

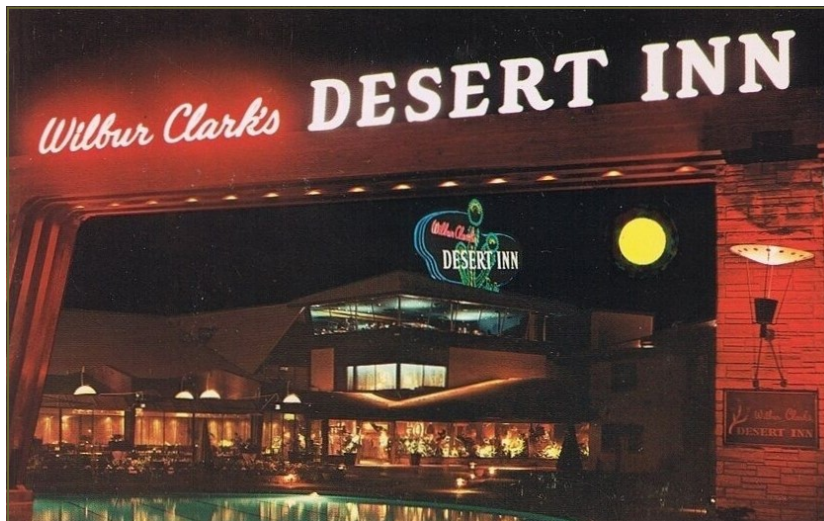
Bond County Genealogical Society News

Volume 34, Issue 2

Summer July 2019

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

Wilbur Clark: From Bond County to Mr. Las Vegas



This classic 1950s post card of the Desert Inn shows the famous stone and redwood entrance superimposed over the pool. The glass encased Sky Room in the center became a popular gathering place for celebrities and guests after shows in the evenings, and during the daytime it afforded views of the surrounding desert and atomic bomb tests at the Nevada Proving Grounds. *No photo credit, public domain.*

By John S. Coleman

The title “Mr. Las Vegas” has been bestowed on many people over the last 70 years. It’s usually a gesture to indicate that a businessman or entertainer has spent a significant part of their career in that city and added to its legacy. One of the first, and possibly the very first person to hold that title, was a man who truly helped build modern Las Vegas out of the desert sands and create the gambling and entertainment mecca that it is today. And his life started in Bond

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Special points of interest:

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- Vandalia and Carlyle History Books Released.
- DeMoulin Museum on Bicentennial Podcast.
- New BCGS Treasurer.
- 16th Quilt Show Results.
- Remembering the Ladies on Our Family Trees.
- A Turned Around House in Museum’s Back Yard.

Bond County Genealogical Society

Officers

President - Cindy Tischhauser
Vice President - Kevin Kaegy
Treasurer - John S. Coleman
Recording Secretary - Jane Hopkins
Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Tischhauser
Historian - Kevin Kaegy
Editor - open
Director(s) - Mike Evans

Appointees

Library - Jane Hopkins
Program - Kevin Kaegy
Membership - Jane Hopkins
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.

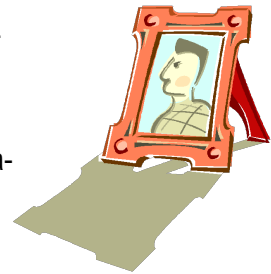
www.bondcountyhistorical.org



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

Sept 12, 2019 Annual Rural Church Potluck & Program @
Pleasant Mound Baptist Church.

October 2019 Historical & Genealogical Societies Annual
Dinner Meeting plus BCHS Elections. Details TBA.

*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.





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.

Mr. Las Vegas, continued...

(Continued from page 1)
County.

Wilbur Ivern **Clark** was born December 27, 1908 on the north side of Keyesport to parents Shirley Thomas Clark and Lulu Ethel **Welch** Clark. He joined a three year old brother Harold and a two year old sister Merle. Shirley, who came from nearby Boulder, was a mail carrier. Lulu was the daughter of Oliver Welch, who operated general stores in Tamalco and Keyesport and was well known in the area for his involvement in Republican politics and as a former Tamalco Township supervisor.

When Wilbur was still an infant, Shirley was transferred to Sandoval, and he moved his family there. Sandoval had just blossomed into a small boom town after oil rigs and a coal mine opened, attracting men looking for work. However, before Wilbur was old enough to start school his father moved to Detroit, apparently looking for work himself, while Lulu and the children returned to Keyesport to live with her parents.

Wilbur often compared his childhood in Keyesport on the banks of the Kaskaskia River to Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. He spent summers mostly outdoors running around barefoot or hanging out at his Grandfather's store. He grew to love sports and horses. He also grew close to his family, especially his brother Harold. Wilbur was remembered as an outgoing boy who loved harmless practical jokes. He attended Keyesport's public school and seemed to make friends with everyone he met. He also acquired an unusual habit: eating peanuts, shells and

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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).



Fundraising Underway Towards ADA Compliance at U.S. DeMoulin Mansion

Last year, Bond County Historical Society was gifted the large home locally known and beloved as the U.S. **DeMoulin** Mansion along South Fourth Street in Greenville to move its museum. The Hoiles-Davis Museum has been in existence over 20 years, providing information and presenting artifacts on the history of Bond County. The museum is in the process of being moved across the street to the new location.

John S. **Coleman**, treasurer of the historical society, said it's a long process and there is a lot of work to be done. The society needs to review some plans with an architect and the building must be made handicapped accessible. A building and grounds committee is in discussions to remodel and enlarge a ground-floor restroom to make it useable for the public. Also there is a plan to make a new entrance with a ramp. It will be 2020 before the new museum opens.

A fundraising committee has been organizing several events in the first half of 2019 to build awareness and bring in financial resources. They held Garage Sales May 2, 3, 4 and 25, an Eat At Joe's Pizza Night May 6, and the annual Homemade Ice Cream & Pie Social in conjunction with the Greenville Municipal Band Concert June 20. Financial donations for the new museum can be sent to the historical society at Post Office Box 376, Greenville, IL 62246.



Perusing the hidden treasures at a chilly morning Garage Sale May 3.
Photo by editor.

Homemade Ice Cream & Pie Social

"Thanks for spending a gorgeous Thursday evening with us June 20! While the Greenville Municipal Band played, at one point we counted 104 guests in attendance at our Pie & Ice Cream Social. Our first time hosting the Muny Band at the U.S. DeMoulin house lawn was all we dreamed it would be

and more. Thanks to all the Bond County Historical Society members who helped make the event possible in 2019." — Bond County Historical Society Facebook



Above Right: BCHS President Kevin Kaegy addresses the crowd of over 100 as the Muny Band Concert gets underway June 20. *Photos by editor.*

Slavery and Illinois: the Land of Lincoln, Part 3

Continued from Part 2 in the B.C.G.S. News Vol 34, Issue 1, Winter 2019. 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 Parts 1 and 2, a young Abraham **Lincoln's** family never owned slaves and their social class may have even competed for jobs with slave labor, while members of his wife, Mary **Todd's**, large, wealthy, Southern family certainly did hold slaves and indentured servants. In Illinois, The Lincolns lived among and knew slaves and free persons of color on a regular basis. As an Illinois House Representative, he supported expanded suffrage and the abolition of slavery. 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”. Although Lincoln lost the 1858 election race for a U.S. Congressional seat, the slavery-themed debates between himself and Stephen **Douglas** launched him into national prominence which in 1860 led to his election as President of the United States.

As president, Abraham Lincoln was initially uncertain about what to do on the issue. Seven slave-holding states seceded, established a new Confederate government and formed an army almost overnight. Lincoln would rather save the union than end slavery, but finally set his legal mind upon utilizing the extraordinary powers granted the president during wartime. The north had been losing the Civil War fight for seventeen months as the south, with their superior generals, won battles defending their home. Lincoln knew slaves were building earthworks, repairing railways, feeding, clothing and otherwise supplying the south. He might be able to end slavery as a means to fight the war. But the north's chances of war success still looked grim and so Lincoln waited.

Then, at the Battle of Antietam (or Battle of Sharpsburg) September 17, 1862, northern forces chased the south's General Robert E. **Lee** off of northern soil, halting an invasion but failing to cripple the southern army. Losses from the battle were heavy on both sides, about 26,000 men were killed, missing, captured, or wounded – the largest number of American deaths in battle in a single day in military history. The strategic victory allowed Lincoln to issue a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, warning that he would free all slaves in any state that did not end its rebellion by the first of the year. In his second annual message to Congress, in December 1862, he said, “...We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We - even we here - hold the power, and bear the responsibility. In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free - honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve...”

Lincoln's proclamation was a careful one. It only provided for freedom of slaves held in Confederate states in rebellion. He could not target slaves in the border states currently fighting on the side of the Union or those states' regiments would have turned sides and fought against the North. The proclamation did weaken

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Slavery and Illinois continued...

