

Bond County Genealogical Society News

Volume 32, Issue 1 Winter January 2017

Official Newsletter of the Bond County Genealogical Society of Greenville, Illinois, published jointly since 2014 with the Bond County Historical Society

Bond County Turns 200 & Hill's Fort Invites You In

Far Right: The Bond County Bicentennial is here and kicking off 2017 with a January 5th Courthouse Ceremony and Reception. The party continues in downtown Greenville on July 2nd with live music, tours, vendors, food, parade, fireworks, and more. In August, history comes alive at four cemeteries when local actors present the captivating life stories of influential citizens buried in the graveyards. Logo tee shirts and planning committee opportunities available now, call 618-593-5325 or email bicentennial@bondcountyhistorical.org

Above: Come see what you've been missing at Hill's Fort! Visit the War of 1812 era fort reconstruction site on the grounds of the American Farm Heritage Museum south of Greenville off Route 127. Tour the blockhouse & cabins or join the Hill's Fort Society, ripe with fellowship, construction, and living history reenactment opportunities. (*Stockade photo courtesy the Greenville Advocate*) Learn more about Hill's Fort on page 16.



Inside this issue:

Cover Photos: Celebrating Illinois' Roots	1
Societies Information & Events	2-3
Hoiles-Davis Museum & BCGS Library	4
Upcoming Programs: Tubman, Quilts	6
Online Genealogical Resources	8
Grave Matters: Old Brethren Cemetery	10
Care of Country Cemeteries	11
Underground Railroad in Bond County	12
Hill's Fort Society Activities & Update	16
Submission & Query Guidelines	19

Special points of interest:

- New Pocahontas History Club Formed.
- Antique Quilt Bed Turning Program March 18.
- Historical Society seeks YOUR Mid-Century Modern Décor for Future Exhibit.
- Search Illinois Probate Record Images Online.
- Underground Railroad's link to Presbyterianism: Stations & Conductors, Myths & Truth.
- "Grumbletown": a Poem of Cooperation.
- Tribute to Dr Don Jordahl (1929-2016).
- A Beginner's Guide to Vital Records.

Bond County Genealogical Society

Officers

President - Cindy Tischhauser
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Recording Secretary - Meta Fry
Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Tischhauser
Historian - Kevin Kaegy
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Directors - Tom Paine (emeritus),
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Program - Kevin Kaegy
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Publicity - open
Hospitality - Dorothy Hawley (emeritus)
Cemetery - open
Research - Beutonne McKean, Cindy Tischhauser, & Rebecca Clausen
Newsletter Editor - Rebecca Clausen
Webmaster - Rebecca Clausen

Bond County Genealogical Society membership dues are \$10 per 2-person household for the current year. A lifetime membership for a 2-person household may be purchased for a one-time payment of \$175. Members are eligible to vote and to serve as BCGS officers and appointees.

If you would like to become a member please send your name, address, phone number, email address, and the surnames you are most interested in researching with appropriate check or money order to:

Bond County Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 172, Greenville, IL
62246-0172

Membership forms also are available on our website. www.bondcogen.org

“Leaders are the ones who keep faith with the past, keep step with the present, and keep the promise to posterity.”

- Harold J. Seymour

Bond County Historical Society

2015-2016 Officers

President - Kevin Kaegy
Vice President - Jim Schutte
Treasurer - John S. Coleman
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Directors

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Mulberry Grove Twp - Jeannine Gobberdiel

Bond County Historical Society membership dues are \$15 per family for the current year. Lifetime memberships are also available. Members are eligible to vote and to serve as BCHS officers, directors & appointees.

If you would like to become a member please send your name, address, phone number, email address, and a check or money order for \$15 to:

Bond County Historical Society,
P.O. Box 376, Greenville, IL 62246

Membership forms are also available on our website.

www.bondcountysthistorical.org



Monthly Society Meetings

It was decided in 2013 that the two societies would meet jointly for Program Meetings and this practice continues. Meetings are generally the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please check the Greenville Advocate newspaper, www.bondcogen.org or WGEL Radio (101.7 FM) for times and locations. Announcements will be made ahead of time whenever there is to be a business meeting for one or both of the two societies. Also, there will be no December meeting.

The Bond County Historical Society specializes in questions about the history of the county and communities. If you have questions about family history, burial sites, census records, birth records, or death records from Bond County, please contact the Bond County Genealogical Society instead. All genealogy requests submitted via email to info@bondcogen.org will be researched and answered in order received as time permits. There is no flat fee for requests as we attempt to reply with electronic documents, but if your request requires printing, postage, or original document access and retrieval you may be responsible for those charges.

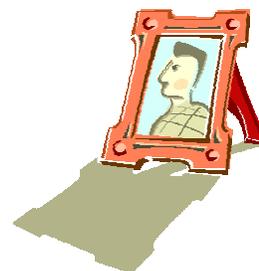
2017 Events Calendar

- Feb. 28, 2017 Harriet Tubman portrayed by Kathryn Harris @ Bradford Building.
- Mar 18, 2017 15th Annual Quilt Show w/ Bed Turning Program at Greenville FMC.
- Jun. 22, 2017 Pie & Ice Cream Social with Municipal Band Concert at Museum.
- Jul. 2, 2017 Bond County Bicentennial Main Celebration in Downtown Greenville.
- Aug. TBD 2017 Living History County Cemetery Tours, part of BoCo Bicentennial.
- Oct. 24, 2017 Historical & Genealogical Societies Annual Dinner Mtg plus Elections.

Uncharted Territory: What's Your Story?

"Uncharted Territory" are the stories found deep in your family tree. What's Your Story? Was your ancestor a Bond County native or did he pass through, stay briefly and then move on? Where did she live? What kind of work did he do? What clues did your ancestors leave to mark their path in, around or across this county?

