

The Towner Tattler

June 2010

The Boone County Historical Museum Newsletter



311 Whitney Blvd.
Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: 815-544-8391 Fax: 815-547-1691
Website: bchmuseum.org
Email: info@bchmuseum.org



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

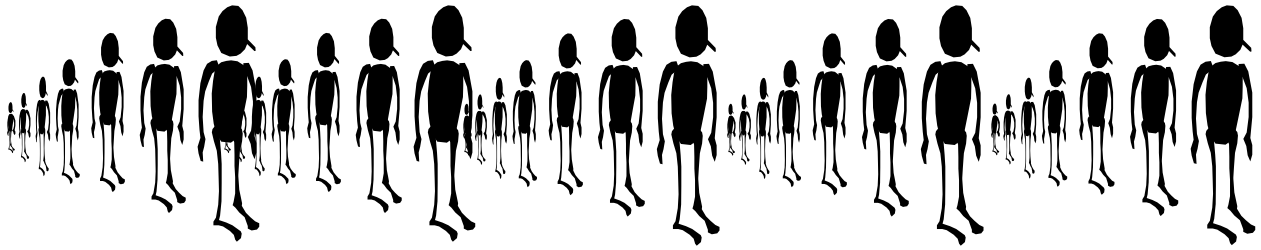
As I write to you today, a gentle rain is falling to nourish our lawns, plants and fields. My mind wanders-thinking about what life must have been like so many years ago when the early settlers came to this territory. What hardy souls they were. How many of us would have the stamina or desire to strike out to the unknown to establish our homes and raise our families; let alone chop down trees and build log cabins. As the Boone County Historical Museum, we must continue to tell the story of our ancestors and protect our heritage.

Past and present board members of the Society are invited to our quarterly membership potluck on June 8th at Paulson's Agricultural Museum in Argyle. I encourage all of you to attend. Over the past years, these leaders have helped to build our museum to make it the showplace that it is today. Like early pioneers, they had a goal to preserve the many artifacts that we now display. Often the way was uncertain; they too had a part in building a log cabin and they protected it in the building that is our main museum facility. Operating with minimal funds was a problem. With good leadership and the support of our community, we now have a Museum District which collects tax dollars to help operate our museum.

Each time I give a tour at the museum, I am so proud of the excellent way our artifacts are displayed, the clean appearance of our facilities, and the wonderful response of those taking the tour. Young and old alike give us praise for our museum. They comment, "We had no idea that all this was here in Boone County."

With the help of all of you, we can continue along the path established by those who came before us. We have a busy summer ahead for the museum. Please try to participate in our many events.

Carol Rowe
President, Boone County Historical Museum



Attention 6th-8th Graders:

Summer Genealogy Program

Did you ever wonder where you came from? What your Great-Great Grandparents did and how they lived? You could find out the answers to these and many other questions at the Boone County Historical Museum this summer.

“A Journey to my Past” is a summer program that will introduce you to the wonderful world of genealogy. The class will be a series of four consecutive Saturdays: July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and will be divided into four sections.

Class Info: Week 1: Basic Info

Week 2: Building the Tree

Week 3: The Great Record Hunt

Week 4: Wrap Up

Syllabus: A complete syllabus can be found on our website

Time: 10am-12pm

Price: Free thanks to a generous anonymous donor

Class Includes: Workbook for the student to begin their journey as well as all additional material the student will need.

~~ Prior Registration is required to allow for ordering of workbooks ~~

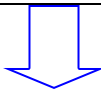
Please call the museum to register 815-544-8391 or email us at research@bchmuseum.org

**Class size is limited

**** Boards and Staff ****

District Board

Teri Keegan-President
Patrick Murphy-Vice President
Lois Ramon-Secretary
Gail Bennett-Treasurer
Jack Wolf-Trustee



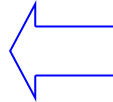
Our Board Meeting are held the third Monday of the month and are open to the public.

District meets at 4:30 pm
Society at 5:30pm

All meetings are held at the Museum.

Society Board

Carol Rowe-President
Gary Turner-Vice President
Judy Ernest-Secretary
Dick Stegemann-Treasurer
Ann Bennett
Marge Hindert
Frank Crawford
Bob Lear
Sam Larson
Don Banks
John Wolf
Steve Anderson
Andy Ward
Judy Winter
Dick Stegemann



Staff

Mary Hale-Director
Lonna Bentley-Registrar



The Museum Boards & Staff extend Get Well wishes to Judy Ernest.