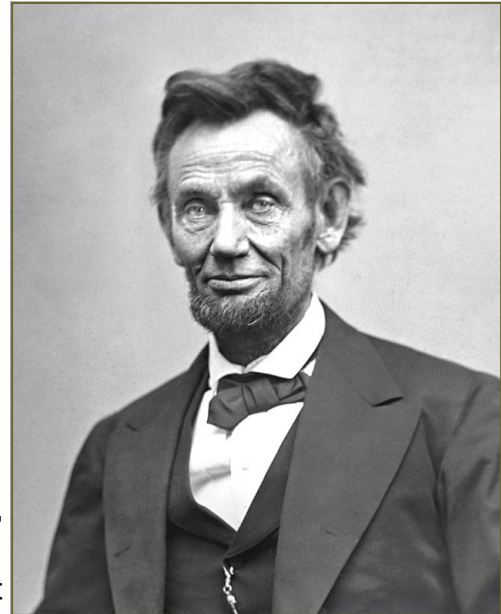
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the south's war effort. Many slaves escaped and fled to the north, even joining the Union Army. European powers were deterred against recognizing and helping the Confederate States. With the emergence of strong offensive generals such as Ulysses **Grant**, William **Sherman**, and George **Meade**, the north won strings of victories, including large ones at Vicksburg and Gettysburg in 1863.

With the Union victory in the Civil War in sight, Lincoln looked to make permanent the forever freedom of America's people. He won re-election on an abolition campaign and his lame duck Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime, in all states and territories.

As evidenced in photographs, while in office, the great burden of the experience, duty and responsibility aged Lincoln incredibly. His lean, lined, melancholic face and silvered hair in early 1865 are a shocking contrast to the hearty, genial, if somewhat gawky middle aged man on his first inauguration day only four years earlier. He looked decades older.

Taken too soon by the assassination that prevented a smoother reconstruction and a more tolerant and lasting integration of freedmen into the economic and social fabric of a reunified United States, Abraham Lincoln, the president from Illinois, with his lifelong hatred of slavery and complex legal strategies in dealing with the immoral and unjust institution, stands as a towering figure responsible for more specific lasting achievements in human liberty than anyone else.



Lincoln in February 1865, two months before his death.
Photo by Alexander Gardner, Library of Congress.

Sources helpful in preparing this 3-part article beyond Kaegy's presentation, common knowledge, and officially documented political speeches include:

William E. Barton. *The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Volume I*. 1925.

Roy P. Basler, editor. *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, Volume I*. 1953.

Albert J. Beveridge. *Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1858, Volume I*. 1928.

John J. Duff. *A. Lincoln: Prairie Lawyer*. 1960.

Richard E. Hart. "Springfield's African Americans as a Part of the Lincoln Community" *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*. Volume 20, Issue 1, Winter 1999, pp. 35-54.

<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.2629860.0020.104>

"Illinois Legislature" and "Legal Cases". *Mr Lincoln And Freedom: An American History Project of The Lehrman Institute*. <http://www.mrlincolnandfreedom.org/>.

Herbert Mitgang. *The Fiery Trial: A Life of Abraham Lincoln*. 1974.

Kenneth J. Winkle. *The Young Eagle: The Rise of Abraham Lincoln*. 2001.

Online Genealogical Resources

Free Downloadable World War I Research Checklist

The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, with the support of the Doughboy Foundation and others, made available during June 2019 a free digital download of Debra M. Dudek's World War I Genealogy Research Guide: Tracing American Military and Non-Combatant Ancestors.

The book's Table of Contents includes WW I Research Online (U.S.), State Specific Collections and Resources, Essential Records at the National Archives, Naturalization and Enemy Alien Records, Non-Military Women's WWI Records, and a Short Guide to Researching Canadian Military WWI Records. This Guide (104 pages in PDF format) could be requested at the WWI Centennial Commission website at <http://ww1cc.org/guide>.

Dudek is head of Adult and Teen Services at the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, Ill. Her website at <http://www.debradudek.com> offers a link to a helpful step-by-step checklist for locating resources and records of WWI participants.

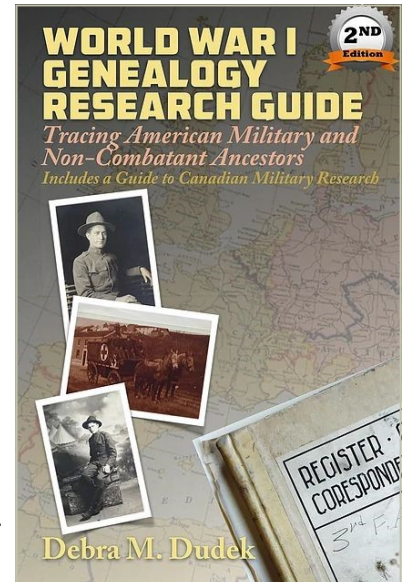
The site also has information on the print version of her book (now in a 2nd edition), published articles, and upcoming speaking engagements. Members of the Illinois State Genealogical society are fortunate to have received the society's Quarterly; the Spring 2019 issue included her article, "Finding Your Illinois Ancestor Who Fought in the Great War." The Nov-Dec 2018 issue of Illinois Heritage magazine from the Illinois State Historical Society included her article, "What's Your Family's World War I Story? Filling in the Blanks with Genealogical Records and Resources." Her WWI Genealogy Research Guide should be in every genealogy library.

Collections Coming Soon to Ancestry.com

- ◆ U.S. Obituary Records, Summer 2019—Watch for new indexes of both recent and new obituaries published in U.S. newspapers, adding hundreds of millions of names.
- ◆ U.S. School Yearbooks, 1900-1990, Fall 2019—Look for more yearbooks and additional features to be added to this rich collection.
- ◆ More U.S. County Marriages, Ongoing—Updates to existing collections add-



If you're unsure of whether or not your ancestor served in World War I, look them up in the 1930 US Federal Census. During this census year, the government collected military service information from men aged 21 and up. Some veterans, such as those who had served in back-to-back conflicts—such as the Mexican Border War of 1910-1919 and the World War of 1917-1919—will have credit for serving in both. This is a great insight to your ancestor's military service!



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Online Genealogical Resources, continued...

(Continued from page 8)

ing all new records from counties, most of which are online for the first time.

- ◆ More U.S. State Vital Records, Ongoing—Updates and new collections of U.S. vital records.

Invisible Women Ancestors

The individual identities of women who lived prior to the twentieth century are often very tangled in those of their husbands, both by law and by custom. In many places, women were not allowed to own real estate in their name, to sign legal documents, or to participate in government. Men wrote the histories, paid the taxes, participated in the military and left wills. Men were also the ones whose surname was carried into the next generation by the children. As a result, female ancestors are often neglected in family histories and genealogies—listed with only a first name and approximate dates for birth and death. They are our “invisible ancestors.”

Try these special strategies for uncovering hard to find information about the female ancestors in your family tree. We can't skip records just because we think we know what's going to be in there. Generally, the single best place to locate a maiden name for a female ancestor is on her marriage record. Marriage records in the United States are usually found at the county and town clerks' offices, but in some cases they are found in the records of churches, the military and in the state offices of vital records and boards of health. Check divorce records, too. We need to also research ALL of her husbands and ALL of her children, not just the man and child that we descend from.

Visit the cemetery for yourself, find family members buried in the same row, or in neighboring rows, check cemetery records, church burial, and funeral records.

Once you locate your female ancestor in the census, be sure to copy the entire page on which she is listed. To be on the safe side you may even want to copy the page directly before and after hers as well. They should not be overlooked for the wealth of other information and clues that they provide about women and their lives.

Land records. Early deeds for married couples may only give you the name of the husband with either no mention of his wife, or only a first name. If your female ancestor was widowed or divorced, however, you may find her conducting her own land transactions. When you are examining deed indexes for your surnames, look for the Latin phrases “et ux.” (and wife) and “et al.” (and others). Another area to watch for is when a man or a couple sold land to your ancestors for a dollar, or some other small consideration. The ones selling the land (the grantors) are more than likely the parents or relatives of your female ancestor.

For more detailed tips and resources, visit these web sites:

- ◆ http://genealogy.about.com/od/women/a/female_ancestor.htm
- ◆ <http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2016/11/17/3-practical-strategies-finding-female-ancestors/>



Grave Matters: DAR Recognizes Campground Church & Cemetery

Synthesized from articles published June 18, 2019 in the Greenville Advocate by reporter Emily **Lucia-Rose** and in WGEL 101.7FM Daily News

History was in the air Sunday afternoon, June 16, 2019, as the Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution and the local DAR Benjamin Mills Chapter recognized the Campground Cumberland Presbyterian church and cemetery. Both are located in the south part of Bond County and were featured in this "Grave Matters" column in the B.C.G.S. News Volume 33 Issue 2 Summer July 2018.

The church and cemetery are well over 150 years old and have been known as one of many historical sites in Bond County. The church still welcomes a congregation every Sunday and loved ones are still buried in the cemetery. Overseeing the cemetery is a board, with Bruce **Clanton** serving as president.