Have you considered sharing your ancestor's tale in the B.C.G.S. News? If you have a story you'd like to share, please contact the editor. Please find submission details and guidelines on Page 19.



Invite a friend to an interesting and educational program meeting or special event!

Share your ancestor's tale in the Bond County Genealogical Society News!



Hoiles-Davis Museum



The Hoiles-Davis Museum is located at 318 W. Winter Street in Greenville, Illinois.

*May-Oct:
Open Saturday
10 a.m. to noon
and Sunday 2 to
4 p.m.*

*Nov-Apr: Open
first Saturday of
each month
10 a.m. to noon.*

*Tours also by
appointment.*

Thank you for supporting and visiting the Hoiles-Davis Museum in 2016! It was one of the most talked about and praised seasons of displays and artifacts since the museum opened in 1999! A fresh season of exhibits shall welcome you in 2017 beginning with an April 25, 2017 open house preview. Plus, we now have Winter Hours on first Saturdays!

A recent acquisition on exhibit is a vintage 1958 RCA Victor "Deluxe" wood console television set. Featuring antenna reception and black and white display, one had to twist a knob to tune a station between channels 2 through 13. Does that trigger fond memories or is that a foreign concept for you? Do you have more mid-century modern furniture and/or décor sitting around your home, office, or storage space? We may be collecting items for a 2017 special exhibit, so take a look around, pick out an item or two and contact the society about your donation/loan for consideration!



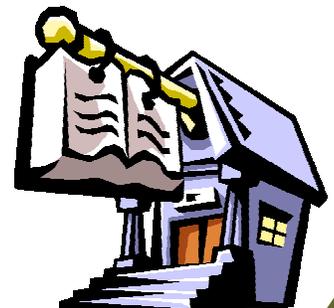
The museum display committee always appreciates more volunteers to help plan and create seasonal and permanent exhibits. If you are interested, please contact the Bond County Historical Society.

The Hoiles-Davis Museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays 2 to 4 p.m. May through October. New winter hours are November through April, first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. It is located on the corner of Winter and Fourth Streets in Greenville, Illinois. Tours are also available by special arrangement. Admission by donation. Groups welcome. Advance notice required for guided tours. Visit www.bondcountyhistorical.org.

With the installation of a new answering system, the Hoiles-Davis Museum invites you to leave a phone message at any hour of the day. Schedule a tour, donate an artifact, or discover more of Greenville's history! (618) 664-1590

Genealogical Society Library Shelf

The Genealogical Society Library collection is housed on the lower floor of the Greenville Public Library. There is a booklet in the room which lists all the holdings and a microfilm reader/printer for doing research in the Greenville Advocate and other Bond County newspapers. The building has wireless internet access so you can do supplementary research while you are there. The room is kept locked, so the key must be requested at the Circulation Desk. The Greenville Public Library's hours are posted on their website: www.greenvillepubliclibrary.org ~ 414 W. Main Ave. Greenville, Illinois (IL) ~ Phone 618-664-3115 ~ Fax 618-664-9442



Pocahontas History Club Meetings

The newly formed Pocahontas History Club meets at 7pm on the third Thursday of each month at Pocahontas Village Hall (W Kavanaugh Street, Pocahontas, Illinois). They have chosen to call themselves a “club” for now rather than a “society” to keep the meetings light fun without the connotations of serious rules or governance. So far, their show-and-tell gatherings have produced stimulating conversations, class pictures, and a trumpet played in the orchestra pit during silent movies at The Strand theater. Mark your calendars to attend one of their informal meetings to gather and preserve the memories, photos, history, and family trees of the village of Pocahontas, Illinois! And help make this a successful group by bringing your photos, memorabilia, and memories to share! Call Jennifer for more info: (618) 669-2969. And follow their Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PocahontasHistoryClub



Grumbletown, a Poem of Cooperation

Original poem circa 1919

by Rev Dr Lyman Edwyn Davis (1854-1930)

When Madam Grit and Dr Grace
Had launched the enterprise.
Old Uncle Doubt came in to say:
“I hardly think it wise!

“It takes a world to work, you know,
These mighty things to do;
And let me just remind you, friends,
That you are only two!”

“Thrice welcome, then, to new recruits!”
The workers cried with glee;
“The task indeed is hard for two:
Join in and make it three!”

“I guess I will,” said Uncle Doubt,
“Since you are bound to win;
And I’ll go out around the town
And fetch the others in.”

So in they came, a merry crew,
Including Brother Try;
And Brother Slow, and Sister Go,
And Brother By-and-By.

Until the whole wide neighborhood
Had joined the enterprise;
For even Deacon Grumble came.
And Madam Criticize!

So many happy helpers came,
So large the business grew.
It soon became the biggest thing
The city ever knew.

If you, my friends, would emulate
The worthy and the wise,
Don’t hide away in Grumbletown,
But join the enterprise.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Bond County Historical Society hosts
Harriet Tubman
✿ Conductor on the ✿
Underground Railroad



This small, heroic woman who escaped slavery, organized the Underground Railroad, and changed America's history is brought to life to tell her tale by master story-teller Kathryn Harris.

7:00pm

Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Bradford Community Room, Greenville, Illinois

And join us for
a pre-program
Soup Supper
at 6pm, only
\$5.00!

