

Bond County Genealogical Society News

Volume 38, Issue 2

Summer July 2023

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

First Memorial Day Flags for Mexican War Vet Rhea

For the first time maybe in forever, thanks to Bond County Historical Society and others, the grave of veteran Henry D. **Rhea** (1904-1857), Private in Capt **Seller's** Co, 3rd Illinois Infantry, Mexican War, has been marked with American flags for Memorial Day.



On Friday, May 26, 2023, Kevin **Kaegy** (BCHS historian), Cary **Holman** (BCHS president), and Rebecca **Clausen** (BCGS News editor) took a drive out to a Bond County property in Mulberry Grove township and created a special moment for a special individual.

Henry Dill Rhea was born in Virginia abt 1804. He married Elizabeth **Adams**, a midwife, abt 1823 and they started a family in Tennessee. By 1834 the Rheas

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Special points of interest:

- GHS Students Tackle Vines at BCM.
- Prairie Patriot and Prairie Pioneer Certificates available from Illinois State Genealogical Society.
- Museum Day Marks Start of New Displays.
- Allen H. Keith's Take on 1938 Greenville Film.
- Don't Forget to Shop the BCGS Book Store.
- Max & Bev Bowman Visit Former Home.
- BCHS is Seeking Oral History Interviewees.
- St Lawrence & Other Catholic Church Records.
- German Potato Salad and Pie & Ice Cream: Homemade Community Favorites at Fundraisers.

Bond County Genealogical Society

Officers

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

Appointees

Library - Jane Hopkins
Program - Kevin J. 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

2022-2023 Officers

President - Cary Holman
Vice President - Jim Schutte
Treasurer - John S. Coleman
Secretary - Jane Hopkins
Historian - Kevin J. Kaegy (non-voting)

Directors

Burgess Twp - Michelle Haller
Central Twp. - Kevin J. Kaegy
Tamalco Twp - Cindy Tischhauser
Mills Twp - Gary Tischhauser
Pleasant Mound Twp - Blake Knox
Old Ripley Twp - Kathy Brewer
Shoal Creek Twp - Tom Varner
LaGrange Twp - Eric Reelitz
Mulberry Grove Twp - Kim Myers

Bond County Historical Society membership dues are \$15 per family for the current year. 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

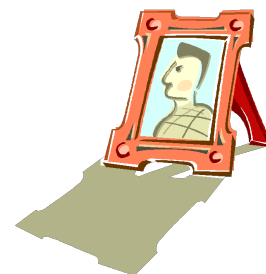


Monthly Society Meetings

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 Bond County Museum's Facebook Page, 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 interesting and educational program meeting or special event!

2023 Events Calendar

August 22 Rural Church History Program w/ Potluck @ Hurricane Creek Church of the Brethren.

September 13 Field Trip to Hill's Fort @ American Farm Heritage Museum.

September 19 Fundraiser @ Joe's Pizza & Pasta in Greenville.

October TBD Annual Dinner Meeting w/ Guest Speaker & Elections.

November 25 Christmas Open House @ Bond County Museum.

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.





Bond County Museum is located at 409 S. Fourth Street in Greenville, Illinois.

*January-December:
Open Saturday
10 a.m. to noon*

*June, July, August:
Open Saturday 10 a.m. to
noon and
Sunday 1 to 3 p.m.*

*Tours also available by
special appointment or
during announced events.
Call 618-690-0469.*

Bond County Museum News

*Support the
New Museum!
Donations are being
MATCHED!*



Financial Gifts Sought to Support Bond County Museum

Bond County Historical Society needs your help to raise funds to complete Phase 2 necessary renovations and improvements to the historic U.S. DeMoulin Mansion. Bond County Museum opened to the public with regular weekend hours in May 2021. Please consider a donation to help us reach our goal! As BCHS is recognized as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, your contribution may be tax deductible. Donations of any size are encouraged; all contributions above \$50 will have their name on a special donor's plaque inside the museum unless marked anonymous. Download the donation form at www.bondcountyhistorical.org, the society's Facebook Page, or mail check to: Bond County Historical Society, attn. ADA Renovations, PO Box 376, Greenville, IL 62246.

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*, *Sun*, 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 618-971-9140).

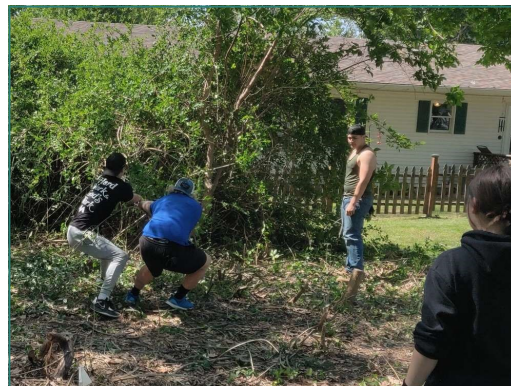


Vines Victim of Annual Day of Community Service

We're so grateful to have welcomed Greenville High School students again to Bond County Museum's grounds Friday May 5, 2023 for another Comets Give Back Day!!! What a great job these 8 kids did to clear up some landscaping for us before Museum Day June 3rd! What started as a gumball raking venture quickly escalated into tackling a thicket of small trees and honeysuckle. GHS history teacher Ryan **D'Arcy** directed the strongest and most motivated boys in their dragging gobs of honeysuckle vine out of the southeast corner of the mansion's yard which had been growing practically unchecked for ten years. Other students bagged and piled the debris to keep the clearing job progressing. A huge job and we extend huge appreciation!

Building & Grounds committee members Jim **Schutte** and Eric **Reelitz** followed up during the next weeks by sawing down larger trees, dragging out roots with tractors, hauling away the mess by pickup truck and trailer (over 5 loads of honeysuckle alone!), landscaping by harrow and rake; and finally seeding the corner with grass. Whew!

Photos by Cary Holman, BCHS President.



Friends of Greenville Public Library Book Bag



The Friends of the Greenville Public Library, a not-for-profit formed in 2022, are selling these canvas totes. The PERFECT holiday/birthday/anniversary gift for the bookworm or genealogist in your family! It should help in keeping track of checked out books... especially when it is time to collect them for their return! The cute illustration was designed by talented sisters Sophie and Rosie, adult daughters of Janie and Breck **Nelson**. Janie owns downtown Greenville businesses Spruce Craft + Collective and Evergreen Plant Co.

The totes are \$15 each. To purchase one, email the Friends at greenvillelibraryfriends@gmail.com or contact one of FGPL's board members: Emily **Brooks**, Velma **Cochrane**, Linda **Collman**, Alan **Gaffner**, Tonya **Holman**, Regina **Robart**, or Marie **Siefken**.

One-Room School Museum Tours

Bond County's One-Room School Museum operates under the Bond County Historical Society. It is an actual one-room school house furnished with items that came from the more than 70 one-room school houses that once operated in Bond County making it an interesting visit.

Retired teachers Mary **Young** and Cindy **Catron** provide museum tours and in-costume presentations only by appointment and during special events.

The One-Room School Museum is located at 601 E. Beaumont Ave. in Greenville, Illinois - at the corner of Beaumont Ave. and Wyatt Str.

Groups welcome. Admission by donation. Please contact the Tourism Director, City of Greenville, with details to arrange special openings.

618-664-1644 ext. 1010

<https://www.greenvilleillinois.com/>



“History remembers only the celebrated. Genealogy remembers them all.” – Laurence Overmire

Bond County Remembered: Video Legacies: **Carl E. Hall**

This video legacy project started on April 7, 2023 in hopes of gathering old time farming memories from 94 year old Carl E. **Hall**. The interview soon turned into something like the fictitious interview with Jack **Crabb**.