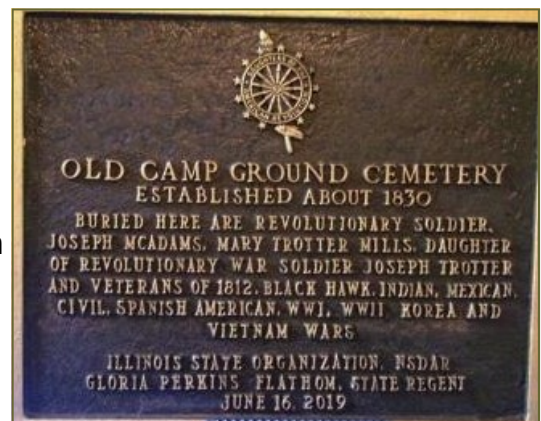
The dedication ceremony, held in the church with approximately 55 persons in attendance, opened with welcome remarks from Debra **Coe**, the State Historian of the Illinois State Organization National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), and an invocation from local Benjamin Mills Chapter of the DAR Chaplin Donna **Burden Hart**. The AMVETS Post color guard presented the flags, other local residents gave welcomes, including Greenville Mayor Alan **Gaffner**. Bond County Historical Society President Kevin **Kaegy** presented a history of the church and cemetery, noting that there are over 88 veterans from the Revolutionary War to the World Wars, buried in the cemetery. Mike **Hall**, representing Congressman John **Shimkus**, read a resolution Shimkus delivered in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Two plaques were presented to the church and the cemetery to commemorate the event. "A revival meeting of local families led to the founding of the church at this site circa 1826," Gloria **Perkins Flathom**, the State Regent of the Illinois State Organization NSDAR stated as she read from the church plaque. "The original church building held worship services furnished with only the bare necessities, a dirt floor, and a pulpit."

Flathom also read the cemetery's plaque, "Buried here are Revolutionary soldier Joseph **McAdams**, Mary Trotter **Mills**, Daughter of Revolutionary War Soldier Joseph **Trotter**, and veterans of 1812, Black Hawk, Indian, Mexican, Civil, Spanish American, WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Wars.

The dedication acknowledges the church and cemetery as DAR recognized historical sites. Campground Church Pastor Greg **LeDuc** gave a closing benediction after the plaques were presented to the church.

Following the ceremony at the Campground Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Old Cemetery, DAR Benjamin Mills Chapter hosted a reception at the future home of the Bond County Historical Society's Museum, the U.S. **DeMoulin** Mansion on South Fourth Street in Greenville.



NSDAR Cemetery Plaque. Photo by WGEL 101.7 FM

Former Carlyle Resident Creates Book on the History of Carlyle

From a November 2018 article in the Union Banner

Eileen Bone's book Carlyle, Illinois - Through the Eyes of an Artist, is a pictorial history of Carlyle and features Bone's paintings she did from 1971 to the present of historical places in Carlyle. Proceeds are benefitting Clinton County Historical Society. Copies are still available at the Case-Halstead Public Library 550 6th St, Carlyle, Illinois. Call Keith at the Library at 618-594-5210 and he can provide the details.

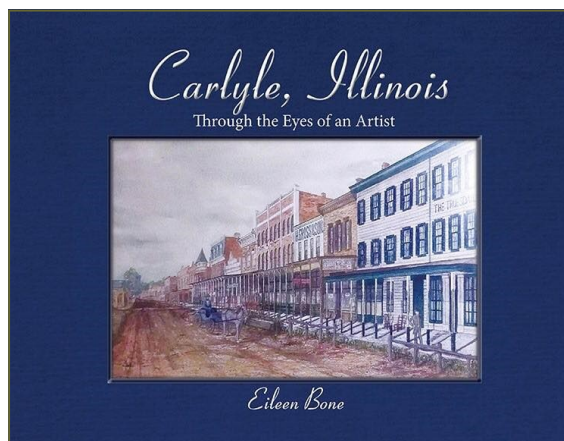
The **Maddux** mansion was the catalyst for other historical paintings that Bone did of buildings around Carlyle.

She has painted Charles **Slade**'s house, the old Carlyle School, and an original downtown Carlyle historical street, just to name a few. "Each chapter starts with one of the paintings that I did of one of these historical places in Carlyle. Not all of the paintings I did are historical; I think there are two of them that are not," Bone said. "It came about when I had that show at Case-Halstead Public Library [in May 2018], in which I had all these big panels of all my paintings. I had segregated the historical paintings from regular projects that I have done."

The book highlights the major historical buildings in Carlyle. Bone wanted to donate the large panels that contained her pictures of the paintings of the old buildings, but the Clinton County Historical Society had no space to display the panels. So Bone [along with CCHS culprits Bob **Seiffert**, Bob **Rakers**, Bill **Beckemeyer**, with Dr. Deana **DuComb** giving her thumbs up] came up with the idea to create a book. "I want to save Carlyle as much as I can, even if it is only in pictures," Bone said. "That is why I did the paintings in the first place, to save the places that are gone, particularly the Maddux Mansion."

MT Publishing, which produced Carlyle, Illinois, through the Eyes of an Artist, is a non-risk publishing company, according to Bone. She said that the books had to be pre-ordered before January 15, 2019. On Jan. 31 the Clinton County Historical Society hosted a book pick up. Only a limited amount of books were printed.

Saturday, March 2, 2019, Bone made a book signing appearance at the Clinton County Historical Society's museum, the former Sidney **Breese** home. She commented, "What a day! Sold almost as many to 'walk-ins' as 'pick ups'!" Bone said she is contemplating if she'd like to create another book as well.



Clinton County Genealogy Club Continues Meeting 4th Thursdays

6pm at Case-Halstead Library in Carlyle. All are welcome! What might you have missed this spring? April 25 saw the Webinar: 1850 -1900 U.S. Federal Census Secrets Revealed. May 30 brought special guests Rod **Kloeckner**, Vicki **Albers**, and Janine **Fauk** to go over the records available at the Clinton County Courthouse. Break for the summer. **Next meeting is August 29 at the Clinton County Historical Society Museum at 6pm.** The club will explore the genealogical records at the museum. Bring along your research, and any genealogical treasures you would like to share. Follow at <https://www.facebook.com/ClintonCountyILGenealogy/>.

And NOTICE: Update your bookmarks for Clinton County IL GenWeb site. They have moved. The new website address is <http://clintonilgw.org/>. The "click here" link on their old site does not go to the correct page.

New Treasurer Chosen for Bond County Genealogical Society

Mrs Elaine **Anthony** gave notice of her resignation as Bond County Genealogical Society Treasurer at the May 28, 2019 joint meeting of BCGS and Bond County Historical Society. She has also co-coordinated the membership list in recent years. The decision is due to her declining health. Thank you, Elaine, for your over 32 years of dedicated service as BCGS Treasurer, Historian, and Membership Coordinator!

John S **Coleman**, current BCHS treasurer and pictured on right, has assumed the position of BCGS Treasurer. Jane **Hopkins** continues as Membership Coordinator.

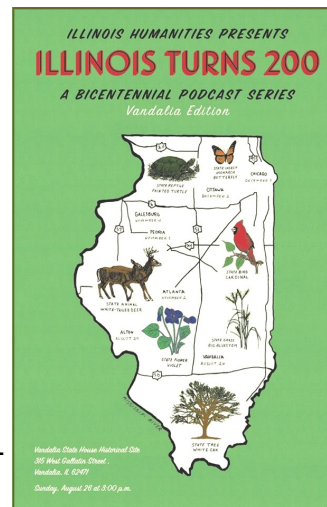


Illinois Turns 200: A Bicentennial Podcast Series

Adapted from official information provided by series collaborator: Illinois Humanities <https://www.ilhumanities.org/program/illinois-bicentennial/>

Illinois Turns 200 looks at the past, present, and potential futures of seven Illinois communities that arose along rivers, railroads, and significant roads and tells their stories through live interviews, dramatic readings, archival material, and musical performances. The series kicked off in Alton at the National Great Rivers Museum on August 25, 2018. It continued in Vandalia at the State House Historical Site on August 26, the Atlanta Museum on November 2, G.A.R. Memorial Hall in Peoria on November 3, Galesburg's Carl Sandburg State Historic Site on November 4, and then Tangled Roots Brewing Company in Ottawa on December 2. The series concluded on Illinois' birthday itself, December 3, in Chicago at The Hideout, a storied bar and event venue.

Following a folk-variety show format, emcee Paul **Durica**, director of programs for Illinois Humanities, conducted brief interviews with individuals who have unique ties to each of the hosting locations and their heritages.



(Continued on page 13)

Podcast Series continued...

(Continued from page 12)

The entire program of each, including time for audio re-takes and applause, lasted about 80 minutes. The Illinois Turns 200 Bicentennial podcasts were edited and produced for broadcast on National Public Radio affiliates in Illinois and for downloading. The series was produced in collaboration with the Studs **Terkel** Radio Archive.

Vandalia's podcast live recording featured a reappraisal of Joseph **Lyford's** 1962 bestseller *The Talk in Vandalia*; Mary **Truitt** on William C. **Greenup** and the National Road; Dale **Timmerman** on the many possible origins of the name "Vandalia"; Steve and Kyle **Barker** on the pleasures of renovating and restoring historic homes in the present; and Linda **Hanabarger** on the hidden

history of the Underground Railroad in the area. Chris **Vallillo** and Bucky **Halker** performed music that captures the character and culture of Vandalia while a special guest from the town's past (hint: he has a beard and a preference for stovepipe hats) was on hand to share his thoughts on the place.

