

Bond County Genealogical Society News

Volume 34, Issue 1

Winter January 2019

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

Historic Greenville Home Donated to Bond County Historical Society: Society Headquarters & Museum to Move in 2019



Kevin Kaegy, left, and John Coleman, right, stand in front of the house commonly known as the DeMoulin Mansion, which was given to BCHS by its owner in October 2018. Photo by Dave Bell, [Greenville Advocate](#).

One of the most historic and recognizable homes in Greenville has been donated to the Bond County Historical Society. The large white house at 409 South Fourth Street, also known as the U.S. DeMoulin mansion, was recently given to the Society by its owner, Barbara **Holmes** and her daughter Robin. President of the Historical Society Kevin **Kaegy** stated that, "Ms. Holmes has decided to move to be with fami-

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- Genealogy Club Started in Clinton County.

Bond County Genealogical Society

Officers

President - Cindy Tischhauser
Vice President - Kevin Kaegy
Treasurer - Elaine Anthony
Recording Secretary - Jane Hopkins
Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Tischhauser
Historian - Kevin Kaegy
Editor - open
Directors - Gerald Jenner (emeritus),
Mike Evans

Appointees

Library - Jane Hopkins
Program - Kevin Kaegy
Membership - Elaine Anthony
Publicity - open
Hospitality - Cindy Tischhauser
Cemetery - open
Research - 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

2018-2019 Officers

President - Kevin Kaegy
Vice President - Jim Schutte
Treasurer - John S. Coleman
Secretary - Jane Hopkins

Directors

Burgess Twp - George Gobberdiel
Central Twp. - Sharon Grimes
Tamalco Twp - Judy Schroeter
Mills Twp - Cindy Tischhauser
Pleasant Mound Twp - Cary Holman
Old Ripley Twp - Kathy Brewer
Shoal Creek Twp - Tom Varner
LaGrange Twp - Gary Tischhauser
Mulberry Grove Twp - Jeanette Dothager

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.

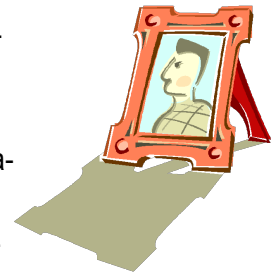
www.bondcountyhistorical.org



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.



**Invite a friend
to an interest-
ing and educa-
tional program
meeting or
special event!**

2019 Events Calendar

January 28, 2019 Business & Year Planning Meeting at DeMoulin Mansion.

February 11, 2019 "It Was A Crime To Be German", a costumed portrayal of a German Illinoisan during World War I by historical actor Barbara Kay. 7pm @ Bradford Community Building, Greenville, Illinois. Soup Supper fundraiser at 6pm.

March 16, 2019 16th Quilt Show w/ Bed Turning Program at Greenville FMC.

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

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 27.





Hoiles-Davis Museum News

The Hoiles-Davis Museum located at 318 W. Winter Street in Greenville, Illinois is closed for the season. Thank you for visiting during Summer/Autumn 2018.

The Historical Society plans to move our collection to the newly donated location across the street and re-open as a museum in 2019-2020. Stay tuned!

Guided tours may still be available by appointment only. Advance notice required. Groups welcome. Call (618) 664-1590

Admission by donation.

(Continued from page 1)

ly. She has appreciated her time in Greenville and the friendliness of the residents. She wanted to donate the home as a way to give back to the community and make it available for the public." Kaegy added, "the Historical Society is overwhelmed by her generosity and honored that she entrusted its care to us." The home was built in 1900 by Ulysses S. **DeMoulin**, one of the three brothers who established the iconic Greenville company of the same name. The Queen Anne style house features a large rounded turret, a large foyer, and majestic oak staircase. The home was built with separate quarters and staircase for a live-in maid. At one time it also featured an outdoor tennis court and a small elevator, which was removed during renovations in the 1990s. The house is located directly across Fourth Street from the Society's current Hoiles-Davis Museum. The Historical Society plans to move their collection to the new house and re-open as a museum in the future. "The home is in outstanding condition," Kaegy stated. "Over the past 20 years the previous owners have restored virtually every aspect of the structure. However, to open as a museum and comply with ADA laws we will have to complete a major accessibility project. So, our first focus will be fundraising efforts to get that done so we can re-open."

Read more about the 20th Anniversary of the Hoiles-Davis Museum on page 20 of this issue.

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

If you experience technical difficulties with our microfilm reader, please contact Jane Hopkins (jhopkins4616@sbcglobal.net 618-664-4616) or Kevin Kaegy (kevink@markuscabinet.com 618-210-2256).



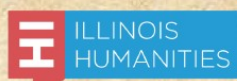


It was a Crime to be German



A costumed portrayal of
a German Illinoisan
during WWI by historical
actor **Barbara Kay**

Monday, February 11, 2019 7:00 pm (FREE)
Soup & Chili Supper 6:00 pm (\$7 to eat)
Bradford Comm Room, Greenville



Benefiting Bond County Historical Society's relocating in
the U.S. DeMoulin House and meeting ADA requirements



16th Quilt Show

sponsored by Bond County Historical Society

Saturday, March 16

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Free Methodist Church

1367 Route 140

Greenville, Illinois

OVER 100 QUILTS on DISPLAY

- * Featured Bond County Quilters, "the Pleasant Mound Trio":
Ginny Ennen, Georgianne Tompkins & Janice Tompkins
- * Demos @ 11, 12, 1 * Bed Turning Program @ 10 & 2
- * Vendors, Door Prizes, Quilt & Barn Quilt Raffles
- * Quilt Block Design Contest Winners
- * Viewers' Choice Voting
- * \$3.00 Admission

For more info: 618-567-1948 or www.bondcountyhistorical.org



Slavery and Illinois: the Land of Lincoln, Part 2

Continued from Part 1 in the B.C.G.S. News Vol 33, Issue 2, Summer 2018. Based on the presentation “Lincoln & Slavery in Illinois” by Kevin Kaegy, February 28, 2018 at the joint meeting of the Bond County Historical and Genealogical Societies

A self-educated lawyer and poet, Abraham Lincoln is responsible for more specific lasting achievements in human liberty than anyone else in the United States, perhaps the world. The 1870 Federal Census is the first to name all emancipated slaves, 4 million of them, and an extremely important tool in African American family research.

Revealed in Part 1, a young Abraham **Lincoln**’s family never owned slaves and their social class may have even competed for jobs with slave labor. On a merchant goods trip to New Orleans at 20 years old, Lincoln witnessed shackled, singing slaves which “moved [his] heart.” In Illinois, Lincoln lived among and knew slaves and free persons of color on a regular basis. As an Illinois House Representative serving four consecutive terms, he supported expanded suffrage and the abolition of slavery.

In 1842, Lincoln married Mary **Todd** of Kentucky, and several members of her large, wealthy family held slaves and indentured servants. Many law clients of Lincoln’s in Springfield held slaves and bonded servants as well; usually cooks, maids, drivers, and other urban positions.

In the 1850s, it is highly documented Lincoln knew three particular free colored persons in his life at Springfield. At least one woman, Maria **Vance**, worked in, but did not live in, the Lincoln family home, performing domestic duties. One man, William **Fleurville**, a Haitian barber who had moved north from New Orleans to New Salem and then to Springfield, cut Lincoln’s hair for thirty years. Another man, Jameson **Jenkins**, lived 4 houses away from the Lincolns – it was a mixed race, integrated, neighborhood; at least twenty-one African Americans lived within a three-block radius of the Lincolns in 1860 (Hart) – and prospered operating a dray horse service, providing wagons and carriages hired regularly by the Lincolns. Jenkins was a member of an abolitionist church and served as a conductor on the underground railroad.

In Lincoln’s legal career, he argued both sides of the slavery question, feeling “a sacred obligation to defend the interests of his clients whatever they might be” (Winkle). A lawsuit tried in 1841 involved a girl Nancy who had been sold as a slave or indentured servant and a promissory note taken in payment. The note was not paid when it became due and an initial judgement in Tazewell County Court ruled for the plaintiff – Nancy’s original owner. The case was taken to Illinois Supreme Court where Lincoln argued for the maker of the note, **Bailey**. He contended that the girl could not be held in slavery, since, under the Ordinance of 1787, slavery was prohibited in the Northwest Territory, of which Illinois was a part, as well as by the constitution of that State, which expressly prohibited slavery. Then since a human being could not be bought and sold, the note was void. The court reversed the judgement and Nancy was free.

In a more controversial case in 1847 – the Matson Slave Trial in Charleston – Lincoln defended

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Slavery and Illinois continued...

