IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN!!

Harvest Daze planning is well underway for the 34th year. The dates for this year’s show are: Saturday, October 5th and Sunday, October 6th. We have a great show planned again this year. We will kick off the show with a fish fry on Friday night. The show will open on Saturday at 9:00am with opening ceremonies. There will be entertainment throughout both days, good food, and great craft items to purchase. The 8th annual Cruise-In will be held on Saturday. Registration is from 9am to noon and trophies will be awarded at 3pm. This year Mike and Sue Eastburn are helping me organize the Cruise-In. They will be a great addition to the show. Sunday will open with the antique tractor show at 10:00am, more great entertainment, and good food.

It takes a lot of help, both donations and volunteers to put on an event of this size. If you can volunteer on one of these two days for any of the following tasks, please call the museum: Red Barn, Office sitters, Museum sitters (each floor, front desk, and office), Outside Table, Victorian Room Bake Sale. There are also several services and items that need to be purchased for this event to operate smoothly: food items for sale in the red barn, tents, porta-potties, bake sale items, postage, advertising, entertainment, and most important crafters to set up and sell their hand crafted items. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and the money will go towards the continuing restoration of this beautiful building. Please call Judy at the Museum and ask what you can do to help. If you are unable to attend, a donation will help offset these expenses. Every little bit makes a difference.

THANKS to everyone that has helped make this show a huge success. I have been involved with this show since its beginning: as a visitor purchasing items with my Mom, setting up as a crafter, and finally serving as chairman to organize this great event. I love seeing my Harvest Daze friends each year and feeling great when another successful year has come to an end. If you have not had an opportunity to attend, please mark your calendar and join us this year. This is a great part of Iroquois County’s history and we must continue to support the Historical Society to keep the museum open for our children to enjoy and learn about their heritage. The Historical Society is a non-profit organization and all funding comes from generous donations, grants, and memberships.

Thanks Again For Your Support Over The Past Years. It is greatly appreciated and not forgotten.
Joyce Franklin
Harvest Daze Chairman

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More Harvest Daze information inside!
IROQUOIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
“Old Courthouse Museum”
103 W. Cherry St. Watseka, IL 60970
Phone & Fax 815-432-2215
Email: ichs221567@yahoo.com
www.iroquoiscountyhistoricalsociety.com

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MEETING SCHEDULE
Historical - last Tues. of each month - 7:00 p.m.

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Accession Committee
Catherine Williams
Wilma & Rolland Light
(meets 1st & 3rd Tues. of each month)

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Museum Staff
Judy Ficke, Office Manager and Newsletter Editor

Part-time office: Ginny Lee; Rose Kaufman

Office volunteer: Catherine Williams

DON’T FORGET - - the Iroquois County Historical Society is participating in the national Blue Star Museum Program. This program, which offers free admission to all active duty military personnel and/or their families, started on Memorial Day and runs through Labor Day. If you haven’t stopped in yet, you only have a short time left.

THANK YOU
A big thank you goes out to all who responded with their email address to receive the newsletter online.

It’s encouraging to see that so many are interested in helping to keep the cost of the printing and mailing of the newsletter down so we can still bring you the informative 20 page newsletter.

If you haven’t responded yet and would be willing to receive the newsletter online to help cut these costs even more, please send your email address to Judy at ichs2215@mchsi.com Everyone will thank you.

**************************************************************************

This issue of the newsletter is focusing mostly on Harvest Daze. As a result, several of the columns and committee reports are purposely left out. Those columns and reports will resume in the next newsletter.

**************************************************************************

Museum Advocacy Day
Museum Advocacy Day brought several people to the museum on August 12 which included State Representative Josh Harms. This gave the public an opportunity to rediscover the treasures of the past and to once again see what museums have to offer.
This edition of the newsletter is a wealth of information regarding Harvest Daze as well as other articles of interest. I am stepping aside with the President’s message for this issue so we can talk about the things at hand.

The Iroquois County Historical Society Board of Directors would like to thank each of our members and friends who have contributed again this year to our 4th of July Non-Event Fundraiser. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards the on-going repairs and restoration of this fine old 1866 historic building. We appreciate everyone’s generosity. The Esteemed Guest List is printed below. If you forgot to mail your card and check in and now that the 4th of July is over, it is still not too late. Your names will be printed in the next edition of this newsletter.