Our Mission

“The mission of the Boone County Historical Museum is to stimulate interest in Boone County history through education, research, and preservation of artifacts and archival materials”

**New & Renewing Memberships
Since March 15, 2010**

Mr & Mrs. Robert Long
Bonnie Eggert
Dan McConnell
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Morrall
Mr. & Mrs. Jess Hale
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Schrader & Family
Forrest Miles
Mr. & Mrs. John Wolf
Sandra Cregeen
Eric Dahl
Steam Plant Family Restaurant

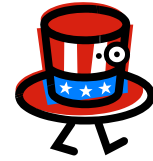


~~ New Business Members ~~

Doc's Upholstery & Refinishing
Jerry Butitta Automotive
Alliance Insurance

Our Business Members

Alpine Bank
Belvidere Funeral Home
Boone County Auto
Buck-Wheeler-Hyland Funeral Home
Belvidere Cemetery Association
Eagles Club
Edwards Apple Orchard, Inc
Ollmann Ernest Architects
Poplar Grove State Bank
Steam Plant Family Restaurant
Vintage Wings & Wheels
Belvidere School District #100



It's A Boy

Congratulations to Mike Doyle on the
birth of his first Grandchild.



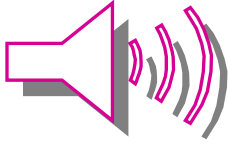
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

We would like to thank the anonymous donor for their contribution to our summer genealogy program. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. Because of you, we can offer our Summer 2010 program free of charge.

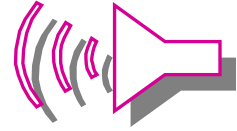


Fun and Games

Why does the groom carry his bride over the threshold?



Important News



June General Membership Meeting



Our June General Membership Meeting will be June 8th at 6pm at Paulson's Agricultural Museum. As always, this will be a potluck dinner so bring a dish to pass and come join us for some good food and fellowship. After dinner Sue Tutz will be giving a short program on Sarah Ames. All past and present board members have been personally invited to this meeting. We hope to see them all!

Program Series!

President Theodore Roosevelt
Presented at the Community Building

July 8th @ 6:30pm

Doors open at 6pm

Cost: \$5.00



Speaking softly was not the usual manner for President Roosevelt, but in almost all of the dealings in life, either as a civilian or in the military, he certainly carried a big stick. President Roosevelt's accomplishments during the most productive life was monumental and long lasting. He was a politician, author, soldier, conservationist, a Nobel Prize winner, an athlete, a philosopher, teacher, visionary and most importantly, a good father. Dereck Evens' portrayal of President Roosevelt will have you captivated from beginning to end. Come see one of our most respected presidents in a presentation to be long remembered.

~~Bridal Exhibit & Fair~~

Exhibit

Come see the great exhibit of wedding gowns and men's wedding attire.

Displayed items will cover circa 1880's thru present day.

Exhibit will run from June 7th thru July 2nd

Bridal Fair

Join us on June 12th 1-3pm
For an Open House
Refreshments will be served



* Entrance to the exhibit and the Fair is free will donation

Dr. Annie Alguire

Born May 10, 1868 in Caintown, Ontario, Canada, Annie Belle McCallum was just a normal little girl attending public schools and preparing to take on the world. Annie lived at home until 14 years of age, at which time she moved to Farmersville, Ontario, Canada where she attended high school and graduated with a life certificate to teach second grade.

At age 18 she began teaching school and continued teaching for four years and at the age of 21, Annie enrolled in Queens's University and subsequently attended the Woman's Medical College at the University and graduated in 1895 from the Medical Faculty of Trinity University, M.D.,C.M., receiving first class honors in clinical surgery.

Dr. Annie began practicing medicine on the Thousand Islands in Canada in 1895, that same year; she married her high school sweetheart Alden Alguire. Alden went to the United States to attend Rush Medical College in Chicago and graduated in 1897. After returning home to Canada, he and Annie, both doctors, chose the location they wanted to practice medicine and in 1898, they arrived in Belvidere, Illinois.

In 1908, Dr. Annie and Dr. Alden built the building located at 213 South State Street and this became their office until 1937. Dr. Annie's early years as a doctor were not easy as she had to deal with the prejudice of patients and of male physicians against woman in medicine, but through her good will and expertise as a physician, she eventually won them over.

In 1914, feeling the need for a public hospital, Dr. Annie along with her husband, Dr. Alden, gathered a group of doctors and some very influential men for a meeting in their office. That meeting began a string of events that led to the renting of the old Rowan house on Warren Avenue in 1916 and opening Belvidere Public Hospital and ended in 1924 when the cornerstone for Highland Hospital was laid.