Atlanta's podcast live recording highlighted the community's connections to Route 66. The episode explored the creation of the "Mother Road" (and early adventurers on it), its appeal to international travelers, the impact tourism is having on Atlanta's future, and roadside attractions such as Bunyon's Giant, the enormous statue that once stood in front of Bunyon's hot dog stand in Cicero but that now calls Atlanta home. Special guests included John **Goldsmith** from the DeMoulin Museum in Greenville sharing some of the costumes and pranks the **DeMoulin** brothers made for fraternal organizations across the country, including the one that is now the Atlanta Museum. Chris Vallillo and the Orpheus Mandolin Orchestra performed music that captures the character and culture of Atlanta while Kevin **Wood** was on hand as Abraham **Lincoln** to share his thoughts on the place.

Listen now to all seven episodes at <https://www.ilhumanities.org/program/illinois-bicentennial/>



Illinois Turns 200 Vandalia panel guests. Photo by Vandalia mayor Ricky Gottman.

John Goldsmith, curator of the DeMoulin Museum in Greenville, Illinois:

"I'm still astonished by the adventures I'm led to by our quirky little museum. I was invited by the Illinois Humanities Council to participate in the recording of a podcast celebrating Illinois' Bicentennial. Recorded at the Atlanta, IL History Museum (a former fraternal lodge), this is one in a series of podcasts. This was an incredible opportunity that will likely open more doors for our little museum. First time I've been on the same program as Abe Lincoln and a mandolin orchestra. :) As I've said many times, I never planned on being the DeMoulin historian (or genealogist), but each day it seems more and more that this is what I was destined to do. Isn't that somethin'?"

Thank Heavens for Rand McNally Auto Road Maps and the State Highway Numbering System!

1918's Automobile Blue Book Pages 392–395 and article intro submitted by John S. Coleman

How do you go from St. Louis to Terre Haute today? Easy, just get on I-70 and go east!

How did you go from St. Louis to Terre Haute in 1918? Well...not so easy as this was before route numbers, road signs, or GPS. To get there you had to follow four pages of directions in this book, known as the Automobile Blue Book. You also had to have good weather as most of these roads were dirt.

The Automobile Blue Book was an American series of road guides for motoring travelers in the United States and Canada published between 1901 and 1929. It was best known for its point-to-point road directions at a time when numbered routes generally did not exist.

Route 272—St. Louis, Mo., to Terre Haute, Ind.— 176.3 m. Reverse Route 346.

Via Vandalia and Effingham. A section of the old National Road, excepting between Highland and Greenville and between Altamont and Effingham. First 160 miles fair-to-poor dirt, with a few short stretches of concrete. Last 17 miles gravel. Some of the dirt road is really good and fast when dry, but most of it as far as Effingham is really in pretty poor shape and very bad when wet. Route 270 is a longer but far superior option.

Note (a) gives a wet weather option from Pierron to Greenville.

MILEAGE

Total Intermed.

For this and other exits see City Map, page 374.

0.0 0.0 ST. LOUIS, MO., Washington & 12th Sts. Go east with trolley on Washington St.

0.7 0.7 Irregular 4-corners, at open square; jog left and immediately right, crossing "The Eads" bridge over Mississippi River.

0.8 0.1 Toll House, on left (charges 10c per person).

Pages 392-395 of 1918's Automobile Blue Book describe, turn by turn, the route from St Louis to Terre Haute. Before officially marked routes, private auto clubs and Photo-Auto map guides attempted to help travelers navigate America.

Begin selected Transcription from 1918's Automobile Blue Book:

Route 272 – St Louis, Mo., to Terre Haute, Ind. – 176.3m. Reverse Route 346.

Via Vandalia and Effingham. A section of the old National Road, excepting between Highland and Greenville and between Altamont and Effingham. First 160 miles fair-to-poor dirt, with a few short stretches of concrete. Last 17 miles gravel. Some of the dirt road is really good and fast when dry, but most of it as far as Effingham is really in pretty poor shape and very bad when wet. Route 270 is a longer but far superior option.

Note (a) gives a wet weather option from Pierron to Greenville...

Page 393 includes dry weather directions via Millersburg through Greenville to Mulberry, etc:

Pierron. Straight thru across RR at sta.

- 3.2 4-corners; turn left around blacksmith's shop. Thru **Millersburg**.
- 1.5 Right-hand road; turn right with travel. Avoid road to right.
- 3.6 Left-hand road; turn left and follow main traveled road.
- 3.2 End of road at school; turn right.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

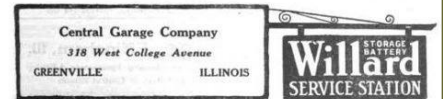
- 0.1 Left-hand road; turn left, crossing RR.
- 0.8 End of road; meeting poles, bear right onto the National Road again. Cross RRs.
- 2.3 Bear left and immediately turn right with poles across RR.
- 0.7 End of road turn left.
- 0.5 Cross RR and at 4-corners beyond, turn right along tracks.
- 0.2 Just beyond sta.; turn left away from RR. Follow 2nd St. into
- 0.5 **Greenville**, * 2nd St. & College Ave., at court house on left. Straight thru (north) on 2nd St.
- 0.1 End of street; turn right onto brick.
- 0.1 1st St.; turn left, immediately curving right onto Beaumont St.
- 0.7 Right-hand diagonal road; bear right with poles. Cross RR.
- 3.3 End of road; turn left.
- 0.6 Right-hand road; turn right with poles.
- 3.9 **Mulberry**, 4-corners at small hotel. Turn left (north) two blocks, curving right with the poles past church on right.
- 0.8 End of road; turn right over RR ridge. Follow main traveled road with poles, jogging left and right with the road...

Page 395 finds the "note (a)" wet weather directions into Greenville via Pocahontas.

- Pierron**. Straight thru across RR at sta.
- 3.3 4-corners, barn on left ; turn left.
- 3.0 **Pocahontas**. Keep ahead across RR at sta.
- 0.5 4-corners, park on left, brick school on right; turn left.
- 0.2 End of road; turn right.
- 3.4 Right-hand road; turn right.
- 1.0 End of road; turn right, shortly turning left.
- 1.0 Fork; bear left.
- 1.2 Left-hand road; turn left with travel.
- 0.8 End of road; turn left.
- 1.0 Right-hand road; turn right with travel. Pass small wooden school on right.
- 1.8 End of road; turn left and take next right-hand road.
- 1.9 End of road; turn right across concrete bridge, shortly curving left ascending grade.
- 0.3 Fork; bear right upgrade onto College St.
- 0.2 **Greenville**, College & 2nd Strs., court house on right. Straight ahead is Route 272 to Terre Haute

| t. Louis Section | | Route 272 |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 27.1 | 1.9 St. Jacob, 4-corners. Straight thru (east). | |
| 31.6 | 4.5 End of road; turn left. Pass mill on left 33.2. Cross RR 33.3. | |
| 33.4 | 1.8 4-corners; turn right onto Broadway. | |
| 33.8 | 0.4 Highland, Broadway & Cypress Sts. Turn left (north) onto Cypress St., two blocks. | |
| 34.0 | 0.2 Caution, 4-corners, blacksmith shop on right; turn right. | |
| 34.2 | 0.2 End of road, St. Joseph Hospital on right; jog left and at right-hand diagonal road immediately beyond; bear right. Cross RR 34.6. | |
| 37.5 | 3.3 Right-hand diagonal road, sign on right; bear right. | |
| 39.3 | 1.8 Pierron. Straight thru across RR at sta. | |
| | See Note (a) for wet weather option to Greenville. | |
| 42.5 | 3.2 4-corners; turn left around blacksmith's shop. Thru Millersburg 43.6. | |
| 44.0 | 1.5 Right-hand road; turn right with travel. Avoid road to right 45.4. | |
| 47.6 | 3.6 Left-hand road; turn left and follow main traveled road. | |
| 50.8 | 3.2 End of road at school; turn right. | |
| 50.9 | 0.1 Left-hand road; turn left, crossing RR 51.4. | |
| 51.7 | 0.8 End of road; meeting poles, bear right onto the National Road again. Cross RRs 52.2-53.0. | |
| 54.0 | 2.3 Bear left and immediately turn right with poles across RR 54.2. | |
| 54.7 | 0.7 End of road; turn left. | |
| 55.2 | 0.5 Cross RR and at 4-corners beyond, turn right along tracks. | |
| 55.4 | 0.2 Just beyond sta.; turn left away from RR. Follow 2nd St. into | |
| 55.9 | 0.5 Greenville, * 2nd St. & College Ave., at court house on left. Straight thru (north) on 2nd St. | |
| | GARAGE—Central Garage Co., Inc., College & 2nd Sts., ½ block west of court house. | |
| 56.0 | 0.1 End of street; turn right onto brick. | |
| 56.1 | 0.1 1st St.; turn left, immediately curving right onto Beaumont St. | |
| 56.8 | 0.7 Right-hand diagonal road; bear right with poles. Cross RR 59.8. | |
| 60.1 | 3.3 End of road; turn left. | |
| 60.7 | 0.6 Right-hand road; turn right with poles. | |
| 64.6 | 3.9 Mulberry, 4-corners at small hotel. Turn left (north) two blocks, curving right with the poles past church on right. | |
| 65.4 | 0.8 End of road; turn right over RR ridge 65.7. Follow main traveled road with poles, jogging left and right with the road 71.1. | |
| 71.3 | 5.9 Hagerstown, 4-corners. Turn left (north). | |

*Greenville, Ill. (pop. 5,000, alt. 561 ft.), is located on high ground, the upper part of the city being the highest point on the Pennsylvania R. R. between St. Louis and Terre Haute, Ind. It was the former home of the late Robert Ingersoll, the house where he lived still standing. Greenville College, a co-educational institution of the Free Methodist denomination, is located here, with buildings worth about \$50,000. A new high school, costing nearly \$40,000, is the pride of the city. Greenville is the county seat of Bond county and the only town of any size or importance in the county. Its principal industries are the Heffette Milk Condensing Co., a branch plant paying out for labor and material over \$1,000 daily; DeMoulin Bros. & Co. and the Model Glove Co. Natural gas is furnished in abundance, the wells being only about one mile from the city limits.