ESTEEMED GUEST LIST

**SPARKLER $35**

Deborah LaFine-Rhoades  Watseka, IL
Patricia Bell  Watseka, IL
Wayne & Delores Knapp  Watseka, IL
Susan (Haberkorn) Bayless  Mt. Pleasant, MI
Dr. Al & Mary Jane Day  Watseka, IL
Joanne Clauss  Cissna Park, IL
Coy Reichert  Milford, IL
M/M Ronald Roach  Martinton, IL
Kingdon’s Home Center  Watseka, IL
Brent & Julie LaReau  Watseka, IL
Mary M. Hill  Watseka, IL
John & Rita Adams  Chebanse, IL
Watseka Express Lube  Watseka, IL
Marie Bousfield  Chicago, IL
Norma Meier  Clifton, IL
Mario & Ethel Alba  El Paso, TX
Pam & George Dubach  Onarga, IL
M/M Dale Carley  Watseka, IL
Mary Ann Clark  Sheldon, IL
Shirley Meece  Loda, IL
Norma Duling  Watseka, IL
Jim Jones  Watseka, IL
Suzanne Light  Sheldon, IL
Elizabeth Phelps  Wellington, IL
Maynard & Beverly Geisler  Bel Air, MD
Neena (Pratt) Powell-Kamp  Watseka, IL
Oral P. Olson  Mountain Home, AR
Lillian Anderson  Milford, IL
Dorothy Geddes  Watseka, IL
Beverly J. Essary  Albany, NY
M/M Ron Kuhlman  Gilman, IL

**SPARKLER $35** (continued)

Cheryl Frank  Bloomington, IN
Dennis & Diane Poskin  Ashkum, IL

**FIREFCRACKER $60**

Don & Mary Noonan  Cissna Park, IL
Sam & Jeannie Williamson  Watseka, IL
Rod & Susan Yergler  Crescent City, IL
Mabel E. Shuman  Sullivan, IL
Robert Danneh  Watseka, IL
M/M Ralph Johnson  Watseka, IL
Dr. Nick Burns  Watseka, IL
M/M William Orcutt  Watseka, IL
Drs. Martin & Rose  Watseka, IL
Smith’s Real Estate Ltd.  Watseka, IL
Anne Rhoades  Hoopeston, IL
Sumner National Bank  Watseka, IL
Vickie Webster  Sheldon, IL
Herb & Judy Albers  Watseka, IL
M/M/ Thomas Krones  Chenoa, IL
Marti Menges  Watseka, IL

**BOTTLE ROCKET $125**

Sidney & LaMoyne Blair  Oak Park, IL
Paul & Stephanie Bowers  Milford, IL
David & Sharon Sennett  Western Springs, IL
Iroquois Federal  Watseka, IL
Margaret B. Maxwell  Watseka, IL
Beverly J. Devine  Watseka, IL
William (Bill) Brooks  Watseka, IL
**ESTEEMED GUEST LIST**  
(continued from page 3)

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**CHERRY BOMB ** ** $300 **

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**BIG BANG ** ** $575 **

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**ADDITIONS TO HARVEST DAZE ACTIVITIES**

Last year we had our first of our annual Harvest Daze Fish Fry. It turned out quite well despite the stormy, rainy weather last year. It was held under the big tent so all was well.

We are having a fish fry again this year so start making your plans now to come to enjoy the Woodworth style fish, meet your friends and get ready to celebrate a wonderful Harvest Daze weekend.

Four years ago we started a Scarecrow Contest to go along with our Harvest Daze. We are planning this contest again this year and encourage you to make a scarecrow, either on your own or with your children and grandchildren. This is a fun time and the grounds around the museum look so nice. Gather up your family and friends and make a scarecrow. Trophies are awarded to the top 3 entries.
During the next decade, Hubbard established numerous trading posts throughout the river system in downstate Illinois. His contract with the American Fur company was extended and he soon became head of the entire Illinois operation. At that point his pay was increased to $1300 per year. He was so successful in his trade that by 1828 Hubbard had bought out the entire Illinois unit of the American fur company and was already known throughout the state. Noel Vasseur (now known as Noel La Vasseur) had become his trusted friend as well as his aide. Noel spoke several Indian tongues very well and, sooner than later, so did Hubbard.

