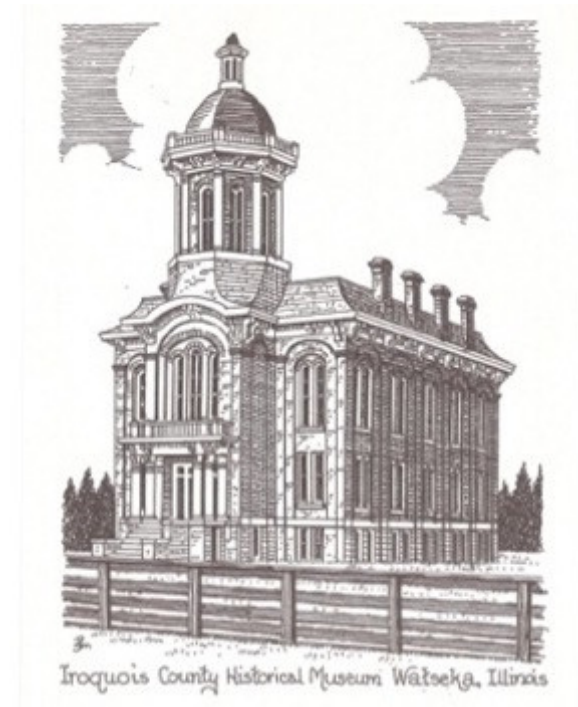


**Iroquois County Historical Society
Old Courthouse Museum
103 W. Cherry Street
Watseka, IL 60970**

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Iroquois County Historical Society
Old Courthouse Museum
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Watseka, Illinois 60970-1524**



CONTACT US AT: www.iroquoiscountyhistoricalsociety.com
815-432-2215
ichs221567@yahoo.com

Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
First Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Kathie Grazis, Museum Coordinator
Kim Rabe, Publicity

From the President's Desk

*Mitchell Bence
President ICHS*

One of my favorite things that happens in February is Punxsutawney Phil's prediction. This year he did not see his shadow, signifying an early spring. I am rooting for his prediction to be true this year.

The severe weather we have been enduring this winter has been testing our heating system here at the Old Courthouse. We have been making repairs to the boiler system as problems arise. We have reached out to several companies for ideas on how to keep this old boiler system working for many years to come. Knowing this may be an expensive endeavor, we will be looking into grants that may be available for repairs and we will be starting a fundraiser to help offset costs to upgrade our heating system. Our members and the county businesses have always come through for the Historical Society when the need arises, and we are very grateful.

On April 30, 2019 we will hold our Annual Meeting in the Old Courthouse. We will be selecting officers this year. This meeting is for all members of the Historical Society, so please try to attend.

Mitchell Bence
President

NOTE FROM THE MUSEUM COORDINATOR...

Let me introduce myself. I'm Kathie Grazis, and have been the Museum Coordinator since early July of last year.

I am now editing the newsletter for The Historical Society. That being said, I invite you, both members and general public, to submit historical articles or stories of interest that you feel our readers would also enjoy. You may email submissions that you would like to have considered for publication, to me at ichs221567@yahoo.com. I will be happy to run those chosen, as room permits.

Keep watching our newsletter for Calendars of Events for upcoming events here at the Old Courthouse Museum.

We enjoy having you visit us at the Museum, and hope that you will enjoy our displays and points of interest here. It is with deep pride that we all continue to strive to present interesting displays and programs for you, and keep the rich history of this wonderful Historical Museum, alive in our community.

Thank you all for your continued support, and your thoughts and ideas are always welcomed.

Kathie Grazis
Museum Coordinator

* * * * *

Please continue to notify the historical society office with any changes in your mailing or email addresses. You may use the form below to renew your annual membership or give a gift membership. Thank you

MEMBERSHIP IN THE IROQUOIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual individual membership -----\$15.00

Lifetime Membership (includes spouse)-----\$150.00 (payable in 3 annual installments of \$50; Life Membership dues are entered into our endowment fund, with interest going to our operating account.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual membership ☐ Life membership: ☐

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email? _____ (yes or no)

Send with your check to ICHS, 103 W. Cherry St., Watseka, IL 60970

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH: 4th Genealogy Board Meeting- 9 am
16th Genealogy DAR Program in Courtroom- 9:30 am

APRIL: 14th Artist Reception- 1-4 pm
19th Historical Society **GOOD FRIDAY-CLOSED**
28th-Historical Society Golden Wedding Anniversary
Celebration –First Chr. Ch.
2nd- Genealogy Board Meeting- 9 am
7th- Genealogy Infamous & Notorious 1:30 pm in
Courtroom

May: 27th **MEMORIAL DAY- CLOSED**
6th -10th Genealogy One-On-One

Art Gallery

Maureen Ziemer of Milford and formerly from Chicago was the featured artist in the Old Courthouse Museum Art Gallery. Her exhibit ran from January through February 2019.

