



TIMELINE 2014

Peoria Historical Society Newsletter | September-October | Volume 20, Issue 5

Celebrating Our 80th Year



De Tonti Dinner September 27th

Please join the Peoria Historical Society and Bradley University's Institute for Principled Leadership on September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Peoria Civic Center Ballroom as we recognize the Honorable Ray LaHood with the 3rd annual Henri de Tonti Award. Named for Peoria's founder, the de Tonti Award honors a Tri-County individual or organization exhibiting outstanding community leadership.

Tickets are \$150 per person or \$1500 for a table of ten. The cost includes both dinner and the presentation, featuring a number of notable speakers. Sponsorships are available. Reservations may be made by calling 674-1921 or online at www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org.

Passing into History

The Peoria Historical Society mourns the loss of board member Richard "Dick" Schwebel and distinguished volunteer Mary Ann Middleton.

Despite a 14-year battle with lymphoma, complicated by other health issues, Dick gave loyal board service and guidance to PHS. Even while restricted to a wheel chair, he eagerly participated in the PHS book club. With wife Marjorie, he hosted events at their High Street home and supported her in leadership of PHS's Rennick Art Competition. He died July 15.

Long-time PHS volunteer Mary Ann Middleton began her service at Pettengill-Morrison House, just down the street from her Moss Avenue Home, more than 40 years ago. Her involvement at Flanagan House stemmed from her enthusiasm for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), whose local chapter is headquartered there. In 2011 she became the first Peorian since 1931 to hold a national DAR office. Husband Bob, a PHS past president, continues to serve as a key member of the Finance Committee overseeing the endowment fund he helped establish, as well as ongoing budgets and financial affairs. After a long and gallant struggle, she succumbed to pancreatic cancer on May 31.

"History, by apprising the people of the past, will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men."

Thomas Jefferson, 1782.

From The President

I know I have a very parochial perspective, but I must admit, I'm very proud of our organization.

I'm proud of our Board of Trustees, especially those who recently accepted roles as committee chairpersons: Stacy Peterson (Membership), Jon Neidy (Grants), Kevin Kizer (Marketing), Dr. Dean Cantu (Social Media), and Gerd Prewett (Holiday Home Tour). I enjoy working with all of the Trustees; their positive spirit and commitment is invigorating.

I am proud of the many PHS members who donated treasures to the Pettengill-Morrison yard sale for June's Moss Avenue Sale. I am, of course, very proud of my wife, Beth, for coordinating this event, and the many hours she spent marking and pricing the merchandise. The sale raised just over \$2,000 for PHS and brought many folks through the house during that Saturday.

I was proud of the festivities at the Judge Flanagan House on July 4th. The Historical Society hosted 226 adults and kids for a viewing of the fireworks over the downtown riverfront. House Manager Linda Herron organized a very special event that ran smoothly and was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

I'm especially proud of the PHS members who developed this season's new "Roll out the Barrel" tour, focusing on Peoria's fascinating history of distilling and brewing. Once again, Beth Johnson stepped up to serve as this year's Trolley Tour Coordinator, working with our Executive Director recruiting, training, and scheduling guides.

I'm proud that PHS, together with the Institute for Principled Leadership, has selected Ray LaHood as this year's recipient of the Henri de Tonti Award for Outstanding Principled Community Leadership. Working with Brad McMillan for the past three years to develop the award and ceremonies has been a rewarding experience and raised community awareness of PHS.

Finally, I'm proud of our positive relationship with Wheels O' Time and the skilled volunteers who care for the PHS artifacts stored at the museum. I urge all PHS members to take a trip out to the museum; you'll be surprised at the tremendous amount of Peoria history housed within their facility.

My thanks to the PHS volunteers who have given their time and talents to provide community outreach, historic homes updates, and event planning. I hope all of you are as proud of our organization as I am.

Mark L. Johnson

Peoria Historical Society

611 SW Washington Street
Peoria, IL 61602

Office Hours: 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Tuesday—Friday
Phone: 309.674.1921 Fax: 309.674.1882
adminphs@peoriahistoricalsociety.org
www.PeoriaHistoricalSociety.org
Find us on Facebook

Special Collections Center

Bradley University Library
Bradley Avenue at Glenwood

Office Hours: 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.
1 p.m.-4: 30p.m. Monday-Friday
Phone: 309.677.2822

STAFF

Walter C. Ruppman
Executive Director

Bob Killion
Curator of Collections, Technology

Judy Earls
Administrative Assistant

OFFICERS

Mark Johnson
President

Deborah Dougherty
Vice President

Jim Carballido
Treasurer

Jennifer C. Martin
Secretary/Timeline Editor

Russ Crawford
Past President

TRUSTEES

Suzie Adcock

Dean Cantu

Kathy Dallinger

Mary DuBois

Chuck Frey

Brent Goken

John Haverhals

Nick Hayward

Linda Herron

Beth Jensen

Kevin Kizer

Jon Neidy

Susan Bock (DAR)