By 1916, Annie was a teacher, a doctor, and now, an inventor after she invented the June Bug Thimble Holder, a clever item that could be worm on a garment to allow for easy access to ones thimble. 5000 of these were ordered and just after their arrival, war was declared and manufacturing of the June Bug Thimble Holder ended.

During WWI, Dr. Annie's husband, Dr Alden served in the medical corps of the army and while he was away, Dr Annie continued their two practices but that was just the beginning for her. While pulling double duty at the office, she was also on call at the National Sewing Machine during the morning hours in case of emergency accidents leaving the hours of 1:30-6 and 7-9pm for office calls. This was not the end of Dr. Annie's duties during this time as she was constantly lobbying for the passing of the Glacken

law, a law that provided that the county should be taxed for the care of citizens with tuberculosis. Although she met with much opposition, the law was passed just days before the armistice was signed and to Dr. Annie, this was one of her greatest achievements.

We're not done yet. With the war going on, Dr. Alden's absence, and all of Dr. Annie's responsibilities, she still managed to add yet another title to her name; composer. In 1918, Annie wrote her first song, "Just Remember That I Love You," this was the first of many.

In 1935, Dr. Alden passed away and Dr. Annie kept up the practice until 1937 when she went into retirement. This same year, Dr. Annie traveled to Europe to attend the International Conference of Woman Doctors in Edinburgh, Scotland. The conference was scheduled to take place on July 13-15, but Dr. Annie wanted to visit the birthplace of her forefathers and extended the trip to last two months at which time she journeyed through Scotland, England, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and France. Again, in 1936, Dr. Annie managed to squeeze in time to write another song titled "Uncle Sam's Lament"

By 1938, Dr. Annie was involved with many organizations; she was a member of Medical Woman's International Association, Medical Woman's National Association, American Medical Association, Illinois State Medical Society, Boone County Medical Society, Business and Professional Woman's Club, and the Belvidere Woman's Club. She was also spending time with her hobby-bowling. Dr. Annie was a member of two bowling teams and bowled in tournaments both sectional and national.

On New Year's Eve, 1939, Dr. Annie wrote a poem about Belvidere and in 1941, she had three poems published in "The Bookfellow Poetry Annual," giving Dr. Annie her final title, poet.

During WWII, the demand on the part of the patients within a 75 mile radius of Belvidere caused Dr. Annie to come out of retirement and return to her office where she continued to practice until war's end in 1945. This time though, she refused to retire completely from an active life and devoted her time to her music. She also spent four years making lecture appearances on public health for the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. Dr. Annie spoke for the first two years on tuberculosis and the following two years speaking on social hygiene.

Dr. Annie Alguire's journey through life came to a close on October 8, 1950 at the age of 82. During her 40 plus year career, Dr. Annie treated many of Boone County's citizens but how many did she deliver? The answer is none, because she suffered from "sympathy pains."

***Dr. Annie's poem can be seen on page 12-13 of this newsletter*

General Information

**** Heritage Day Parade ****

Heritage Day will soon be here and the Boone County Historical Museum will be decorating a float for the parade. Our theme this year is "A Salute To The Veterans." We will need volunteers for decorating the float. So get ready for a fun time. We're thinking big! We will be decorating a semi trailer lent to us by Dave Gallano & Gallano Trucking. We will also need Boone County Veterans to ride the float so if you or someone one you know would like to ride, let me know. Call me if you can help and I will give you details. Thanks in advance.

Ann Bennett
815-985-8965

Being A Board Member

To become a board member, you must first be a member of the Historical Society and be nominated at our annual December General Membership Meeting. A board member must have a love for our local history and an interest in caring for and preserving our artifacts.

Besides attending our monthly board meetings, we all work on special events throughout the year. Some of us are officers, others are docents, others work on displays, take oral histories and some clean and organize artifacts.

A good board member shows respect for other members opinions. We encourage other people to join our society. The best part of being a board member is getting to know and care for each other by working together. We also have a lot of fun!

Peggy Wolf



PASSING THROUGH THE TUNNEL

As we steam toward the tunnel,
Gentle banks on either side
Swiftly rising, frown upon us
And the fading landscape hide;
And a sad and solemn stillness
Gives a gloom to ev'ry face,
As the train, a-thund'ring onward,
Rushes in the narrow space

In an instant all is darkness.
And we hold the list'ning breath,
As the heart is leaping upward
To escape the threatened death;
While the darkness grows the darker,
And the gloomier is the roll,
And a thousand hideous fancies
Fiercely glare upon the soul!

Till a glimmer, seen before us,
Swiftly opens into day,
And the danger and the darkness
Are forever fled away;
And the fresher, sweeter prospect
Spreads in beauty to the eye,
With its smiling hills and valleys
And its waters rippling by.