Her means of expression is through the use of many magazine publications and recreating themed paper collage compositions from the pictures. Color, shape and texture are part of the overall effect of each work of art.



Ms. Ziemer states that, “Art is a cultural expression. It can be made from anything around us. I choose a theme, a design and colors, a picture with pictures. Books, magazines and newspapers provide me with inspiration to then conceptualize an idea. My art seeks to show the beauty that comes in my mailbox.”

Maureen earned Bachelors and Masters degrees in nursing at St. Xavier University. After a 40 year career, she retired and moved to Milford in 2003 due to health concerns. She explains that: “Milford is a convenient place for those retired. Change is the only constant in the universe. Adapting to change insures our survival. God gives us all potential. I believe it is my duty to develop it at any age. At present, I am able to express my God given potential with this humble attempt at art. I hope you enjoy and like it.

An open house reception was held for this artist and exhibit on Feb. 3rd with a good showing.

NOTE: Our current Artist showing is the artwork of Kay Devine’s art students. She is the Art Teacher at both Glen Raymond Grade School, and Watseka High School. Be sure to stop in and see these young people’s offerings. You will not be sorry that you did.

A Memory-Making Trip..... By Ken Garrison

Memories, that's what sewing machines do for us. They make our clothes, our quilts, and mend the knees in our jeans. Most of all they make memories.

We hear the sound of a particular machine and we are immediately transported back in time to our mother's sewing room. We see a sewing machine that our mother or grandmother used and our memories of a time long gone come rushing back.

My wife and I grew up around these wonderful memory-making machines. Her mother, Judy Mast, was a seamstress that made beautiful clothing and quilts. My mother, Myrtle Garrison, was the lady at the dry cleaners that mended your tears, replaced your missing buttons and repaired your broken zippers.

Today my wife Natalie and I are retired from our careers and now own *Sugar Creek Stitchery* where we design and manufacture purses, handbags, backpacks, wallets and tote bags. Actually that is what my wife does; she's the brains of the outfit. My name is Ken and my job with SCS is to lug and tug, maintaining the industrial machines that Natalie uses and keeping our collection of some 34 vintage machines in working order.

This past year we set up our show booth at the Harvest Daze festival in Watseka where we were fortunate enough to get a cheery spot right in front of the Old Courthouse. One thing led to another and I was asked if I could repair a treadle machine that had been damaged in the floods earlier in the year.

A few phone calls after we came back home brought me back to Watseka where I fell in love with my new friend, Mini Kessinger and her husband Linard. They fell in love with my dog Milo while I brought Mini's 1888 New Automatic treadle sewing machine back to life. Mini now happily continues to make her gorgeous quilts. Through it all, together, we made what will surely prove to be some of my best memories.

One of the wonderful things about Mini's New Automatic sewing machine is that it was made here in Illinois. Rockford, Illinois in fact. The same company went by a number of different names: Union Special, Free, Free/Westinghouse, Illinois Sewing Machine Co. and New Royal. As remarkable as that seems this wasn't the only sewing machine manufacturer in Illinois. Not by a long shot. Illinois has been home to nearly 40 different

The ICHS Board of Directors will be meeting at 7 PM on the following dates in 2019 at the Old Courthouse.

January 29	July 30
February 26	August 27
March 26	September 24
April 30 (Annual Meeting with election of officers and board members)	October 29
May 28	November 26
June 25	No Meeting in December

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mitchell Bence, President	David Hiles, Vice-President
Cheryl Street, Treasurer	Stephanie Bowers, Secretary
Janet Anderson, Sheldon	Marti Menges, Watseka
Al Day, Watseka	Jody Munsterman, Onarga
Janet Doyle, Watseka	Jim Ulfers, Watseka
Diane Gagnon, Watseka	Vickie Webster, Sheldon
Jean Hiles, Watseka	Marilyn Wilken, Danforth
Catherine Williams, Woodland	