Page 393

Note (a) Route 272—Pierron to Greenville, Ill.—19.6 m.

Reverse Note (a) on Route 346.

Dirt roads all the way. This connection to be used as a note for wet weather.

- 32.2 39.3 **PIERRON**. Straight thru across RR at sta.
- 43.6 2.3 4-corners, barn on left; turn left.
- 45.6 3.0 **Pocahontas**. Keep ahead across RR at sta.
- 46.1 0.5 4-corners, park on left, brick school on right; turn left.
- 46.3 0.2 End of road; turn right.
- 49.7 3.4 Right-hand road; turn right.
- 50.7 1.0 End of road; turn right, shortly turning left.
- 51.7 1.0 Fork; bear left.
- 52.9 1.2 Left-hand road; turn left with travel.
- 53.7 0.8 End of road; turn left.
- 54.7 1.0 Right-hand road; turn right with travel. Pass small wooden school on right 55.1.
- 56.5 1.8 End of road; turn left and take next right-hand road.
- 58.4 1.9 End of road; turn right across concrete bridge, shortly curving left ascending grade.
- 58.7 0.3 Fork; bear right upgrade onto College St.
- 58.9 0.2 **GREENVILLE**. College & 2nd Sts., court house on right. Straight ahead is Route 272 to Terre Haute.

GARAGE—Central Garage Co., Inc., 2nd & College Sts., ½ block west of court house.
For diverging routes see Index Map, pages 16-31.

(Continued on page 16)

State Highway Numbering System continued...

(Continued from page 15)

A featured route city, Greenville receives a footnote of description:

*Greenville, Ill (pop. 5,000, alt. 561 ft.), is located on high ground, the upper part of the city being the highest point on the Pennsylvania R.R. between St Louis and Terre Haute, Ind. It was the former home of the late Robert **Ingersoll** [a lawyer, politician, and writer who, as a teenager, stayed with his preacher father in several Greenville citizens' homes 1951-52. The Greenville Journal published Ingersoll's first poem.], the house where he lived still standing. Greenville College, a co-educational institution of the Free Methodist denomination, is located here, with buildings worth about \$50,000. A new high school, costing nearly \$40,000, is the pride of the city. Greenville is the county seat of Bond county and the only town of any size or importance in the county. Its principal industries are the Helvetia Milk Condensing Co., a branch plant paying out for labor and material over \$1,000 daily; DeMoulin Bros. & Co. and the Model Glove Co. Natural gas is furnished in abundance, the wells being only about one mile from the city limits.

An advertisement appears for Central Garage Company, 318 West College Avenue, Greenville.

End Transcription from 1918's Automobile Blue Book.

A Comprehensive Look at the History and Evolution of the Illinois Numbered Highway System

from Richard **Carlson's** Illinois Highways Page <http://www.n9jig.com/>

Illinois was an early leader in providing a numbered highway system. First authorized in 1918 only Wisconsin preceded Illinois, and only by a few months. Michigan followed soon thereafter. It wasn't until 1926 that a nationwide system was established. In the first 20-25 years of the 20th Century several "Auto Routes" or "Trails" had been marked by private auto and bicycle clubs as well as civic organizations but these were inefficient, routed to and thru the towns or businesses that paid to be included on the route.

In 1918 the state legislature let a series of bonds that paid for individual highways between city pairs. While some of the roads already existed in part this was the first time that an organized system of roads was built in Illinois. Later, in 1924, another set of bonds was issued. These were used for fill-in routes, connectors and roads to satisfy local politicians to ensure that every community was well served. The first Illinois Route Marker was a simple outline of the state with the 1 or 2-digit number inside. There were also a batch of lettered routes. These letters were added to the marker below the number. These letter appended routes were spurs from the main road, the N-S roads were on opposite sides of a local river.

Soon it became necessary to reroute roads, change numbers and add new ones. While the SBI numbers remained the backbone of the route numbering system there were enough changes where there became two systems. The SBI numbers were retained as an inventory of roads originally financed from them and the State highway numbering system, while retaining many of the SBI numbers, evolved, grew and eventually re-

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

tracted.

It took the Feds a few years to get into the act. By 1926 many states had their own systems and occasionally state numbers crossed over the border and were retained by the next state. Most of the time however a route that crossed state lines usually changed numbers as it did. The state highway departments as well as the US Department of Transportation (then called the Federal Highway Administration) cooperated on a common numbering system that we now know as US Highways. Back then it was referred to as Interstate highways, not to be confused with the modern day Interstate Highway System.

In Illinois several of the new US Routes were posted. US-66 replaced for the most part IL-4 from Chicago to St. Louis, US-40 replaced IL-11, US-30 replaced IL-6 and so on.

The redundant state numbers were mostly removed from the newly minted US highways over the next decade. Other roads were renumbered, often by extending a different route number to replace a shorter route. It was not uncommon for state numbers to be reused later after they were pulled. Later some state highway numbers were changed to avoid conflicts with newer US and Interstate numbers.

In the 1950s the Interstates were being planned. Now known as the Eisenhower Interstate System, Illinois was a nexus for these new super-highways. While there was already several controlled access roads around the state, including parts of the Illinois Tollway system, most of the Interstates were newly built. They for the most part replaced US highways, I-55 replaced US-66, I-94 replaced US-41, I-70 replaced US-40 etc. Except for US-66 the US route usually remained on the old road but most of the traffic moved to the new facilities.

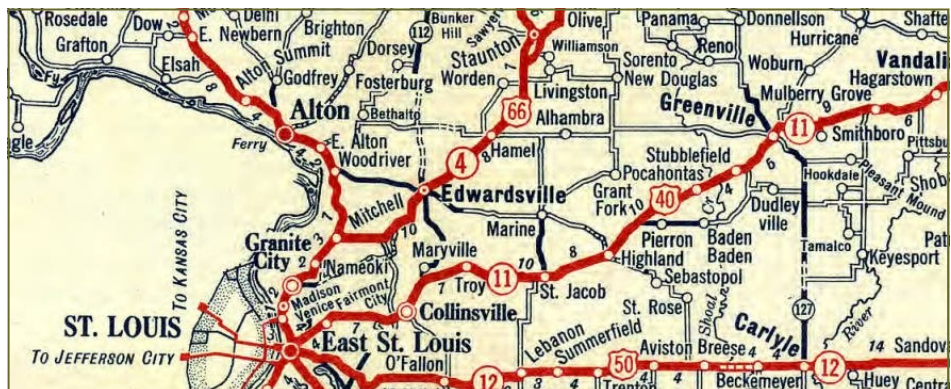
After the Interstate system was nominally complete in the early 1970s the state cleaned up the route systems and shortened many numbered routes, both US and State. This "Great Purge" got rid of irrelevant numbers by shortening the numbered routes or dropping some numbers altogether.

More about US-40:

US-40 runs from Terre Haute IN to St. Louis thru IL, and is paralleled by I-70. This is the "National Road" east of Vandalia. There are several places where US-40 has been replaced, and the old road is unnumbered except for Vandalia to Greenville where the old road is part of IL-140. (The part of IL-140 west of Greenville was considered a spur of US-40, thus the number IL-140). Parts of US-40 are also on I-70, in the East St. Louis area, for about 6 miles east of Pocahontas, and for a couple miles at the IN state line.

Alternate US-40 was used on the old route of US-40 from East St. Louis to Collinsville (Vandalia Ave and Collinsville Rd.). This route was US-40 until 1962, changed to Alternate US-40 in 1963, then Business US-40 in 1964. Business US-40 was removed in 1974 as part of the "Great Purge". Alternate US-40 was also used on old sections of US-40 during the 1960s from near Greenville to Vandalia. Most of this route is now IL-140.

Portion of the Official Auto Road Map published by the State of Illinois 1928. Illinois State Library Collection.



Quilt Show Well Attended, Winners Announced at Close of Show

The Bond County Historical Society Quilt Show is over for 2019. The society and quilt show Planning Committee thanks the volunteers, featured quilters, vendors, and attendees for making it such a wonderful show. Attendance proved great and wide to the 16th biennial show held Saturday, March 16th with over 360 people coming and enjoying the overabundance of eye-catching sewing, designing, piecing, and quilting work in five exhibit rooms. Thank you to all the amazing entries!!

