

The Towner Tattler

The Boone County Historical Museum Newsletter
June 2011



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The second quarter has been a very busy one for the museum.

In March, we held the Fashion Show, “Fashions Through the Years”. This was very successful and I would like to recognize Norma Schandelmeier and her committee for putting on such a fine event. I would also like to personally thank all members, volunteers, models, and staff for all their hard work.

On April 30rd, the museum held a dedication ceremony for the 95th Regimental Flag. This was well attended by over 100 guests and members. I would like to thank State Representative Joe Sosonowski, County Board Chair Bob Walberg and Belvidere City Alderman Mike Chamberlain for coming out and helping us with the event. I would like to recognize Carol Rowe for all her hard work on this project and her fine presentation on behalf of the museum.

In April, the museum said good bye to our maintenance professional Dave Harbolt and wish him all our best as he spends time enjoying retirement with his family. The District Board has filled the position with Mr. Richard Nelson and I would like to welcome him aboard as a member of our museum staff.

The Alpine Bank Trust Department attended our May Board Meeting and went over their yearly review of our accounts. We are also looking into cutting some costs that we believe can be controlled. Dr. Dale Drake is looking into our phone system as one of these areas where the Museum can improve cash flow. The board is also taking a hard look at the preservation of our artifacts. With concerns brought forward by members of the Society, I would like to assure all members that your board is taking these concerns very seriously and will do our best to assure that artifacts are preserved for generations to come.

Looking forward at the months to come will be exciting for all. In August, we will be looking for members to staff our booth during the Boone County Fair and a sign up sheet will be available sometime in June. On August 23th we will have our annual Ice Cream Social from 4PM to 7PM. As usual we will be contacting members to volunteer their talents towards this very important fundraising event. Just think, in 2006 Gary Turner asked me if I could help carry some garbage to the dumpster at the Ice Cream Social and now 5 years later I am President of the Society. Who said there is no longer an American Dream?

Again, I would like thank the board, staff, volunteers and members for helping to make the Boone County Historical Museum better each and every day.

Respectfully,

Donald J. Banks

New and Renewing Membership From Dec 2010 through Feb 2011

New: Blackhawk Bank, Rob & Patty Tobin, Patricia Beam, Mr & Mrs.

Don Menge, Jr,

Renewing: Poplar Grove State Bank, Ollmann Ernest Martin Architects, Ringland-Johnson Inc., Kenneth Freeman, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Keegan, Mr & Mrs. Jim Turner, Michelle Courier, Patrick Murphy,

Gwen Wylie

In Memoriam

Corleta A Steurer
9-Oct-1928 to 20-Mar-2011



Helen Maxwell-Williams
31-Mar-1923 to 19-Apr-2011



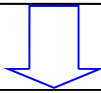
Edith Dall
30-Mar-1912 to 29-Apr-2011



** Boards and Staff **

District Board

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



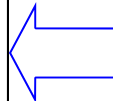
Our Board Meetings are held the third Monday of the month and are open to the public.

District meets at 4:00 pm*
Society at 5:30pm

All meetings are held at the Museum.

Society Board

Don Banks-President
Judy Winter-Vice President
Judy Ernest-Secretary
Dick Stegemann-Treasurer
Ann Bennett
Grant Michaud
Dr. Dale Drake
Bob Lear
Norma Schandelmeier
Carol Rowe
John Wolf
Steve Anderson
Andy Ward
Marilyn Clanin
Gary Turner



Staff

Mary Hale-Director
Lonna Bentley-Registrar
Dick Nelson-Maintenance

Board Update



* The District Board Meetings will now be held at 4:00 pm. Please make note of the time change. *

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”

The month of June is popular for weddings so we thought we would run this fascinating letter written by Phil Lampert to his then betrothed Clara Lampert. Phil and Clara were married in 1891. This letter has been transcribed from its original and has everything a person could want in a letter-humor, description, and even a little message about wishing and loving.

