

# The Towner Tattler

The Boone County Historical Museum Newsletter  
March 2011



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Society Members,

Some say my being elected as President of the Boone County Historical Society is the biggest thing to hit Boone County since Tiny Hill played at the Rainbow Gardens. Well, I will allow history to judge...

First, I need to introduce myself. I am Don Banks, from Irene, Illinois and presently work as Vice President of Business Banking for Alpine Bank. It is my pleasure to be given this opportunity to lead such a strong organization in 2011. I only hope to accomplish the same goals as done by my predecessors. This job has been simplified by a strong board of directors, staff, volunteers and members. I thank all of those people as well as friends for their continued support of the society and hope to meet many of you in the coming months.

The society has finished the ground work to establish an endowment fund through the Boone County Community Foundation. This is very exciting because it gives a new avenue for people to donate to the society.

The 95th Regimental Flag is being completed and we will plan to have an event at the museum to show case the unveiling of the flag.

My personal goal for 2011 is to lay the ground work for the society to submit and possibly receive grant money for our various projects.

The Board of Directors of the Boone County Historical Society and I continue to move forward in 2011 with various new projects keeping in mind the Mission Statement of the Society. I look forward to your comments and concerns.

Respectfully,  
Don Banks

*New and Renewing Membership From Dec 2010 through Feb 2011*

*New: Connie Wenger, Barb Berman, Linda & J. Michael Maloney,  
Karen Drager, Mary Smedley, Jon Lamrouex*

*Renewing: Lance Jensen, Boone County Auto Body, Edwards Apple Orchard, Alpine Bank, Phyllis Gallano, Ed & Judy Winter, William Gibson, Michelle Courier, Mike Doyle, Salvatore Virzi, Ann & Gail Bennett, Marge Hindert, Darlene Schoepski, Steve Paulson, Marjorie Meinheit, Barb Hammond, Charles & Linda Wilkinson, Kay Walters, Leroy & Linda Blum, Lois Ramon, Nancy Johnson, Diane Loft*

**In Memoriam**

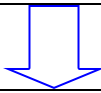
**Mary Mohlman**  
**2-Nov-1906 to 17-Jan-2011**



## **\*\* Boards and Staff \*\***

### District Board

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



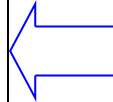
Our Board Meetings are held the third Monday of the month and are open to the public.

District meets at 4:30 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  
Dave Harbolt-Maintenance

### **Board Update**



We would like to welcome our new Board Members:

**Grant Michaud**

**Marilyn Clanin**

**Dr. Dale Drake**

Welcome to the Boone  
County Historical Museum  
Society Board

### **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 man behind the Monument*

Many of us know about the Memorial to the Soldiers and Sailors of Boone County Monument that has stood proudly in Big Thunder Park, or maybe you know it as the Civil War monument but then again, maybe you just know that there is a tall statue in the park, having noticed it quickly as you drive by. But, do you know how it got there? The following article that appeared in the Daily Republican on October 21, 1909 provides the answer.

Soldiers will have monument, a sum of \$6,000 is available for the purpose by terms of will. By his will, Mark Ramsey, who died this morning, leaves more money to public institutions and for the benefit of the public than has been left for such purposes in Belvidere in many, many years. Over five years ago, when in the full possession of his faculties, Mr. Ramsey directed his counsel to prepare his last will and testament. At the time he greatly underestimated his wealth, but fortunately for the institutions remembered by him he caused to be inserted in his will a clause specifying that any surplus over and above the amount required to satisfy his specific bequests should be divided pro rata among the beneficiaries. Another reason for the larger amounts than named in the will going to these institutions is the fact that the share of the estate left to Mrs. Ramsey, now deceased, will also be included in the distribution of the surplus among the beneficiaries

One of the first things provided for in the will is a soldier's monument for Belvidere. Mr. Ramsey always had a warm spot in his heart for the boys who wore the blue in that terrible conflict of the sixties and frequently in his lifetime he had said that it was a shame that Boone County had failed to provide a suitable memorial to the soldiers of the Civil War as many other counties have done. That he was sincere in his advocacy of a soldiers monument is proved conclusively by the terms of the will which direct the executors to have the Board of Supervisors of the County erect a soldiers monument in Belvidere on the north side of the Kishwaukee River and sets aside for that purpose the sum of \$6000. Every veteran of the war and friends of the veterans will rejoice over the fact that at last Boone County is to have what it should have had years ago. Congressman Fuller, than whom there is no better friend anywhere of the survivors of the war, was happy when he heard that the deceased had remembered the veterans in such a substantial manner. "That's just splendid," said the congressman. "I have had many talks with Mr. Ramsey and knew his feelings on the subject. On one occasion when I visited him in the bank after my second term in Congress, Mr. Ramsey congratulated me warmly for my efforts in pension matters and said he hoped Boone County would some day build a suitable monument to the boys who wore the blue. Mr. Ramsey was very modest and unassuming and if alive today would not want much said in the press about his bequest but I think it is a matter worthy of praise and I am very, very happy to learn that his will provides such a generous sum for a laudable purpose."

President of First National Bank for many years, Mr. Ramsey came to Belvidere in 1843 and at that time the place was in its infancy, and although settled in 1835 gave little evidence of material growth until several years afterward. The retiring president had been engaged in several business occupations until the First National was organized when he devoted himself more especially to financial affairs.