(Continued from page 6)

the other side of the slavery cause. He inserted himself into the case and represented a slave-holder in an effort to send a mother and her children back into slavery. **Matson**, an Illinois farmer, had been using seasonal slave labor from his Kentucky plantation to work the land. As they were in the state only temporarily, they legally remained in bondage. But the family of the African-American overseer remained continuously in Illinois, and could have been ruled free (Duff). The case was brought after Matson's housekeeper threatened to send this family back to Kentucky and sell them deeper into the South. The wife and four children were sheltered by white friends and now considered runaways. Lincoln's team argued that every citizen must be protected in the protection of his property and the family *were* seasonal workers, not permanent residents of Illinois. The defense used the same Ordinance of 1787 and Constitutional arguments against slavery in Illinois as Lincoln had in the previous case. The judge ruled against Matson and Lincoln's team's weak prosecution. The former slaves were free and the farmer fled to Kentucky, leaving all his debts and creditors unpaid (Beveridge).

Newly elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, in 1847 Lincoln gained notoriety with his unpopular opinion when he lashed out against the Mexican War, calling it immoral, proslavery, and a threat to the nation's republican values. He considered it a ploy to expand slavery should the U.S. government acquire new territories as a result of a Mexican defeat. (Speech delivered in the House of Representatives, January 12, 1848).

By the time of the Lincoln–Douglas debates preceding the 1858 election race for a U.S. Congressional seat from Illinois, slavery had taken a stronger hold on society and black code laws were tightening. The main theme of the Lincoln–Douglas debates was slavery, particularly the issue of slavery's expansion into the territories. Stephen **Douglas**, the incumbent, repeatedly tried to brand Lincoln as a dangerous radical who advocated racial equality and disruption of the Union. Lincoln, the challenger, emphasized the moral iniquity of slavery and attacked popular sovereignty for the bloody results it had produced in Kansas. Although Lincoln lost the election, these debates launched him into national prominence which eventually led to his election as President of the United States (Encyclopedia Britannica).



Bloomington, Illinois sculptor Andrew Jumonville's work titled "Convergence of Purpose" at Lincoln Park in front of the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts portrays Lincoln engaged in conversation with Jesse Fell and David Davis, two men who played a central role in his rise to the presidency. Photo by editor.

Look for Part 3 of "Slavery and Illinois: the Land of Lincoln" in the next issue of the B.C.G.S. News!

Online Genealogical Resources

The “72-Year Rule” governs release of Census Records

The National Archives released individual-level records from the 1940 Census for the first time on April 2, 2012. The waiting period is mandated by a federal law that protects the data for 72 years after the head count is completed. Therefore, records from the 1950 census will be released on April 1, 2022 for viewing or for purchase.

The **1950 Census Substitute at Ancestry.com** searches across more than 2,500 U.S. city directories from the mid 1940s through the 1950s. City directories were precursors to modern-day phonebooks and contain the names of each adult resident in the town along with their occupation and home and work addresses. Until the 1950 U.S. Federal Census becomes available, these records serve as a great resource for finding any adult family members who would have been alive during the 1950s.

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/grouplist.aspx?group=1950Census>



The first draft registration under the 1940 Selective Training and Service Act required all males ages 21-36 to register on October 16, 1940, to serve in what would ultimately be WWII. Between 1941 and 1943, there were five more registrations, and the ages changed to 18-44. One exception is the Fourth Registration, or “Old Man’s Draft.”

Recently Added and Updated Collections on Ancestry.com

- ◆ U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969
- ◆ U.S., Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection, 1847-2018
- ◆ U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990
- ◆ U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s
- ◆ U.S. Compiled Revolutionary War Military Service Records, 1775-1783
- ◆ U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1960
- ◆ U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970
- ◆ Reports of Deaths of American Citizens Abroad, 1835-1974
- ◆ U.S., F.B.I. Deceased Criminal Identification Files, 1971-1994
- ◆ U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File
- ◆ U.S., American Red Cross Nurse Files, 1916-1959

Collections Coming Soon

- ◆ World War II Draft Registration Cards (Young Men's Draft), Early 2019—This update will add Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, and Washington.
- ◆ Baseball Questionnaires, Early 2019—Historical surveys that every player filled out when they became a professional player, whether in the minor or major leagues.
- ◆ More U.S. State Vital Records, Ongoing—Updates and new collections of U.S. vital records.

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Online Genealogical Resources, continued...

(Continued from page 8)

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

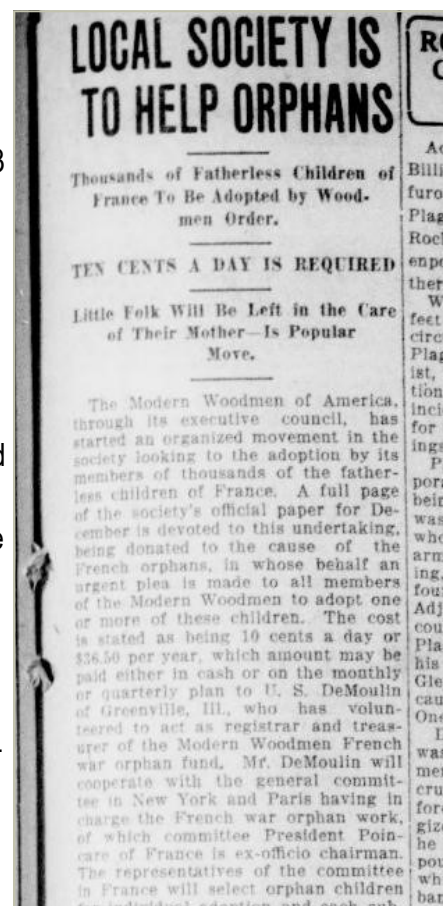
Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1963 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Narrow your search by criteria such as state, ethnicity, keyword, or language. The Chronicling America project was commissioned to locate and preserve copies of newspapers published over the years in the towns, counties, and states of America dating back to 1690. The site presently contains over 12 million pages of digitized newspapers and a list of virtually all of the newspapers published in America. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

Find Your Ancestors Through Land Transactions

Land records provide two types of important evidence. First they often document family relationships. Second, they place individuals in a specific time and place, allowing you to sort people and families into neighborhoods and closely related groups. One of land records' most important qualities is that they are sometimes the only records that distinguish one person of a common name from another. Bounty land warrants can alert you to your ancestor's military service and can contain details about the military unit in which he served. The right to own land was a great incentive for many of our ancestors to immigrate to the United States. In the days before civil registration, the record of their acquisition of property in some cases can help link generations, as that property passed from one generation to the next.

The land records that are generally of most interest to genealogists are the land entry case files. These are records that document the transfer of public lands from the U.S. Government to private ownership. There are over ten million such individual land transactions in the custody of the **National Archives**. These case files cover land entries in all 30 public land states <https://www.archives.gov/research/land>. **Ancestry.com collections** include Land Ownership and Reference Atlases https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/clp_land/.

Bond County ILGenWeb offers helpful research how-to plus links to find and obtain Land Records pertaining to Bond County and Illinois <https://bond.illinoisgenweb.org/lands/index.htm>



U.S. DeMoulin of Greenville has volunteered to act as registrar and treasurer of the Modern Woodmen French war orphan fund. *Rock Island Argus*. (Rock Island, Ill.) November 27, 1917, Page 5. Image provided by University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library via <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>



Grave Matters: Old Mount Nebo Cemetery

The original Mt. Nebo United Baptist Church ("Old Nebo") was one of the pioneer churches in Bond County and the first church of any faith organized in Ripley precinct. The church's history dates back to 1701 when the faith came from Wales to Delaware, America. Old Nebo was organized on Saturday, February 2 (or 9), 1833 at the home of John **Coyle** of Round Prairie near Shoal Creek by Elder Peter **Long** and Thomas **Smith** (both of Silver Creek Church of Madison County) and 23 members. Meetings were held in the homes of the members until 1835 when a hewn log building, 30 feet by 40 feet, was built which was said to be "an enormous affair", the largest log building ever built in Bond County. This served until the membership outgrew it and in 1848-1849 a new frame house was erected and served for worship and school for a now steady membership of about 40 faithful. This building was destroyed by fire in 1852 as a result of ashes stored in wooden vessels when school was being held.



Old Nebo Cemetery west of Greenville. Photo by the late James Pauk, contributor to FindAGrave.com, 2008.