John Parks

Stacy Peterson

Gerd Prewitt

Sid Paul Ruckriegel

Steven Streight

Jeff Thomas

W. Eric Turner

John C. Flanagan House Museum

942 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603
Phone: 309.674.1921

Pettengill-Morrison House Museum

1212 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, IL 61606
Phone: 309.674.1921

Tours by appointment.
Cost: Adults \$10, Children 12 and under \$3.
\$20 minimum for tours



Distribution of Timeline courtesy of:

PNC BANK



The Peoria County Old Settlers' annual meeting (circa 1868 or 1869) taken in front of the Judge John Flanagan home on Glen Oak Avenue. Judge Flanagan is in the front row, fourth from the right.

We continue the celebration of Peoria Historical Society's 80th anniversary with a look at PHS' predecessor historical organizations. The very first "historical" organization in Peoria was formed on July 4, 1867. The Civil War ended two years earlier at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

The original seven settlers arrived at the burned remains of Fort Clark along the banks of Lake Pimiteoui in April, 1819, one year after Illinois had been admitted to the Union as the 21st state. The County of Peoria was laid out and organized by the Illinois State Legislature in 1825 with a meager population of only 1,236 residents. Ten years later, on July 18, 1835, the village of Peoria was officially incorporated.

In thirty-two years, Peoria had grown into a town with 20,000 residents. In the summer of 1866, a few of the earliest settlers called a meeting for the purpose of organizing an "Old Settlers" Association. After a year of discussions, the "OLD SETTLERS' UNION of Peoria and Vicinity" was organized at a meeting held at the court house on July 4, 1867. The first two appointed officers were President John Hamlin and Secretary Charles Ballance.

A committee drafted a constitution and by-laws, which were adopted later that same month.

According to the constitutional terms, every man having a good moral character and having resided in the State of Illinois for the period of thirty years prior to the date of the constitution and for the last ten years in Peoria or its vicinity was eligible for membership upon payment of a one dollar initiation fee to the treasurer.

In 1868 and 1869, meetings were held at Flanagan's Grove (where Flanagan House is located).

In 1931, the group's name was changed to Peoria County Old Settlers' and Historical Association. Then in 1934, the Peoria Historical Society was formed, dropping the "Old Settlers' and Historical" from the name. In 1991, the organization had a modest 130 members, but was open to any Peoria County citizens with an interest in early local history. Dues remained \$1 per year.

In 1897, the organization constructed a replica log cabin in Glen Oak Park honoring the humble structure that was Abraham Lincoln's Kentucky birthplace. Over

the years, the cabin was replaced several times, and another cabin was presented to the Peoria Park District for W.H. Sommer Park.

A second monument remains in Peoria Zoo at Glen Oak Park. Known as the Boulder Monument, this stone spire was the vision of John Bush and Willis Evans. First conceived in 1912 as a memorial to the area's first settlers, it was not until 1930 that a committee was formed to plan and construct the monument. The committee asked members and friends to collect stones from 6 to 12 inches in diameter. About 15,000 stones were brought in from every township in the county as well as other notable locations around the country.

On September 23, 1930, construction of the monument was awarded to William Allen and Sons, with B. Hulsebus as architect. The first stone was laid on October 9, 1930 and the last on November 15, 1930. Standing 26.5 feet high, 11 feet in diameter, and 33 feet in circumference, the monument was completed on December 5, 1930 and dedicated August 26, 1931. A copper time capsule containing the history of both the City and County of Peoria and the details of 176 different local organizations was placed and sealed inside the monument.



Board Approves Membership Changes

After careful study and consideration, the Board of Trustees approved several modifications to the Historical Society's membership structure at their July meeting. These changes are intended to a) simplify the membership levels, b) increase the revenue to the organization from memberships, and c) promote increased usage of the Trolley Tours and historic homes. While there have been ten different memberships levels for quite some time, the new approved membership structure contains only eight membership levels.

The three former membership levels of Student (\$10 per year), Individual (\$25), and Family (\$35) have been combined into a new "Pimiteoui" level with a \$35 annual donation.

All of the other membership levels are designated by the name of a historic Peorian, beginning with the "Henri de Tonti" membership level at \$60 per year. All "Henri

de Tonti" and higher levels memberships, will receive annually one trolley tour ticket (\$15 value) and two house tour tickets (\$18 value) for a total value of \$33. The "Henri de Tonti" membership therefore offers greater value than the "Pimiteoui" membership. The Board would ask that former Student, Individual or Family members consider renewing their membership at the new "Henri de Tonti" membership level.

These membership changes will be implemented effective October 1st, 2014, and members should receive renewal letters and information reflecting these changes. All new membership will be applied to an entire household.

