

Boone Country Historical Society Programs 2010

TIME: 6:30 P.M. – Museum opens at 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: 311 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois
WHEN: 2nd Thursday – **EVERY OTHER MONTH**
COST: \$3.00 PER PERSON

March 11 VICTORIAN MOURNING CUSTOMS

Dressed from head to toe in her black “Widow’s Weeds,” **Sharon Atkins** presents a sight that would have been the norm from the 1840s through the Civil War, the Spanish American War until the 1910s. Unlike today, society had very strict rules regarding the honoring of the deceased and how they should be buried and mourned. Topics to be discussed will include funerals in private homes, the custom of stopping clocks at the hour of death, covering mirrors as well as restrictions placed on widows. Although death and mourning is often seen by some as morbid, to the Victorian people it was a natural thing, not to be disguised as well as a way to honor the deceased. Her program is presented lightheartedly and respectfully. Please bring a friend to experience an unusual program of a lost tradition.

May 13 The Abraham Lincoln Funeral Train

When President Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theater in Washington, D.C., a void was created in our national government that we still feel the effect yet today, some 145 years later. President Lincoln, considered one of the top two presidents of the United States, with George Washington, received, without doubt, the longest funeral ceremony both in time and distance as well as the number of cities involved. By train, Lincoln’s remains, with his son Willie’s body beside him, traveled back to Springfield, Illinois, a journey of over 1700 miles; through Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Indiana and finally Illinois by almost the same route he took to Washington just over four years earlier. **Charles Banks**, a long time student of the Civil War, is an active member of three Civil War Round Tables in the area. Beside his love of the study of the conflict, Charley has made an even more fascinating hobby of the events that took place on this mournful journey and he will share his knowledge and life time study with us. You will be fascinated as well as awe struck.

July 8 President Theodore Roosevelt *Presented at the Community Building - \$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. The father of our National Parks System, "Teddy" (as he disliked being called) was, and still is, one of our most beloved presidents, one still often quoted and emulated. He has often been spoken of as the president that "hunted wild game with his gun and saved them with his pen." His accomplishments during the most productive life was monumental and long lasting; a politician, author, soldier and conservationist. He was also a Nobel Prize winner, an athlete, a philosopher and a scholar, a teacher, a visionary and, as important, a very good father. **Dereck Evens** has been engaged to portray Roosevelt at the White House Visitor's Center as well as at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody Wyoming. From the beginning of his program he will hold the audience captive with his trip through some of the pages of our nation's history. Come see one of our most respected presidents in a presentation to be long remembered.

September 9 Historical Base Ball

As yet another baseball World Series rapidly approaches and the hopes and dreams of some teams across the nation have been dashed in defeat by the jaws of victory, **Mark Hermon**, Curator of Education – Midway Village Museum will present the game as it once was played. Terms no longer used in America's past time will be presented and explained as well as the rules of play from long long ago. See some of the equipment used by the local home town heroes and experience a good understanding of how and why certain rules and regulations have changed. Uniforms of the time, much different than the dapper, easily recognized uniforms of today were, never the less, an easily recognized uniform for the citizens of the time. Forget, briefly, if your team is no longer in contention for the fall classic and come to see and hear the origin of the grand old game. You may even feel the desire to suit up for the local team.

November 11 Spaces of the Feminine Frontier

This truly fascinating power point program will show the contrasting stereotypical images of women on the western frontier with the reality of women and their everyday life. Art historian **Crystal Swanson**, a Boone County resident with a great interest in both our nation's and our county's history will present her research findings to us in a most unusual and interesting style. Using the works of acclaimed Midwestern artist and teacher, **Harvey Thomas Dunn (1884 – 1952)** the stereotyped woman of the western frontier, seen as the Sunbonnet Saint, the Weary and Forlorn Drudge or a Bad Girl, Swanson shows there was an equal and vital role partnering with the men in the settling of the Western Frontier of the United States. Please join us at our final presentation of the 2010 season at this truly enlightening presentation.