Kathryn **Harris** began reenacting Harriet **Tubman** in the late 1990s. Harriet talks about her experiences as a 'conductor' for the antebellum Underground Railroad. Over a period of roughly ten years, Tubman made nearly a score of trips to the slave states to lead slaves to freedom in the north, risking her own life and freedom each time she went south. Harris has portrayed Tubman countless times, both to adult and children's groups, and at the conclusion of this [ALPLM "Historians Speak" interview](https://www.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/oralhistory/historianspeak/Pages/HarrisKathryn.aspx), she discusses how this experience has enriched her own life. Visit the linked URL for a preview and background of the upcoming program. <https://www.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/oralhistory/historianspeak/Pages/HarrisKathryn.aspx>

Antique Quilt Bed Turning Program

Every Quilt Has A Story



a part of
BOND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
15th Annual Quilt Show

March 18, 2017
10am & 2pm

Greenville Free Methodist Church 1367 Route 140, Greenville, Illinois

www.bondcountyhistorical.org/quiltshow.html

Quilt Show to feature Antique Quilt Bed Turning

Every Quilt Has A Story

On Saturday, March 18, 2017, Bond County Historical Society will be hosting their 15th annual quilt show and 2nd annual bed turning program at the Greenville Free Methodist Church, 1367 Route 140, Greenville, Illinois. The quilt show will be open to the public from 9:00am until the viewers' choice prizes are awarded at 4:00pm. Bed turning demonstrations are scheduled for 10:00am and 2:00pm. Technique/Project demonstrations are scheduled for 11:00am, 1:00pm, and 3:00pm.

Every quilt has a story, so join BCHS as we present the old fashioned social event of a "bed turning" at 10am and again at 2pm. A stack of quilts are removed one by one from a bed frame as stories are told about the making of each. The antique quilts to be turned will be provided by community members and the Hoiles-Davis Museum. As in the old days when the quilter would invite guests in to show off her quilts we, too, will present the family stories and meanings of the handiwork stitched into these specially chosen quilts! For those of you who have not seen a bed turning, you will be in for a treat.

Approximately 100 quilts are expected to be on display at the quilt show. You are welcome and encouraged to bring your quilts and share them with us. Please mail your pre-registration entry form before March 4th (find rules and forms at the BCHS website and HSHS Holy Family Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store in Greenville). Quilts will be accepted at the church on Friday, March 17th from 12:00pm noon until 6:00pm. There will be prizes given for the best baby/wall quilt, best hand-quilted quilt, best machine-quilted quilt and best contemporary artistic quilt, so be sure to pick up your viewers' choice ballot at the door before you explore the quilt exhibit halls. Quilt block contest winners utilizing the theme "County Fair" will also be on display.

For the eleventh consecutive year, a Bond County quilter will be featured. In 2017, it is Joyce **Skinner** and her work will be spotlighted in a special display. Mrs Skinner is a member of the local Black Diamond Quilt Guild, lives in rural Pocahontas, and is a retired music and special education teacher.

Free demonstrations of quilt- and accessory-making techniques will be offered throughout the day: "Making a Big Bag" by Ramona **Ulmer** at 11am, "Crazy Quilt" by Betty **Boehm** at 1pm, and "Heat Color Set" by Juanita **Burge** at 3pm. Several quilt/handicraft vendors will also be set-up at the show.

Tickets are available for the quilt raffle in conjunction with the quilt show. The Queen size four-square log cabin quilt is hand pieced in silver and ruby hued fabrics. The quilt was created by Shirley **Pustelnik** of the local Black Diamond Quilt Guild. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and will be sold during the Quilt Show. If you cannot attend the show, find your favorite Quilt Show Committee member or visit Capri IGA in Greenville (ticket selling dates TBA). The quilt (pictured to the right) may be seen in the window of the Bond County Treasurer's office or on Bond County Historical Society's website, www.bondcountyhistorical.org. A winner will be drawn at the conclusion of the quilt show.

Admission to the quilt show is \$3.00. For more information contact Nadine **Baldwin**, quilt show chairwoman, at (618) 567-1948.



Online Genealogical Resources

Illinois Statewide Death Index, Pre-1916 from Illinois State Archive

The pre-1916 Illinois death index is an ongoing project coordinated by the [Illinois State Archives](#). The sources for this index include original county clerks' death records, such as death registers and licenses. For each death, the index includes the name of the decedent, the date of the death, the name of the county where the death occurred, the place of death within the county, when possible; the age and sex of the decedent and a citation to the original record—volume and page number for death registers or certificate number for death certificates.

The task of entering all Illinois deaths before 1916 is far from complete. The newly indexed database is also available and providing hints at www.Ancestry.com. There, it is called "Web: Illinois, Select Deaths Index, 1877-1916".

Data entry is complete through December 1915 for 23 of the 102 counties in Illinois. This database includes death data from 48 counties in Illinois and currently contains over 1,182,775 records. Bond County's data is reportedly complete from Jan. 1878 – Dec. 1915.

Copies of death records included in the Pre-1916 Illinois Statewide Death Index may be obtained from the Illinois Regional Archives Depository System if IRAD holds death records for that county or from the county clerk in the county where the death occurred. Death records not held by IRAD will be available directly from the county clerks of the various counties.

Search now at www.ilsos.gov/isavital/deathsrch.jsp

TIP: Death records were recorded in the county where the death occurred and not necessarily in the county where the deceased resided. If your search does not find a death record in the county where you expected it to occur, try selecting STATEWIDE in the location option box.

Search Bond County's early death records complete from January 1878 to December 1915 at the newly indexed Illinois State Archives online database.



Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 - 1965

The [Missouri Death Certificate database](#) can be searched by first, middle and last name, county, year and month. Digitized images of the original death certificates are linked to the search results. Death certificates began being recorded statewide in 1910 and are closed for 50 years before they are transferred to the Missouri State Archives. They provide valuable information for family histo-

(Continued on page 9)

Online Genealogical Resources, continued

(Continued from page 8)

rians and researchers including date of birth; names of parents and spouse; cause of death; occupation; and funeral home and burial information.

The [Missouri Birth and Death Records Database, pre-1910](#) is an abstract of the birth, stillbirth, and death records recorded before 1909 and that are available on over 250 reels of microfilm at the Missouri State Archives. The databases currently contain over 185,000 records from 87 counties.