One of the first posts was at the confluence of the Iroquois River and Sugar Creek near what is now the town of Watseka. A commemorative marker indicates the original location called Middleport. Hubbard and La Vasseur built a log cabin there for sleeping purposes and for storing some of the goods meant for trade with the Indians. Another early Illinois river post was established in southeastern Bureau County in an area known as the “Great Bend.”

Hubbard had grown into a tall, powerful, athletic man who took pride in keeping himself in great physical condition. He was a strong swimmer and more than once found it necessary to swim across swift rivers in freezing temperatures. At least once he swam the Illinois river dodging ice flows as he crossed. The Indians began calling him Pa-pa-ma-ta-be after he allegedly walked 75 miles in a single day to bring settlers from Danville, Illinois, to help fight off a threatened hostile Indian raid. He was often challenged by Indians to “walking races” but none of the natives could keep up with him. Pa-pa-ma-ta-be translates to “Swift Walker.”

As Hubbard expanded his vast territory and his flourishing business, he found it necessary to make numerous trips with his furs to Chicago where he was always graciously received by the Kinzie Family. However, the trips were arduous and often dangerous as not all of the Indians in Illinois were his friends. He had a few hand–to-hand fights with some hostiles over the years but always came out the victor. In one episode he was attacked by Chief Yellow Head, Chief Tamin’s half-brother, whose lands were located north of the Kankakee River. Although Hubbard’s hand was slashed by the knife-wielding Indian, Hubbard quickly dispatched the chief.

In any event, Hubbard grew tired of dealing with the numerous swamps and creeks on his trips so he moved his headquarters from Danville to Bunkum, which was much closer to Chicago and on higher ground.

While at Danville he had established a hardware business in the community that proved to be quite successful. His experience working in a hardware store as a youth in Montreal held him in good stead.

Furs were taken from his posts on pack horses onto the trail which ran from Vincennes into Illinois along its eastern border through the towns of Marshall, Paris, Danville, North Fork (Rossville) to Pickerell’s Mill (Milford.) From there it turned northeast to Montgomery on the south bank of the Iroquois River. The Village of Iroquois presently stands on the north bank of the river. The trail then turned east of Montgomery for about a mile and forded the river, turning northwest for about a mile to reach the Bunkum trading post, where Hubbard’s new residence stood. From there it followed a northerly course to Donovan and across Beaver Creek to Lorraine (Momence) on the sweeping, fast-moving Kankakee River.
The trail continued north through present day Grant Park, Beecher, Crete and then up to what is now Chicago Heights. From there it followed high ground at Blue Island and entered Chicago by the present Archer Avenue. Incidentally, located today in Crete is the Hubbard Trail Junior High School.

Because of its heavy use, the trail eventually became two wagons wide and was extensively used by the hundreds of Conestoga wagons that entered the state from Indiana. Farmers, in particular, were arriving from all over the world to farm the rich, black soil that Illinois offered.

For the most part, the current Illinois Highway 1 follows the trail down to Danville. In 1918 that road was the first state highway to be numbered and funded by the Illinois State Legislature. Parts of Route 1 are also called the Dixie Highway and, even before then, the Vincennes Trail.

Hubbard would become friendly with most of the Native American Indian tribes scattered throughout his territory. Chief Waba of the Kickapoo became very fond of him and actually adopted him as his son. Another special friend was Shabona, an Ottawa Indian, who became a Potawatomi Chief through marriage.

Shabona and Hubbard would remain close for many, many, years. He also traded extensively with the Winnebago and Chippewa Tribes, among others.

While Hubbard was at Bunkum, the first white settler in the area also became the first farmer. He staked off 80 acres and hired a young man to till the ground. It was at Bunkum that he regularly saw his old friend, Chief Tamin whose encampment was close by. Hubbard and the Pottawatomie Chief had often traded together with Hubbard exchanging knives and blankets for fur.