Carl traveled the world, married a ballet dancer spy, did research at the South Pole for a year, loaded the first airplane in Germany for the Berlin Airlift and helped advance meteorology into the 1980s... all as a little farm boy from Bond County. Carl had a profound career in retirement as a Shriner Chaplain who greeted families at Childrens' Hospital and handed out gift toys to the kids. Truly a life well-lived... Part of Bond County Historical Society's oral history series available to view on YouTube and www.bondcountyhistorical.org.

Who should BCHS interview next?? Contact us!

Max & Bev Bowman Tour U.S. DeMoulin House

By Blake Knox, a director with BCHS

I had the privilege of meeting Max and Bev **Bowman** while working at the Bond County Museum Saturday, April 22, 2023. Max and Bev arriving was a special treat for me as I had never met any former owners of the home before. I always wondered why there was an "M" and "B" within the design of the floor near the fireplace in the Civil War room and now I know! Without a doubt, Max and Bev saved the home from disrepair—restoring it and residing there for nearly ten years—and made it possible for us to have a place to call our Museum home for many years to come.

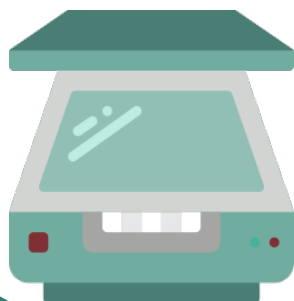
A fascinating bit of history I learned from talking with Max involves our grand staircase. In order to clean up and repair it, the staircase was completely disassembled, piece by piece, to be shipped across the country to be restored. Every piece of the staircase was numbered. According to Max, the man who would be in charge of handling the staircase loved it so much he was willing to offer Max and Bev over twice as much for it than they paid for the entire home in the 1987 auction. Thankfully, Max and Bev knew how valuable the staircase was to the home and would not sell it off.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time talking with Max and Bev and, even though they live in Texas now, I hope they continue to visit us in the future. Getting their insight to the home and all the work they did to save it really makes one appreciate what we have here.



Oak staircase before and after getting five coats of paint stripped and stained with natural varnish. Max & Bev enjoying their Sun/Family Room. Photos from Bowmans' house restoration scrapbook.

Back Issues of Quarterlies/Newsletters Available



The entire back catalog of Bond County Genealogical Society News Quarterlies, published 1982-2011 & B.C.G.S. e-Newsletters published 2014-2023 are currently available at no charge and with no password to members and the general public. Access the issues at <https://www.bondcogen.org/newsletter.html>. Volumes of the printed quarterly are also available to read and research in bound book form in the BCGS Library located on the lower level of the Greenville Public Library.



**St Lawrence,
Immaculate
Conception & St
Nicholas Record
Books on
Ancestry.com**

Explore entries of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials recorded in ledgers from Bond County Catholic churches in Greenville, Pierron, and Pocahontas. Ancestry.com's full collection contains records from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield spanning the years of 1853-1975.

Start Here: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61682/>

Online Genealogical Resources

Dead Fred

Dead Fred's Genealogy Photo Archive is a free, fun photo genealogy re-search web site devoted to helping you visualize your heritage! What Can You Do Here? Trace your roots for FREE with Dead Fred's searchable database containing thousands of identified and mystery photos for genealogy enthusiasts looking for long-lost family. Anyone who finds a photo of a direct ancestor that is owned by the archive will receive the photo for free. To date, the site boasts 23066 Surnames, 155116 Records, and 3315 Reunions! <https://deadfred.com/index.php>

DAR Digital Resources for Genealogical Research

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has other digital resources you can search from home, in addition to their ancestor database. The GRC index contains decades worth of materials collected by volunteers, which can include local cemetery records, court documents and transcriptions, family genealogies, Bible records, and more. There is a separate subset database of only Bible records, searchable by surnames. The NSDAR's Patriot Record Project Index is another resource which contains numerous Revolutionary War records. The documents span over 75 years, starting at the very beginning of the Revolutionary War through the last petitions for remuneration.

Visit: <https://www.dar.org/library/collections/dar-digital-resources-genealogical-research>



Clippings at Newspapers.com

Newspaper clippings are significant in both historical and sentimental ways. On Newspapers.com, clippings are elevated to a digital level. Unlike those in dusty scrapbooks or creased inside yellowing envelopes, the clippings on Newspapers.com maintain their quality, are more discoverable, and easier to share with others with the publication's title and date permanently attached. The Clippings link is readily accessible at the top of every page. Click on it to view your clippings as well as those of others.

Now, the best part: no membership to the site is required to view Clippings. Search Clippings at Newspapers.com for a name and/or location. You might not find your ancestors there, but you can still find a lot of fun things to read. A search for "Greenville, Illinois" brings up dozens of results of deaths, weddings, business advertisements, club meetings, family visits, and more. Searches for Pocahontas and Mulberry Grove result in nearly as many again. The papers were published in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Ohio, Arkansas, Florida, West Virginia, Califor-

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Online Genealogical Resources, continued...

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nia, Iowa, Nevada, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Michigan, even British Columbia!

Those who do subscribe to Newspapers.com or take advantage of a Free Trial or Free Access Weekend should really make an effort to “clip” articles they find useful or interesting while exploring the site. Also, when you find someone else has clipped the same article you clip, be sure to follow their breadcrumbs to find more clues for your own research.

<https://www.newspapers.com/clippings/?query=greenville%20illinois>

<https://www.newspapers.com/clippings/?query=pocahontas%20illinois>

<https://www.newspapers.com/clippings/?query=mulberry%20grove%20illinois>



Illinois Death Certificates, 1951–1971, at Illinois State Archives

The Illinois Death Certificates searchable database at [ilsos.gov](https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/databases/idphdeathindex5171.html) has been updated! This database now provides listings of death certificates filed with the Illinois Department of Public Health between 1951 and 1971. This is a long-awaited update that is sure to help many Illinois family historians! The updated database is listed separately from the earlier death indexes (pre-1916 & 1916-1950). In accordance with a policy agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois State Archives will make the index to death certificates produced fifty years or longer available on its Web site. This index is an ongoing project and the data presented here is not complete. If a record you are searching for is not listed, check back at a later date or contact the Illinois Department of Public Health. Search now at <https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/databases/idphdeathindex5171.html>

Bureau of Land Management Records

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site provides live access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States, including image access to more than five million Federal land title records issued between 1788 and the present. They also have images of survey plats and field notes, land status records, and control document index records. Once a parcel of land was transferred from the government to private ownership, it may have stayed in the family for generations or for only a few months. It may have been subdivided, sold and resold, with each transaction creating new records. After the initial state-land or public-land grant, local offices (most often the county recorder's office) handled subsequent transfers of property ownership through various types of deeds. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>

U.S. IRS Tax Assessment List for Bond County, IL 1862-1866

Find 38 pages of digitized records for Bond County (Division 7 of District 10 of the State of Illinois). This database contains IRS tax assessment lists for several U.S. states covering the years 1862-1918. Information listed in these records includes: name of person or business being taxed, their address, the taxable period, and amount of taxes reported. Start at <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1264/>

Leclaire: Founded In Kindness

Bond County Historical Society enjoyed a terrific and well-attended annual Soup & Chili Supper Thursday, February 23rd with special speaker: local historian and author Cindy Reinhardt. Thanks, everyone, for coming!

A current resident of the village of Leclaire Historic District herself, Reinhardt presented a history of industrialist N.O. Nelson, his company, his model town, and his legacy. She contrasted a truly kind and progressive profit-sharing Leclaire with its more famous counterpart: George Pullman's exploitative sham of a working class utopia. A slideshow of photos from her published book accompanied and enriched the history and present of this now neighborhood enclave of Edwardsville, Illinois.