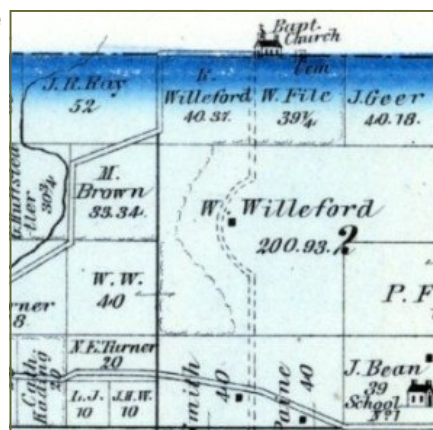
Another house was erected on the same site and was used until 1868 when a division occurred in the church with about two-thirds of the 75 members going to the missionary Baptists (known today as Mt Nebo Primitive Baptist Church or "New Nebo"), while nearly 25 continued to hold to the original beliefs of the church. One source claims that the membership before the split had once run up as high as 130. Reverend Peter Long, who served as pastor for over 40 years, published the newspaper Western Evangelist from 1845 to 1853 which was Bond County's first periodical. During a part of this time he kept presses on his farm west of Greenville. The government granted him a local post-office to facilitate the mailing of his two thousand copies. For a while in 1848 Long also issued a second paper called the Western Fountain. By the 1950s Old Nebo had disbanded and the church was removed in the late 1970s.



Visit via bicycle from downtown Greenville (7.5 miles - 40 minutes): Ride west from Greenville on College Ave taking steep Mill Hill down to Highway 140. Turn left and continue west for 1.8 miles using extreme caution with traffic on this highly traveled pavement. Turn right onto Schlemmer Rd. Alternately, wait to turn right at Mt Gilead Rd and enjoy another Church and Cemetery on your trip. Turn left onto Plant School Ave. Meander NW for 3.3 miles. Turn right onto Terrapin Ridge Rd and continue as it turns left and becomes Old Nebo Ave. Watch for Old Nebo sign on your left. Pedal carefully in dry weather only past a private residence then down dirt lane until you see the Cemetery ahead.

Almost directly west of Greenville and located off Terrapin Ridge Road on Old Nebo Avenue, Old Nebo Church and its Cemetery (as platted on the 1875 Bond County Atlas) sat precisely on the line between Cottonwood Precinct (present day Shoal Creek Twp) to the north and Ripley Precinct (now Old Ripley Twp) to the south. Present day GoogleMaps appears to locate Old Nebo Cemetery on the south side of the township line in Old Ripley Twp. A mile away, New Nebo Church and its Cemetery are to the south, also in Old Ripley Twp.

Back in 1812-1813, Eleazarum Ripley **Wheelock** and his brother laid out a settlement not far from the Shoal Creek location of Brown's Mill. Other pioneers that joined the Wheelocks were from North and South Carolina. The Wheelocks built a store but got tired of running it so eventually sold it. One of the Wheelock brothers built a mill and distillery on Shoal Creek. Most of the time the water was either too low or too high to grind grain. On the old maps, the ones where Bond County runs north all the way to Lake Superior, Ripley is often the only town shown in the entire county. At one time, it bid to be the site of the capital of the new state of Illinois. It had a post office



Ripley Precinct NE, with Old Nebo on the northern dividing line. Atlas of Bond County and the State of Illinois. Warner & Beers, 1875.

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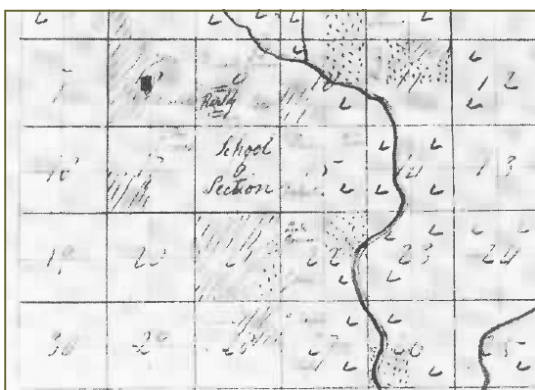
from 1819 to 1823. Sometime shortly after that, Ripley was abandoned and New Berlin was established by Charles **Plog** on higher ground to the southwest. Old Ripley was incorporated as a village in 1906. It was and is the only community in the township. To the northeast, Terrapin Ridge, a neighborhood made up of mostly related farm families, developed a community club in 1921 that lasted until 1975, mainly for the benefit of the otherwise isolated farm mothers and wives. They held picnics, celebrations, and quilting bees.

For many years there was a legend of a mythic treasure buried in the area of Shoal Creek. Supposedly Spaniards inhabited the area before its permanent settlement. The Spaniards were supposed to have buried three kegs of silver dollars. Innumerable searches for the treasure were made but no trace was found of the silver. The settlers first heard of the treasure from the Indians. There is no documented proof that Spanish explorers ever visited the area of Bond County.

In 1990, Bond County Genealogical Society members, Old Nebo Cemetery trustees and author/editor Gerald **Jenner** enlisted the help of descendants of the 20 families who were still active in the new Mt Nebo church to write a book on the story of the first church and its families. It had been 30 years since anyone was buried there and was at risk for being abandoned and forgotten. The response from families from Florida to Hawaii and many states in between was great, the book was completed, and Old Nebo received the funds necessary for restoration and maintenance.

Evelyn **McCracken's** Tombstone Inscriptions Part 3 (first prepared in 1972, updated in 1990) contains an alphabetized list of 308 known burials at Old Nebo Cemetery in addition to a row by row plot list. The database at crowd-sourced FindAGrave.com lists 318 interments. Bond County ILGenWeb, found at <http://bond.illinoisgenweb.org>, agrees with that number (information and photos contributed by Frank **Elam**). The most numerous family names include **Clanton, File, Hill, Long, Merry, Paine, Price, and Willeford**. 21 veterans fought in 5 conflicts: War of 1812, Blackhawk War, Civil War, Mexican War, and WWI. The earliest burial dates in the Inscriptions book are 1841; and the latest – 1957 and 1960.

"Old Nebo is accessed by going west at the T at the end of Terrapin Ridge Road. There is a small lane going back to Old Nebo Cemetery, and a sign is there saying Old Mt. Nebo Cemetery. The land all around is private, but the lane and the cemetery itself are public, with Mt. Nebo Cemetery Association taking care of it. The old church, which had been built in the 1920s, (earlier churches had burned) was torn down in the 1970s by [my husband] Bill's dad, who was given the task of demolishing it. Bill and I also helped, and we salvaged as much of it as we could; siding and windows, mostly. We have two of the windows in our current house [in Greenville]! But the cemetery was always meant to be accessible, especially by de-



Map of Bond County area, Range 4, Township 5, showing Ripley was drawn by William S. Wait. April, 1818. (Red Book, pg 25)



This photo, circa 1920, shows a sizable congregation, but by the 1950s Old Nebo had disbanded. (Arcadia Book, courtesy Martha Jenner)

scendants of those buried there. [You can drive back as long as it's dry, and] there is a space to make a turn-about at least. There is a space where the old church used to be." – Kathy **Brewer**.

"It reminded us of the road near Scott's Bluff, NE, where the wagon wheels made deep ruts. These ruts weren't that deep. We found the headstones of my great-great-grandparents (Daggett)." – Nancy **Marti**.

Sources Include: Marshall Mollet's talk from BGGs Rural Church History Program 2002; Gerald Jenner's book The Story of Old Mt. Nebo and the Families Buried There, 1990; The Primitive Baptist Library of Carthage, Illinois; Images of America: Greenville and Bond County. Arcadia Publishing, 2003; A History of Bond County Illinois (aka The Red Book). Taylor Publishing, 1979; Perrin, W. H. History of Bond and Montgomery Counties, Illinois, 1882.



War to End All Wars Remembered at GHS in November

Greenville High School teachers Ryan **D'Arcy** and Jennifer **Dannaman** used artifacts from the Hoiles-Davis museum to set up a display on World War I in the school's library, Friday, November 9, 2018. Sunday was the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and they wanted to have something special. All students from the school toured the display in the morning and afternoon. John **Coleman**, a tour guide from the museum and officer in Bond County Historical Society, was there to answer questions and explain the items to the kids.

Society Member Takes Pilgrimage to Witness Canonization Mass

Bob **Seiffert**, a member of both Bond County Historical Society and Clinton County Historical Society, traveled to Rome, Italy this past October for an experience and memories of a lifetime! He joined pilgrims from around the world to attend the October 14, 2018 canonization Mass with Pope Francis and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ all honoring Blessed Katharina **Kasper** and six other saints.

Born in 1820 in Dernbach, Germany, Sister Kasper dedicated her life to helping the poor. Later she founded a religious community - the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ - that expanded all over the world, advocating for the poor, sick, those with disabilities and the elderly. The organization first came to the United States in 1868. Kasper died in 1898, leaving behind a legacy of service. Canonization for Kasper took more than 70 years, with Kasper beatified April 16, 1978, by Pope Paul VI.

The Poor Handmaids played an important part in the history of Clinton County. The nuns served as nurses in the early history of the county and they served as teachers in the schools for 100 years. St Mary's Home and Hospital for the Aged, now Carlyle Healthcare Center, was originally run by the Poor Handmaids.