Tamin was so taken by Hubbard that the chief offered one of his daughters in marriage. Hubbard instead, selected the chief's niece, the beautiful Princess Watch-e-kee who at the time may have only been 12 or 13 years old. She was known to be very intelligent as well as lithe, slender and very attractive. Tamin agreed to the marriage, but only on the condition that the marriage be delayed a few years. That was agreeable to Hubbard and the couple married in an Indian ceremony in 1826.

Watch-e-kee worked in the Danville hardware store and often accompanied Hubbard on his frequent trips to Chicago. However, the Indian Princess did not like the city life in Danville much less the burgeoning City of Chicago. In Danville she was derided by the local women and she felt totally out of place in Chicago. She just wanted to live in her village with her Indian friends and relatives. Hubbard and Watch-e-kee permanently separated in 1829.

A few years later, in 1832, Noel La Vasseur married Watch-e-kee and settled at Bourbonnais on the Kankakee River. His brick home (the first brick home in town) stood where Olivet Nazarene University is located today. They were known to have produced several children. Hubbard was pleased about their marriage as he had placed LaVasseur in charge of his remaining fur trade interests on the Iroquois and at Bourbonnais Grove on the Kankakee River. The present Illinois town of Watseka was later named after Princess Watch-e-kee. Watseka is now the County Seat of Iroquois County.

(to be continued in the Oct. Nov. Dec. 2013 issue of this newsletter)

NOTE

ICHS is now able to receive Choice dollars from Thrivent so if you are a Thrivent member with dollars to donate, please consider ICHS. Any questions call Larry Burton at 815-432-0355 or Catherine at the museum.
ART GALLERY by Marilyn Wilken, Art Chair

The featured artist for the months of July & August is Mary Beth Koszut from Bourbonnais. Mary Beth is a professor of art and art education at Olivet Nazarene University. The display includes some of her drawings and oil paintings. Mary Beth’s artist statement follows:

The need to balance desires and responsibilities can be seen as one constant chaotic event. Through grace and perseverance, balance is often achieved until a situation or circumstance inevitably causes an element of collapse. This seeming failure, however, is only one aspect of the dichotomous nature of life.

My artwork strives to investigate the curiosity of continual contradiction that encompasses the growth process. I explore how paths seem impassable, yet we traverse them. How we constantly depend and interact with one another, yet often feel alone. How we are able to simultaneously build and collapse.

My visual vocabulary is inspired by the forest environment, where I feel most spiritually whole. I specifically abstract branches, roots, and rocks which appear as linear and circular shapes. These elements metaphorically represent individuals in search of physical, emotional, and spiritual stability. Their interdependence on one another for support, to achieve a precarious balance, is evident. Pushing and forming one another as they struggle, unable to transcend the environment, they achieve a fragile stability, which at any moment, could collapse.

Enamored with the expressive qualities of mark-making, I allow these elements to interact with one another, compiling environments of chaotic energy and balance. Repeatedly overlapping and removing imagery is analogous to building upon successes and letting go of unfortunate life events. This progression results in unexpected passages of color and shape, evolving through a series of unplanned situations.

I invite the viewer to find the beauty in this struggle of contradiction and see hope in the fight for balance. I ask them to marvel at the strength they were given, which allows them to build upon successes in their own lives, despite periods of seeming collapse.
During the month of August, a new display is featured in the gallery showcase. John Elliott, editor of the Gilman Star, Inc. is sharing a collection of vintage objects pertaining to the early days of the Star’s newspaper publication.

An old typesetter drawer used to store lead type slugs, a book about newspaper printing during the settlement of the western states, a plaque with an image of an early printing press, a copy of the Gilman Star and an editorial column explaining early printing methods are a few of the items of interest in this display. John hosts students from the Gilman Elementary School each year who tour the printing office and view many more items of interest. The students learn the oldest printing machine is a type of a very early computer.

John Elliott took over the editorship from his father, George Elliott. During the early years, John and his sisters, Norma and Carol worked at the paper in some fashion. After John returned from the service, he had planned to go to Denver to get a job. Around that time his dad was diagnosed with cancer so he stayed to help. In 1977 he started working for the newspaper full time and started to buy the business.