Nelson, a St. Louis businessman, millionaire and immigrant

from Norway, developed his vision from his humble upbringing and reading books and corresponding with social theorists and political activists looking to improve the everyday life of their fellow man. He designed his financial model to resolve conflict between labor and capital and studied model towns in the United States and Europe.

The N.O. Nelson Manufacturing Company's Leclaire facility (at times, there were more than 20 other N.O. Nelson branch offices) produced plumbing fixtures and related materials. In 1895, the five acres of sprawling factories included a Machine Shop, Marble Shop, Brass

Shop, Finishing Shop, Bath Tub Shop, Copper Shop, Cabinet Shop, and Carpenter Shop. Their plumbing, heating, industrial, and water works supplied schools, hotels, hospitals, office buildings, train stations, banks, and churches. Custom work even included the manufacture of flag poles, staircases, bicycles and church altars. The factory buildings themselves were revolutionary: well-lit, single-story, with circulating fresh air and a sprinkler system for fire protection.

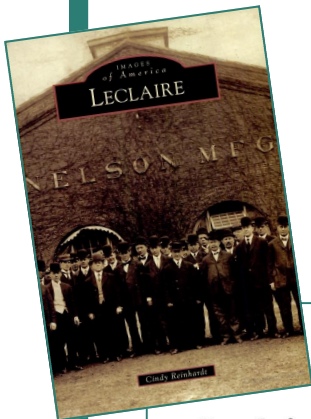
The village's residences, arranged in an innovative original plat design incorporating wide curvilinear roads, were typically modest attractive cottages; some two story bungalows were Sears kit houses, and there were a few larger, but not ostentatious abodes. Gardens were encouraged and free plants and flowers provided. A two-year kindergarten was the first education building and it lasted through and beyond other traditional and experimental classrooms for the older children – all education until 1931 was free.

The village offered options for recreation by the factory's em-

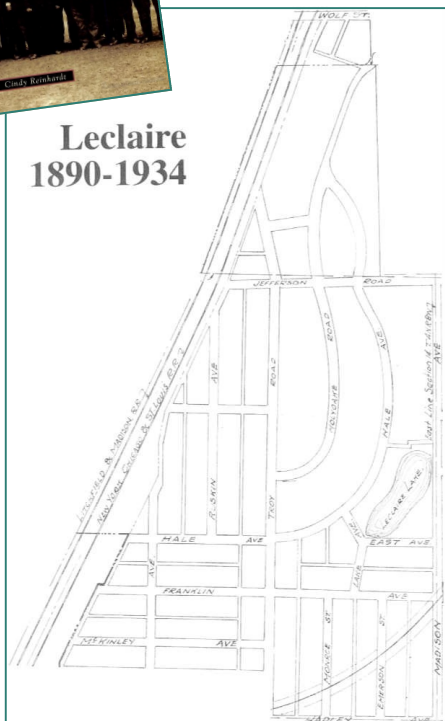
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Cindy Reinhardt speaks on the topic "Leclaire: An Experiment in Cooperation" at the historical society's annual soup supper February 23 at the St Lawrence Catholic Church hall in Greenville. Photo by editor.



Leclaire
1890-1934



(Continued from page 10)

ployees and village's residents: a bowling alley and billiard hall; theater; baseball field; tennis court; a lake for swimming, boating, ice skating, and concerts at the bandstand; easy access to the electric streetcar in service 1901-1928. A winter lecture series brought notable personalities such as Jane **Addams** of Hull House and professors from Washington University in St. Louis.

Actually anyone could take advantage of the games, programs, and parks, whether a member of LeClaire or not. There was much more freedom than could be experienced with Pullman's company town. One did not have to be a Nelson company employee to own a home in the village. And employees could live outside LeClaire. Other industries which employed many LeClaire residents were the mines and the railroad. About 400 families called LeClaire home, purchasing their houses outright for close to cost or paying low-interest mortgages. Thanks to a provident fund, mortgages could be paused if an employee was temporarily too sick or injured to work. The LeClaire company store operated as a co-op; instead of accumulating debt shopping there, Nelson's employee residents received dividends!

In 1922, Nelson died, and LeClaire and the Manufacturing Company showed its appreciation by pooling their funds (kids gave a penny, employees gave a day's pay, and some richer donors gave \$100) to commission an impressive and whimsical bronze and granite "Turkey-Boy" memorial fountain. The fountain was suggested by the grateful Nelson family to reflect his "philanthropy where he interwove the beautiful or visionary with the practical or useful."

The Great Depression hit the building market hard, and by the 1940s, the factory structures were sold off and closed in 1957. Today the buildings have been reconditioned and are home to a campus of Lewis & Clark Community College.

The Friends of LeClaire have put on an annual LeClaire Parkfest party in October since 1990, celebrating signature history with Dixieland jazz music, festival food, artisans and crafters, and narrated trolley tours.

Below: Nelson produced LeClaire brand bicycles for two years. Homes on Holyoake Road and wooden sidewalks. Memorial fountain built in Nelson's honor. Images copyright Arcadia Publishing and their original contributors.



Social Content, Hashtags Encourage Conversation

As part of an initiative started by Bond County Historical Society's reconvened Brochure & Outreach Committee, our Facebook Page Admins have been publishing themed posts with hashtags on social media. On #MuseumMonday, we feature an #ArtifactOfTheWeek. We might choose a book, an invention, a souvenir, a tool, a work of art, a piece of furniture, a toy, or any other artifact in our society's current collection. Then on #WayBackWednesday look for a photograph or image to trigger your nostalgia or present a mystery to solve. So what are you waiting for? "Follow" Bond County Museum on Facebook! Leave a kind comment or share!

The Story of Smithboro: a Bond County Village



John S. Coleman shared additional stories during a Q&A session following his excellent Smithboro history slideshow presentation. Watch on YouTube!

Thank you for attending our History of Smithboro program Tuesday, April 23rd! Over forty people came to the meeting room inside Smithboro's Village Hall to hear John S. **Coleman's** presentation on the once bustling crossroads village where his father grew up. Also many thanks to Dee **Tevis** and all who helped organize and bring the yummy snacks!

Smithboro was founded in 1870 by Henry Hendrick **Smith** as Smithborough; the railroads called the station Henderson. With the help of his pictures slideshow, Coleman told a history of the village's founding, major businesses and residents, the railroads, mine, stores, schools, hotels, mineral water schemes, even a few infamous happenings that made national news. Coleman of course included

a few stories from his father about being a kid in Smithboro, his grandfather coming to build Route 40 bridge(s), and his grandmother teaching in several area school buildings. Many people in the crowd shared their own memories of Smithboro through the years, too.

Missed our Smithboro History Program in April? Want to relive the stories and visuals presented by John S. Coleman? Watch it now on our YouTube Channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/@bondcountyhistoricalsociety>

We look forward to planning more history talks and gatherings featuring other villages throughout Bond County! Let us know if you're interested in speaking!

Below Left: In the late 1930s, the construction of U.S. Route 40 required crews to build bridges over the railroad at Smithboro. Coleman's grandfather and great-uncle both worked on the bridge crew (two views of work).

