



Chillicothe Historical Society

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CHS is Celebrating our 40th Anniversary!



During our March 3rd membership meeting, charter member Juanita Swanson turned back the clock for us to explain how the Chillicothe Historical Society all began – because many people in the community felt it was important to save the local history. Our first president, Dick Smith, was on hand to help reminisce about that special occasion. Juanita admitted that the evening’s meeting came about because she is “a hoarder – not quite as bad of those you see on TV but. . .”

The Chillicothe Historical Society was incorporated with the State of Illinois on April 6, 1971, and held its first meeting on May 20, 1971, in the basement of the Peoples Savings & Loan. Besides Dick Smith, the other charter officers were Theda Allen, Secretary, and B. Zinser, Treasurer.

Through the years our organization has also met

at a small room in the Pearce Community Center building and the basement of the Baptist Church, as well as our own permanent building.

Juanita went on to highlight many of the programs enjoyed during those first two years and even the number of people attending. True to the “hoarder” she claims to be, Juanita was able to recall that information because she had kept her meeting notes all these years.

We invited the public to help us celebrate with cake and lemonade during an open house on Sunday, May 1st. A small exhibit captures our stages of development and growth from incorporation to acquisition and renovation of the Rock Island depot, the meetings at the Baptist Church, and the addition of the 1928 Avery – Dr. Dolph House. Come see how we’ve grown!

DUES ARE PAST DUE – NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN – FORM ON BACK COVER!

Officers:

President Ray Harrison 274-8457
Vice-Pres. Dianne Colwell 251-3260
Secretary Gary Fyke 274-2308
Treasurer Kathy Close 274-5156

Board Members:

Steve Bart 274-4924
Janet Dickerson 274-4656
Bill Dwyer 274-2345
Creta Harper 274-2757
Cliff Lund (Depot Manager) 472-1563
Gary Swanson 363-5159
Juanita Swanson 274-3440



~ Electronic Connection ~

We are trying to create and send a newsletter every two to three months, as we want to keep you informed. **If you have an e-mail address, please send it to us at the above address.** We can e-mail it to you as an alternative to regular mailing, to help us keep our expenses down. We shall also try to post it on our web site.

Membership meetings are held every 1st Thursday @ 7 p.m.
Board meetings are held every 3rd Thursday @ 7 p.m.

What's New About Us?

Besides the new officers and board, your historical society is still very active. . . See what we have "going on".

- Secretary Gary Fyke is heading a committee to revise our By-Laws. Many of them are limiting or not appropriate, so we are bringing them up to the 21st century, so to speak. These proposed changes will be discussed at upcoming membership meetings.
- We've raised over \$16,000 for exterior renovations to the main museum building. We are waiting for our contractor to "squeeze" us into his schedule. (These funds are dedicated to this special project and cannot be used for other purposes.)
- Gary Fyke is negotiating with Marketing and Tourism to procure plaques for historical buildings in downtown Chillicothe. Gary would like to create walking tours of the downtown area, utilizing these plaques. These could be self-guided or docent led.

Calendar of Events:



- July 7th – Membership meeting
Program: History of Bernadotte by Don Barnett
- July 14th – Red Hats Luncheon @ 11 a.m./Shore Acres
- August 4th – Membership meeting
Program: History of Track Inn by Gary Fyke
- September 1st – Membership meeting
Program: (Needed)
- October 6th – Membership meeting
Program: By-Laws changes review
- October 24th – Chili Supper at VFW
- November 3rd – Membership/Nomination meeting
Program: (Needed)
- December 1st – Membership/Election meeting
Program: Show & Tell
- December 8th – Christmas banquet - Grecian Gardens
(Check our web site for changes/updates.)



Peace Corps 50th Anniversary

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U. S. Peace Corps, a small exhibit has been created to highlight Chillicothe alumni who served our country in this selfless way. Volunteers known and recognized are:

- Susan Rose Traub – Ethiopia, 1967
- Janet Sue Crosman – Ghana ,1968-1970
- Paul Curtis Johnson – Ghana, 1968-1970
- Susan McMillan Drissi – Barbados, 1979-1981 and Tunisia 1981-1983
- Kate Schmidt – Ukraine, 2009-2011

Help us locate and honor any other local Peace Corps volunteers, please call or e-mail us with their names and information.