In addition to attending several masses and a papal audience in Vatican City, Seiffert's group toured cultural and religious sites around Rome and Assisi including the Sistine Chapel, Castel Sant'Angelo just a few blocks from St Peter's Square, and the Basilica of Saint Francis.



Dr Hall's Office & Basler Grocery Come Down

Two memory-filled former business buildings no longer stand in Greenville. It takes a lot of money and time to keep old structures in repair and safe to operate commercially. Difficult decisions can feel misguided by some, but these particular buildings had been idle for many years and deteriorated beyond use. We must look forward to creating new wonderful memories in their footprints and pledge to do more to conserve other buildings and homes we don't wish to lose.

Dr William L. **Hall**'s old medical office (109 W College) came down December 26, 2018. A family physician and surgeon, Dr Hall retired in 1975. Generations remember exams, shots, births, emergency procedures, Dr Hall's odd sense of humor, and his caring wife/nurse Edna. Dr Katherine **Luzader** practiced next door to the east and her office still stands, currently a hair salon. Sherri's Place operated by Sherri **Rench** in the Hall building in the 1990s as a "unique country store" offering gifts, novelties, and souvenirs for all occasions. The owner of Mario's Pizza to the west has indicated plans to utilize the cleared space for possible outdoor seating and events.

Old **Basler** Grocery (901 S Fourth at the corner with Willard St) along with two other structures came down October 15, 2018. Locals fondly remember penny candy, baseball cards, RC cola, the coldest chocolate soda, Crane potato chips, fresh meats and lunch meats. A park and playground for the new Simple Room facility will go in where the Grocery store building block was.

There are two wonderful opportunities for you to make your passion for preservation a tangible thing. The DeMoulin Museum, located in the former Grace Episcopal Church built in the 1880s, is in dire need of either an \$8,000 paint job or siding. Also, the Bond County Historical Society will be relocating in the U.S. DeMoulin House and will be fundraising to meet ADA requirements. This is an invitation to make a financial donation to both of these worthy efforts.



Basler Grocery on South Fourth Street. Photo by Dr Daniel Junod 1974.



Left: Site of Dr Hall's office and Sherri's Place on College Ave.



Right: Old Basler Block on South Fourth Street. Photos copyright Google Maps 2013.

16th Quilt Show to feature Antique Quilt Bed Turning

Every Quilt Has A Story

On Saturday, March 16, 2019, Bond County Historical Society will be hosting their 16th quilt show and 3rd 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, 12:00pm, and 1:00pm.



Antique Quilt Bed Turning Program from 15th Quilt Show in March 18, 2017. Volunteers Rebecca Clausen and Nancy Gillard hold up a signature/friendship quilt made by LaGrange Homemakers Club which is currently in the textile collection of Bond County Historical Society while volunteer Jennifer Reed reads the accompanying story.

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. 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.

Over 100 quilts in four contest categories 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 2nd (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 15th from 12:00pm noon until 4:00pm.



Only one of many design possibilities utilizing 2019's show theme: "Celebrations. Let your imagination fly and enter our Any Quilted Item theme category or Quilt Block Contest.

Photo from Pinterest.

There will be prizes given for the favorite machine quilted quilt in both bed sized and wall/baby/child sized categories, and favorite hand quilted quilt in both bed sized and wall/baby/child sized categories. A bed sized quilt is being defined as having at least one side measuring 72 inches or larger. Plus, a special category of quilted items in the theme of "Celebrations" is a unique addition to the show in 2019. Quilt block contest winners utilizing the theme "Celebrations" will also be on display. You still have time to plan and sew your "Celebrations" themed Quilt Block Contest entries. All ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate and

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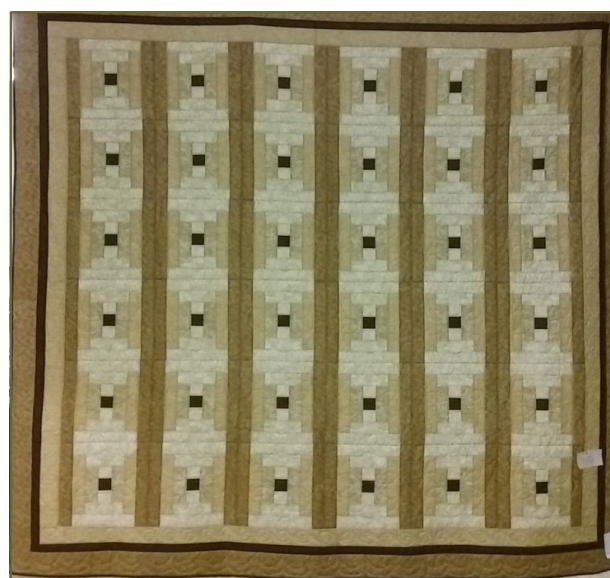
cash prizes will be awarded in Adult, Teen, and Children categories! Completed quilt blocks are due February 23, 2019. You may turn them in, clean and pressed, at the Hoiles-Davis Museum (318 W Winter Ave in Greenville, Illinois) 2-4pm Friday Feb 22 or Saturday Feb 23. You may also mail your block, postmarked by Feb 23. Official Contest Rules and Entry Forms are available at the HSHS Holy Family Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop in Greenville, Illinois and online at www.bondcountyhistorical.org.

For the twelfth consecutive show, a Bond County quilter will be featured. In 2019, it is a special trio of ladies. We spotlight the work of Ginny **Ennen**, Georgianne **Tompkins**, and Janice **Tompkins** in a special display. Friends and neighbors in Pleasant Mound, all three ladies have connections to the local Creative Stitchers Quilt Guild.

Free demonstrations of quilt-making techniques will be offered throughout the day: "Topic TBD" by Ramona **Ulmer**, "Painted Barn Quilt" by Robyn **Hargan**, and "Landscape Techniques" by Tedra **Johnson**. Several quilt/handicraft vendors and a scissor sharpener will also be set-up at the show.

Tickets are available for the quilt raffle in conjunction with the quilt show. The Queen size "Courthouse Steps" quilt is pieced in neutral tan and cream hues fabrics that draw attention to the floral and scroll machine quilted lines. The quilt was created by Shirley **Pustelnik** of the local Black Diamond Quilt Guild. Also being raffled is a 2ft by 2ft Barn Quilt with a 'Sewing Machine' design painted by Robyn Hargan. 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 or Buchheit in Greenville or Casey's in Mulberry Grove (ticket selling dates TBA). The quilts (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. Winners 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.



Above: "Courthouse Steps" raffle quilt by Shirley Pustelnik.

Below: "Sewing Machine" raffle barn quilt by Robyn Hargan.



Reno Southern Baptist Church History Program

Bond County Historical and Genealogical Societies met jointly for the Annual Rural Church Program at Reno Southern Baptist Church in Reno, Illinois on September 4, 2018. We enjoyed potluck dinner with fried chicken, ham, a dozen salads and vegetables and a great selection of sweet treats for dessert. At least 36 people ate the meal and attended the following program.

Kevin **Kaegy**, BCHS president, opened the meeting after a short hymn-sing with a history of the area, plus additions and clarifications by Reno-ites present.

The community known today as Reno has some of the richest history in Bond County. About 10 miles north of Greenville, it began as "Cottonwood Grove" in the 1830s and grew into "Big Bethel". By the 1840s, southern families of both the anti- and pro-slavery ideologies had rooted here. Names such as **McCord**, **Douglas**, and **McCracken** are still familiar to Bond County ears. It is documented that conductors for the Underground Railway traveled through the town and used its stations. The Reno-Bethel Presbyterian church north of the present day blacktop road hosted abolitionist speaker and publisher Elijah **Lovejoy** some time before his tragic end at Alton. Some believe the Civil War itself could have broken out here rather than at Fort Sumter.



In 1883, the literal railroad came through Bethel - the Jacksonville & St Louis, then in 1905 the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad - today the freight route is part of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line. New neighborhoods were platted towards the south as "Reno".

From History of Shoal Creek Township: "Reno had a 3-year high school for a number of years. The Reno building was a two-story square wooden building. The highest recorded enrollment (for grades one thru eleven) was 108 students. In 1934, a brick gymnasium was built at a cost of \$17,000. It was considered 'the best in the county' for a few years. The gym had two locker rooms with two cistern systems to provide water for showers. Reno High was closed in 1947, with the grade school continuing until the late 1950s. The school building was sold and torn down for salvage. The gym was used as a community center."

The Reno High School boys' basketball team brought home a District title during the 1942-43 season.