Below Right: While Smithboro's coal mine experienced a myriad of problems due to high ground water, ever the promotor, Henry Smith opened a natural mineral waters company with Bottling Works, Hotel, and Bath & Spa House (shown). Pennsylvania Railroad dining cars served water from Smithboro's bottles. *ImageColorizer.com*



Smithboro's Coal Mine & Old People's Methodist Home

Boring for coal at the Smithboro Coal Mine began December 1, 1883 by the Smithborough Prospect and Mining Company owned by Henry **Smith** and four others. Reports stated that at 263 feet a stratum of pure white sandstone extended downward a considerable distance and salt water was hit at 537 feet. The coal was struck on April 25, 1885, underlying the ground at a depth of 460 to 510 feet. There were two veins of coal, but the lower vein was a five foot strata and was the one worked. The coal mine shaft was 700 feet deep. In 1887 there were 50 men em-



ployed in this mine, and coal was being shipped to numerous places. The coal in this mine was supposed to have been of good quality, but the salt water became a problem to handle, rusting equipment, and causing the cost of operation to be more than anticipated. The mine closed down in 1888; but a series of different owners would reopen and operate until 1910. This picture of the mine at Smithboro was probably taken during the last phase of its operation. At one time the mine provided coal for the engines on both the Pennsylvania and C.B. & Q. railroads.

Just before Eleanor Smith died in 1908, her husband Henry gave their 20-room downtown Smithboro home to The Southern Illinois Methodist Episcopal Church with the agreement that he and Eleanor, and no one else, would be buried on the property. The house became "The Eleanor Smith Memorial Deaconess and Old People's Methodist Home." Eleanor was buried on "The Eleanor Home" property. And, although the home subsequently burned and the church sold the property, Henry was buried next to Eleanor as he planned.



The Eleanor Smith Memorial Deaconess and Old People's Methodist Home.—This institution is the property of the Southern Illinois Conference, made so by the donor, Henry H. Smith, who is a member of the local Methodist Episcopal church at Smithboro, Ill., where the Home is located. It was opened for members March 19, 1912, and was dedicated June 27 by Bishop William A. Quayle. Its present capacity is 8 members and it is open to Methodist people—men and women—above the age of 60 years who have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for at least 10 years. The admission fee for persons from 60 to 70 years is \$400 for life membership, and above 70 years \$300. Preference is given to persons residing in the bounds of the Conference. At present there are 4 members in the Home—four women. One death, August 5, 1913, an old man who had been with us 14 months. Two deaconesses under the National Board are employed as superintendent and matron, governed by a board of trustees confirmed by the Conference. The Home is incorporated and valued at about \$5,000, the building and 6 lots. President, John H. Webb, Vandalia, Ill.; Secretary, B. H. Batson, Mulberry Grove, Ill.; Treasurer, M. F. Book, Smithboro, Ill.; Field Worker and Superintendent, Helen M. Hull, Deaconess; Matron, Rhoda M. Scharf.

Methodist Memorial Home for the Aged, Warren, Ind.—A home

Left: Smith Cemetery. Photo by editor, 2015. Right: From *The Methodist Year-book* by Wm Harrison De Puy, 1913.

Chimney Work Completed at Bond County Museum

By Cary Holman, BCHS President

You may have driven by Bond County Museum this spring and observed the progress that masonry experts with Illini Restoration of Brownstown made replacing the larger, south chimney and the smaller, north chimney. As often occurs in working on old homes, we found that it was a bigger project and much more expensive than we had hoped (at least, that's the way many projects have gone in Bond County Historical Society's 130-year-old house).

Work began on the larger south chimney on April 25, 2023. The brick layer estimated that the lighter color bricks that were loose in the chimneys have been up there since the 1940s. These bricks turned out not to be chimney bricks but were perhaps a kind of paving brick whose edges were never intended to be exposed to the weather. There had been considerable erosion of the top bricks. Also, these bricks were about 3/4" longer than standard bricks, making it impossible to replace the damaged brick with standard chimney bricks of a similar color. Finally, the 1940s-era chimney was only one course thick rather than the



standard two-course thickness making it a much weaker chimney. So, the decision was made to tear off all of the lighter color brick down to the original chimney just below the roof line. Then a two-course chimney was built up using chimney brick of a similar color to the original.

May 10, a concrete cap was poured to close the top of the chimney with a spring-loaded closure should the fireplace ever be used again. A cable to hold the flap closed runs down to the fireplace in the room where we have our Civil War displays. The cap will prevent anything from entering the chimney (birds, bats, leaves, insects, or water). The project then continued on May 11 to remove and replace the smaller but higher north chimney like the south chimney.

Dreamcatchers 4-H Club Lends Heart and Hands

By Michelle Haller, a director with BCHS

The Bond County Historical Society's Building & Grounds Committee were busy at Bond County Museum in Greenville Thursday, April 6, 2023, with the assistance of the Pocahontas, Illinois Dreamcatchers 4-H Club. Together the crews raked the yard, cleaned up the landscaping, trimmed hedges, cleared up the brick patio, swept, edged, and weeded many areas. Whew, what a day! We also cannot forget to add how wonderful our front stairs look after their power washing thanks to our President Cary **Holman**! Great job to all involved and thank you for helping make our museum shine again!



ISGS Lineage Certificate Programs: Prairie Patriot

Prairie Patriot Certificates are available from the Illinois State Genealogical Society for descendants of all wars. The Veteran must have served during the indicated war and lived, died, or was buried in Illinois.

The applicant may be a direct descendant (through bloodline -- "child of a child") or an indirect descendant (through a sibling of the veteran) and must prove the relationship on the accompanying forms.

Wars that are included in the project are:

- Revolutionary War
- War of 1812
- Blackhawk War
- Mexican War
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War
- World War I
- World War II

"Prairie Pioneer" Certificates and Lapel Pins can also be applied for. For more information go to the ISGS website: <https://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=125>



Don't Forget the BCGS Publication List & Book Shop

Just a reminder that Bond County Genealogical Society has put together many publications to assist you in your research. This is a short list, but the longer list and an order form can be obtained at the society web-site's Book Shop www.bondcogen.org/for_sale.html. We've also updated shipping prices to reflect the current postal rates. \$5.00 for the first book, \$1.00 each additional. Contact us first for large orders! For more information or to make a purchase, email info@bondcogen.org or write us a snail mail letter.

◇ Naturalization and Intent Records

Cemetery Books (Indexed, some include obituaries; most volumes were compiled pre-1990 so more recent burials will not be included):

- ◇ Cemeteries in Miscellaneous Townships: Horab, Ayers, Jett, Laws II (Smith), White, Miller Burial Ground, Smith, Smith Burial Ground, Ellsworth
- ◇ Sunnyside Cemetery
- ◇ Hazel Dell, Zion Church, Smith Grove, St Lawrence, Wisetown Cemeteries
- ◇ Camp Ground, Mulberry Grove, McKendree Chapel Cemeteries
- ◇ Many Journeys: A History of the People Buried in Maxey, Seagraves, Durham, and Halls' Grove Cemeteries



Henry Rhea Gravemarker, continued...

(Continued from page 1)

were in Madison Co, Illinois and purchasing land in Macoupin Co. Between 1838 and 1841 Henry purchased various acreages of farmland in Bond County. They had ten known children. When the United States engaged in war with Mexico over a disputed boundary and US's annexation of Texas, though 42 years old, Henry responded to a call from the Illinois governor for volunteers ("The Protestant Monitor" June 19, 1846). Col. John B. **Reid** writes in the 1905 *Historical Souvenir of Greenville* that 85 citizens total served from Bond county, departing from Greenville for New Orleans via Alton on June 19, 1846. When the war was over and the veterans returned home in 1848 from defeating Santa Anna on the plains of Mexico they were given an ovation. The information in a military bounty land warrant suggests Rhea got more than just an ovation: he was granted 160 acres in Montgomery Co, IL, which he assigned [sold?] to others soon after. The 18th reunion of Mexican War veterans was held in Greenville on July 23-24, 1890, but Henry had died in November 1857. His friends and comrades posed for a photo by the Ed **DeMoulin** studio on the steps of the courthouse (Photo print currently owned by Kevin Kaegy).