The Gilman Star was one of the last papers to convert from the “hot lead” process to photo typesetting around 1980. The hot lead process was labor intensive and the old machines were cranky. Journeymen who could repair and tune the old Linotypes would pass through spring and fall enroute to and from Florida and stop for a day to work on the machines.

Once assembled, the type would go into a steel chaise, which was carried back to the press. Every now and then the locks on the chaise were not tight enough and the entire guts of the page might fall out. This was known as “pieing the page.” In the display there is a framed print of the press which the Gilman Star used.

Reflecting on the old processes, John said, “People ask if we miss the old hot lead process”. They say, “it was so romantic”. My response is usually something along the lines of “so is surgery without anesthesia”. No, I don’t miss the hot lead days although I do have a lot of respect for the people who mastered the craft. I am sitting here only a few feet away from the Intertype, vintage 1925 as I type on an iMac. We have no plans to get rid of the Intertype and we tell the first graders when they come through that it is like an old computer”.

John thinks they may have been one of the first to convert to computer based typesetting and bought the first Mac in 1985 or 86. That and the digital photography have changed the business dramatically.
Art Gallery

by Marilyn Wilken, Art Chair

Temporary Display in Art Room

Joe Manzo of Gilman, has loaned a framed copy of John T. McCutcheon’s famed fall cartoon “Injun Summer” to the museum. It includes a short biography of the artist and a brief history of the cartoon that appeared for many years in the Chicago Tribune.

The last issue of this newsletter showcased Joe’s unusual collection of old glass bottles which Joe has gifted to the museum at the close of his 2 month Gallery Showcase display.

Jori Dowling Displays School Project

by Jori & Reta Dowling

As a second grade student at Noel LeVasseur School in Bourbonnais Jori Dowling’s teacher, Katie Martin, proposed an orbital study project about Native Americans for her class. This would be a family project involving resources beyond the classroom. Jori chose to learn more about Noel LeVasseur because her grandmother had mentioned an ancestor of her family had bought some land from the trader and merchant.

That trader also had married Watch-e-kee, the niece of the chief of the Kankakee Pottawatomie Indians and her name was the source of the name of the town of Watseka where Jori’s grandparents live.

Jori’s great-great-great grandfather, Jean Baptiste LaGue, was born in Canada in 1849. He came to Chicago and met Noel LeVasseur who owned a large tract of land and timber in Bourbonnais. He sold him 160 acres at $1.25 per acre. Mr. LaGue’s son, John b. III later bought land in the same area for $10.00 per acre. His first house was 12 x 16 feet (with a dirt floor).

A visit to the genealogy department at Iroquois County’s Museum provided much information. Another trip was to the new French Heritage Museum in Kankakee where additional resources added to the research.

Jori is the daughter of Robert and Kary Dowling of Bourbonnais, and the granddaughter of John and Reta Dowling.
Recently I have had several inquiries about getting military markers for tombstones, so I contacted the VA through their web site. The following is part of the reply:

“Section 38.632 of title 38 of the Code of Regulations, "Headstone or Marker Application Process," became effective on July 1, 2009, after a 60-day public comment period. The regulation defines applicant for headstone or marker benefits as the decedent's next-of-kin (NOK), a person authorized in writing by NOK, or a personal representative authorized in writing by the decedent to apply for a Government-furnished headstone or marker. An individual who bears no relation to the deceased Veteran does not qualify as an authorized applicant, unless authorized in writing by NOK or the deceased Veteran.

Adherence to this regulatory definition is intended to avoid the possibility that a person lacking familial relationship to the Veteran may alter the Veteran's gravesite in a manner not desired by the Veteran's family. We realize, however, that the definition may be too limiting and we are reviewing the current regulation to include the applicant definition. Any changes would be accomplished through a proposed rule and would again allow the public to provide input into who could serve as an applicant for headstones and markers.

Please note that this regulation only pertains to a first time request for a Government-furnished headstone or marker. If a request is received to replace a headstone or marker previously furnished by the Government because it is unserviceable, i.e., damaged beyond repair, stolen or vandalized, or totally illegible due to national causes, then we will accept a replacement request from the cemetery official in the absence of NOK. In these instances, we only require a photo of the existing headstone to validate that it is no longer serviceable.”