Search 1910-1965: <http://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/Archives/ArchivesMvc/DeathCertificates>

Search pre-1910: <http://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/deathcertificates/>

National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair

On October 26 & 27, 2016, the National Archives hosted a two-day, virtual Genealogy Fair via web-cast. Viewers had the opportunity to participate with the presenters and other family historians during the live event on YouTube. All of the session videos and handouts remain available after the event from this web page below free of charge. You can watch the sessions and download the materials at your convenience. www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/2016/schedule-handouts

Particularly interesting sessions included:

- ◆ “You Too Can Be a Citizen Archivist! Getting the Most Out of the National Archives Catalog” by Suzanne **Isaacs** and Meredith **Doviak**
- ◆ “Nonpopulation Census: Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Social Statistics” by Claire **Kluskens**
- ◆ “What’s New in the Lou: A Look at the Latest Accessions at the National Archives at St. Louis” by David **Hardin**

Illinois, Wills and Probate Records, 1772-1999

This collection at www.Ancestry.com includes images of probate records from the state of Illinois. Probate records are among the most valuable records available for American genealogy but can be challenging to access because originals are kept in courthouses across the country. This collection includes images of probate records for approximately 83 percent of Illinois counties. The records come from a collection of microfilm that took years to compile. They have been brought together from multiple courthouses over time to give you a single source to search. Some localities and time periods may not be included because they were not available to be acquired as part of this collection, or the records may have been lost or destroyed before the effort to collect them all began. If you are looking for a probate record and believe it to be from a county or year range that is not included in this collection, you can try contacting the appropriate county courthouse to see if the records are available.

Find more about the records themselves: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9048>

Grave Matters: Old Church of the Brethren Cemetery

Submitted by Eldon Nilsson to the book, Community Sesquicentennial, 1834-1984: Mulberry Grove, Illinois, published by the Mulberry Lions Club



Visit via bicycle from downtown Greenville (9 miles - 45 minutes): Ride east from Greenville (I took Beaumont Ave northeast to Illinois Route 140). Take 140, past Smithboro and past the Mulberry Grove Schools. Turn left into Vern Lane (between 4th and 3rd Streets); this is more like a driveway towards two homes. Brethren Cemetery is on the left surrounded by a rail fence. The owner is friendly and welcomes polite cemetery visitors.

In 1836, David **Hubbard** bought 40 acres of land on the old National Road and settled in Mulberry Grove. Coming from a family of Quakers from South Carolina, he, with others, formed a church on his property with a cemetery behind it. Laid out on high ground, 4 rods square (64 feet) burials were soon being made in it. After the Hubbards left in 1856, burials continued.

In 1976, Charles **Runnels**, a mortician from a family of morticians, told me it was full. While restoring it, many "Creek Rocks" were found scattered over the surface (Owl Creek) but only one was found anchored next to Peter Hubbard's grave. While pulling up briars and weeds, the large original rough stone and the original carved stone were found buried on top of the grave. There is room for 72 burial plots and 18 are marked. The last marked graves are dated from 1883. The other marked graves date from 1844. Undoubtedly many graves date from before that and were marked with creek rocks. In the early days there were no stone cutters in the area and to have a stone made, it was a long, hard trip to the St. Louis area to obtain it.

Taylor **Neely**, great-grandson of George S. Neely, postmaster in Mulberry Grove during the Civil War, says old historians have told him there are three Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the cemetery: Henry **Inman**, Sr., "Old" Mr. **Anderson** and Peter Hubbard, whose grave is marked. The story is repeated that "Old" Mr. Anderson was a public charge who lived in a cabin on the Rev. J.B. **Woolard** farm, just west of the present school area.

The marked graves in the cemetery carry the names **Causey**, **Martin**, **Thompson**, **Harris**, Hubbard, **James**, and **Tate**. Since restoration, the cemetery has been visited by descendants from England, Rhode Island, Colorado, California, Wisconsin, and of course, Hubbards from everywhere. Everyone is welcome



to come back and look at the old cemetery.

Above left: Mulberry Grove's Old Brethren Cemetery in Kidron Park on October 4, 2016. Eldon and Geraldine **Nilsson** found they had purchased an historical area in Mulberry Grove, the oldest house in town and the church cemetery which they restored. Above right: In 1979, Geraldine found that Peter Hubbard, Revolutionary War soldier buried there, was one of her great-grandfathers on her mother's side. Both photos by editor.

Care of Country Cemeteries, a Discussion

Extracted from the September 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes of the Bond County Historical and Genealogical Societies, held 7 p.m. at the Hoiles-Davis Museum.

Program: Discussion of Care of Country Cemeteries:

Cindy **Tischhauser**, B.C.G.S. President, led a discussion focusing on the care of county cemeteries in Bond County. It was noted that the state has rules and regulations and requirements for permits to clean up cemeteries, as well as getting owner permissions. Sometimes grant money can be located to offset costs of the restoration. Rod & Shelli **Cripe** told about some of their efforts to clean up Wright Cemetery with Jimmy **Snow**. Mr. Snow was also cleaning up Snow Cemetery. Cindy, Rod & Shelli suggested that it would be good to try to get all veterans' graves decorated with flags for major holidays, so an organized effort would need to be made.

It was mentioned that it would be good to make a major push to get cemeteries looking nice for the Bond County Bicentennial Cemetery Tours. Shelli suggested a tour throughout an area of the County to introduce people to several cemeteries, to encourage them to know their neighborhood and care for their neighborhood and their heritage. In 1996 there was a tour of several cemeteries.

It was mentioned that some cemeteries no longer have public access, as farmers are farming over the old township roads, easements, or driveways, or deny permission to cross their fields, or brush has grown up, etc. Kevin **Kaegy** said that there are nearly 140 cemeteries in Bond County, some of which no longer exist and many are not well cared for. Only 129 are accessible (with permission) to the public. Elaine **Anthony** told about the Messinger Cemetery on the Anthony farm southeast of Woburn which has only 2 stones remaining and is not easily accessible, but is maintained by Elaine and her family.