Tuesday Night 2-7-1888

My dear Clara: I am down at the Council chamber attending the session of the council. Having nothing to do but to listen to the droning of the aldermen I will while away the minutes by trying to give you a pen sketch of the Mayor and various members. The chamber is large, carpeted, well heated and provided with easy chairs. Mayor Hurlbut is in the chair. He is very tall and slim, about six feet six. He has a thin face, smooth, and a moustache. He is the license mayor and defeated Mr. Dean by nine votes last fall. He is the son of Gen. Hurlbut, whom your father knew in the army but has not by any means his father's ability. He makes a good preceding officer, and I think sincerely desires to do right. In the right hand corner sits Mr. Patterson, Deacon P. we call him, a good Baptist brother, very conscientious, and somewhat dull and plodding. He sees a point by and bye. It takes time for an opinion to percolate thru his skull. But he is a good man and a strong no-license man. Next to him sits Alderman Marean, or as some call him Alderman Mary Ann. He is an old man, an ex-justice of the peace and can look wiser than any one else on the board. He is a no-license man, a strong republican, and the husband of Mrs. Marean who is the president of the W.C.T.U. Next to him sits Mr. Tousley the landlord of the Julien house, a man with great bushy eye brows and a full beard. He is a good member, a good business man. He is a license man and has a bar in his hotel. That is the only fault I have in him. Next comes Alderman Dawson, a blacksmith, a handsome man, but with a fiery temper, and who fights when any member treads on his toes. He is a license man tho he himself is temperate enuf – The old man Marean is now speaking; he looks just as if he came out of bed. On the other side of the room sits Mr. G. Leonard, big pompous and shrewd. He is a warehouse man and will-to-do. He is a no-license man. He very frequently treads on Alderman Dawson's toes and likes to see Dawson squirm. He is speaking now and striking out right and left. Next to him sits Dr. Foote, a no-license man, a very good man and one of the best Alderman on the board. The Dr. always put his motions in writing which hardly any other alderman does or can do. Next to him sits Alderman Downs, who next to Marean can look very wise. Downs is an old foggy and the council delights to sit down on him but he doesn't care and comes up smiling serenely.

Next to Downs sits Alderman Bowley a license man as also is Downs. Bowley rarely has much to say; he is a very ordinary man and not of very high ideals. In the chair of the clerk sits City Clerk Jenner, an old white haired man who has lived in this town for more than 40 years and has seen Belvidere grow from a hamlet of one or two hundred people to its present population of 4000.

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June General Membership Meeting

Our June General Membership Meeting will be June 14th at 6pm. As always, this will be a potluck dinner so bring a dish to pass and come join us for some good food and fellowship. Grant Michaud will be presenting a short program on the national Sewing Machine Company.



New Displays

- ~~ The 95th Regiment Flag
- ~~ Kimonos-all with ties to the Military
- ~~ The Roaring 20's
- ~~ Early Children's Items
- ~~ Summer Formal Dresses
- ~~ Fred Schulte



**** Its time to put some artifacts away so watch for some exciting new displays!!**

A Special Thank You...

We would like to thank the following for their recent donations to the Society in the memory of their loved ones:

- ~ *the family of Helen Maxwell-Williams*
- ~ *the family of Lenora Hubbard*
- ~ *the family of William & Wilbur Cummings*
- ~ *the family of Corleta Steurer*
- ~ *Boone County Home Community Education Assoc. in memory of Lillian Hall*

******* Bob Lear will be 90 *******

Come help him celebrate at an open house at the Boone County Historical Museum, 311 Whitney Blvd., Belvidere, on Saturday, June 11, from noon to 3:00 PM. Cake and punch and conversation. No gifts please, but the Museum will accept donations in Bob's name. Or send a greeting via e-mail (Rbl522@aol.com) or mail to 633 Genoa Rd., Belvidere, IL 61008

*Sally and Peter, Perry and Laura, Sarah and James, Jeremy and Deanna Tirrell
Sherry, Erik and Collins, and Adam Lindquist*

(continued from page 4)

Squire Jenner is a pretty good sort of man who loves his wife and children, loves to chew tobacco too. In the corner sits City Marshall Major Osgood, an old grey headed codger like Squire Jenner. The Major is an old military man and steps around as if he owned the town. He wears a big star on his broad bosom. The major seldom wears a coat unless the mercury is 10 or 15 degrees below; sometimes he takes his coat off in church; tonight he has his coat on. I should not wonder if he has no overcoat. I never saw him wear an overcoat. Lastly at a desk sits a young man, nearly 30 years old, fat he is, with a smooth-shaven face, not very brilliant he is, and yet he has a quite good opinion of himself. He is the City Attorney. Do you know him? He is unmarried and I understand he is deeply in love with a girl who does not live in this town. Well, I wish his sweetheart good luck in him. Such is the City council. The council are growling and beginning to quarrel. They are trying to adopt rules of order. The mayor is up a stump now ----- Oh-hum! I got your dear loving letter this morning. Do you know how much I look for your letters. They are a solace to me. Oh, I love you, my Darling. God help us that we can marry soon.

Faithfully your Phil

I now write from the den. I have a better pen and can write legibly. In answer to your to-day's letter: I am glad you found in Mrs. N. Warr honest and unassuming women. What I saw of N.W. last fall impressed me very favorably. I thot him a gentleman in manner. I did not think he would know me, and knowing me did not expect him to be so cordial as he was. Who is Mrs. Covell? I hope our mother is well again. Give her my regard, best wishes and love. No, I did not send that for your birthday at all, but just to help you; everyone likes and needs money and I thot you could find some good use for that. I wish I were making money, much of it, and then! Goodness me, why can't it be as we wish? If our wishes came true so easy perhaps we would not properly appreciate their fulfillment. In answer to your question as to what your friend Sylvia writes did she love this man? If she did I can't understand how she so lightly dismisses him. If it was hard for him, was it not so for her? I do believe that few people break their hearts for unrequited lost love but how it must rob us of real joy forever that our first and best true love should prove untrue, a delusion! Don't you think it would tend to make us lose faith in humanity and in ourselves? I would not want to try the experiment. Good night, Love and kisses, Phil

Clip & Save

June 14th at 6pm
General Membership Potluck Meeting

June 20th
Board Meeting
District at 4:00 Society at 5:30
All Board Meetings at Museum and are open to the public

July 2nd-July 9th
CLOSED FOR VACATION



July 14th –6:30 pm
Program Series continues with “A Visit with Ben Franklin”
At the community Building.