From Dennis **Downey**, contributor to the Reno High page at "Illinois HS Glory Days" website: "Here are four photos taken of the Reno High School gymnasium in 2017: two front, one side, and one rear of what is left of the Reno high school's gym. Through the brambles, bushes, down wet farm fields and a rock road sets the gym surrounded by all sorts of things and falling apart. The little town is a collection of three churches and about 15 houses at a crossroad. And, here sits the building. If only we could go back to its glory days. I asked a couple about it, and they said kids play inside now and then, but the roof is falling in."

www.illinoismsglorydays.com

Following the discussion on the early history of Reno, Pastor Frank **Loskot** spoke to the Reno South-

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ern Baptist Church's own history and philosophy. He emphasized the church's welcoming, mission-minded congregation who make no quick judgements of anyone seeking faith and fellowship. He himself has been serving here for only two years but it feels like home.

Pastor Frank read from an essay that described the church's 1915 foundation roll call: twenty-two souls saw the need for a Baptist church at Reno and with Sorento Baptist Church's sponsorship, they formed and began meeting at the Reno-Bethel Presbyterian building. Soon they moved services to an upstairs hall in Reno's grocery store. The sanctuary of the present building was built in 1917, 101 years ago. In attendance at our rural church history program was one woman who was born in that same year – 1917! Ruth **Edwards Nessler** stood (slowly but proudly) and shared her testimony with us about church membership, love, support and the power of prayer.

The congregation today has between 50-60 members and a Sunday attendance of about 40 including a nice range from young families with small kids to 101 year old Ruth. Four baptisms are scheduled soon, though they'll be performed at nearby facilities, in better equipped churches. A few in attendance at the program recalled being baptized down at Shoal Creek at Ripson Bridge. Others remembered early baptisms took place at White Bridge as well. Summers of special camaraderie and worship are enjoyed by the church's children at Vacation Bible School with themes like "Game On" and "Galactic Starveyors".

At the close of our evening, church pianist Miss Rosanne played her third sing-along hymn of the night and we broke into more socializing before driving back to each of our own corners of home in Bond County and beyond.



Reno Southern Baptist church member and centenarian Ruth Nessler (left) visits with Jane Hopkins, BCHS Secretary, (right) who attended several years of grade school in Reno. Photos by editor.

Types of Information for Genealogical Research

Knowing one's family history can provide a person with valuable information about not only his or her ancestors, but also about themselves. This information can be a source of pride in many families and something to be shared with future generations. While some people pass down stories from generation to generation, others may not be as aware of where they come from. Fortunately, there are many ways in which a person can conduct the necessary research to find the answers that he or she needs. Although this can be time-consuming, the results are often worth the effort.

When conducting genealogy research, certain types of information are required. This information includes names, dates, and occupations. Names should include the given names, middle names, surnames, and maiden names when applicable, of as many family members as possible, going as far back as possible. Aliases and potential variations in the spelling of these names are also important. In addition to names, the occupations of ancestors contribute to research efforts. It provides information about one's social standing and how he or she may have lived life. Knowing the occupation of any given relative can also help differentiate between two people of the same name. Dates, when accurately documented, are also important to genealogy. They reflect important events in life and can be found in records and documentation.

Read the entire article at the website - <http://www.veritasprep.com/genealogy-resources-by-veritas-prep/>

Coins on Graves: Truth vs Urban Legend

Adapted from a blog post by author & speaker Tui Snider, <http://tuisnider.com>

The practice of leaving coins with the deceased dates back to the ancient Greeks, who believed the rivers Styx and Acheron separated the living from the dead. A ferry trip was required to cross these waters, otherwise the soul of the deceased would be forced to wander the river banks for 100 years. To avoid this, ancient Greeks placed a coin in the mouths of their dead as a way to pay Charon. (Charon was what they called the mythical ferryman who navigated the boundary between living and dead.)

These days, coins may be found on just about anyone's grave, but I see them most often on the graves of historic figures, especially criminals, such as the notorious "Machine Gun Kelley." Perhaps, even now, we worry that criminals and outcasts may need assistance in the afterlife. That said, the main purpose for leaving coins on a grave simply appears to be a way of letting others know this person is still remembered.

A modern urban legend, however, one that first began circulating the internet around 2009, claims that when coins are seen on military headstones, the different denominations mean very specific things – not just remembrance. A quarter, for instance, allegedly means you served in the same unit as the deceased, or (according to another online source) a quarter means you were present when the deceased lost his life.

While researching for my book Understanding Cemetery Symbols, however, I was unable to find any reference to the origins of this practice. I finally turned to snopes.com, a website that specializes in alerting people to urban legends, to help me sort things out. Turns out that this is a modern myth.

Of course, you still may find coins on a military headstone, just as you may find them on anybody's headstone. I merely want to clarify that the practice of having different coins to signify specific things on military headstones is a recent idea and not a longstanding practice. That said, items ranging from stuffed animals and photographs to military medals and coins frequently appear in American military cemeteries.

While that whole urban legend is one thing, there actually is something called a "challenge coin" that may be left by military personnel on a headstone. Challenge coins are non-monetary metal tokens that some military units provide in order to promote morale. These tokens may be inscribed with a soldier's unit or other identifying information. Like other grave goods, a challenge coin may be left on a military headstone.

Want to learn more about cemetery symbols? Visit Ms Snider's blog with a whole bunch more posts about historic graveyards and cemetery symbols - <http://tuisnider.com/?s=cemetery> - or check out her book on Amazon - <https://amzn.to/2Gggt0V> .



Visitors to legendary outlaw Jesse James' grave often leave small tokens, mostly coins, bullets, and whiskey. Photo copyright Ken Rasure at the blog, One Dusty Track - <http://1dustytrack.blogspot.com>

Not Everyone Wants the Same Thing Out of Genealogy

by Amy Johnson Crow, Certified Genealogist with more than 20 years of experience. Follow her blog at <http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/>

Each of us has different motivations for pursuing our family's history.

Some want to prove or refute a family legend. Some want to delve into health history. Others want to continue the work that was started by a family member. For many, it's general curiosity — "Where did my people come from?"

The thing about motivation is that not only does it create different starting points, it also creates different ending points. Different motivations mean that people are going to be satisfied by different things.

"History is a ribbon, always unfurling. History is a journey. And as we continue our journey, we think of those who traveled before us" — William J. Bennett

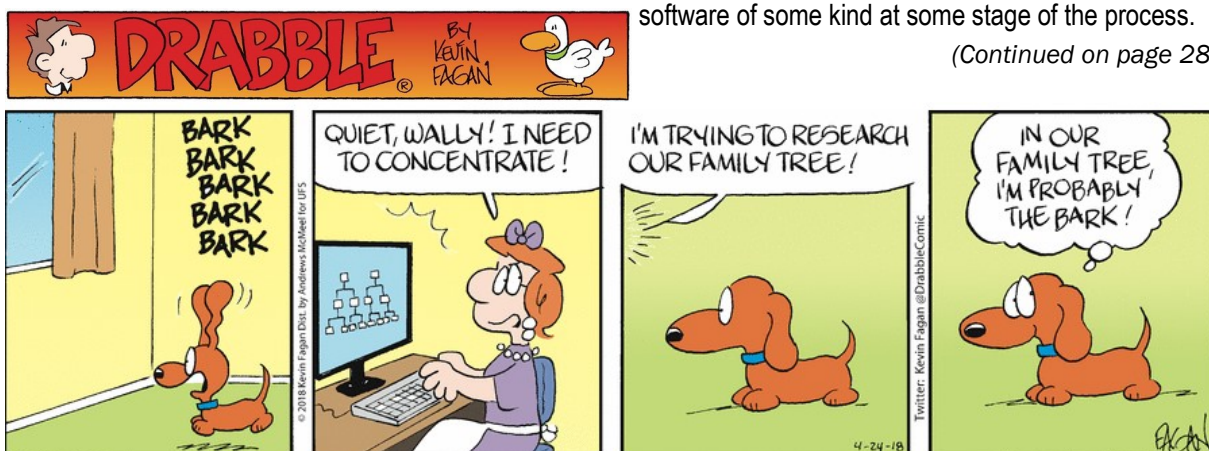
Genealogy: Things people learn in a week that it took their ancestors a lifetime to hide.

Easily Convert Old Cassette Tapes to Modern MP3 Files

Do you have old cassette tapes but have no way to play them? The magnetic tape in cassettes doesn't last forever, and is at particular risk from strong electromagnetic sources. As such, it's a good idea to back up any recordings you have. Those precious interviews and oral histories done with grandparents and other relatives, recitals, performances, children's first words, and answering machine tapes don't have to be forgotten. Luckily for you, there are multiple ways to convert cassette tapes to modern MP3 or other format files that can be stored in your computer's hard drive, an external hard drive, a flash drive, CDs, stored in the cloud, or even sent to anyone via email.