On the other hand, Bethlehem Cemetery south of Mulberry Grove, Halls Grove, and Hastings Cemetery are not formally accessible, but the nearby property owners allow people to visit the cemetery with permission. Kevin mentioned that the stones in Halls Grove are very beautiful. Gary **Tischhauser** mentioned that Burgess Cemetery looks really awesome after a cleanup project led by Sandy **Miles Nissen**, her husband, and her father (president of the "Burgess Cemetery Association of Bond County" formed in 2013), plus a few Boy Scouts. Cindy invited continued discussion and future developing of actions to bring desired changes.

Jane **Hopkins**, BCHS Recording Secretary

Illinois Cemetery Laws



What should you know about cemetery laws?
Cemetery laws differ to some degree in every state. In Illinois:

- 1) Owners of private/abandoned cemeteries are not required by law to maintain them or provide access

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

to them, unless an easement is part of the property deed.

- 2) In the case of land development, the owner can be required to bear the cost of maintaining/relocating a neglected/abandoned cemetery.
- 3) You cannot clean/repair gravestones or probe for sunken grave markers without a permit from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agent. You will not be granted a permit if you cannot demonstrate that you have received proper training in these activities.
- 4) A county or township may choose to provide funds to restore a neglected/abandoned cemetery to "maintainable condition."

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has a [Cemetery FAQ site](#). The list of questions is specific to Illinois. Other states may have different laws and requirements and you should contact their state historic preservation office for answers. In addition, the answers do not constitute legal advice. You should consult with an attorney concerning your legal rights. www2.illinois.gov/ihpa/Preserve/Cemetery/Pages/FAQ.aspx

The Underground Railroad in Bond County

Local Historian Kevin Kaegy discusses the conductors and stations, and the myths and truth of this historical period in our neck of the woods.

This article is based on Kaegy's presentation of the same title at the Bond County Historical and Genealogical Societies Annual Dinner Meeting & Program Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Much has been documented about slaves' and also freedmen's escapes from northern Illinois and other states north to Canada or east to New England; still the key part played by southern Illinois in that era between 1819 and 1860 prior to the American Civil War has remained obscure. That is, until investigators like Carol **Pirtle**, whose book, Escape Betwixt Two Suns: A True Tale of the Underground Railroad in Illinois, published by Southern Illinois University Press, 2000, brought to light unmistakable documentation in the form of rare letters indicating T.A. **Jones** (a schoolteacher in Greenville) and William **Hayes** (a diary farmer and land speculator in Sparta) were both involved in abolitionist activities as well as many other named friends and neighbors. The collection includes legal documents and business letters describing Hayes' 1844 civil trial at Picnkneyville for helping five slaves escape to northern Illinois and the Illinois State Supreme Court trial which followed.

And with this book's new research and with other sources of stories gathered from Bond County Historical Society founder John **Nowlan**, a piece submitted for The Greenville Advocate Centennial Edition, and Presbyterian Church meeting minutes, BCHS president Kevin **Kaegy** continues to slowly and spectacularly piece together the intriguing and heroic story of the Underground Railroad in Bond County.

Tax records for the county indicate eight families held fourteen black "indentured servants." Slavery had been illegal in Illinois since it was a part of the Northwest Territories but some citizens got around the law by using the technicality of especially long-term indentures. Other slaves had traveled to Illinois with their south-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

ern masters and stayed in the state long enough to technically become free, but freedom brought the threat of kidnapping back to the south and re-enslavement.

Bond County's Underground Railroad participation began as early as 1819. Simply speaking, "conductors" led colored individuals and groups from "safe house" to safe house northward until reaching a community in the American north or east, and even all the way to Canada, out of the reach of slave-catchers and bounty hunters. These conductors and safe house operators did their part at supreme personal and financial risk, as there was a hefty \$1,500 fine if convicted of helping an escaped slave. This is one reason so few documents or letters exist to prove the places and personalities where the Underground Railroad operated.

But eventually people do talk, and John Nowlan, Greenville Advocate contributor, must have known where to look and listen, for his Bond County's Records And Traditions newspaper column reveals at least [eight] likely Underground Railroad station locations in our midst. In a six-part essay from 1939-40, Nowlan describes:

The Dudleyville home and horse mill of Methodist minister John **Leeper**. The house is razed now, but before it was gone, Kevin Kaegy managed to salvage a doorknob from the property, and passed it around for the evening's audience to handle. (See photo at right.)

A farm about three miles west of Greenville settled by Dr Henry **Perrine**.

The Stringtown home of James **Wafer**, one of the oldest homes in Bond County, which is about a mile south of the present town of Panama.

Dunkard Church, between Newport (now Woburn) and Mulberry Grove. The minister, Rev. Daniel B. **Sturgis**, M.D. and others associated with the church, hid runaway slaves in a nearby old log house.

The Old Denny House in Greenville's Piety Hill neighborhood, built by Reverend Robert **Stewart** in 1840, a Congregational minister. Renovations in the 1930s revealed "the arrangements of an opening under the floor indicated that it had been used as a place of concealment."

Bethel (now Reno) had several operators and safe houses in the area, as Bethel was settled about 1820 by southern anti-slavery families. Families such as **McCord** and **Dressor** have been named as connected with the enterprise. Helen **Ferguson**, of the Dressor family, attended the annual meeting and brought a tintype photo of her family's 1850s house, suspected stop on the Underground Railroad.

Kaegy added two more places in addition to those he'd discovered in Nowlan's 1940 essay:

Brown's Mill in Old Ripley. The Brown family still provides trusted protection to the vulnerable: Bond County Sheriff Jeff **Brown** has held the elected position since 1994.

Mr **Leverton**'s home in Smith Grove reportedly had a trap door that opened into his cellar.