Bond County Historical Society knew about small Rhea Cemetery on the old Rhea farm since society founder John **Nowlan** included the private graveyard in his small cemetery survey book in the early 20th century. Nowlan also included a paragraph about it in his "Records and Traditions" *Greenville Advocate* column published October 1935. But the exact location of Henry and his family's graves was lost again until 2009 when Connie **Tomlinson** (a volunteer for USGenWeb Archives) noted she'd discovered a single stone inside a faint path through the brush. But nothing was done at that time to care for it or investigate the suspected other plots.

Now, through luck and miracles and the current property owner, 28 year old Joe **Dothager**, Henry D. Rhea's stone stands whole, cleaned, refinished, proud... and recognized!

Joe acquired the land not very long ago from his father, Chuck "Swampy" Dothager. It's off Dry Branch Avenue east of Red Ball Trail. Rhea Schoolhouse used to sit on the corner of Dry Branch Ave and Owl Road too, but that's another tale for another day. In April 2023, Joe had been clearing a 5 acre section of the land, grown up with brush and timber nearby an overhauled pond. Originally the pond was meant to be much larger, but work stopped before the workers had excavated more of the higher rise towards the thicker timberline. Then Joe's equipment revealed a curious stone, not a field stone or boulder, but a carefully worked and squared off slab, just the thickness and pale color of a military marker. Joe couldn't believe it! He'd rediscovered a piece of the legendary Rhea cemetery!

Much more carefully now, he excavated every broken piece he could find and pieced the stone together like a puzzle; some didn't fit so may belong to additional markers. By the patina on the edges of the pieces, he judged it had been broken by other farming/mowing equipment longer ago. It was quite

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Marker cleaned up but as it was found, broken and flaking.

Photo courtesy Joe Dothager.

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caked in dirt, fractured beneath the level of the engraving, and the engraving itself was flaking away. Joe brushed off the dirt, washed it, and used special dowel rods and epoxy to rejoin the largest pieces. He researched the name and other information on the internet and contacted members of the historical society and genealogical society.

Joe felt an enormous responsibility to honor this early Bond County settler's military service and final resting place. As the original engraving was so damaged, he determined he could use the opposite end of the tall white stone for a new engraving. With the help and support of his dad, Chuck, Joe contacted Pyramid Monument Company who created a stencil and instructed the men on the use of special stencil glue. Then Chuck expertly sandblasted the stone and they painted the inside of the lettering and numbering to set off the inscription.

The stone was ready, but where exactly was the grave? Joe had experience dowsing for water, and he learned the same could be done for graves. So he open-mindedly walked a grid of the rise of earth behind the pond (which remember, was supposed to have been built much larger and to have included much more of this rise!) with his dowsing rods. To Joe's delight he has consistently found, to this date, 13 distinct spots, 3 feet apart, all the same size. They are all in a single row side by side; buried north to south, when usually graves are oriented head to west and feet to east. Who's to say this isn't the Rhea family?!



Sandblasting a new stencil inscription onto the stone. Photo courtesy Joe Dothager.

Joe reset Henry's stone, with a concrete base, very near where he'd dug it up, facing the sunset with the 12 additional suspected graves spread out in a neat line across the cleared rise above the pond.

The stone is younger than the grave itself; traditionally such mid-19th century graves would have been marked with wood, as there were very few stone carvers in the Midwest and rail shipping from the east was not yet common or affordable. According to an article on the website for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, after the Civil War, the U.S. government began providing standardized grave markers for military veterans in national cemeteries. In 1879, Congress authorized use of the stone marker for burials of eligible deceased of the Mexican War, etc., in private cemeteries as well. An Ancestry.com records search reveals a January 1934 application for a military headstone for Henry D. Rhea to be shipped to John H. Nowlan in Greenville, Bond County, Illinois!

The entire Rhea Cemetery has been estimated to measure no more than 300 square feet. It is all private land. There is no registered deed. There was never a fence. There were mostly just legends, uncovered by surveyor John Nowlan on his amazing treks through the county, making investigative chitchat with every citizen he came across, for work and for hobby. But now there is surety and reverence. And Henry D. Rhea's grave has been marked with American flags for his first Memorial Day. It won't be the last time. Thank you, Joe Dothager! And thank you, Kevin Kaegy, for bringing Cary Holman and Rebecca Clausen along for the ride!

Sources helpful in preparing this article include: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, U.S. Dept of the Interior Bureau of Land Management website, "The Genealogical Helper," Atlas of Bond County Illinois 1875.

Wonder Window TV and 1941 Fire Truck Stars of Museum Day

The 3rd annual Greenville Museum Day spanned five locations and eight attractions on June 3, 2023 and showcased a community rich in history, innovation, art, and wacky fun.

Thanks to Brett **Mueller**, a 1941 Chevrolet fire truck once part of Pocahontas, Illinois' fleet was parked on the grounds of Bond County Museum and available for hands-on inspection (and bell ringing!). Kids and adults enjoyed meeting Sparky the Smithboro Fire Dog as well as Elsa the Ice Queen portrayed by friend of the museum, Cortney **Stewart**: 2023 Illinois Teen Miss Heart of the USA.

Inside the museum, the story of Bond County is told through unique artifacts including a Civil War room where a special Museum Day-only guide portrayed Union Col. John B. **Reid**. New temporary displays for 2023 include U.S. **DeMoulin's** travel trunk; early 20th century toys; Army uniform of Pleasant Mound WWI veteran Frank W. **Bauer** who served in England and France as an airplane mechanic in the 155th Aero Squadron; letters, photos, and documents from Greenville WWI Army veteran Corp. Henry A. **Hubbard** of the 308th Machine Gun Battalion; and memorabilia from "centennial destination:" Nuby's Steakhouse and the Big Shoal Amusement Park. A new media exhibit featuring a 1949 Stewart-Warner "Wonder Window" television displays actual 1949 programs like "Captain Video," "The Lone Ranger," and "Kukla Fran and Ollie." These shows also include commercials aimed at baby boomer kids. *Photos by editor.*



Wes Pourchot Cookout Fundraiser Brings Out Hungry Community Supporters



It's not a Greenville spring without a Wes **Pourchot** Friday hot lunch fundraiser! So, on May 12, 2023, Bond County Historical Society's small and efficient crew of volunteers served up sandwiches, chips, desserts, and beverages to a steady stream of customers in Rolling Lawn Farm's The Milk House's parking lot. German potato salad (grandmother's secret recipe and, a dish not available at other cookouts) proved the star of the day! Thank you to Wes the master griller, the **Turleys**, and Donnewald Distributing for your donation of water and soda, and to everyone who helped plan, work, and came to eat!

A Brief History of Surnames by Country of Origin

What type of name is yours?

Continued from Part 1 in the B.C.G.S. News
Vol 38, Issue 1, Winter 2023.

Surnames were originally added to people's first names to distinguish them from other people who had the same first name locally e.g. Robert the baker or Robert at the wood. Initially they were changed or dropped at will, but were eventually passed on from generation to generation. Your last name gives you a sense of identity and helps you discover who you are and where you come from.

Italian surnames usually stem from four groups. They can be patronymics, which means they come from an ancestor's first name. This is why there are names like **d'Alberto** or **d'Angelo**, which sound a little like first names but are typically surnames. Then there are last names that come from geographical areas or where a family is from like **Di Genova** or **Napolitano**. Other family names are usually descriptives or nicknames like **Franco**, or **Betto**, or describe an occupation like **Carpenteri**, which means carpenter. Italian surnames can also be creative and originate from the names of insects or birds. The way your Italian surname is spelled can tell you a lot about where your family is from. For example, surnames ending in -o come from southern Italy, but names ending in -a or -i generally come from the north. In fact, many Italian last names originated from nick names. **Rossi**, which is the most common surname in Italy, means "redhead."

