Easter card was found tucked away between the pages. No writing or dates are on it, but after all those years that little card is in almost perfect condition.

The Marshall Rural School that began in the early 1830's, in a rough cabin, continued until 1946. It was one of the last one-room schools to close in Marshall county.

The last structure to house the Marshall School still stands and is now a private home.

(Continued from Page 3)

The great blue heron is usually 39 to 52 inches in height. It is mainly gray with a white head marked by a fine black crest. It has a pale, streaked foreneck and flies on huge, arched, dark wings with neck tucked back in the shoulders. It is a widespread resident over most of temperate North America including the Illinois River Valley.



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
Phillip S McCully & Assoc
Patrick Murphy, Atty at Law
Kenneth Poignant Bulldozing
& Excavating
Riddell Polled Herefords
Summitt Photography
Tanner's Orchard
Bronze Affiliate
Beverly Bunch & R Dale Bunch
Citizens 1st National Bank
Columbia Antiques
Energy Specialists Co
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
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