Nowlan admitted, "It is a difficult matter to get accurate information regarding the operation of the anti-slavery people in this or any other county, because in the first place the work was done under cover. This was

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

necessary, as to have some out in the open would have defeated their plans. Secrecy was essential to success. Further, as time passed the actor also passed from the stage and the facts were lost. The history of their operations has been handed down by word of mouth, in some cases by neighbors who knew more or less of what had been done; in some instances by members of the family.”

So, Nowlan’s stories were mainly just that: stories. However, if it can be trusted, a circa 1885 first-hand

letter published by Will **Carson** in the Greenville Advocate Centennial Edition (1915) may prove the most enlightening and specific story of them all. Elm Point resident Thomas **Wafer** managed to solve so many Underground Railroad names and places in question for present-day researchers like Kaegy. And those discoveries led to a stunning theory about the railroad system itself. In his letter, Wafer describes in some great detail the Underground Railroad in Illinois and Bond County. He writes of his experiences as one of a series of conductors, specifically a snowy journey in March 1840 moving a colored husband and wife by wagon north out of Bethel to Springfield, and another in 1841, where he protected a free octroon in the Bethel area from bounty hunters. Wafer explains how the group of friends used their homes and connections to safely deliver their passengers. Kaegy has studied maps and Wafer’s story so closely that he has determined that an icy stream in the story must probably be Shoal Creek at Raymond.

But the Underground Railroad design at Bethel was neither standard nor prescribed, but organic. Wafer wrote, “The plan followed here was that if a man was brought to one known to be friendly and who had some grit in his craw, he kept him a few days in some garret or out-of-the-way place, and cooked him as many provisions as he could conveniently carry. He then took him at night five or six miles off the main road, heading north and turned him loose, and he would travel at night while his provisions lasted and trusting his luck and to finding friends when his provisions gave out, which was not very hard to do when he got that far north. The women slaves and those not able to travel were taken in covered wagons, which were common in those days, from one known friend to another. There was no special system of connection or pass words that I know of.”

Now who were Thomas Wafer and his friends? Kaegy noticed two friends’ names were Charles **Lippincott** and James **Stevenson**. All three men would have been only about sixteen in 1840. All were sons of Presbyterian ministers. And another obvious abolitionist Presbyterian minister lived, preached, and published his incendiary religious newspaper not that far away from Bethel in Alton: Elijah P. **Lovejoy**. It turns out that in Presbyterian church organization at that time in history, members from Alton belonged to the same larger “presbytery” as those members in Bethel. Lovejoy was voted the Stated Clerk of the Alton Presbytery in 1837 and he several times visited the church in Bethel as “Moderator” to conduct church business. He signed the



The Old Denny House at 337 North Third Street was built around 1840 by Rev Robert Stewart, Congregational minister and an active agent for the Underground Railroad. C.K. **Denny** bought this home in 1875 and it remained in his family for over 100 years.

Image from the Bond County Historical Society Collection, 1974 Grant project.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

church register in May 1837. According to other Alton Presbytery meeting minutes, multiple resolutions from that year describe and prescribe the purging of “the sin of slavery” from the Presbyterian Church and the nation. And these Presbyterians were true to their beliefs. Brave and moral ministers, church members, and their sons began doing what they could in earnest, building a safer network of Underground Railroad stations through southwestern Illinois.

Between the documented sources of the Bethel and Alton Presbyterian Churches, Thomas Wafer, John Nowlan, and the Hayes correspondence, Kaegy confirmed how the Underground Railroad system worked. Escaping slaves did not need to know how to find Bethel or Raymond or Springfield. Instead they followed Presbyterian safe houses all the way up through Illinois, through Bond County, in twenty mile jumps.

Slaves typically entered Illinois at three Mississippi river town entry points: Chester, Alton, and Quincy. Each town had their own routes north. Chester’s Randolph County also had many Presbyterians moving people northward (for example Wafer’s contact Lippincott of Sparta). The system took slaves from Chester to Sparta, north to Marine in Madison Co., west to Bethel (Reno) in Bond Co., north to Hillsboro then Raymond in Montgomery Co., and on to Springfield in Sangamon Co. and Bloomington in McLean Co.. Next the runaways moved farther north on their way to the safer Illinois communities of Galesburg, Peru, or even Chicago where they could board a steamship to Canada or the northeast United States.

Prior to the Civil War, Bond County had at least seventeen different families who helped runaway slaves escape to the north.

But they didn’t dig extensive tunnels beneath their farm buildings or downtowns, as Illinois’ soil will always cave in without extensive supports at only four feet deep. So stop looking for secret antebellum passages under Greenville businesses!

And they didn’t hang special quilts on the clothesline to send secretive messages. The Quilt Code is another myth, a modern hoax; the quilt block patterns in the tale were invented decades after the Civil War when the Underground Railroad had already shut down. Still those patterns are a precious tool for African-American families to tell their story through textile art, as an antique quilt in the Alton Museum of History of Art testifies. Their exhibit of a friendship quilt designed in the late 1880s by one such family features a drinking gourd, north star, and running man, hinting that at least one ancestor escaped slavery and may have utilized the Underground Railroad to freedom. The symbols likely represent an astronomical code, not a quilt code, as slaves could follow constellations in the night sky, though the pre-Civil War correlation between the “drinking gourd” as the Big Dipper pointing to the North Star is also disputed.

Now let us all join the chorus of support, urging Kevin Kaegy to sit down and write his long-researched book on this subject!

Sources include: *The William Hayes Collection, 1820-1860 (from Sparta Public Library)* <http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/spl>; “*The Underground Railway, Chapter 6 [of 6]*”. *Bond County’s Records and Traditions*. Scrapbook 18. By John H. Nowlan. Abstracted by Nelda Neer Anthony. 1988. – Original Advocate Column Publication date Jan 12, 1940; “*Wondrous Story of Greenville, Rich in History and Character of Her Citizenship*. By Will C. Carson. “*Centennial Edition*” of *The Greenville Advocate: Commemorating The One Hundredth Anniversary of Greenville*. 27 Sep 1915, pg 54; *Bethel Church Records, Book No. 1, 1825 to 1859*.