If anyone is interested in getting a military marker or headstone and qualifies to apply, I would encourage you to do so. Many of the stones in county cemeteries are in poor shape and have no military identification. It would be nice to get them marked before they become illegible.

Catherine

The Iroquois County Historical Society and Genealogical Society set up booths during the Iroquois County Fair. Catherine Williams represented the historical society.

Congratulations to the following winners of our raffle at the Iroquois County Fair:

**Civil War T-Shirts**

Andrew Denault
Terry Oquendo
D. Hillebrand

**One-Year Membership to the Historical Society**

Marilyn Busick Lorraine Wildman Laura Simonten (l-r Catherine Williams, Mary Buhr, Ashley Burns, Jim Anderson)
by Catherine Williams

In the third and final event of 2013 commemorating the US Civil War, the Iroquois County Historical Society is offering “Civil War Field Embalming: A Demonstration of Period Technique”, sponsored in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. We are very grateful for their help in making this program possible.

On September 15, 2013, the Old Courthouse Museum will host Jon Austin as Dr. Benjamin F. Lyford, a Civil War doctor. His first-person presentation in the style of a 19th century medical school lecture for general audiences uses a re-enactor "corpse" as a visual aid. A big “thank you” goes to Blake Burd of Watseka for agreeing to be the “corpse” on Sunday afternoon. The audience will learn about the verification of death, period medicine and chemistry, human anatomy, and the preparation of dead soldiers for shipping and burial, in addition to 19th century mourning rituals, Lincoln's funeral, and the ways in which modern funeral practices have developed over time. Iroquois County had many doctors who served in the Civil War, and this presentation will give the audience an insight into their experiences 150 years ago.

Road Scholar Jon Austin, the speaker for this program and a native of West Peoria, Illinois, was the creator and first executive director of the former Museum of Funeral Customs in Springfield. The museum he was hired to create was included in a March 2007 New York Times article, and Jon was awarded the American Association of Museum’s 2008 Excellence in Peer Review Service Award. Through this award, the AAM recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations who have dedicated themselves to excellence within the museum field and who have set the standards for museum professionals.

Building on his personal interests of local history, funeral history, and the American Civil War, he created this program to promote the museum and to offer audiences access to the early history of the American funeral profession. After twenty-three years in the museum profession, Austin chose to continue to share knowledge and nine years of research in an effort to provide information that is rarely available or accessible outside the funeral home: “It's a fascinating subject that relates to the human experience.”

(continued on page 12)
“Civil War Field Embalming: A Demonstration of Period Technique” will take place on Sunday, September 15, 1:30 PM in the courtroom of the Old Courthouse Museum. The event is free and open to all audiences. If you have any questions, please contact the Iroquois County Historical Society at ichs221567@yahoo.com or call 815-432-2215.

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**Happy Belated Birthday**

Over the last several months, several of our long time members celebrated birthdays. Included here are only the ones we know about—-I’m sure there are more we could be writing about.

**LeNore Tebo** celebrated her 95th birthday and had been a board member.

**Edna Ruth** celebrated her 95th birthday and had been a board member.

**Helen Crow** celebrated her 96th birthday and had been a board member. Until last year Helen wrote the (HI)Story of Iroquois County.

**Naomi Flesher** celebrated her 101st birthday and is a member.

**Elizabeth Phelps** celebrated her 102nd birthday and is a life member.

**HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO EACH OF YOU!**
34th Annual 2013

HARVEST DAZE

Iroquois County Historical Society Craft Show
Saturday, Oct 5—9am to 4pm
Sunday, Oct 6—10am to 4pm

OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

Corner of Second St and Cherry St in Watseka, IL (1 Block South of Casey’s Gas Station)

Raffle

Great Local Entertainment Schedule
To be Announced

********** Great Food Both Days **********

- Bake Sale in the Victorian Room—sponsored by the Old Courthouse Museum
- World Famous BBQ, Jumbo Dogs, Brats, Walking Tacos, Nachos, & Drinks served in the Red Barn—sponsored by the Old Courthouse Museum