During the show, visitors were encouraged to vote for their favorite quilts in four regular display categories. Viewers' Choice Winners in 2019 were:

- * "Robins: A Symbolic Family Quilt Appliquéd and Paper Pieced", owned by Ward **Sussenbach** of Bond County; designed, made and quilted by Barbara **Dyer** – Machine Quilted - Wall.
- * "Shoreline Log Cabin: 7600 pieces of Batik Scraps", owned and made by Loretta **Pezold** of Montgomery County, quilted by Sherry **Osmoe** – Machine Quilted – Bed.
- * "Weaver Fever: 2x4 inch pieces in Greens and Blues", owned and made by Betty **Boehm** of Bond County, quilted by Delores **Steele** – Hand Quilted – Bed.
- * "Mini Quilt Gifted to a Friend: Floral pieced and embroidered, embellished with yo-yos", owned by Jan **Eyman**, made and quilted by Mary **Rice** – Hand Quilted – Wall.
- * "Buggy Barn Witches", made and quilted by Betty Boehm of Bond County – "Celebrations"-themed Quilt or Quilted Item. This special theme category winner was chosen, after meticulous scrutiny over 16 total entries, by a panel of three judges: Elizabeth **Kaegy**, Mary **Hoiles**, and Judy **Schroeter**.



"Robins: A Symbolic Family Quilt, Appliquéd and Paper Pieced" owned by Ward Sussenbach represents how textile art, family history and symbolism can come together in a beautiful modern heirloom.

Winners in the Bond County Historical Society's Quilt Block Contest using this year's design theme of "Celebrations" follow. A total of 12 entries were received, five in the adult division:

In the children's division, ages 5 through 8, the winner was Aiden **Seyler** of Greenville whose Eagle Days celebration wowed everyone. Aiden pieced his background in stripes of red and white, topped with a blue and white starred strip, and five stars were placed above an eagle applique cut from patriotic material. Clara **Baldwin** from Dayton, Ohio placed second with her pieced flag and embroidered stars; Rebecca Baldwin from Dayton, Ohio took third - she chose to celebrate Easter with a basket of multicolored eggs. Honorable mention went to Delphie Seyler of Greenville and her original design celebrating Easter with an egg nested in grass between two bunnies.

First place in the children's division, ages 9 through 12, was won by Lydia **Helmkamp** of Greenville with her St Patrick's Day nine patch with shamrocks. Anna Helmkamp of Greenville placed second with her Fourth of July block with flag flying in the wind.

In the age 13 through 18 division, Brooklyn Seyler won first place. Her el Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) block featuring a sugar skull represents a Mexican/Hispanic heritage celebration.

The first place award in the adult division went to Nichole **Renschen** of Carlyle who appliqued the raising of the
(Continued on page 19)

16th Quilt Show Results, continued...

(Continued from page 18)

flag at Iwo Jima during WWII. Rebecca **Clausen** of Greenville placed second with her colorfully pieced party cake; and Betty Boehm of Greenville won third place with a Lincoln design. Honorable mention went to Pamela **Devore** of Greenville and her pieced Christmas gift box.



Featured quilters Janice Tompkins, Georgianne Tompkins, and Ginny Ennen (not pictured), showcased a total of 54 bed quilts, many with rural themes. Photo courtesy WGEL.

Many thank yous to the 2019 Block Contest judges for their thoughtful and difficult decisions: Juanita **Burge**, Nancy **Gillard**, and Tedra **Johnson**; thanks to Jan Eyman for coordinating the contest again this year; and many thanks to supportive grandmothers urging their talented grandchildren along with their vibrant and imaginative sewing projects.

Maris **Goldsmith** of Greenville, daughter of John and Gina Goldsmith, was the lucky winner in a raffle drawing for the tan and cream hued "Courthouse Steps" bed quilt created by Shirley **Pustelnik**. Katie **Maples** of rural Greenville won the raffle drawing for the painted barn quilt designed as a pastel rainbow "Sewing Machine" created by Robyn **Hargan**.

Information about the 17th Bond County Historical Society quilt show, scheduled for March 2021, its contests and/or themes, entry forms, and more will be made available in the future on the Society's website, www.bondcountyhistorical.org and on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HoilesDavisMuseum.

"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage... who we are and where we have come from" — Alex Haley, author of Roots

Census Mis-Transcriptions Can be Searched Around

A research tip from Fayette County Genealogy and Historical Society

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fayette-County-Genealogical-and-Historical-Society-Vandalia-Illinois/359431634168254>

"Here is a genealogy tip. I had been searching for a family in the 1880 census and felt sure there should be one. I kept coming up empty on Ancestry.com so I went to my local library where I knew I would find a hard copy. Yes, the family was living where I thought. I found both families and then searched Ancestry again for the neighbors on the page. I then clicked on the 'view others on the page' and scrolled through the names and there they were. I clicked on the 'view record' and then I could add the census to my tree. Name Blurton was miss transcribed as Blacton."

The Battle Against All Things German

"World War I had a devastating effect on German-Americans and their cultural heritage. Up until that point, German-Americans, as a group, had been spared much of the discrimination, abuse, rejection, and collective mistrust experienced by so many different racial and ethnic groups in the history of the United States. Indeed, over the years, they had been viewed as a well-integrated and esteemed part of American society. All of this changed with the outbreak of war."

—“German-Americans during World War I,” Immigrant Entrepreneurship, Sept 2014

As the 50+ Bond County Historical Society members, friends, and guests arrived Monday, February 11, 2019 to hear our speaker, we noted many German surnames represented, sometimes anglicized, but persisting through 100 years of on again off again anti-German attitudes locally in the Midwest and the U.S. as a whole. When events in history focus on your genealogy, your family, your family's identity may either become history, or survive the assaults to pass on the stories of unfair and baseless treatment in folklore or sadly, pain unspoken.

John S. Coleman introduced our speaker, historical actor Barbara Kay, remarking that while a majority of Germany's immigrants arrived in the 19th century, several earlier waves had settled in America at different times over 300 years, comprising several religious backgrounds, many with different motivations for leaving their home for the “land of the free”. They came from not one united Germany, but different independent states, which were always reorganizing in Europe in new shapes under new leadership. “German” is more of an ethnicity than a nationality, even today. One could argue that before 1914, the vast majority of German-Americans – 9% of the American population - had a nostalgic love for their ethnic heritage, yet no sense of political loyalty toward Imperial Germany.

Kay portrayed her great-grandmother, Margaret Mouse May, a resident of southern Illinois who saw and felt anti-German hysteria a century ago. Through her first-person, costumed portrayal, she brought the struggles of World War I-era German Illinoisans to life and engaged the audience with questions and discussion. She illustrated her presentation with photographs, newspaper headlines, and editorial cartoons of the time.

The event was produced in part by Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, a program that provides organizations statewide with affordable, entertaining, and thought-provoking cultural presentations.

During World War I (1914-1918), many people became afraid of immigrants. Because the United States was at war with Germany, some people were concerned German-Americans would sympathize with Germany instead of the United States.

In 1914 when the German army invaded Belgium and northern France, many thousands of Belgian and French civilians were executed. These acts were used to encourage anti-German sentiments and the Allied Powers spread depictions of Germans as Huns capable of infinite cruelty and violence. Political cartoons in American publications readily demonized Germans.

When news of the world war reached the United States, reactions varied, but soon German immigrants came under heightened public scrutiny. After the German sinking of the British liner Lusitania carrying American passengers, the situation worsened. Public and private financial support strengthened for the Allies across the ocean, Patriotism campaigns spread, and 100% loyalty and Americanism demanded. Still the U.S. was technically at peace.

Once America mobilized for a declaration of war in 1917, anti-German propaganda skyrocketed. The country built a new army on mass conscription though no German born were allowed to fight; the Red Cross recruited anyone without a German last name; the government sold Liberty Bonds and shamed and intimidated thrifty German born to spend more than their share.

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

Persecution was worse in the so-called German triangle where German-Americans wielded strong economic and cultural influence in the cities Cincinnati, Milwaukee, and St. Louis.

Names of cities were changed, names of streets were changed, and names of foods were changed. Speaking the German language became an arrestable offence: schools were closed, churches were closed, newspapers folded, books were burned. Breweries, under the stress of both anti-German sentiment and the temperance movement, shut down. Symphonies or hymns written by German composers, even Bach and Beethoven, were banned. Dachshund and German Shepherd dogs were rebranded.

War propaganda encouraged dehumanizing the “Kaiser’s” countrymen and flushing out his spies and sympathizers in America. Rumors fueled atrocities neighbor against neighbor. Properties were vandalized, businesses were burned. Those suspected of anti-American activities were beaten, tarred and feathered, lynched. Innocent, decent “hyphenate” Americans were awoken in the middle of the night and forced to sing patriotic tunes or kiss the flag.

Not all people thought that immigrants would be disloyal to their new country. They pointed out that many German-Americans were serving in the military. But this new, government-endorsed anti-German sentiment ran deep; suspicion and discrimination raged.

“The most notorious case of mob action was the lynching of Robert Prager in Collinsville, Illinois in April 1918. Prager, a German native who had applied for American citizenship, was known to harbor socialist ideas and was suspected by his neighbors of stealing dynamite. Although this could not be proven, he was dragged out of town, stripped, and hanged. This lynching caused outrage among many prominent Americans; nevertheless, court proceedings found the members of the mob not guilty” (Hickey) .