ACCESSED ITEMS

North Side Watseka school photos
 Milar & Lyman family photos
 Harness Repair Bench, circa 1840
 Middleport School, Watseka, photos
 WWII servicemen information, Watseka
 Newspaper articles
 WWII Army Uniform of Arnold Hasz, Navy
 Uniform of Robert Hasz, Milford
 Coveralls from Watseka Farmer's Grain
 Photo of paving Rt. 24/Walnut in Watseka
 Chenille jacket, red wool suit, quilted robe
 Army Uniform of John Dirks, Korean War
 Sewing rocker, spinning wheel, pitcher & bowl, hump-backed chest, baptismal dresses,
 1960's church league softball jersey, A & W carhop tray, photo of Cissna Park
 1968 Historical Society yearbook, info on Iroquois Co Schools
 Stockland Grade School Basketball Items
 Harness Repair Bench
 Photos of the Scott family, and the Scott clothing store in Watseka
 Collier's Photographic History of WWII, issues of the Iroquois County Times from Aug. 1967, June 1970
 World War II items of Lowell Nourie and Marvin Byman and photos of them in uniform; metal Tootsie toys, set of picture blocks, postcard of I.O.O. F. Lodge, Donovan: 1 toothpick holder from Marquis Trucking, Donovan

Cindy Mueller Kempf, Watseka
 Jean Milar, Remington, IN
 Leo Lewis, Watseka
 Merle & Lola Arnold, Watseka

Connie Long, Old Hickory, TN

Shirley Smith, Watseka
 Jean Hiles, Watseka
 Marvin & Joyce Dillon, Watseka
 Carol Drew, Watseka
 JoAnna VanHoven, Danville

John Kelly, Evansville, IN

Dan & Becky Gregory, Watseka
 Leo L. Lewis, Jr. , Watseka
 Tom Melton, Seymour, IN

James Bruns, Watseka

Kevin Nourie, Donovan

sewing machine companies. The history

Of sewing machine manufacturers in Illinois began in 1860 with the Erie Sewing machine Co. and continues today with the lone survivor, Union Special Machine Co. of Huntley, Illinois. You may recognize some of the other names: Gateway, National, Bellville, Brosius, Chicago, Tyber & Sweetland, Chicopee, A.M. Crane & Co., Diamond, Sigwalt, Eldridge, Streling Elliot, H.B. Goodrich, Foley & Williams, Beam Goodrich, June, Oxford, Parsons, Royal, Slocum & Williams, Springfield, Standard, Union Family, White and Wilson. Singer didn't make machines in this state but they did have a branch in Cairo, Illinois, that specialized in veneer application on the cabinets that everyone has come to identify treadle machines with.

The Old Courthouse was visited by Mini where she sang praises of Natalie, Ken and Milo. The entirety of *Sugar Creek Stitchery* loaded up and took the two hour drive back to Watseka. We had been invited to come and look at the sewing machines on display and share our knowledge with the staff. There we were introduced to our new friends Janet Anderson and Kathie Grazis. These wonderful ladies made us feel quite at home and as welcomed as any visitor could be. We look forward to returning and continue assisting the Museum with the machines they have on display and in storage. The clack, clack, clack of a treadle sewing machine takes us back to a time gone but not forgotten. We are immediately transported back to our grandmother's sewing room. We remember the sounds, the smells, and how she let us operate the treadle. We can see the kitchen curtains with their chicken printed material that she made while we sat mesmerized by the movement of treadle to balance wheel to needle. We remember it all when we see and hear one of these fascinating machines

Stop by the Old Courthouse Museum, bring your kids and grandkids. Take a leisurely walk around, and keep a watchful eye open and you'll surely find the sturdy treadle sewing machines on display.

The genius of Mr. Singer in 1848 is undeniable. The world was transformed with the invention of these beautiful, marvelous memory-making machines.

The following article includes excerpts from the February 19, 1919 edition of the Watseka Republican:

Big Audience at Memorial Service

Iroquois County Pays Fitting Tribute to Boys Who Gave Their Lives in the World War

The Gold Star Memorial Service in honor of the Iroquois County boys who gave their lives in the World War was held in Watseka Monday afternoon...although the weather of the past few days had the roads leading to and from the county seat in deplorable condition, representatives were here from all parts of the county, and the large Methodist edifice was packed to overflowing hours before the hour appointed for the service to begin. Seats, however, had to be reserved for the returned soldiers and relatives of the Gold Star boys, and when the church was filled those who came late were directed to the Presbyterian place of worship, where an overflow meeting had been arranged and another large congregation assembled there.

At the noon hour those who were to take part therein formed a parade at the City Hall and, headed by the Buckley Cornet Band, proceeded to the Methodist Church and the services were opened promptly at 1:00.