8th Annual Cruise-in
Saturday, Oct 5
Registration: 9:00am-Noon
Judging: Noon-2:00pm
Show: Noon-4pm
Dash Plaques for 1st 50 entries
Door Prizes for 1st 25 entries

Trophies for Top 25 and Best of show will be awarded at 3:00pm

Great 50’s & 60’s Music

For More Information—Call Judy at the Museum
815-432-2215
Visit our Web Site
www.iroquoiscountyhistoricalsociety.com

Over 70 Vendors
Displaying Quality Hand-Crafted Items.
**Long Running Show**

All proceeds from the show will benefit the ongoing restoration of this great 146 year old building. Your Support is Needed and Greatly Appreciated.

10th Annual Antique Tractor Show
Sunday, Oct 6 10am-4pm
8th Annual

HARVEST DAZE

CRUISE-IN

Old Courthouse Museum - Watseka, IL

Saturday, October 5, 2013

Turn 1 block south at Casey's on 2nd St off Rts 1 and 24, Watseka, IL

Registration 9:00am—Noon
Judging Noon –2:00pm
Awards Presentation 3:00pm
Donation: $10.00

Dash Plaques 1st 50 entries
Door Prizes 1st 25 entries
Great Music from the 50’s & 60’s

Join Us For The Fun,
Good Food, and Great
Entertainment

Awards for:
Top 25
Best of Show

All proceeds will be
donated to the Old
Courthouse Museum and
the Iroquois County
Historical Society

Call for More Information
Mike Eastburn: 815-383-3824
Museum: 815-432-2215
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Iroquois County’s Old Courthouse Museum held its first county wide coloring contest. Subject matter for this first entry was St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Woodworth, Illinois. One hundred thirty-five entries were submitted by the following schools, groups and organizations for students Pre K-6th grade: Kim Rabe’s Childcare, Crescent City, Cissna Park Day Care, Calvary Lutheran Preschool, Watseka, Girl Scout Troops from Iroquois County, Cissna Park Elementary School K-2, St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Woodworth K-6, Central Schools, Chebanse Elementary building and Crescent City Grade School. Independent entries came from Watseka, Milford and Danville.

Criteria for judging these entries was based on originality, creativity, use of media and color, use of entire space and neatness. Judges for this first competition were Mary Fischer, Tina Wilken and Marilyn L. Wilken. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places within each category. Honorable Mention certificates were awarded in each age group. Awards were supported in part by the Daily Journal, Kankakee; Watseka Burger King, and Iroquois County Old Courthouse Museum, Watseka.

Pre-K winners were: Addison Lucht, Cissna Park Daycare, 1st place; Addi Tipsord, Cissna Park Daycare, 2nd place; and Abigail Neukomm, Calvary Preschool, 3rd Place. Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Hunter Wolfe, Kim Rabe’s Child Daycare; Kennedy Lange, Calvary Preschool; Chloe Wagner, Crescent City; and Josie Neukomm, Cissna Park.

K-3 winners were: Addison Seggebruch, Cissna Park Elementary, 1st place; Alyson Wagner, Onarga, 2nd place; Addison Wachter, Cissna Park Elem., 3rd place. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Haely Young, Cissna Park; Jamie Rayfield, Cissna Park; Brett Walder, Cissna Park; Brooklyn Stadeli, Cissna Park; Ethan Huse, Onarga; and Vivien Griffin, Girl Scout Troop 2093.

Grades 4-6 winners were: Emily Barbieri, Chebanse, 1st place; Kaylen Boudreau, Clifton, 2nd place; Gracie Mae Wagner, Milford, 3rd place. Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Ella Ducat, Chebanse; Hope Aaron, Watseka; and Reyse Mussard, Milford.

The 2nd in the series of coloring contest has been going on since June with the deadline having been extended until Sept. 13th. During the school year, the coloring sheets were inserted into the newspapers of those schools who participated in the Daily Journal’s Newspapers in Education program. The extended deadline will give the students a chance to submit their entry once schools get underway. If you have any children or grandchildren who may fit in the age categories, be sure to have them color the sheet which is inserted on the following page.