So is death to ev'ry Christian,
As he passes through the vale-
As the shadows darken round him,
And the glooms of death prevail;
How the spirit sadly lingers
With the passing joys of life,
And how Nature dreads the passage,
And the Soul the final strife.

First the darkness, then the glimmer,
Then the glorious light is seen,
And the heavenly land discloses,
Dressed in one eternal green!
All along the shining valley
Is the Tree of Life displayed!
And the Stream of Life is sweetly
Flowing on beneath the shade

On the verge are hills of beauty,
With eternal cedars crowned,
And within, from choirs of angels,
Heavenly music floats around!
Christian brother, at the tunnel
Let no heaving sigh be given,
For if earth is lost in passing,
You shall win the joys of Heaven!

-Author *UInknown*

In Memoriam



Marcia Tuttle
13-Mar-1935 to 15-May-2010



Bill Dague
21-Apr-1920 to 4-Apr-2010



Helen Paulson
7-Sep-1922 to 9-May-2010



Ethel Miles
1-Sep-1914 to 15-Mar-2010



Vernon Hartman
31-Dec-1914 to 23-May-2010



Odds & Ends

Refreshing Lemonade

1 c Sugar
5 c Cold Water
1 c Lemon Juice



Dissolve sugar in 1 cup water and lemon juice. Add remaining cold water. Serve over ice. Add fresh lemon slices for decoration

Help!

We need your help!

In an effort to save on postage if you have an e-mail address please let us know.

You can do this by e-mailing us at members@bchmuseum.org and we will update our files.

Thank You

Thanks to Diane Stimes and Tuty Payne we now have the following items fully transcribed and available for reading.

**Nettie Fellows Long-Diaries*

**Juliet Sager-Letters*



Currently working on The Weeds Family Diary

Do You Know Us?



Just Around The Corner

The following events that will take place before the next newsletter will need volunteers. If you are interested in helping please call Mary at 815-544-8391

Fair-Sitting in the Booth (2 hour blocks)

Ice Cream Social-Making Pies

The following Oral Histories have been done

Lavina Franck

Fred Franck

Lee Berg



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Hannah Loop Towner

In June of 1835, John Towner, along with his wife, Hannah, and their eight children, 4 boys and 4 girls, put everything they owned into a covered wagon and set out for a new life, a feat Mr. Towner intended to make alone but Hannah would not consent. Leaving New York, they headed for Michigan to find a new home; however, after arriving at their destination, Mr. Towner found that Michigan was not what he was looking for and left his wife and family with a relative and headed to Chicago by way of the lake.

During his journey, John took ill and was forced to spend a few days in the old Tremont House for treatment and rest. While there, he was reunited with Cornelius Cline and Erastus Nixon, whom he had known in the past in New York. Mr. Towner had expressed to the two that he was not satisfied with the outlook of Chicago and he wanted to explore the Rock River Country after hearing of its natural beauty and wealth of soil, and the three set out on foot for Rockford.

The three men arrived at Kishwaukee in June and found the landscape covered with flowers, and the natural beauty of the surroundings along with the rich soil was all Mr. Towner needed and he told his friends that "others who want to find paradise on the Rock River may go there, but I go no further. The two men agreed and the three of them became the first permanent settlers. After purchasing a claim that included some timber and an additional claim that covered both sides of the river, John arranged for a log cabin to be erected and he headed back to Michigan for his family.

After a couple days of rest, the Towner's headed for Kishwaukee country. As they passed through Chicago, Mr. Towner purchased eight oxen and a Prairie Schooner, filled it with some flour, bacon, and other provisions, put his wife in charge of the team they brought from New York and the final leg of their journey began. At midnight on July 31, 1835, Mrs. Towner and the children arrived, making her the first white woman and mother to settle in Boone County.

In December of 1967, the Boone County Historical Society released its first newsletter "The Towner Tattler" in honor of Hannah Loop Towner as a supplement in the Daily Republican. The following are a couple of stories that appeared in Vol. 1, No. 1.