Whatever format you're converting, and whatever platform you're doing it on, you'll need audio editing software of some kind at some stage of the process.

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Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Hoiles-Davis Museum and some of the Founders

The Annual Meeting of the Bond County Historical and Genealogical Societies was held October 30, 2018 at the Bradford Room in Greenville, Illinois. The Annual Dinner was at 6:00, with Italian food catered by Joe's Pizza and Pasta and delicious desserts provided by members. The Program featured Kevin **Kaegy**, President of BCHS, as he reviewed the past twenty years since the Hoiles-Davis Museum was founded in the Alexander House, plus the years from 1992-1998 during which Bond County Historical Society sought to purchase a suitable building for the museum after they were no longer able to display items at the Greenville Public Library. Kevin explained that the Alexander House was a very suitable home for the Society's Museum for the past 20 years, but the collections have grown and the opportunities to host larger tour groups have increased, so being able to move to the larger DeMoulin Mansion will be a great step forward.

The following are excerpts of the transcript of Kevin's and others' remembrances.

KEVIN: I kind of laugh about Bond County Historical Society, it's an unusual opportunity; it's a great privilege to serve as your current president. I cannot believe that I've ended up being president all three times we've had to make a move! I have not been president of this society for the last [uninterrupted] twenty-five years. In fact I've only been serving now, I guess this is my third term, and my second go around.

I always laugh about this - I was elected head of the historical society about 1992, that's when [my daughter] Beth Ann was about two years old. I showed up to help move things out of the Greenville Public Library. I was sitting there not knowing too much of what was going on around me but I'd always been friends with Doug and Sue **Hoiles**, so I'd said "Sure, Sue, I'll show up and help move things for the museum and help the new place move forward." At that meeting Mary Jane **Sandifer** resigned and Cornelia **Davis** kind of got on her case and said, "Madam President, you are out of order. You cannot open a meeting by resigning!" And that's the way that whole meeting went. They nominated Bill **Davidson** to be the new president. He stood up and immediately said "No, I will not, but I will serve as vice president if you elect Kevin Kaegy president." And everybody said "Aye" before I could run out of the room. And lo and behold twenty five years later I'm still here!

I attended my first meeting of the Bond County Historical Society when I attended Greenville College; it was out at Tom and Helen **Paine's** who became good friends of mine for many, many years. Tom [who passed away earlier this year] of course was one of our long time directors. When you have the longevity of doing this that I've had, it's a very special privilege to recall back about all the board members I've [served with]...

One of the first things I did when [Barbara **Holmes**] gave us that [U.S. **DeMoulin**] house... I came home [from work] through Alhambra and I stopped [at the nursing home there] to see [Gerald] Speed **Jenner**, who is one of my original board members in the historical society, and to see Ben and Mary **File** who were never on the board but always very active members being with us at program meetings, especially the rural church programs [co-hosted by the Bond County Genealogical Society]. I stopped to tell them the good news and they were just bouncing off the walls about this, they were very, very thrilled.

Knowing Doug and Sue Hoiles, their son Jeff, and Cornelia and Frank Davis as well as I did and the fun we had working on that project [in the 1990s to try to buy an historic house for a new home for the society's museum], I can tell you for a fact they would also be thrilled at this. Judy **Schneck** was a long time BCHS treasurer during my first terms as president. I always would say that I was elected and served nine years - and that's eight years longer than anybody deserves such an honor, or something like that! [And now, of course, even more years longer than that!]

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Twenty years ago, we'd gone through about a two year effort to try and buy the DeMoulin house. Everyone in town was disappointed. We couldn't get the grant funding together to pay the \$240,000 to buy out the Bowmans. You couldn't talk to Max **Bowman** in person; you had to go through their attorney who was also a real estate agent. We were doing fundraising – all kinds of activities, making Bond County Historical Society a vibrant, well known organization. We held a Willa **Cather** presentation and had probably 70 people... Our first quilt show was held on the square at the Coast to Coast store. Phoebe **Johnson** was an active member on our board of directors; she organized a fashion show which we held in the mansion. Max Bowman was the owner of the house but we had bought the right to use that house and then filed the grant paperwork and everything to have it [not actually then] happen. The reality was, our building committee weren't crazy about the DeMoulin house. I knew that was a big ol' house. It had been well fixed up; it had a wonderful restoration. However, inside, the decorating taste wasn't something I or most people would have chosen: loud colors which were not bad, but they were not good. And so it would have needed some redecoration done, but the restoration and saving the house, the absolute epic amount of money aspect of it, they saved that house, no questions! That house would not be here today if not for Max and Bev Bowman.

So, the reality was, myself, Judy Schneck, Dean **Anthony**, Dean's wife Nelda, and Jeannine **Gobberdiel**, these were the board of directors, the most key people making the decisions at that time. We had all agreed early on, even while Byrl **Alexander** was still alive, a year before the DeMoulin house [negotiations] started, we wanted to try and buy that house. We thought, boy, that Alexander house would be perfect, simple to make ADA compliant. We knew we had a relatively small collection and we could grow into that facility – which is exactly what we did and exactly what we'd wanted all along! So when we didn't get the DeMoulin house, I was not disappointed. I was relieved, because I knew we could be successful [in another place].

It was an absolute delight, and I cannot tell you how easy [it turned out buying the Alexander house instead] – the six Alexander kids were absolutely wonderful. I knew all of them to some extent; but I especially knew the boys, they were the younger set. And I knew Byrl and Kate from the Presbyterian Church here in town – two finer people I just can hardly imagine, especially Kathleen, she was an absolutely lovely lady. We made one offer to the Alexander kids. They had a reasonable price on [the house] to begin with and we made one offer of what we thought we could afford. They came back and wholeheartedly said yes.

And over the years every single one of them has visited our museum many times; one of the girls was in the house Sunday and tearing up as she walked through the house. The room she really wanted to see was her mom's closet which is the pink closet off of the bathroom downstairs. I mean we're doing a tour with another group of people visiting, and I think to myself, Why is that woman in that closet? You could not have asked for nicer people to have dealt with than those. We were thrilled to be there and we wouldn't be leaving if it wasn't for such a wonderful opportunity, and we're gonna do our best to find a good buyer for their parents' home.



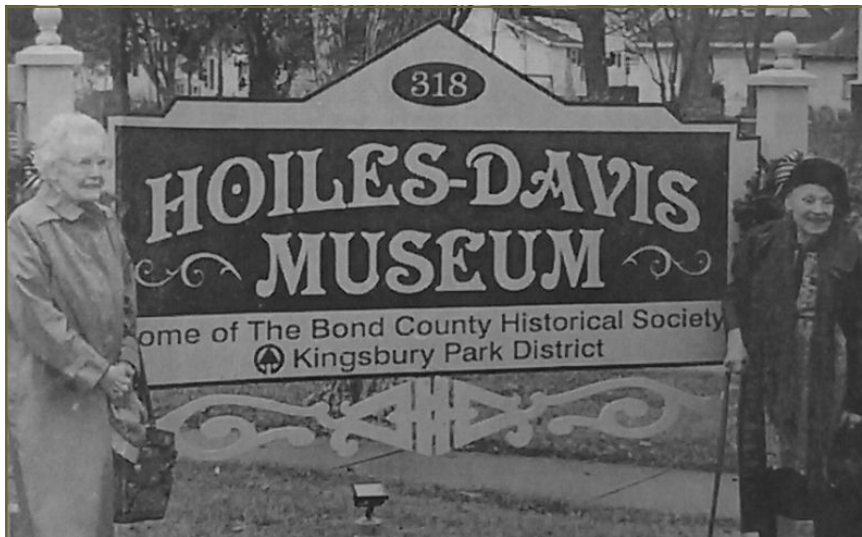
Living History in Greenville: Civil War re-enactors gather on the Hoiles-Davis Museum lawn during a summer event. Photo from Judy Schneck, BCHS Collection.

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20 Years of Hoiles-Davis Museum, continued...

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KATHY BREWER: A lot of us who sit there alone [while the Hoiles-Davis Museum is open for touring], we know it's an old house, we hear the creaks, we hear the knocking around, but I swear I hear footsteps of someone or something



Proud Moment: Mrs Sue Hoiles (left) and Mrs Cornelia Davis snipped the ceremonial ribbon at the opening of the new Hoiles-Davis Museum December 1, 1999. Photo from Greenville Advocate.

walking round. But the Alexander kids, when they were all back, they came and told me that there was a ghost in that house. And they said when they were kids, they heard noises and they went into what is now the ADA restroom, and that they saw the ghost in that closet. They might have been pulling my leg, but they said it so convincingly.