Hill's Fort Society and Fort Reconstruction Update

Hill's Fort was one of three forts built in Bond County in the early 1800's. It was located about five miles southwest of Greenville, just off today's Millersburg Road, and was the site of an 1814 Indian attack on thirteen Illinois Territorial Rangers and civilians that left four Rangers dead and three wounded. The Hill's Fort Society has constructed a replica of the fort on the grounds of the American Farm Heritage Museum off Illinois Route 127 just south of Interstate 70.

"We have our stockade wall complete now. We've got actual shake shingles on our cabin. We've got another cabin under construction. We have a tool shed/shooting port. We've got probably as nice a block house as there is in this part of the country, so we invite you to stop by," touted Society spokesperson Bill **Johnson** to WGEL 101.7 FM News in July 2014. The second cabin has since been completed and furnished as an early 19th century bedroom.

Also in 2014, the society marked the 200th anniversary of the deadly battle that occurred at the fort September 9th with an impressive outdoor theater production, re-enacting the natives' attack and the heroism of the Rangers and pioneer civilians.

Annually, the society hosts several events at the fort. Living History Weekend in September continues to grow each year with an encampment of re-enactors of the Colonial, Fur Traders, and War of 1812 eras; vendors; cannon firings; music by fife & drum corps; demonstrations of cooking; butter making; rope making; tanning; and beekeeping. And don't miss your chance to experience public humiliation in "the stocks," and of course guided tours of the reconstructed fort buildings.

Johnson wants the public to know that the fort is open:

- ◆ The first Saturday of the month from May to October.
- ◆ The last weekend of July when the AHFM has their big tractor show.
- ◆ September's Living History Weekend (third weekend in Sept, Fri/Sat/Sun).
- ◆ The second weekend of October for AHFM's Youth Activity Days.
- ◆ The Christmas Candlelight Tour every Friday and Saturday evening 5p to 9p from Thanksgiving weekend thru Christmas.
- ◆ Plus, the fort will open for school groups and tour groups by reservation when needed.

With increased activities and visitors, more volunteers are needed to assist with improvements, help with tours and talks, and greet and serve refreshments during the holiday season candlelight tours. This is your chance to dress up in period costume and live inside of history! Hill's Fort Society assures us it's great and rewarding fun, so think about joining this year.

If you'd like to get involved with the group, call Bill Johnson at 664-0958 or email tedras@newwavecomm.net to find out more. Visit Hill's Fort's online presence at the following URLs:

www.americanfarmheritagemuseum.com/hills-fort.html

www.fortsofillinois.org

In Tribute To Those BCGS Has Lost

Donald Jordahl, PhD (December 4, 1929 - October 12, 2016) – professor, pastor, veteran, author, carpenter and world traveler. Donald Clarence Jordahl, age 86 of Greenville, passed away Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at Helia Healthcare in Greenville. Visitation and funeral were held at the Greenville Free Methodist Church Sunday, October 16. Burial followed in Mount Auburn Cemetery.



He was born to Clarence Joseph Jordahl and Lillian Barbara **Bosshardt** Jordahl on their family farm near Nerstrand, Minnesota in Rice County. Don attended public schools in Verndale and Wadena, Minnesota, graduating from Wadena High School in 1948. He attended St Paul Bible Institute before moving on to work at Pillsbury Mills as a bookkeeper. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served 1952-1954 in French Morocco during the Korean War, working as a bookkeeper; he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. Following his military service, Don attended Greenville College where he met his wife, Ruth LaVon **Krober** (b 1933 Piedmont, Oklahoma).

Don and LaVon were married June 9, 1956 in McPherson, Kansas. He attended Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City and Kansas State Teacher's College of Emporia and was awarded a Bachelor of Divinity Degree and Master of Science Degree. He pastored two years in Minnesota before taking a position as Professor of History at Greenville College and moving his family to Greenville where he celebrated a long tenure of 32 years, also earning his Doctorate Degree of Philosophy from SIU Carbondale. He authored two books: his 1974 dissertation on the history of Almira College, G.C.'s antecedent; and his 1984 biography of Almira's first president, John Brown **White: Man Proposes But God Disposes**. A former student recalls, "His lively and always well prepared lectures brought history to life."

As a founding member of Bond County Genealogical Society in 1982, Don served various positions: Parliamentarian, Vice-President, Director, and Program Committee. He gave presentations at BCGS meetings, particularly about personal family research while visiting Scandinavia. Don also accepted a short stint as president of Bond County Historical Society during 2004. Not giving up preaching for teaching entirely, he sometimes served as a supply pastor for the Parish of Open Door, a group of six Presbyterian churches in Bond and Montgomery counties. Additionally, Don travelled extensively both with his wife of sixty wonderful years and as a carpenter craftsman with non-profit organizations "giving physical assistance in repair, construction and maintenance work to needy Christian ministries." He also happened to be a respected and courteous neighbor to the editor of this newsletter and everyone else on our block for over three decades.

Of Don's genealogy, he was part Swiss on his mother's side, his maternal great-grandfather Jacob Bosshardt coming to America before 1852. Other great-grandparents were born in Germany (Jacob's wife Barbara **Busch**) and Luxembourg (Unknown **Becker**). He was Norwegian on his father's side; all four paternal great-grandparents were born in Norway and all emigrated to Minnesota before 1870. Traditionally Norse first names on his tree include: Hans, Thorbjerg, Stillaug, Johan and Kari. For more fascinating Swiss (and Norwegian) Family Jordahl vital details, please refer to his research submitted for the BCGS Members Ancestor Charts published 1983.