The winners pictures have been submitted to the Daily Journal for publication in their newspaper. Once we get the winners pages returned, we will hang them in the art room for a short time, then return them to the students.

Don’t forget,
Deadline is September 13, 2013 at 4 p.m. in the museum office
Old Courthouse - Watseka, IL  Built in 1866
8 lots donated by Micajah Stanley for building
Used as the county courthouse for 100 years
The Iroq. Co. Historical Society was formed in 1967
Building now used as "Old Courthouse Museum"
Our family interest in genealogy research has taken us to many Court Houses, Libraries, Museums, Churches and Family Reunions thru many of the United States and overseas. We are grateful for all the help that was given to us.

We are thankful to the past generations who saved the records of our family’s histories sometimes under very difficult situations.

Our Genealogy Society lately received a letter to thank us for making their research such a great experience. I included here part of this letter.

“The passion of genealogy drew us to Watseka, Illinois to explore our families past and enrich our family’s present. The staff there worked ever so diligently on our behalf to find references that filled in many blanks on the family tree.

For us it was a day to remember and we hope to be able to return soon. Meanwhile, do you tire of compliments?

Your beautiful Museum and Genealogy Library are first rate. The catalogue system and archival storage surpasses much larger, well known facilities. Your volunteer staff could never be compensated enough for their expertise, care and diligence given to those of us who travel from afar, seeking what often seems the impossible.

We will return as soon as we are able.”

Letters such as this are received periodically and we are happy we can be of help in your genealogy research.
Denise Fransaer Corke
WEDNESDAY FARMER’S MARKETS
The museum sponsored Wednesday Farmer’s Market is in full swing now with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, crafts, jewelry, art work and framed photos. There truly is something for everyone. The Wednesday Market is not to be confused with the Saturday morning market in the bank parking lot. Come out on a Wednesday afternoon to see what the vendors have to offer. All proceeds from the vendor spaces go to the upkeep of the museum. These will run right up to Harvest Daze weekend.

OPEN 1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
For those who can’t visit the museum during the week, we are open on the 1st Sunday of each month with volunteers. Rain or shine the museum is a great place to visit to learn about the history of the county.

13th ANNUAL GARDEN WALK / 3rd ANNUAL GARDEN FAIRE
Despite rainy weather off and on, the garden walk was a success. We had 12 gardens in the Donovan/Iroquois area with the garden faire held at Dunning Park in Iroquois. We had a nice selection of vendors to put the finishing touches on the garden walk. The Donovan United Methodist women, the Quilting Group, Pastor Bobbi from the Donovan Methodist Church and all others who joined in to make this walk and faire one of the best all deserve a very big thank you as do all who donated raffle prizes and items for the “Goody Bags”. All the gardeners who agreed to have their gardens in the walk have to be commended and applauded for the great gardens. We truly could not have done it without each of you.

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM
Visitors come from all over the world to see the great treasures of our county. Recently we had 2 cousins come in from Saudi Arabia with their friend from Watseka/Houston. Pictured are Joe Baird from Watseka and Yousef Ahmed and Ammar Alganbar from Saudi Arabia.

VINTAGE PHOTOS DISPLAYED
The rotating exhibit room has a collection of vintage photos. This is quite a collection which has been donated over the years. Stop in to take a look. There just may be a picture of someone you know on display.

VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK
Volunteers are ALWAYS NEEDED to help out. Kay Skates offered to help on several different occasions. Shown above she is helping with a mailing and helping Catherine hang new shades to protect the artifacts from the sun and heat.
July, August, September 2013

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, September 15, 2013
1:30 P.M.

Jon Austin, Road Scholar with the Illinois Humanities Council will present “Civil War embalming—a discussion of period technique”

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Monical’s Community Day for the Historical Society all day

Must take a flyer for the museum to get credit for your visit.

Friday, October 4, 2013

Harvest Daze Fish Fry 4-7 p.m. in the big tent

Saturday, October 5, 2013

Harvest Daze 9 - 4
Harvest Daze Cruise-In

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Harvest Daze
Harvest Daze Tractor Show

Scarecrow Contest
Ask for details in office