KEVIN: We bought the actual Hoiles-Davis Museum in August of 1998. We secured our Kingsbury Park District funding on October 4 and then we spent right at about a year decorating, painting, building the ramp, making the handicapped accessible restroom and every-

thing inside accessible at the former Alexander house. We had our grand opening there and the photos and story appeared in the Greenville Advocate December 4, 1999. Originally, we were shooting for probably a spring grand opening, but Doug Hoiles had recently passed away, Frank Davis had passed away, and Cornelia Davis was moving away to Des Moines, Iowa to be near her son, Jim. And that's why we opened in December. We actually had a rather mild day.

In 2000 we started another major fundraising campaign for the house, that's when we put in the air conditioning. We decided we [should not put off] the climate control for the sake of our artifacts, clothing, dresses, and some other things. That was one of our first new priorities. Fred **Baumberger** came to me after a meeting. He said to me, "Kevin, I've a little money set aside I'd like to do something, I think my family will jump in and help with some contributions. I'm going to talk to some of my family and cousins. We're gonna raise that money in honor of my sister, Helen [Baumberger Paine]." And that was the kind of support we always had, much like we do right now. And literally within a week we started receiving checks from Baumberger cousins and kids all around the country, donating money in honor of aunt Helen, this lovely lady who had hosted that first meeting of the society I ever attended.

In a year or so, I did resign the presidency. John **Goldsmith** took over and set us up to start rotating exhibits, bringing in temporary exhibits, bringing college kids in as interns and display committee assistants working on signs, and more of the events that we have kicking in. I liken [this phase] to something Thomas **Edison** said about inventing the light bulb. He didn't just invent the light bulb; he invented ten thousand ways not to make a light bulb. That's kind of the way it goes with running a historical society.

Over my first six years as president we did try for a number of projects, we talked about the **Denny** house up on North Third Street – that had been a stop on the Underground Railroad. We didn't get that, but I'll tell you what, it's turned into one of the best stories I tell because I started an interest in Greenville in the underground railway stuff and

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doing research on that that I do even to this day...

Even when BCHS treasurer, John **Coleman**, told me this year, "[Barbara Holmes]'s giving us the house," I said, "John, I don't want that house, I don't want to move this thing again!" He said, "Kevin, we need to go look at it." So I went over and looked at the house and I'm walking through and I'm like, Oh, My. It's all been done... Jim and Audrey **Walters**, Linda and Bob **Baumhoegger**, and now Barbara have spent all this money fixing all this stuff... and they have fixed everything! There is virtually nothing left to fix! The longer I looked and the more I look and I go down in the basement and look at the new electric panel and the electrician has literally written on every wire and you can follow where it goes. Everything old has been disconnected, everything that could be replaced has been replaced, virtually all the services are new and I'm proud to say the roof on the building will outlast me. There will be maintenance, don't let me kid you. It's a wood frame that receives a lot of wind and rain in the winter in southern Illinois. It is going to need a paint job in a couple of years because every wood frame house needs paint jobs. And there will be unseen issues that will come up, but this house has been remarkably, remarkably well cared for, so it's going to be a wonderful opportunity for us moving forward.

As far as other donors to mention of course: Doug and Susan Hoiles, the way it all started with us. Because most of you won't be aware of how we got our [project's seed] money, I thought I'd tell just a couple of funny stories. Doug was one of the most delightful storytellers I ever knew in my life, I enjoyed our time together. One thing he did that was very unusual: he very rarely in his lifetime bought stocks. He gave us our money for the historical society [home] as a \$25,000 gift to get this started, and he gave it to us in honor of his mother and his father – Alice **Baumberger** and Guy Hoiles. He said "the Greenville community has been very generous to our entire family and I want to give something back and I want to give this in honor of them."

What he actually gave us was stock shares in a gold mine. Now that's an unusual way to get stock shares, but this is a true story. Doug had bought what they call "penny stocks" in 1948, several hundred shares. They were very cheap stocks in some little mom and pop gold mining company out west – Doug was always interested in precious metals. A few years later, it was bought by another company which in turn was bought by another company, and the reality was Doug owned that stock for over fifty years and he took a very minimum investment and turned it into over \$50,000. It was virtually all capital gain. The Hoiles' had already set up their funds for whatever they needed themselves and their son, Jeff. I guess you could say they were "wealthy," though they certainly never lived like it, they were very modest in how they lived. Well Doug decided rather than pay all the taxes he was gonna give it all away. So this gold stock, he gave us half of it and gave the other shares to the Greenville Public Library that Sue was always on the board of plus to Utlaut Memorial Hospital. I had to go through a stock broker in Vandalia who sold the stock for the society; and cashing that in, that's how we got our start money.

Now with that being said about Doug's interest in money, I'll tell you another funny story, one of my favorites. This jumps ahead, say, fifteen years. Doug Hoiles was, of course, still alive, but it was towards the end of his life – this was right before we bought the [Alexander house for our] museum. I remember I went over to their house [on Beau-



Christmas at the Museum: Toy train and village beneath a vintage feather tree and glass ornaments decorate Hoiles-Davis for the holidays. Photo by Kathy Brewer.

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20 Years of Hoiles-Davis Museum, continued...

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mont Avenue]. We were dealing with the DeMoulin house at the time and I always kept them – Cornelia and Frank Davis, too – in the loop of what was going on. So I tapped on the door and, Jeff came flying out, calling, “Kevin, Kevin, Kevin, I’m glad you’re here. Oh, Doug’s sick, he’s real sick. You gotta get in here and see him.” So I went in the house and Doug was sitting there, he had asthma and he was also nearly ninety-two years old. He was looking as gray as a ghost sitting there at the kitchen table. And Susan came to the dining room door and she’s covered with dirt and dust and she had that sly little smile on her face. She said, “Go ahead, Douglas, tell Kevin what we’ve been doing all morning.” And his story started. “Kevin, do you remember back in ’64 when the **Hunter** brothers tried to corner the silver market?” This was when we had silver coinage here in the United States and [with that cornering], silver prices went up. Doug had run Illinois Supply Company but he was also on the board of directors of the State Bank, and as a member of the bank board, he kept all the silver coins he could get. He said to me, “I took a notion I was going to corner my own silver market. Well, I got to thinking about that the other day and I took all that money down to the basement here and buried it. And I’m ninety-one years old, I’m going to fall over dead and Susy doesn’t know where I put it!”

The Hoiles house is on a brick foundation and in the south room of the Hoiles’ basement, there’s what you’d call a fruit cellar and there’s a ledge about three feet up. That’s where you’d set the canning jars in this cool damp room. Doug had taken and pulled bricks out of that wall and buried Sealtest ice cream tubs full of solid silver in the basement all over that house. This is a true story of buried treasure in the city of Greenville. Sue had this funny grin on her face and she said, “Come on in and let me show you what we dug up.” In the dining room they’d put a plastic Christmas tablecloth on their great big table. And there was a pile of moldy green solid silver money about foot and a half round and that much again deep, just covered with green mold. I never saw so much silver coinage in my life. I bet he’d buried fifteen tubs of silver in his basement. Now Sue said, “Would you help me with something. Doug’s out of breath and I don’t know what to do with these things.” And still down in the basement, they had silver bricks; I’d never seen a silver brick, I don’t really know what they were. Doug had gone to the Federal Reserve in St Louis when silver coins were still available and purchased about ten solid silver bricks. I mean these things were heavy, the size of a [masonry] brick, and they were stamped with whatever ounces it was. I remember carrying those up from the basement and putting them under the stairwell until Sue could figure out what she was going to do with them.

I thought in honor of Halloween I would tell one other story. This one’s about another BCHS donor, Cornelia Davis, a delightful lady to deal with. I thought the world of her and she thought the world of me. I just adored working with this lady. She had the most piercing blue eyes; do you remember that? When you looked at her she had these eyes that could peel wallpaper off of a wall whenever you looked at her, and she was a wonderful supporter. Cornelia donated \$10,000 to the Bond County Historical Society four different times. And this was all done throughout the DeMoulin mansion project then finally the last gift right before we bought what is now the Hoiles-Davis Museum. She donated the money in honor of her sister Louisa **Randazzo**, her husband Frank Davis, and their sons Tommy and Andy who had all passed away. She had had two special needs sons with Down Syndrome and Cornelia was a devoted mother to her boys and a devoted wife to her husband, she would truly do absolutely anything for him. On the other side, she could be probably one of the most formidable characters you’d ever run into if you were doing something improper. And by improper I mean running a meeting out of order.