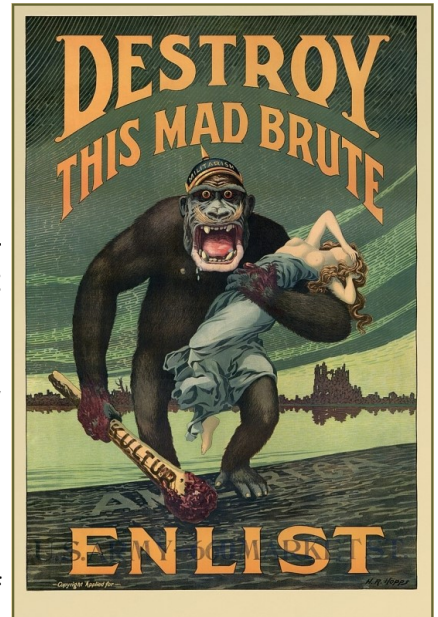
These events had a long lasting effect on German traditions in Illinois and America. Following the war few families continued to speak German and many other customs were lost. German-Americans for the most part conceded their Germanness to become part of the category of white Americans.

However, there are still some remnants of the time when millions of Americans spoke German. Kindergarten is a grade that English-language schools adopted from German ones (the word is German for “garden of children”). And in Cincinnati one former German American neighborhood is still known as “Over-the-Rhine”—a reference to the river that runs through western Germany.

After World War I, Americans were led to shift their paranoia and discrimination against Communists, Japanese immigrants during World War II, and Communists again. In more recent years targets are Muslim and Latin American.

Sometimes immigrants face hardships that have nothing to do with learning a new language, finding a clean place to live or getting a good job. Those difficulties can be much easier to overcome than dealing with an invisible problem—discrimination.

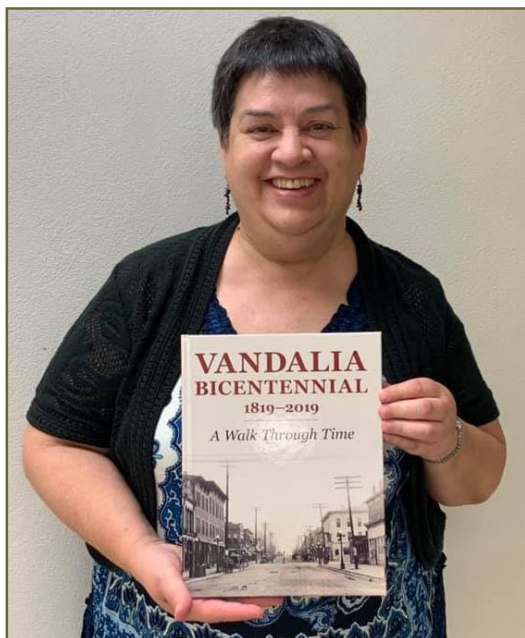
Sources helpful in preparing this article include: Donald Hickey, “The Prager Affair: A Study in Wartime Hysteria,” *Journal of the Illinois Historical Society* (1969). Katja Wüstenbecker, “German-Americans during World War I,” *Immigrant Entrepreneurship*, September 2014. Deborah Gore, Ed., “German-Americans in World War I,” *The Goldfinch*, State Historical Society of Iowa (April 1991).



This United States propaganda poster was released in 1917 by Harry Ryle Hopps, portraying Germany as a gorilla invading the United States having conquered Europe.

Vandalia's Commemorative Book Hot Off the Press!

From <https://www.facebook.com/vandalia200/>



Vandalia Bicentennial 1819-2019 book and Kathy Schultz, one of the editors/contributors.

Photo from <https://www.facebook.com/vandalia200/>

editing the book. You did AMAZING!!!!!!

Vandalia's Bicentennial 1819-2019: A Walk Through Time books are here and you have to get one!!!! The city celebrated the 200th anniversary of its founding June 13-16, 2019 with a multitude of festivities and events.

Take a walk through time as Vandalia remembers their history through photos, stories, and historical records. Did your ancestors walk the streets of Vandalia? Or are you the first generation of your family to live here? In 1994 Vandalia celebrated 175 years. The twenty-five years since then have seen many changes: new people, new businesses, a renewed Gallatin Street. Come take a walk through these pages and see!

For those that preordered, they are available at City Hall, 431 W Gallatin St.

Didn't preorder?... no worries at all. You can purchase at Iya's and Friends for \$35.00 (tax included). Or find the Book Order Form at City Hall's celebration website: <https://www.vandaliaillinois.com/2019-bicentennial/>

Thanks to the amazing team of individuals who put in long hours researching, writing, taking/gathering pictures, and

"Who Do You Think You Are?" Returns to NBC After 7-Year Absence

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com> reports: NBC has picked up a new season of "Who Do You Think You Are?" in which celebrities trace their genealogy. The show, from executive producers Lisa **Kudrow** and Dan **Bucatinsky**, aired on NBC for three seasons from 2010-12 before being picked up by TLC.

The cable network has aired nine additional seasons (51 episodes total), most recently a four-episode run in December 2018. The show has earned four Emmy nominations for best structured reality program throughout its run. Ancestry, a leading consumer company helping people trace their lineage, is a partner on the series.

"Now more than ever, people are looking to connect with their ancestry to uncover a deeper understanding of who they are," NBC alternative and reality group president Meredith **Ahr** said Monday in a statement. "We're excited to once again travel around the world with some of our favorite celebrities as they get answers and surprises about family members who came before them."

Kudrow traced her own ancestry in the show's first season, finding that a relative her family had presumed dead was still alive in Poland.

The new season will run 13 episodes; a premiere date and celebrity participants will be announced later. The most recent "Who Do You Think You Are?" episodes on TLC featured Regina **King**, Mandy **Moore**, Josh **Duhamel**, and Matthew **Morrison**.

Wilbur Clark: Mr. Las Vegas, continued...

(Continued from page 4)

all. Later in life he claimed the shells were good for his stomach. Wilbur didn't get to venture out of town much, however, and once told a reporter doing a story on his life, "I never saw an electric light until I was 18. Keyesport just didn't have any."

As a teenager Wilbur briefly moved to Alton to live with Harold, who had taken a job at the Wood River Refinery. Yet Wilbur was restless and eager to make a name and money for himself. At the age of 19 he set out hitchhiking his way west, planning to make it to San Diego where his father had since moved. It was a slow trip as Wilbur stopped in small towns to work for meals, lodging, and a little money. Washing dishes in Las Vegas, New Mexico he impressed the owner of a small café enough that he gave Wilbur a silver dollar coin before his departure and told him to never spend it so he would always have at least a dollar. He never did, and he kept the token the rest of his life.

In Los Angeles Wilbur pawned his Keyesport High School class ring for \$4, enough to make it the rest of the way to San Diego. There he found his father living and working in one of the city's hotels. Wilbur



L to R: Merle, Wilbur, and Harold Clark circa 1912, probably somewhere near Keyesport. The children and their mother, Lulu, lived in the home of their grandfather Oliver Welch at the time. *Photo Credit: UNLV Libraries.*



Wilbur Clark in his bellman's uniform outside the Knickerbocker Hotel in San Diego, California in the 1920's. Wilbur not only remembered the names of all the important guests, but he made sure they remembered him too. *Photo Credit: UNLV Libraries.*

also got a job as a bellhop at San Diego's famous Knickerbocker Hotel; a job that would give him not only experience in the hotel business, but important connections to the world of gaming and gamblers.

San Diego in the Roaring '20s had become a haven for wealthy vacationers, gamblers, and underworld figures. Looking to escape Prohibition, some ventured south to Mexico, while others made their way to San Diego Harbor to catch one of the waiting taxi boats. A short trip a few miles out to sea in international waters were anchored floating casinos filled with bars, entertainment, and all sorts of gambling tables free from US laws.

Most of the wealthy, high stakes gamblers chose to stay at the famed Knickerbocker, and Wilbur made a point of endearing himself to them. He became the, "biggest handshaker in San Diego history," he would later claim. He remembered names and faces, and made sure they remembered him. He took a second job onboard the gambling boat Rex, which catered to the well heeled gambler with its luxury furnishings and promise of honest games. There Wilbur learned to be a dealer, and he also learned to become

(Continued on page 24)

Mr Las Vegas, continued...

(Continued from page 23)

a player. In his off hours he earned a reputation as a “lucky” gambler, especially at craps and horse racing.

During these years Wilbur’s mother, sister, and brother also moved to San Diego. Being reunited with his family was important to him. Eventually he saved enough money to buy his own bar in San Diego, and he made Harold a partner. Wilbur redecorated the bar and provided the personal touch of shaking hands and knowing the names of his patrons, which attracted a wealthier class of clientele who spent more money and came back often. He and Harold repeated this formula several more times, buying and selling 13 different bars across the city by the early 1940s, some at a considerable profit.

While owning one of those bars, Wilbur met Toni **Gaglianese**; a young woman from Seattle who came to San Diego to visit a friend and look for work. Staying in the hotel where Shirley worked, he urged her to ask his son for a job. The two quickly fell in love and married in Reno, Nevada in 1944.

At the same time Wilbur and Harold set their sites on another Nevada town that held the promise of great riches with legalized gambling... Las Vegas. The brothers took the money they parlayed in San Diego and bought a small hotel and casino in downtown Las Vegas. However, they quickly sold out to buy the El Rancho Vegas, which was the first resort located a few miles out of town on Highway 91. This would later become known as the famous “Las Vegas Strip.” The two again applied their personal touch to the business, and so that no visitor would forget who operated it, they had their names “Wilbur and Harold Clark” emblazoned on everything from gambling chips, to menus, to ashtrays. Nobody could walk away from the El Rancho Vegas without knowing who their hosts were.