Everything's Coming Up

Plants, flowers and grass are all wonderful signs of summer, but they do require some care. We are seeking volunteers to help us maintain the landscape at our museums this summer.

Anyone willing to help with any of the lawn tasks - mowing, weeding, watering and raking - is asked to contact Kathy Close at 274-5156. Paying someone to mow costs \$25/occasion. Can't mow but want to help – sponsor a mow or two! It's tax deductible!

Got Any Ideas?



Anyone who has an idea for programs please contact Creta Harper at 274-2757.

Status of Our Funds

Many people rally around the Chillicothe Historical Society when we try to raise funds for special projects, and for that action we are very grateful. Now we are also in need of funds just to keep us operating day-to-day.

Why? We are NOT tax supported! Many of our members have died or moved away, or for whatever reason, fewer people are becoming members and/or making charitable donations. Many members are no longer able to help with special fund-raising or daily operational or maintenance activities, like mowing the yard.

Our normal operating expenses are running about \$7,000 - \$8,000 per year without any fancy programs. Most of that is for basic utilities such as electricity, gas, and water. Our next biggest expense is insurance on our buildings and artifacts.

Won't you please help, if you can, by joining our organization as benefactor, by sponsoring an occasional expense, or by making a (tax deductible) charitable contribution.

It's Like Free Money!



Perhaps you did not realize that The Chillicothe Historical Society benefits each year (usually over \$1000.00 annually) from the generosity of the matching gift programs provided by area employers. We would greatly appreciate anyone who makes a donation (usually a minimum of \$50.00 to be eligible) to the society to check with your employer to see if it provides this wonderful benefit.

Obtain from your employer the appropriate matching gift form, complete it, and mail or bring it to our treasurer, currently Kathy Close. Our society is considered a "cultural" organization. Caterpillar, CILCO and IBM are among many of the area employers who participate in this program. This is a great way of getting "free money" for the society.



CHS Wins 1st Place Float Award! "Workin' on the Railroad"

CHS won 1st place in the Claud-Elen Days Parade float contest on June 11th. It was as if the parade theme, "Workin' on the railroad", was tailor-made for us. Jack Gerstner provided the miniature train cars and track, and Carl Carr tried to keep tabs on all the hobos and railway workers. Congratulations to all who helped make it a winner!



ROCK ISLAND DEPOT NEWS

On May 19th Brent Angelo of South Primary School brought approximately eighty third grade children and teachers to visit our Rock Island Depot as one of four stops in a day of visiting downtown Chillicothe. The children were led, in groups of twenty, around the building and told the purpose of the depot and how it was used many years ago. It's no surprise the children's greatest thrills were seeing the model trains and the caboose. To express their thanks, many of the children sent darling hand-made cards, complete with pictures. Thanks to all who helped!

Enclosed is \$ _____
for annual membership

Type of Membership:

STUDENT \$5.00
SINGLE. \$15.00
FAMILY. \$25.00
CLUB/ORG. \$20.00
BUS/PATRON \$25.00
BENEFACTOR \$50.00

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
E-Mail Addr. _____

Fill out the application and mail it, along with your check
(made payable to Chillicothe Historical Society) to
Chillicothe Historical Society, P.O. Box 181, Chillicothe, IL 61523

- I would like to help with:
- _____ Activities/Events
 - _____ Building Maintenance
 - _____ Genealogy
 - _____ Grounds Care
 - _____ Museum Displays
 - _____ Museum Guiding
 - _____ Museum Sitting
 - _____ Programs
 - _____ Publicity
 - _____ Research

Assisting at the museums is not required for membership. Chillicothe Historical Society is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization receiving no government funding. We appreciate your support!

**We are definitely
open for business!**
The museums are open again
each Wednesday and 1st Sundays,
1-4 p.m. Do drop in to see us!

Rootin' Tootin' Reverend



On June 2nd Rev. (also President) Ray Harrison dressed like someone from the old west and brought along his guns to prove his point. They were all part of the program he presented at our main museum on "Cap & Ball Conversion to Cartridge". His guns told the story of the gradual progression from the cap and ball, rammed down the barrel, to the easy-to-use bullets we know today. One gun of particular interest was a Buntline, the long barreled pistol used by Wyatt Earp in the television series of the same name. Thank you, Rev. Ray, for teaching all of us something we did not know.

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