I do remember one funny thing – this is the Halloween story. This also goes back to my earliest years. I was going to Greenville College. I was working as a stock boy at the Greenville Lumber Company. I was asked to do a history talk. I had done a couple history talks – one at Martha **Metzger**’s house on one room schoolhouses right before we

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bought and restored the Palmer School House [from Tamalco Township which opened as a museum in 1982]. I did that talk for the Bond County Retired Teachers Association. I did one on country churches, I think, out at Tom and Helen Paine's. I did a talk for the Daughters of 1812 here in the region; we had a salad luncheon at the Methodist Church. Anyway, the talk I did that night, I titled it "Boogers, Witches and Haints," a Halloween talk about some of the spooky places in Bond County. I did this talk based on some of the stories from the Foxfire magazine [that had articles based on Georgia students' interviews with local people about aspects and practices in Appalachian culture] and so forth. And I added in a bit of history research for Bond County and tied all these things together with the mountain folklore, calling it "Boogers, Witches, and Haints." So I did that talk which went over like a lead balloon. I remember Cornelia Davis came up to me and she was about this tall – about 4 foot 9, very trim, very proper, and those piercing blue eyes. She came up, poked me in the chest with her bony finger, looking at me. And she said, "Surely you don't believe any of this nonsense..." I threw those notes away! There is no existence of that talk that I never did again; never wanted to see that side of Cornelia ever, ever again. But I *should* have been chastised for that talk! Every experience I've had, and Karen Reelitz can tell you as well working with the lineage societies with Cornelia as she did, I cannot say enough about how wonderful she was, for us and for [those others].

Judy Schneck, you too were a dear friend of Cornelia's and I would like to ask you if you would stand and say a couple words about her, because I know she adored you and you're the reason we got our donations. Cornelia knew you were working your tail off, as we all were. For us for those six years, Judy, it was like pushing a rock uphill, wasn't it? It seemed like it. We had fun doing it and Cornelia knew we were doing our best.

JUDY SCHNECK: Well, she came to visit me four different times with her \$10,000 check. I think sometimes she brought them to me at the [Bradford] bank. So total our seed money was \$65,000 and then we got all these other donors. If my memory serves as I'm thinking back, I think our last offer to Bowman was \$110,000 or \$115,000? [That was only half of the original asking price.] And we offered him a tax write-off for the difference. He wouldn't bite. And that was the end of it. We'd just spent months and months trying to get his house. So then, like you had said, the Alexanders were wonderful, we bought the house and then the [Kingsbury] Park District was another thing to handle. We went to meetings and meetings and meetings. They had been collecting a museum tax for years that they had never spent on a museum. So we thought it was an entirely appropriate thing for them to give us some of the money to pay the light bill and make sure that once we opened this we had the money to pay utilities.

And then we had all the remodeling and stuff, and do you remember the bats? We got a security system. It would keep going off; and we'd go and unlock the door and nothing would be wrong and we couldn't figure out what in the world? Everything was locked up; nothing had been disturbed. And then one day somebody was working in there and a bat flew through the motion sensor. So then it was solved.

And we did other things, you know, landscaping the back and all, but Cornelia was so generous in giving us her gift four times. And if you displeased her you got The Look, and You Knew. But she was a very good lady, so interested in this museum being a success, and I'm glad that their names were jointly put on it because actually she gave more money than the Hoiles family in the end. And it was just almost unbelievable that this [DeMoulin] house dropped into our lap after that effort. The first thing I did the minute I read the paper was call Kevin and I was just in stunned disbelief. And so we have a lot of battle scars, but you know we worked with some good people and everything worked out, everybody working together and finally then we got the golden goose.

KEVIN: It was all meant to be. [The recent line of owners] have put the monies and the investments into that home. We've grown to the point to where we can tackle this thing now. We're the kind of society that can move in and take care of this home now, do it the justice that it deserves.



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20 Years of Hoiles-Davis Museum, continued...

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And it does stir up an incredible amount of interest. When we had our ribbon cutting in 1999, there were about sixty people present. Those that were present were members of the Bond County Historical Society and the Alexander family. There was nobody there from Chamber of Commerce, nobody from the Women's Club, nobody from City Hall, the mayor could not have cared less if we had a museum or not – he wasn't against us, but it just wasn't his cup of tea. The city manager was Larry **Stover** at the time who always answered any question patiently that I asked; he was not warm and cuddly but he was very nice to me and he wasn't there. It was almost just a colossal non-event and nobody really took much notice of it. And that never bothered me; none of the community helped us do it. It was all of our donors who helped us do it. We did our own thing. We did it well and did it well for twenty years.

We've offered leadership that has led to the very successful events for both the Bicentennial of Greenville and Bicentennial of Bond County. John Goldsmith co-founded these organizations and John Coleman followed them up with his gifted leadership and treasurer abilities. Lester **Harnetiaux**, my immediate predecessor here, was very active in fundraising committees for the Bicentennials which also led to the Fourth Fest going strong now, too. One of the things our organization started – once we bought the museum and I stepped aside and let John Goldsmith be the president – I did my most fun project: that was put together the pictorial history of Greenville and Bond County [published by Acadia in 2003] with a whole committee of people. A very successful project. It was a very good book which has actually turned into – when this was not the intention – because we sold so darned many copies of that thing, it became a fabulous fundraiser for us that we didn't anticipate!

Right after we started the museum, the Hill's Fort Society came into being; it was founded right there in the Hoiles-Davis meeting room. Several of our most active leaders: John Coleman the elder, Bill **Johnson**, myself, Bill **Wilson**, and George and Jeannine Gobberdiel – all very active with Hill's Fort Society for years, particularly Bill Johnson who was my vice president previously. John Goldsmith of course was active with and one of the leaders of what would become the National Road Association of Illinois, which actually started at one of our historical society meetings. I had Lyle **Kruger** over here from Altamont, we met him and had him give a program, showed him some signage we had from Alva **Nance's** collection and so he met up with the Gobberdiels and started talking about the idea of forming the National Road Association. And now John Goldsmith is running the DeMoulin Museum – the most successful of our museums here in town, hands down, unbelievable job what he's done there. So, like I say, our society has offered some real leadership not only within our own organization but to these others having successes in our community which is something we're very, very proud of over these twenty years.

I think we've carried off wonderful programs for twenty solid years under a number of leaders – other than myself: music programs, Wild West shows, ham and bean dinners, music festivals – that's something that I thought about and miss having. I remember Lyle and Doris **Mayfield** playing bluegrass and folk music there on the front steps of the Hoiles-Davis Museum and I looked, I've got pictures of Lyle and Doris, but I could not find them to bring tonight. I'm sure a few of you remember those events and I'd like to see us bring some of that back and do that at the new setting because we do have a killer new facility [for our future use].

With that we're going to go ahead and wrap things up for this evening. Thank you all for being with us to help celebrate our twentieth anniversary of our museum and thank you all for your votes of support and confidence as we move forward. I see a lot of our board and directors here; thank you for the opportunity you've given us and we will see what all we can do for next year's programs.

New Clinton County Genealogy Club

Clinton County Genealogy Club held their first meeting January 24, 2019 at the Case-Halstead Public Library in Carlyle, Illinois for anyone interested in genealogy throughout the county. This group will cover the entire county, every township, every city/town/village. They would like to hear from everyone with family from Clinton County! This initial meeting was a brainstorming session; people coming with their ideas, questions, and/or needs for the group. Follow the new club on Facebook for information about further meetings, activities and research opportunities! <https://www.facebook.com/pg/ClintonCountyILGenealogy/>

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.

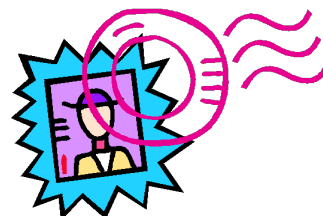
To make your query more effective, include dates, places and full names whenever possible. The query may also be published on our Website. You may E-Mail your queries to the newsletter committee at bcgs_editor@sbcglobal.net or send Snail Mail to: Bond County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 172, Greenville, 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 2019!

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 2019 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).

Cassette Tapes to MP3 Files, continued...

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Many audio editors are available, but only one offers all the features you need for free while being simple to learn and use: Audacity. This open-source tool is perfect for recovering audio from older, physical formats. Follow tutorials to install, record, edit and enhance your material.

The most obvious option is a USB audio capture card which comes with the necessary cables for connecting your cassette player to your PC. You can also use a dedicated USB cassette player which is designed specifically for transferring audio from tape to a PC. Or the super low-tech solution would be to use a voice recording app on your smartphone and capture the cassette contents as it plays—though this will also pick up various background noises. Your local library may even have set up its own “Makerspace” with audio converter equipment and/or VHS video to DVD or other digital format.

Read more at <https://blog.eogn.com/2019/01/04/how-to-easily-convert-old-cassette-tapes-to-modern-mp3-files/> and <https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/convert-cd-cassette-minidisc-mp3/> and <https://www.ongenealogy.com/how-to-convert-cassette-tapes-to-digital-files/>