July 18th
Board Meeting
District at 4:00 Society at 5:30
All Board Meetings at Museum and are open to the public

August 9th-14th
Boone County Fair

August 15th
Board Meeting
District at 4:00 Society at 5:30
All Board Meetings at Museum and are open to the public

August 23rd
Ice Cream Social 4 pm-7 pm

A touching diary from Phil to Clara.

PHILIP C. LAMPERT, BELVIDERE, Illinois
June 23, 1892

This little book is to be given my wife on my death. /s/Philip C. Lampert

Wednesday night, June 23, 1892.

My loving darling wife Clara:

Let me kiss you for true love. I write this at Rockford on the train where I am water-bound. I must spend the night here. I cannot lie down and sleep as some of the passengers can. I have been thinking of late how much I owe you – how I have not confided my business affairs in you as I ought. My insufficient excuse is that I am afraid to disclose to you the extent of my indebtedness. When I am once out of debt I will tell you all. I want to spare you the worry the knowledge would bring you.

I must acknowledge that I have not put my accounts in such shape that you could unravel them. I am gradually doing so, tho, and if I am spared a few weeks longer you then can find a map of the whole plan and state of my financial affairs.

I shall at once make a will in which you have all my property, more truly, our property. I would like you to give Charlie and Lizzie each a memento of me, you being the chooser. And should our Muriel survive me, I ask you to love her in a double measure, our darling little girl, sweet angel child! And wife dear, if I leave you alone, think kindly lovingly and forgivingly of me. I have so many faults and provoke you so often. Forgive me, my gentle one.

“When cold in the grave lies the friend thou hast loved,

Be his faults and his foibles forgot by thee then;

And if from the grave the veil be removed,

Weep o’er him and close it again.”

I love you so, Clara. And God will keep you and Muriel, my wife dear and unite us in Heaven for Jesus sake, Amen!

O Clara, I love you, I love you! Your devoted and loving husband, Phil.

If I am spared, Clara wife, I will note all changes herein as they take place. Phil.

1892:

I owe the following amounts:

On house, secured to Mrs. Lacy D. Weaver of Carlisle	\$ 1,200.00
Mary Pahs, on abstract books	500.00
Mary Pahs on note	120.00
George H. Eichler	500.00
Mrs. Isaac Sandall	300.00
Frank R. Covey	300.00
Chas. L. Smith	200.00
John H. Peck	400.00

Fred Voshage	350.00
Chas. A. Lampert	50.00
Frank P. Lampert	<u>1,000.00</u>
	4,920.00

Resources:

House paid	\$1,500.00
Bldg. & Loan (6-22-1892, Bloomington, IL)	210.00
Bed spring (Cleaveland)	150.00
Mrs. McGonigle note	150.00
Charles Champlin, note	150.00
A.H. Keeler note	500.00
Fred Suhr note	250.00
Thos. Hannah note	100.00
Maurice Barnes note	225.00
Jno. Clark Hill note	125.00
James Gough note	100.00
James Burton note	100.00
Jos. E. Tripp	175.00
Wm. M. Sawyer	40.00
Clayton Whipple	75.00
Ms. M. Valentine	80.00
Mrs. O'Donnell	25.00
Fairview Lot	150.00

Resources Remarks:

I have two life insurance policies.	
One old line Life, Home of New York for	1,000.00
And one Knights of the Globe	1,000.00
I have a Law Library, safe, office fixtures and	
Interest in one set of Abstract Books,	600.00

29 November, 1899

This little book came into my hands a few days ago, as the result of my loving husband's long continued illness. I have first read it today as he lies in his bed, fast slipping away into the heavenly country. God keep him and the dear little girl and me.

Clara Lampert

Phil passed away in 1899, Clara in 1961

~~ Our Business Members ~~

*Alpine Bank
Belvidere Funeral Home
Boone County Auto Parts
Buck-Wheeler-Hyland Funeral Home
Belvidere Cemetery Association
Blackhawk Bank
Eagles Club
Edwards Apple Orchard, Inc*

*Ollmann Ernest Martin Architects
Poplar Grove State Bank
Steam Plant Family Restaurant
Vintage Wings & Wheels
Belvidere School District #100
Jerry Butitta Automotive
Doc's Upholstery & Refinishing*

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