Leslie's Tow Job

A story well known in Belvidere about one of her best loved citizens has been enjoyed for years. One morning a call came for Leslie Porter to tow a car into town for the Ford Garage operated by "Doc Andrews and Tom Beckington. The car to be towed was in a ditch with plenty of snow surrounding it. Leslie arrived at the scene and began working fast and furiously. First of all he had to get a tow chain around the bumper of the car. Then, in some mysterious way the car had to be pulled out of the ditch, over the snow drift and on to the road. He tugged. He pulled. He talked to the car. He talked to the chain (there were no hoists to keep with the job) and when he was exhausted from the cold and the tugging the car gave a mighty heave and along it went, up and over the drift. Leslie was thrilled. He had performed a minor miracle. He had triumphed over the elements and adverse conditions. Happy to be in the truck again and out of the wind he rolled right along at a merry clip-15 miles an hour-over the icy pavements and back to the garage. Floyd Thompson opened the garage door when Leslie gave a mighty blast on the horn. "Unhook her, boys-there she is,"

Leslie called out. “Unhook what”-this from Floyd. All that’s back there is the tow chain. The car? Still back on the road and not too far from its starting place.

Mollie Goes To School

“Mollie” was a Shetland pony. She was broad of beam and she was no longer young, but she was loved by the entire family out on the Shaw farm, especially by Bill and Dick Thomas whose mother and father, Dollie and Harold Thomas owned the farm. Every morning, Mollie stood ready and waiting to canter down the country road with Bill and Dick on her back and to the old “Liberty School” on Route 20. Once at school, Mollie patiently awaited recess. Then, the children streamed out of the school door and for fifteen glorious minutes Mollie’s popularity knew no bounds-when one child slid from her back two more slid on. At noon there was a repeat performance and then at three, if neither Bill or Dick had to “stay after school” there was the homeward trek with her owners on her back. Eventually, it came to the attention of Dollie Thomas about the working conditions of Mollie. Feeling sorry for the pony she issued an ultimatum. Mollie could not go to school again! She was too old for so much activity. She was to stay out in the pasture and enjoy life from then on. Bill and Dick were very blue and very apologetic on the first morning of Mollie’s absence. Recess was a bore. No Mollie! No rides! Everyone was glum-including Mollie who was not relishing her seniority privileges. There was no doubt about it. Mollie missed the children. Days passed-days filled with emptiness. The one morning Mrs. Thomas drove away in the family car and Mollie saw her chance. She took things into her own hands-or rather in her own hooves. Over the fence she went-age and all-down the country road to the “Liberty School” and when the children came out at recess Mollie was standing at the school gate waiting for her first rider to climb aboard.



Belvidere 1940

*There’s a town in County Boone
Won’t you come to see it soon?
Finest place in which to live
For Belvidere the best to can give*

*Folks who come to Belvidere
Find a welcome and good cheer
Churches here for every creed
Stores supply your every need*

*Schools are classed among the best
Music, Sports and all the rest
It has a fine community hall
Where sports are held, enjoyed by all*

Upcoming Events

*Old Kishwaukee rolls along
Over the dam, singing its song
You can't complain, of no work to do
Factories run the whole year through*

*Belvidere Park in summer's heat
For a picnic spot is hard to beat
Clubs and lodges, families too
Come to enjoy the lovely view*

*To our tourist camp from far and near
Come folks who stop here every year
They say in all the states around
No other camp so fine they've found*

*Our fire department is on its toes
Ever ready to ply the hose
In our beds we peacefully sleep
While our police their vigil keep*

*Don't break the law or you will get
A sentence you will not forget
E'en gangsters pass our town in fear
Our sheriff's fame spreads far and near*

*Just settle here and fill your niche
You won't be poor and you won't get rich
You'll live a life of sweet content
Just as your God in Heaven meant*

*Oh Belvidere, our Belvidere
In all the world it has no peer
Settle here and have no fear
You'll ever want in Belvidere*
Annie B. Alguire-
written on New Year's Eve 1939

June 8th

General Membership Meeting
6pm @ Paulson's

June 12th

Bridal Fair Open House
Refreshments 1-3pm

June 21st

Board Meeting
District at 4:30 Society at 5:30

July 3rd

Closed for July 4th

July 8th

President Theodore Roosevelt
6:30 @ Community Building

July 12-17

Closed for Vacation

July 19th

Board Meeting
District @ 4:30 Society @ 5:30

August 10-15

Boone County Fair

August 16th

Board Meeting
District @ 4:30 Society @ 5:30

August 17th

Ice Cream Social
4-7pm on Museum Lawn

Fun & Games Answer:

The ancient Romans started it: the bride had to show that she was not at all crazy about leaving her father's home, and so was dragged over the threshold to her groom's house. Ancients also believed that evil spirits, in a last-ditch effort to curse the couple, hovered at the threshold of their new home, so the bride had to be lifted to ensure that the spirits couldn't enter her body through the soles of her feet. These days, it's just fun!

Boone County Historical Museum
311 Whitney Blvd.
Belvidere, IL 61008

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Belvidere, IL
Permit No. 182

_____ or current resident