...The speaker of the day, Reverend Timothy Stone, D.D., entered the pulpit and proceeded to give one of the most pleasant addresses ever heard in Watseka. He is pastor of one of the leading churches in Chicago... In his discourse he paid a glowing tribute to the American soldiers in general, and in particular to those in whose honor the service was held. He made special mention also of those boys who were called to the colors, but not sent overseas, although they were willing and anxious to go, declaring that they should be highly honored as those who were permitted to go...

After the conclusion of the splendid address, the audience was favored by two excellent numbers by the Chicago Imperial Quartet and the balance of the program was carried out as announced heretofore. Perhaps of the whole program the calling of the roll of Gold Star men was the most solemn and touching. Each name was called three times, as is customary, and of course none answered to the call, as those whose names were registered on that roll are sleeping the last long sleep in their soldier graves and could not respond...

The following list of Iroquois County's Gold Star men in whose honor the service was given:

DECEASED MEMBERS

12-2018 Nora Blain

6-2018 John Frey

1-2019 Larry Young

1-2019 Margaret Maxwell

1-18-2019 Duane Munsterman

We extend our deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to the families and friends of all our members who have passed.

MONETARY DONATIONS **RECEIVED SINCE DECEMBER 1, 2018**

Ilse Williams
Wes Lundsberg
Griffin Trust
Diane VanHoveln
Freed Trust
Royal Neighbors Ch.179
Modern Woodmen

Good Search/Good Shop
Betty Eighner
Glen & Rhonda DeValk
Brianna Williams
Mike & Donna Butler
Chris & La-Zann Yana
Joann Butzow

Thank you for continuing to remember us with your donations!

The Iroquois County Historical Society received \$155 in charitable outreach funding from Thrivent in 2018 through Choice Dollars. All 2018 Choice Dollars have been made available for members to direct, and 2018 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2019. If you still have some Choice Dollars to Direct, please consider directing them to us--and THANK YOU!

WE WELCOME OUR NEW AND RENEWING **MEMBERS**

LIFE: Dale & Judy Flach, Champaign, IL
Kathie & OJ Grazis, Watseka

ANNUAL:

Ruth Jones, Paxton
Art & Mae Horner, Watseka
Maureen Riemer, Milford
Eleanore Taden, Watseka
Deborah Dykstra, Santa Barbara, Ca

Jim Richter, Kankakee
Betty Eighner, Kankakee
Thomas Ross, Buena Vista, CO
Jerry Moore, Paxton

Byron Hikerson, Artesia Township
Edward Reetz, Ash Grove Township
Henry Peters, Ashkum Township
Sgt. Allan R. Brown, Belmont Township
Elmer Giertz, Chebanse Township
Jacob Lauritzen, Chebanse Township
Warden Lambert, Concord Township
Benjamin Morris, Danforth Township
Everett Lee Bush, Douglas Township
Russell Speicher, Douglas Township
Ernest Merkle, Fountain Creek Township
Snowden Kessell, Fountain Creek Township
Samuel Newell Calkin, Iroquois Township
Reid Storch, Iroquois Township
Egbert Slocum, Loda Township
John C. White, Loda Township
Henry Oliver Tovey, Middleport Township
William Tovey, Middleport Township
Andrew Kamp, Middleport Township
Clarence Fanyo, Middleport Township
Louis St. Germain, Middleport Township
William A. B. Perry, Middleport Township
Lieut. William J. Sense, Middleport Twp
Corp. Forrest Ballard, Milford Township
Robt. R. Adwell, Milford Twp
Arthur W. Cain, Milford Twp
Eugene Gregoire, Milks Grove Twp
Russell Lee Sutherly, Milk Groves Twp.
Corp. Ben Trooper, Onarga Twp
Glenn Brown, Onarga Twp
Ralph E. Gifford, Onarga Twp
Roy J McNaught, Onarga Twp
George King, Onarga Twp
Joe Morris, Onarga Twp
Edward Ohlenkamp, Onarga, Twp
Ray Perry, Onarga Twp
Roy Clement, Papineau Twp
Albert Regnier, Papineau Twp
Carl Jensen, Pigeon Grove Twp
Sam Schaeffer, Pigeon Grove, Twp
Tracy N. Smith, Ridgeland Township
Walter Gibb, Ridgeland Twp

Clarence Dutcher, Sheldon Twp
Howard H. Hardy, Sheldon Twp
Archie Rahn, SheldonTwp
Harry Whaley, Sheldon Twp
Lawrence Holvieter

We might say in closing this article that Dr. Stone made no charge for his services here, accepting only what the Commercial Association was pleased to give him, and that with the understanding that the amount would not be taken for his personal use, but would be donated by him to war relief work. Dr. Stone has a large parish in Chicago and is a very busy man and it is very generous of him to donate his valuable time in this acceptable manner.