Will Keyesport native Wilbur Clark’s luck in the west last? Which famous (and infamous) Vegas characters might he meet? What of his legacy remains?

Look for Part 2 of “Wilbur Clark: From Bond County to Mr. Las Vegas” in the next issue of the B.C.G.S. News!



Wilbur Clark and Toni Gaglianese (Left) were married in Reno on August 2, 1944 by Nevada Governor E.P. Carville (Center Right). AP reporter Larry Allen (Far Right) was one of the witnesses. The Clarks were happily married for 21 years, and both spent the rest of their lives living in Nevada. *Photo Credit: UNLV Libraries.*



The Turned Around House (418 S Fourth Street)

By Kathryn Eleanor Pennington Wilson, from her book Tales, Trails & Breadcrumbs: 1838-1938 – One Hundred Years, Bond County, Illinois. Published 1993.

From the Chapter: Greenville's South Addition, 121 Lots, 1854. "Lower Town"

James Edwin **Donnell** was a fine carpenter. He had learned how to build stairs at an early age, an art that many older carpenters never mastered. When James was only 14 years old he helped build this house [at 418 S. Fourth Street]. The year was 1870. James was the oldest son of John Denny Donnell.

In 1888, at the age of 32, James went west to Colorado, but he soon returned to Greenville. He married Laura Etta **Stevens** that same year and they had a family of two children. The family lived in this house for sixteen years. While here James built many homes and other buildings, including the old Baptist Church [on South Street in 1902].

In 1903 the family moved to the Los Angeles area, but it is believed that the house remained in the family, as H. Denny Donnell remembered spending many of his teenage years here.

Oh yes, this house was turned around... it was built to face Spring Street—number 315—, but the corner lot was sold and a new house put there, so this house was simply turned around to face Fourth Street.

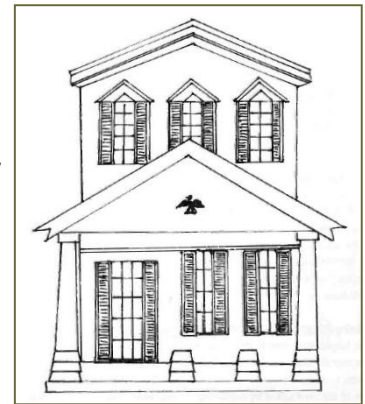
What a surprise this would be if James could see it now!

Alternative Facts in Family Legends and Records?

According to Bill Donnell, Greenville funeral director and a descendent of former residents of the house, and to Kevin **Kaegy**, BCHS President and local historian, the house at 418 S. Fourth used to face south toward Spring Street and was built before or about 1880; it appears on the panorama view photograph Kevin has from 1883. Bill says Grandma Laura Donnell bought the home in 1919 from Margaret **Rosenboro**. Laura's husband William died in 1919 and the family farmed before moving into town. Bill's father, H. Denny Donnell Sr., grew up in that house and even helped to dig the basement. In 1929, Denny had his mother's house lifted up on hand crank house jacks and had it turned to face Fourth Street. Laura's **Baits** nephew was a house mover / carpenter; Bill is sure he did the work.

Also in 1929, before or after the house was lifted, turned, and re-set on a new foundation on the north lot, Denny bought the south lot from the family. Grandmother Laura had a limited income; she took in boarders and the sale of the vacant lot also helped her out. Kevin imagines they added plumbing and central heat at this same time for the reason she was keeping guests. Bill's brother told their father he remembered a tapestry on the east wall while Dad said it hung on the north wall: both were right—the house turned!

George **Birk** owned Greenville Lumber Company and he purchased the empty lot from Denny in January 1953 after Laura had died in 1952; and George built the ranch house facing Spring Street. Bill and Jean **McMurrin** bought the Donnell house. Kevin says, "Louisa **Casey Randazzo**, sister of Cornelia **Davis** [BCHS President 1973-1985], lived in the Donnell house before the **Barnes** family. When BCHS moved out of the Greenville Public Library, Cornelia had me put Almira [**Blanchard Morse**]'s piano in that house. After Louisa died I had to move it again to the court house. Those were the only times I was in that house."



Above: Illustration by Eleanor Pennington. Below: The house at 418 S Fourth today. It is located directly south of the Hoiles-Davis Museum and across the street from the site of the future Bond County Historical Museum. Photo by editor.



Remembering Lost Friends



Another of the old guard has fallen...

Gerald "Speed" Jenner

May 10, 1923 – March 24, 2019

"I am intrigued with genealogy and my roots as well as those of my friends and neighbors. I have been to England checking on my father's birthplace. I have been to Switzerland where I checked on both my mother's as well as my wife's father's ancestors." - from Speed's Profile on FindAGrave.com

Gerald "Speed" **Jenner** lived a life devoted to family, faith, and service. Upon retiring from his top salesman career in 1984, Speed and his wife Martha moved back to Terrapin Ridge, where they built their dream home. He and Martha quickly became active in the community participating in Kiwanis, the Senior Center, The Historical Society, The Genealogical Society and the Greenville Chamber of Commerce among other activities. Prior to moving to Bond County, Speed had become involved in genealogy, in part from his discovery that he and Martha were both related to the File family. His research led him to write a seven-volume history of the File family, beginning with Henry Oliver **File**, born in 1776. Speed traveled to Europe — England and Switzerland — researching his own family roots. He wrote The Story of Early Pocahontas and Sugg Cemetery. Sales of the books helped raise thousands of dollars to pay for the cemetery to be mowed and maintained. Proceeds from his volume, The Story of Old Mt. Nebo and the Families Buried There, continue to go to the cemetery and have paid for not only repairs to tombstones but for the payment of cemetery upkeep. His genealogical interest led him in preservation efforts for those rural cemeteries and in locating, mapping, and restoring several others. He also authored a book about Mt. Gilead Church. Speed was instrumental in starting a project to save the Ripson Bridge, a historic landmark between Old Ripley and Sorento.

Gerald E. Jenner died peacefully March 24, 2019 at the Hitz Memorial Home in Alhambra, Illinois. He was 95. Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 4 PM at Mt. Nebo Primitive Baptist Church. Private burial in Mt. Nebo Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Nebo Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.

Born May 10, 1923, in Pocahontas, Illinois, to Wallace Arthur Jenner and Elizabeth **Mueller** Jenner, he was the youngest of nine children. He grew up during the Great Depression, where his slow walking and talking earned him the nickname Speed.

Serving in the Army during the World War II he received a number of letters from Martha **Mollet**, of rural Greenville. In 1946, when he was discharged, he returned to Illinois, sought Martha out and quickly proposed. He was crushed to learn he was just one of many GIs she wrote to during the war. She saw it as her patriotic duty. When his proposal was rebuffed, he completed his degree at the University of Illinois and joined the sales force of Upjohn, a large pharmaceutical company. He was assigned to a territory based in Milwaukee. After several years Martha, realizing she had let a good man get away, wrote once again to Gerald and rekindled his interest. Finally, on June 28, 1952, they were married in the front yard of Martha's parents, Mike and Polly Mollet, in Terrapin Ridge, seven miles west of Greenville. After Martha's death, on

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(Continued from page 26)

June 20, 2012, just 8 days before their 60th wedding anniversary, he continued to live at the couple's home until mobility issues prevented living independently. He moved to the Glenwood for a short time, and then the Hitz Memorial Home in Alhambra where he had been a resident for just under 4 years.

Gerald is survived by three children: Julia Carol Jenner of Terrapin Ridge, Mike Mollet Jenner and his wife, Jean **Falter** Jenner of Columbia, MO, and Mark Wallace Jenner and his wife, Dr. Tracy **Hall**, of Greenville. He is survived by 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He is also survived by his first cousin and best friend of 95 years, H. Benjamin File and his wife Mary File, also residents of the Hitz.

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 and/or serialization over multiple issues. 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.

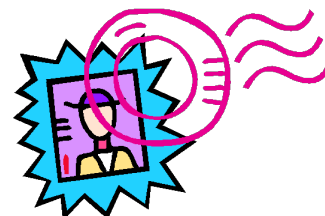
To make your query more effective, include dates, places and full names whenever possible. The query may also be published on our Website. You may E-Mail your queries to the newsletter committee at bcgs_editor@sbcglobal.net or send Snail Mail to: Bond County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 172, Greenville,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

Bond County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 172
Greenville, IL 62246-0172
info@bondcogen.org
www.bondcogen.org
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).

Garden Work Day at Historical Home

Members of the Greenville Garden Club, along with some other volunteers, planted at the U.S. DeMoulin Mansion the afternoon of Saturday, June 1, 2019. Some members donated hosta plants from their own gardens. Hostas are widely cultivated as shade-tolerant foliage plants. The garden club is helping Bond County Historical Society with their landscaping and they felt hostas were a good choice for the location and were a plant popular even in the late Victorian period of the house, built 1900. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and donations!



Volunteers with green thumbs put in new hostas and other flowering plants in beds surrounding the future home of Bond County Historical Society's Museum. *Photos by John S Coleman.*