Until the 11th and 12 centuries, last names were rare in ancient Greece. It was only then that upper-class families began to use family names. Last names have historically been derived from a nickname, a place name, or from the patron of the family. Women traditionally used a feminine version of their father's name until they got married. Then, they used a feminine version of their husband's name. Today, Greek women are more likely to use their family name for life. **Papadopoulos** is the most common surname in modern Greece.

Over a third of Finnish surnames end with -nen, which signifies a place of belonging. Many of these names were adopted during the 19th century.

When Lithuanian surnames first became a tradition in the 14th century, they were reserved only for Lith-



Today, human society is more culturally diverse than ever, but our surnames can tell us a lot about our ancestral origins. While there are plenty of lesser known last names, maps like this one created by online lending firm NetCredit reveal the most common surnames around the world, according to each country. More at: <https://mymodernmet.com/most-common-surnames-map/>

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uanian nobility. They usually derived from patronymics. The most striking peculiarity of the historical Lithuanian heraldic system is that a coat of arms does not belong to a single family. A number of unrelated families (sometimes hundreds of them), usually with a number of different family names, may use a coat of arms, and each coat of arms has its own name. The use of family names gradually spread to other social groups: the townsfolk by the end of the 17th century, then the peasantry. People from the villages did not have last names until the end of the 18th century. In such cases their village of origin was usually noted in documents.

The Russian aristocracy began using last names to differentiate between two people of the same name in the 17th century, while peasants didn't begin adopting surnames until the feudal system was abolished late in the 19th century. Many Russian last names are patronymic. There are very few names derived from occupations, but a lot of names derived from animals. For example, **Sobakin** means dog and **Bykov** means bull. Ending a surname in "a" makes a surname feminine, and suitable to be used by a woman. Russian surnames ending in "ich" and "ko" are gender neutral and are most common in the Ukraine area of Russia. Women in Ukraine do not feminize their surnames. Originally, Ukrainian surnames were reserved for the upper class. It wasn't until Ukraine became part of the Austrian Empire that peasants were given surnames for taxation purposes.

Polish last names were most often derived from places, family patriarchs or nicknames. Names derived from places usually ended in -ski, meaning "of," and were reserved for nobility. In the 13th century, however, it became fashionable to adopt a -ski name, making it one of the most identifiable traits of Polish last names. Names derived from the first name of family patriarchs could have any number of different suffixes, leading to dozens of variations of the same last name.

The use of last names in France, like in much of Europe, didn't become necessary until the 11th century, to differentiate between people with the same first name. In French, both "de" and "Fitz" mean "son of," and are used at the start of a surname. The patronymic surname was by far the most common type, with the matronymic surname (the first name of the mother) only being used if a person's father was not known. Every now and then, a suffix would be added to the end of a parent's name to use as a surname for someone. Suffixes like "eau," "elot," "elle," "elin," and "elet" all mean "little son of." The second most common type of surname was one based on the occupation of an individual. Common occupational surnames in France include such names as: **Lefebvre** (craftsman), **Gagne** (farmer), **Marchand** (merchant), **Berger** (shepherd), **Bisset** (weaver), **Mullins** (miller), **Page** (servant). In the history of French surnames later origins come from people's distinguishing features or geography. Some common French geographical surnames include: **Chastain** (meaning from near chestnut trees), **Dupont** (meaning from by the bridge), **Beaumont** (meaning from the beautiful hill), **Travers** (meaning from near a bridge or ford), **Desmarais** (meaning from by the marsh), **Marseille** (a city in France that is a common French surname, because so many people were/are from there). It was pretty easy to adopt any last name you wished until 1474, when the king decreed that all last name changes had to go through him. From then on, all name changes were recorded, making it easier to trace family history. One note about French last names: Many have Germanic roots due to the frequent land changes between the French and Germanic people through the centuries. So if your last name sounds German, it doesn't mean you actually are!

Watch for Part 3 in the B.C.G.S. News Vol 39, Issue 1, Winter 2024.

Find a complete Works Cited and Consulted for further reading following Part 3.

1938 Home Movie of Greenville

By Allen H. Keith, a free-lance writer formerly of Greenville. He died in Mattoon, Illinois in July 2022.

Home movie film of Greenville in 1938 brings back memories for some people and new insights into the past for others. Videotaped copies of the “Shea Family Video Album” have been viewed by many people since they were made available to the general public several years ago. At that time I viewed the video a time or two and thought it was interesting. However, I reviewed it again recently [*Editor’s Note: This article was written before 2002.*] and became more aware of the many fascinating aspects of the tape. Like most home movies of the time, it is a bit grainy and sometimes out of focus. However, the film has a lot to offer as it shows viewers the various people and places of 65 years ago.

Among other things, the video includes some touches of humor. An employee at the Sinclair Service Station is shown mugging for the camera by snuggling up to a life-sized promotional cutout of an attractive young woman. The promotion touts Sinclair oil products. Another bit of humor comes when the cameraman visits the Advocate office, located where the First Bank parking lot is now. Local citizens are seen looking at election returns posted on the newspaper’s window. Then, Advocate employees come outside to be photographed. Long-time Advocate publisher Will C. **Carson** holds up a “No Hunting” sign, possibly made in the Advocate’s job printing plant. Later, in response to the coaxing of Leo **Reeves**, publisher Carson shows off with an exaggerated and highly animated baseball pitch windup. Throughout the film employees of various businesses and industries come outside to be photographed.

Often the camera also goes inside for some dimly-lit interior scenes. Interior and exterior views are presented of various Greenville industries in 1938. Some of the manufacturing process is shown at the Model Glove Co., Pet Milk, **DeMoulin** Bros. and Co. and **Coates** Steel Products Co. One impressive aspect of the film is that ordinary working people are highlighted and are often shown in their work settings.

Horses appear in several movie scenes. A horse-drawn wagon is being used at Greenville Elevator Co. Horses are used for excavating at a construction site. The contractor on the project was O. E. **Wheeler** and Sons. Horses are used for riding at the Suburban Lodge Stables. A sign says, “Ride for health and pleasure,” and several women are seen riding along a dirt path.

The Greenville Shells basketball team is shown in their uniforms outside the Shell dealership, the Greenville Service Co. A parade of veterans takes place, apparently on Armistice Day, now called Veterans Day. Some of the World War

I veterans wear their uniforms. They march to the northeast corner of the courthouse lawn, where a program and band concert is held. The courthouse Civil War monument is shown, complete with cannon balls stacked in front. A passenger train is shown stopping near the depot, and a man with a suitcase gets off.

I was struck by how happy and healthy most people, including children, look in the film. Hundreds of people are photographed. A confident-looking Walter **Joy** appears several times. Father J. J. **Enright**, long-



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time priest at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church, is shown near the church. Pauline **Watson** cooperates with the cameraman by trying on headwear at a clothing store. S. W. **Andrews**, president of Model Glove, is at his desk. Raymond **Genre** shows ties to a customer at **Wise-Genre** Clothing Co. A boy carries a potted plant in each hand outside the Greenville Greenhouse, accompanied by his dog.

My father is shown driving a car and then walking across Main Street and his sister is seen drinking a Coke in the Busy Bee Cafe. A great many people were impeccably well dressed, with men often wearing suits, ties, vests, as well as a hat. Parishioners, as well as pastors, are seen leaving Sunday services at various churches.

Also, students are shown, along with their teachers, at schools, including Central and Inglis grade schools and at Greenville High School. A GHS school bus can be seen. Students at Inglis slide down the tubular metal fire escape. Playground activities are also shown. It is interesting to note that black people are in at least four scenes in the film. African-American students can be seen at both grade schools and at GHS.