WHAT IS THIS??

Do you recognize what this artifact is? If you do, let us know what you think! Either email us at ichs221567@yahoo.com or call the office at: 815.432.2215



Genealogy News for Spring 2019

Here at the Genealogical Society we hit the ground running after the Christmas/New Year break. Our newest book reprint arrived the day we closed for holiday break and has been selling fast since we reopened in January. This is the 1985 *History of Iroquois County*. You can purchase it from our web site: iroquoiscountygenealogy.org or here at our library.

Our program of Hidden Searches in Family Search originally scheduled for March 16 has had to be rescheduled for June 29th, so mark your calendar and don't miss this informative program.

Our always popular Infamous & Notorious program this year will be held April 7th. This year we will be using a different format than we have before. We think you will enjoy peeking through the kitchen window at a couple busy bodies as they discuss local events over a cup-a. Who knows what they will come up with.

May 6-10 we will offer our second One-on-One this year. Sign up for a two hour time spot with an accomplished researcher to help with any questions or research problems you may have. This includes how to use web sites or use computer family tree programs. Call for your time spot – 815-431-3730.

* * * *

Memorials Received Since December 2018

Given in memory of:

John Frey (Past Board Member)

Esther Vogland:

Norma Duling:

Donor:

Roxanne Frey

Barbara Bills

Marti Menges



This unusual looking device, circa 1840's, is known as a harness saddle repair bench. It was donated by Leo L. Lewis, Jr., of rural Watseka.

When his family farm was sold, after being in the Lewis family for over 160 years, Leo kept this bench that he'd found in the attic. It is a welcome addition to the Museum's collection of vintage agricultural items that can be seen on the lower level in the *Corn Room*.

Thank you to all who decorated trees and houses for the 2018 Christmas Tree Lane and to all who visited the Old Courthouse Museum to view their handiwork. We could not do this event without the help of so many community members and museum volunteers.

The themes of "Tastes of Christmas" and "Illinois Bicentennial" brought out many creative ideas. Thirty-seven groups, organizations, families, classrooms, churches and businesses decorated trees, and museum volunteers added their creative talents on five more trees. There were six houses displayed in the Gingerbread House Gallery.

Four community judges had a tough job rating each tree in four categories and each house in two categories. People's Choice voting raised nearly \$400 to support the Old Courthouse Museum.

The People's Choice first place was earned by Tree #17, decorated by June Dehlin and her daughter, Judy Kinney honoring Iroquois Memorial Hospice and Home Health. These ladies have decorated a tree in Christmas Tree Lane for 10 years.

The judged awards were well-earned. The "Taste of Christmas" theme winner was Tree #9, decorated by Mitchell and Susan Bence and their granddaughter, Scarlett. With its colorful cookie cutters, homemade suckers and handmade foam gingerbread men, this tree was also judged first place in Originality and Best Decorated categories. With its strings of popcorn, fabric-covered balls and beaded candy canes, the Iroquois Resident Home, Tree #20 won first place in the Best Handcrafted Ornaments category.

Knot Just Quilters were big winners in the "Illinois Bicentennial" theme contest, taking first place in all categories decorating their Tree #19 with garlands of tufted fabric buttons and thread spools, bobbin lace stars and mini quilts, all handmade.

A "gingerbread" house could be made of any medium or theme. The winner for People's Choice and Originality was Taylor Bright, House #7 showing the family car bringing home the Christmas Tree. The red and green, snow-covered gingerbread House #4, decorated by Janet Anderson won Best Decorated House.

The theme for the 2019 Christmas Tree Lane is "Angels We Have Heard On High." Start planning your tree today.

INTERESTING ARTIFACTS COME IN...

You can see all the results and pictures of trees and houses at our web site – <http://iroquoiscountyhistoricalsociety.com>.



This ironstone pitcher and basin set, circa 1880, belonged to the late Mabel Hasselbring Cluver, of Watseka. It was recently donated by her daughter, JoAnna Cluver VanHoveln. She said that it had been a wedding gift to her great grandparents, Wilhemina and Henrich Hasselbring. Jo recalls her mother pointing out that the set had been kept in a front parlor which was only used when company came, that's probably why it is in such good shape. Today the lovely pitcher and basin are on display in the Museum's *Victorian bedroom*, which is located on the second floor.