New Membership Structure

Pimiteoui	\$35
Henri de Tonti	\$60
Fritz Triebel	\$100
Charles Duryea	\$250
Captain Henry Detweiller	\$500
Belle Reynolds	\$1,000
Jean Baptiste de Sable	\$2,000
Father Jacques Marquette	\$5,000

PHS Offers Image Sharing

Looking for pictures of "Old Peoria" for your office or business? Want to showcase your company's rich history? Need family photos for genealogical research? What about historical images for that book you've been wanting to write?

The Peoria Historical Society offers access to our extensive collection of historical documents through our image sharing service. We have a number of photos and documents available in our Special Collections Center housed within Bradley University's Cullom-Davis Library.

The holidays are fast approaching, and what better way to celebrate family traditions than with a historical photo. Prices vary. For more information, to view our fee schedule and image usage policy, or to browse a selection of available images online, visit www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org or contact the Special Collection Center at Bradley University at (309) 677-2822.



Balance Endowment Society

Since its founding, the Peoria Historical Society has kept as its mission keeping the historical narrative of the Central Illinois Valley alive for future generations. In addition to our two historical homes and our ever growing collection, this mission has taken new forms in recent years. These put the story of our area ever more directly in the hands of the public to be told and appreciated. By placing our collection online, by expanding our programming opportunities, and through partnerships such as the Peoria Riverfront Museum, the ripple of the Society impacts more people than ever before.

It is in this goal of permanent sustainability that, in 1986, then PHS President Bob Middleton helped establish the PHS Endowment Fund. Since then, this endowment fund has been a valued resource to the Society as it conducts its mission.

Now, in an effort to continue in this same vein, and to recognize those individuals who wish to keep the story of the Illinois River

Valley alive, the Charles Ballance Bequest Society has been formed. Through either including the Charles Ballance Bequest Society in one's estate planning or through a one-time gift of at least \$2,500 to the Bequest Society, you help insure that our stories and history will be told for future generations. Members in the Bequest Society will be honored throughout the year, including an annual reception. The first annual reception is fast approaching in November, and it is our hope that you will consider becoming a member today. For more information on how you can leave a lasting legacy to the Peoria Historical Society, please contact the PHS office at 309-674-1921.

Grand Victorian Tea at P-M House

The "Fine Art of Hospitality" continues at Pettengill-Morrison House with another one of our popular teas. Join us Sunday, September 21 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. for an afternoon of aristocratic luxury and elegance.

Nibble tea-time delicacies as our "Downstairs" staff provides unmatched service Edwardian-style.

Tickets are \$25 each. Our gift shop will also feature a selection of unique items including spices, cookbooks, and giftware courtesy of the Hayloft Shops. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the office at 674-1921.

Quarterly Meeting Nov. 5th

Please join the Peoria Historical for our quarterly meeting Wednesday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Peoria Riverfront Museum Auditorium. Our guest speaker is Mark Walczynski, Foundation Historian for the Starved Rock Foundation.

Mr. Walczynski is retired from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and teaches history, philosophy, and criminal justice at Illinois Valley Community College in Ogilsvy, Illinois. He is also the author of *Starved Rock State Park: The First 100 Years*. Mr. Walczynski will discuss the Illinois Confederation of Native Americans.

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the Peoria Riverfront Museum parking deck.



Campaign to Cool Flanagan Exceeds Target

Executive Director, Walter Ruppman, announced at the July Board of Trustees meeting that PHS had received several donations toward the installation of an air-conditioning system in the Judge Flanagan House. The generosity of these benefactors is very gratifying. Flanagan House is the oldest single family residence in the City of Peoria, and has served as both the headquarters of the Historical Society for many years and the Peoria Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Board of Trustees identified the air conditioning project as PHS's primary capital funding project for 2014. With the receipt of these generous donations, the funding for the project has now exceeded the targeted amount of \$9,000, or one half of the estimated cost of the project.

This will allow the Grant Committee to proceed to apply for grants which would provide an equal matching amount for the project. House Chairperson John Haverhals will now proceed to

obtain specific cost estimates for certified Heating and Cooling Contractors.

The Board of Trustees thanks all of the members who donated to this project.

PHS Receives CFCI Grant

Improvement projects continue at both historic homes. The garage roof at the P-M House was repaired, and two sides of the garage and the porch ceiling were painted, all thanks to a \$950 grant from the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The work was completed by four students from Illinois Central College's PCCEO (Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.) class. This is the second project completed in conjunction with ICC, and provides an opportunity for on-the-job training for PCCEO students; it has been a fulfilling partnership for everyone involved.

The Peoria Historical Society would like to once again thank John Haverhals for his countless hours and tireless efforts coordinating repairs and maintaining our historic homes.