The film shows the City Park and lake swimming area. Also, views of the old Rod and Gun Club north of town show the lake there, as well as a man holding two quail he had bagged. The old airport landing strip north of town is pictured. Children are seen leaving the Lyric Theater after a matinee showing of "Black Bandit" and "The Lone Ranger."

Other scenes show Greenville College, the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camp north of Greenville, the **Hoiles** sunken garden, and the city water and sewerage plants. Also seen are the library, the post office, the mausoleum at Montrose Cemetery, a crowd of people at an oil well site, and also at an auction. Greenville Cottages had 10 cottages available, with a sign promising "hot and cold showers." City policemen and firemen are shown at the old city hall. Firefighters aboard fire trucks circle the block for the cameraman.

Many fine homes are shown, as well as downtown businesses in 1938. Some of them are the Annex, **Harper's** Cleaners, F. P **Joy** and Co., **Runells** Furniture, **Watson's** and **O'Neal's** drug stores, **Fox** Hardware, the George V. **Weise** Co., **Clementz** Grocery, **Blizzard's** Market, **Grigg's** store, **Maynard's**, the **Hoiles** bank, and some auto dealerships. Some other scenes include golfers and the old clubhouse at the Greenville Country Club, the **Thomas** House hotel, the **Dewey** and **Bass** funeral homes, many service stations, as well as the Busy Bee, Brietie's, Kopper Kettle and Purity restaurants. Mouth-watering donuts are displayed in the window of Greenville Baking Co.

This video is a real prize. It is unfortunate that people don't do this sort of thing more often for the sake of posterity. Someone or some group should have the prescience to consider making a similar video today -- one that would have real historical significance 30 or 40 years from now.

1938 Greenville Video on YouTube!

Archival Productions has recently digitized this historical footage for Bond County Historical Society from the old VHS tape (plus provided a jaunty period soundtrack!). The original films were shot with a 16mm camera on black and white silent film. It may actually be a mish-mash of two videos filmed in 1938 and 1940; the seasonal weather changes from shot to shot. Watch

Playlist at

<https://www.youtube.com/@bondcountyhistoricalsociety>

Use FamilySearch's Doppelgänger Feature To Find Your Twin

FamilySearch is usually used to trace family history; it also has a function where you can find your look-alike. Simply upload your photos and any family photos you want to include, then select the doppelgänger feature to run a search of its users. FamilySearch will also tell you how much you resemble your other family members. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/find-your-doppelganger>

Genealogy Tips Of The Day from Michael John Neill's blog: genealogytipoftheday.com

Chronologies

A reminder that chronologies can be useful in your family history research. Always make certain dates are accurate, double check where you obtained the dates, make certain dates are in order if creating chronology yourself, don't include events that had no reasonably logical impact on your relative's life. Also consider creating a geographic chronology of where your ancestor lived and during what time periods.

Are You Certain of the Gender?

When using foreign language records, make certain you know the gender of names with which you are unfamiliar. Ask someone who knows. Don't just guess.

The Records of the Funeral Home

The funeral home your ancestors used may have records that could help you in your research. However, keep in mind that funeral homes change names and owners over time and tracking down the current name and location of operations may take some time. Newspapers, websites of current funeral homes, Google searches for former home addresses, and reaching out to residents in the area (including libraries and historical/genealogical societies) are some good ways to get started trying to locate the records. Remember that funeral home records are private company records and that the business has no obligation to provide you with information. Be polite, courteous, and respectful when requesting information.

Boarders are not Boring

Never assume that those "boarders" in a census entry are merely strangers taken in for extra income. Those boarders could be relatives as well. Sometimes the census focuses on the "financial" relationship and not the biological one. Always do a little snooping on those boarders living with your ancestor.

Not Everyone Gets the Same DNA

You may not share the same DNA with all the descendants of a set of great-great-grandparents (or more removed ancestor). Not everyone inherits the same DNA "pieces" from a set of common ancestors. There's only so much "space" in your DNA and different children from the same set of parents get different "pieces" and only half of their DNA from each parent. There are four descendants of my Neill great-great-grandparents that have had a DNA test done. They all share some DNA with me. They all share DNA with each other. But we don't all share the same DNA pieces, we don't all "match" each other, and we have different "shared matches."

Moses Lyttaker Family of Bond and Schuyler Counties, IL

By Janet Pease, Northfield, Minnesota, jkpease2509@gmail.com

Moses Lyttaker (which has a whole litany of spellings) was 30 years old, born in Tennessee when listed on the 1850 U.S. Federal Census for Bainbridge township, Schuyler county, Illinois with a wife Mary Jane. Moses married his first wife, **Betsey Henry**, June 4, 1840 in Bond county, Illinois. I'm primarily interested in his descendants from his second wife **Mary Jane Points** whom he married October 13, 1847 in Brown county, Illinois, and with whom he appears in the 1850 census.

There are three other Lyttaker families on the 1850 census for Schuyler Co., IL. They are **Rolland G. Lyttaker** born 1825 in Tennessee (he served in the Mexican-American War) with a wife Mary also living in Bainbridge township; living in Woodstock township are **Joseph H. Lyttaker** born 1828 in Tennessee with a wife Telitha and **Finess E. Lyttaker** born 1816 in Tennessee with a young wife Maria (he had married first Elizabeth Stanley on March 3, 1834 in Gibson Co., TN).

They are all suggested to be brothers on both FamilySearch.org's and Ancestry.com's Public Trees, sons of **Peter** (1786-1825) and **Mary Elizabeth (Hignight)** (1798-1840) **Lyttaker**. I have not researched this family but a Peter Lyttaker and a **John Hignight** (possibly a brother of Mary based on his age) are both on the 1820 U.S. Federal Census for Montgomery Co., TN, so that would be the place to start. *[Editor's Note: According to the volume "Harned and allied family records" by Willodean Tracy Nease Schofield, Peter Lyttaker and Mary Hignight are indeed the parents of Moses and Finis Lyttaker. There were several marriages between the Lyttakers and the Files of Bond county, IL; BCGS member Gerald Jenner's "Henry Oliver File History & Family Tree (1776-1992) in 3 volumes" includes two daughters and a son of Peter Lyttaker and Mary Hignight whom the Harned family volume claim are siblings of Moses and Finis Lyttaker.]*

The will of John Hignight written on November 1, 1815, probated January 1816 in Montgomery co., TN, names three grandchildren: Polly Litaker, Elizabeth Litaker and John Litaker - (apparently) children of Peter Litaker. No other heirs are named. This will is online. *[Editor's Note: There are two versions available on Ancestry.com of bequest documents: one is a typed court transcript which lists three Litker grandchildren. Another is a longhand version of his will which lists Elizabeth Lyttaker as a daughter of John Hignight and Polly Lyttaker as a grandchild.]*

There is a household of James Hignight, a cooper, born 1827 Kentucky and (wife?) Elizabeth Hignight aged 23, born Iowa living in Bainbridge township in Schuyler county in 1850. Relationship is not known. No further information known.

A Peter Lyttaker is on the 1840 U.S. Federal Census for Bond Co., IL aged 50-59 (born 1781-1790) with a wife of the same age and 2 teenage boys and 1 girl in his household. Further study needs to be done there for additional information on this family. The 1850 U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedule for Bond Co., IL lists a married Peter S. Lyttaker dying in December 1849 but he was born in 1817 in Tennessee, so is too young to be the older Peter Lyttaker on the 1840 census for Bond Co., IL.

I have also researched the descendants of these "other" Lyttaker families on the 1850 census for Schuyler Co., IL, but all left Schuyler county; that material can be found in the Genealogical Center in Rushville, Illinois.