During the Civil War, 1,372 Boone County men served and 233 gave their lives and thanks to Mr. Ramsey's gratitude for the boys who wore blue, we will forever have a monument in their honor.

### **\*March General Membership Meeting\***

Our March General Membership Meeting will be March 8th at 6pm in the Research Center. As always, this will be a potluck dinner so bring a dish to pass and come join us for some good food and fellowship. Corned Beef and Cabbage will be available. Hope to see you all there!



### **Displays**

The Military Room has been given a new look. The walls have been painted and the display cases have been updated. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the 95th Regiment Flag. While there is still some final touches to add to the room, it is put back together and open for viewing.

Two new cases have been made for the Victorian Room. These cases will feature sliding glass to allow for front loading, making changing displays safer and easier. The glass has been ordered and we expect it to arrive any day now.

### ***A Special Thank You...***

We would like to thank the following people who helped make Hometown Christmas 2010 a success. Carol Rowe for the donation of the solar lights, Bob Lear for helping with the Festival of Lights display, Jeff and Dara Spradling for the T-Shirt design, Gwen Wylie for the Bobbin Lace demonstration, Bev Gibson for the beautiful music on the piano, Norma Schandelmeier and Ann Bennett for their help with the Raffle Ticket sales, Mike Doyle for the Book Signing, WWII Reenactors for their wonderful display, Ernie Wilson for working the Train Exhibit, our members for their delicious homemade cookies and to our volunteers who helped out in the two buildings. The left over cookies were donated to the Belvidere Outreach Mission.

### **With Your Donation...**

We would also like to thank Marty Johnson for his work in getting the 1858, 1896 and 1899 wall maps digitalized. This project was possible through a donation from Robert Safranek and Marty Johnson. The digital maps are now on our website. The Winnebago & Boone Counties Genealogical Society for their donation of a digital recorder which will be used to record Oral Histories and to Darlene Schoepski for the donation that allowed us to get a complete Book Repair/Binding kit.

*\*Fashions through the years\**

The Boone County Historical Museum presents “*Fashions through the Years*” **Fashion Show & Luncheon Fundraiser** on March 19, 2011 at the Community Building. Doors open at 11 am~Luncheon at 11:45~Show at 12:45

**Hungry i Catering** will be making the Marshall Field’s Signature Sandwich from the Walnut Room, **Buchanan St. Pie Co.** will be making the Lemon Pie, music during the show will be provided by **Lorraine Carmichael** and decorations for the lobby and stage will be provided by **The Flower Bin, Etc.** and **Teri’s Gifts** along with **Chico’s** will be assisting with the “Today’s Look.”

The Fashion Show will begin with the Civil War Era and end with “Today’s Look.” We will be showing the clothing by decades and each decade will have a few different looks. **Rockabella Vintage Style Photography** will be photographing the event. **Judi Ford Nash, Miss America 1969** will be making a special guest appearance and will model one of her dresses.

**Tickets are \$25 and are on sale now through March 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Museum or by mail. Due to space, there are a **limited number of tickets available**. For information please call Mary at 815-544-8391. **Tickets will not be available at the door.**

Raffle tickets for 1st prize-Wedding Dress (\$1000 value) or 2nd prize-\$300.00 cash will be available until the event.

Sponsors: **Alpine Bank, Poplar Grove State Bank, Jerry & Carol Rowe, Ken's Kustom Cleanup, State's Attorney Michelle Courier, Ringland-Johnson Inc., Ollmann Ernest Martin Architects, Jim & Marilyn Turner, Rob & Patty Tobin and Blackhawk Bank**

**Thank You to the following for helping to make this event possible:**

Sheri Casey, Keen-Age Center, Tuggle's Orchid Cleaners, LaVern McCurdy, Melissa Whitmire-Avon Rep, Phyllis Gallano, Mistress of Ceremonies-Carol Rowe and all of our models and committees

Keep checking our website and Facebook for updates!

## Clip & Save

### **March 8th at 6pm**

General Membership Potluck Meeting in Research Center

### **March 10th at 6:30pm**

Lecture Series Resumes with Richard Lindberg presenting *Infamous Places in Chicago*. Cost is \$3 and will be held in the Research Center. Museum will be open until 6:15pm

### **March 19th**

Fashion Show & Luncheon Fundraiser at the Community Building  
With special guest appearance by Judi Ford Nash, Miss America 1969  
Doors open at 11am Luncheon at 11:45 Show at 12:45  
Limited tickets available Cost \$25

### **March 21st**

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

### **April 14th**

Volunteer Recognition Night  
5:30-7:30 pm in the Museum

### **April 18th**

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

### **April 24th**

Closed all day

### **May 12th at 6:30pm**

Lecture Series with Velma Crawford presenting *A Different Look at the Civil War*.  
Cost is \$3 and will be held in the Research Center. Museum will be open until 6:15pm

### **May 16th**

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

## Our Business Members

*Alpine Bank*  
*Belvidere Funeral Home*  
*Boone County Auto Parts*  
*Buck-Wheeler-Hyland Funeral Home*  
*Belvidere Cemetery Association*  
*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 Upholstrey & Refinishing*

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