(Continued on page 19)

Beginner's Guide to Vital Records

*Tips from the session "Beginner's Guide to Vital Records" presented October 4, 2016 by librarian Delia **Bourne**, courtesy Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Follow [Allen County's Genealogy Center on Facebook](#).*

You may be asking - what is a vital record? Vital records are birth, marriage and death records kept by the county, city or state government where the event took place. Genealogists use them to prove identity, parentage, date and place of event, and more!

Vital records are the Holy Grail of genealogical records, providing a legal document that records a date of birth and parents, marriage date, and place, or evidence of a death, perhaps providing parent's names or cause of death.

However, birth and death records were not commonly recorded until the 20th Century, and even the availability of marriage records depends on the locale and culture. This session explained what can be found in a vital record, and what other sources may be used when the official record is missing.

What if there are no official vital records for the state or locality you seek for the time period you need? Never fear! There are many vital record substitutes such as church records, Bible records, funeral home records, cemetery records, court records, newspapers and obituaries, Social Security applications, and more! Substitutes include any record that supplies all or part of the information provided in a vital record.

Request the full vital record, not a certificate. If you can't find your direct ancestor's record, try a sibling's record. You can get parents' names from a sibling. Try the FamilySearch Wiki for each state to find out about when each state began keeping records.

A library in the town or county where your relatives lived may have the records for the church they attended. The church may also have records in the church office or they may have been forwarded to a Diocesan Archives. Church records may also have been microfilmed by FamilySearch; check their catalog.

A few great websites to try to help you find vital records:

- 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Where to Write for Vital Records (www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/)
- 2) www.FamilySearch.org
- 3) www.Findagrave.com
- 4) National Directory of Morticians (www.redbookfuneraldirectory.com/Directory/Search.aspx)
- 5) Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records (www.deathindexes.com)
- 6) Social Security Death Index (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535>)
- 7) www.USGenweb.com

Transcriptions of original records can be found in libraries, museums, and archives. Check www.Worldcat.org for books in a library near you.

(Continued from page 17)

Don is survived by his wife, LaVon, and their three children Lanette (Paul) **Hentze** of Greenville, Janet (Tom) **Wise** of Rochester, Illinois, and Kevin (Marcia **Grover**) Jordahl of Milton, Wisconsin, along with 8 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Don is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Marian, sister Dorothy (Dutze) **McDendley**, brother Kenneth Jordahl, and twin grandsons.

Sources include Dr Jordahl's obituary and tribute wall at www.DonnellWiegand.com, U.S. Federal Census, Decatur Illinois Herald & Review, plus memories of church and college associates.

Submissions and Genealogical Queries

The B.C.G.S. News is published 2 times a year—January & July. The Bond County Genealogical & Historical Societies invite members to submit articles on Bond County families or histories, research techniques, announcements & queries. Typed submissions are preferred. Please E-Mail to the newsletter committee at bcgs_editor@sbcglobal.net or send to: Bond County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 172, Greenville, IL 62246.

All submissions are subject to editing. Your articles and photos shall remain your property. DO NOT send copyrighted material unless you hold the copyright or you supply proof of permission to print with your submission.

Genealogical queries with connections to Bond County and its communities in Southern Illinois are published free of charge to members (and non-members!) in our Newsletter (though members have priority on query space). Anyone is invited to submit the names and brief identifying information of ancestors they are researching, so that those researching the same persons can exchange information with them.

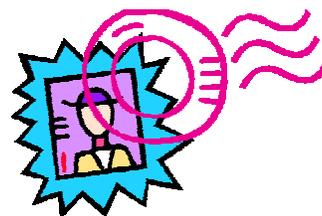
To make your query more effective, include dates, places and full names whenever possible. The query may also be published on our Website. You may E-Mail your queries to the newsletter committee at bcgs_editor@sbcglobal.net or send Snail Mail to: Bond County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 172, Greenville, IL 62246.

SAMPLE QUERY: Researching Edmond DeMoulin, b 11 Jun 1862 Clinton Co IL, mov to Greenville Bond Co IL abt 1886, m1 Constance Vulliet, m2 Anna Diehl. dpl Los Angeles CA 1935. --Submitter's name, address, and email address

General questions for Bond County Genealogical Society and requests for Research & Library help should be emailed to info@bondcogen.org

Good queries
are:

Clear—
Specific—
Simple—
Concise



Official Newsletter of the Bond County Genealogical Society of Greenville, Illinois,
published jointly since 2014 with the Bond County Historical Society

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www.bondcountyhistorical.org



Renew Your Dues for 2017!

Bond County Genealogical Society membership dues are \$10 per 2-person household for the current year. A lifetime membership for a 2-person household may be purchased for a one-time payment of \$175. Members are eligible to vote and to serve as BCGS officers and appointees.

SPECIAL 2017 OFFER! Join both societies (Genealogical and Historical) for only \$20.00 - a \$5.00 savings! Find membership information on Page 2 of this issue and on both societies' websites (see URLS at left).

LOCKSS “Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe”

“Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe.” Genealogists use this phrase to remember to backup your digital and paper data multiple times in multiples places on a regular basis - daily, weekly, monthly, offsite, whatever works for you!

Bond County Bicentennial Kick-off Program

Below: Bond County Bicentennial Kick-off Program attendees check out the artifacts of early Bond County on display in the courtroom the evening of Thursday, January 5, 2017. Among the artifacts were a 200 year old Circuit Court record book rescued from the 1883 Greenville courthouse fire, and a plat map of the small village of Perysville - first planned county seat. The program featured



speakers
John S.



Coleman, Judge John **Knight** (above, *photo courtesy the Greenville Chamber of Commerce*), and Kevin **Kaegy** who highlighted various stories in the earliest history of Bond County's formation, court cases, and defense against native peoples. Follow the [Bond County Bicentennial on Facebook](#) and at their website www.bondcountyhistorical.org/bocobicent/.