Old 886 Engine Receives Bell

Restoration and maintenance efforts continue on the artifacts acquired from the Peoria Regional Museum Society and displayed at the Wheels O' Time Museum. This summer, the "Old 886" engine received a new, more historically accurate, bell. The 300-lb bronze bell, originally from a Wabash Banner Blue locomotive, was donated by Sue Walker in honor of her parents, John and Judy Barner. The bell was lifted into place by Rob Jenkins, owner of Cherry Creek Electric, at no cost to the Society. The Society would also like to recognize Jack Seamon for his efforts acquiring the bell from Sue Walker.

The bell was unveiled during a reception on Wednesday, July 9 at 5:00 p.m.

The Wheels O' Time Museum closes for the season in October. If you have not yet had the opportunity, we encourage you to stop by and see Old 886 and the other amazing artifacts. The Wheels O' Time Museum is open Wednesday-Sunday from noon until 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 3-11.

2014 Trolley Tour Schedule

Our 1 1/2 hour tours depart from either Kelleher's Irish Pub or Harp & Thistle. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Passengers pay the CityLink driver \$1.00 upon entering the trolley or bus. Seniors 65 or older ride the trolley free with proof of age and a regular ticket purchase. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Advanced payment is required for groups of 10 or more. Call the PHS office at 309-674-1921, Kelleher's at 673-6000, or Harp & Thistle at 688-5668 to book your tour!

Roll Out the Barrel Tour-From 1850 to Prohibition, the volume of whiskey distilled, aged, bottled and shipped made Peoria the whiskey capital. The distilleries, several large breweries, and extensive stockyards here also created the second largest grain market in the country. Travel through the earliest sections of Downtown and Peoria's Warehouse District to discover facts about distilling in Peoria.

Naughty to Nice Tour-Follow Peoria's history from the naughty—the 20's, the gambling, the gangsters—to the nice—Peoria's now FOUR All-America City awards. This trolley tour traces triumphs through time from the 1920's to the present; stories of the city's gangster era, including the site of Peoria's most notorious crime scene — The Bernie Shelton murder. Also, discover why Peoria has been honored four times with the prestigious "All-America City" award.

River City Tour-The Native Americans, the French, the whiskey and earthmoving capital of the world, the grand mansions and Grandview Drive - The River City Tour has it all. Beginning in Peoria Heights, the tour proceeds down Grandview Drive, through the Averyville area to downtown Peoria, then on to High Street and Moss Avenue, before circling back down to Glen Oak Avenue on the return to the Heights. Admire stately homes and enjoy the renowned grand view of the Illinois River.

Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery Tour-View the elegant homes of past and present prosperous merchants, landowners, and professionals. See the Illinois River from the best vantage point in Peoria. Then tour Springdale Cemetery, the oldest chartered cemetery in the state of Illinois. Hervey Lightner designed this 270-acre tree-studded cemetery with miles of twisting roads in 1855. You will appreciate the serene park-like setting and hear about Peoria's founding fathers and mothers. A must see!

Abraham Lincoln & the Civil War Tour-Follow Lincoln in Peoria and learn about Camp Peoria and Camp Lyon. This tour tells the story of Lincoln's visits to Peoria, the Civil War troops, and the camps where they trained. See the markers where the camps once stood. Visit Springdale Cemetery and see the final resting place of many of the Civil War veterans. The tour will pass the GAR Hall, built in 1909, and hear the story of Joseph Greenhut, a Whiskey Baron who provided much of the Hall's funding.

Haunted Peoria Tour-Explore the dark side of Peoria as we venture where strange sightings and events have been reported. Discover the stories behind the ghostly appearances that have startled and puzzled Peorians through the years. Learn about the Lady in White, the Legend of Nee-Nee-Wah, the Curse of Old Lady Gray, and more. What will you see in Haunted Peoria?

2014 Peoria History Tour Schedule					
Tour Information	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Thursday 10:30am Harp & Thistle	River City	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery	River City	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery	River City
Friday 10:30am Harp & Thistle	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery	River City	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery	River City	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery
Saturday 10:30am Kelleher's Irish Pub	Abraham Lincoln & The Civil War	Naughty to Nice	Naughty to Nice	Abraham Lincoln & The Civil War	Haunted Peoria
Saturday 1:00pm Kelleher's Irish Pub	Naughty to Nice	Roll Out the Barrel	Roll Out the Barrel	Haunted Peoria	Haunted Peoria

The Newsletter of the
Peoria Historical Society

611 SW Washington
Peoria, Illinois 61602

Phone: 309-674-1921
Fax: 309-674-1882
Website: <http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org>
And on Facebook

Non-profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit # 745

Peoria, IL 61602



The "Old 886" Engine received a new, more historically accurate bell. Please see page 6 for more details.

TIMELINE