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Three of these four Lyttaker households (I have a possible listing for Moses Lyttaker in Kansas for 1860; see below) on the 1850 census for Schuyler Co., IL are not found in the 1860 U.S. Federal Census anywhere; only Finess in the 1860 census for Sonoma Co., California, but Moses Lyttaker is on the 1855 Illinois State Census for Bond Co., Illinois and on the 1865 Illinois State Census for Bond Co., IL. They may have all left for California. Three of the Lyttaker (brothers?) mentioned above or their descendants are found later in California. Only Finess Lyttaker seems to have made it to California, being on the 1860 U.S. Federal Census for Sonoma county; in addition to his own children are two nephews, said to be sons of Rolland G. Lyttaker, in his household. A daughter of Rolland G. Lyttaker (Margaret, shown in his 1850 household in Schuyler Co., IL) also is found later in California. Telitha the widow (?) of Joseph H. Lyttaker remarries in 1855 in Sierra Co., CA.

1850 U.S. Federal Census. Bainbridge twp S 1N R 1W, Schuyler Co., Illinois (Oct 29)

Lyttaker, Moses	30, farmer,	b. Tenn, no real estate value, unable to read/write
Mary J.	23	b. Ky
Sarah M.	6	b. Ills

Moses either may not have gone at all to California with his brothers, or he turned back because he is on the 1855 and 1865 Bond Co., IL State Census schedules: with a young wife aged 20-30, 2 boys under 10 and a girl aged 10-20 in 1855; then with a female aged 41-50 and 5 children in 1865, plus 290 acres of land. In 1860, they appear to have lived close to a section of the Oregon-California Trail in Marshall Co., Kansas Territory near the Nebraska Territory line. A family there on the 1860 census may be Moses and Mary and their children, although the spelling is questionable. I searched every Moses in the 1860 Midwestern states and territories to come up with this man in Kansas:

1860 U.S. Federal Census. Blue Rapids twp, Marshall Co., Kansas Territory (July 2)

Lattacun, Moses	40, farmer,	b. Tenn, \$600 real estate, \$150 personal estate, able to read/write
Mary	34	b. Kentucky
John	10	b. Illinois attended school within the year
William	6	b. Illinois attended school within the year
Mary	5	b. Illinois
Amanda	2	b. Illinois

This listing of names, ages, birthplaces, are all so close to the list of names and birthdays in Moses' Mexican War pension papers (see later in this essay) and with a different accent, Lattacun or maybe Latticur, could be a very rough pronunciation of Lyttaker, especially if neighbors gave the name and other information to the census taker about people they barely knew. I could not find this family in the 1865 Kansas state census nor is Moses, hence they may all have been on the road back to Illinois between 1860-1865?

Since Moses owned \$600 worth of real estate in 1860, a study of Marshall county's land records might reveal more information, especially having a better spelling of the surname.

A study of the Schuyler Co., Illinois tax lists for the early 1850s in the courthouse may show when these Lyttakers left the county. There are no Lyttakers on the 1855 or 1865 Illinois state census for Schuyler county. Only Moses Lyttaker on the 1855 and 1865 Illinois state census for Bond county.

Watch for Part 2 in the B.C.G.S. News Vol 39, Issue 1, Winter 2024.

GG-Granddaughter Of Colby Post No. 301 G.A.R.

By Kevin J. Kaegy, BCHS Historian & BCGS Vice-President

Bond County Historical Society received a special visitor to the Bond County Museum Friday, April 28, 2023. Victoria **Betz** from Salt Lake City, Utah came to see her ancestor Lieutenant Colonel John B. **Reid**'s Civil War presentation sword. She was already in the area to visit some Reid relatives up in Carlinville. Victoria loaned BCHS the sword back on Memorial Day 2014. Lester **Harnetiaux** was the society's president at that time. Victoria and the sword appeared on a January 2014 episode of PBS *Antiques Roadshow*. The sword has been on proud display with the museum's other Civil War artifacts since that time.

On this visit, she donated two more significant items. The first is an original photo of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic. The G.A.R. was a Union Civil War veterans fraternal and charitable organization. The photo was taken on the south steps of Bond County courthouse and a copy appears in the *Historical Souvenir of Greenville* volume published in 1905. The Souvenir also has all members identified. Victoria's photo is very clear and not cropped. This photo has Col. Reid in the second row (6th from left, nearly in the center). His granddaughter Helen is in the center of the front row. Helen had been given an honorary position as the "Adopted" Daughter of Colby Post No. 301 G.A.R. on September 12, 1902. The other item Victoria gave us is her grandmother Helen's G.A.R. ribbon and badge. Although this photo has been long available, we now have a likely date. It probably does date to September 12, 1902. All of the G.A.R. members were actively collecting the funds to erect the Civil War Monument which still stands on the south courthouse lawn. It was dedicated in 1903 and the men were given ribbons with the monument that year. None are wearing that ribbon yet.

Also, this uncropped photo shows two extra things. At the top you can see a large banner for the Colby Post 301 G.A.R. This banner is now on display in Bond County Museum's Civil War Room. Down in the lower right, there is a dog leaning against one of the old soldiers. There is also a dog in another G.A.R. reunion photo on display at Bond County Museum which was taken in 1893.

If you look closely, you will find four black men who served in the 29th Colored Unit. During the Civil

(Continued on page 27)



(Continued from page 26)

War the colored troops were separated out, but Greenville's G.A.R. was an integrated organization.

Col. J.B. Reid was a charter member of the Colby Post G.A.R. when it was established July 2, 1883. The post was named for Captain William **Colby** of Greenville, a record keeper for Company E of the 130th Illinois Infantry. Capt. Colby was a tent mate of Col. Reid up through the Vicksburg campaign.

Helen Reid inherited her grandfather's sword and this picture. Her parents were James Ward Reid (Col's Reid's son with wife Emma **Holden**) and Mary Estella **Wait**. Helen Jane married Clarence Edward Betz from Centralia, Illinois. They had a son named Ward Reid Betz; he married Marja Charlotte **Kratz**. They were the parents of Victoria Betz and several other children... making Victoria a great-great-granddaughter of the Colonel and Colby Post.

Col. Reid's letters home during the Civil War that were published/preserved in the *Greenville Advocate* helped to chronicle the events our local men lived through. These artifacts also help tell that story.

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.

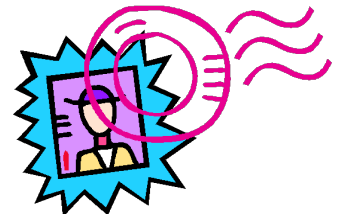
Genealogical queries with connections to Bond County and its communities in Southern Illinois are published free of charge to members (and non-members!) in our Newsletter (though members have priority on query space). Anyone is invited to submit the names and brief identifying information of ancestors 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

*Good queries
are:*

*Clear—
Specific—
Simple—
Concise*



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

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Renew Your Dues for 2023!

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 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).

June 2023 on the Grounds of Bond County Museum

Ice Cream & Pie Social Well Attended

It was a lovely evening Thursday June 22 at Bond County Museum for a Greenville Municipal Band concert featuring tunes from film and Broadway! Homemade desserts were their usual big hit with the crowd so thanks to all the volunteer bakers and servers including Queen Cortney **Stewart**, 2023 Illinois Teen Miss Heart of the USA.



"Never Forget" Garden Planted

Benjamin **Mills** Chapter NSDAR with Greenville Garden Club established a "Never Forget" Garden, dedicated in a ceremony Wednesday June 14 to commemorate the Centennial of the Unknown Soldier (1921-2021) and as a permanent installation to honor all veterans. The new garden is located on the south side of Bond County Museum and features red, white, and blue-purple blooms.

