

Origins: Idea for the Heritage Center and our Progress



People have asked where the idea for the Heritage Center came from. Here's a brief answer and progress report by an early supporter:

Susan Miller, former director of Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, shared the idea of a museum to memorialize the farm implement industry, local history and notable people with Canton Main Street officers. Susan with several others had also listed potential leaders for the effort.

Canton Main Street decided to help launch the project, and hosted a feasibility meeting in the fall of 2014. Following positive discussion involving 30 invited persons, a museum steering committee was formed.

Since then, the following milestones have been achieved:

- ◆ Non-profit group status granted February, 2015
- ◆ Canton Area Heritage Center Bylaws adopted June 11, 2015
- ◆ Election of Executive Board and Officers at first Annual Meeting, September, 2015
- ◆ 501(c)3 tax deductible status received October, 2016
- ◆ Bob Senneff, on behalf of Graham Hospital Association, offered space for the center in November, 2016

◆ Members and volunteers worked on Facilities, Acquisitions/Exhibits, Fundraising/Membership, Marketing, and Programs for the center in 2017

◆ The Facilities Committee completed renovation of the 1,550- square foot space at 111 South Main

◆ The Acquisitions Committee, assisted by Kelvin Sampson of Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds proposed an Acquisitions and Collections Policy; it was approved by the CAHC Board, November, 2017.

Read about "next steps" for the CAHC in this newsletter.

Cheryl Bielema, President
Canton Main Street/
CAHC Board Member

Special points of interest:

- FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS IN THIS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- MEET MOVERS AND SHAKERS, THEN AND NOW
- LEARN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY
- DISCOVER HOW TO DONATE OR LOAN ITEMS TO THE HERITAGE CENTER

Inside this issue:

MEET OUR OFFICERS	2
CAHC MISSION	2
IH-CANTON WORKS	2
ACQUISITIONS/EXHIBITS COMMITTEE	3
FUND-RAISING/ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	3
PROGRAMS COMMITTEE	3
MORE ABOUT US	4

Purpose

The CAHC Newsletter is intended to keep our members, donors and friends informed and involved.

Schematic drawing of the center: 5 rooms for collections, reception area/museum store and office.



Newsletter

Meet our Officers



Pictured in the building that will soon house the first collections of Canton Area Heritage Center are **Joe Stone, Chair; Phil Gregory, Vice Chair; Debbie Stephenson, Secretary; and Jim Morgan, Treasurer.**

Serving on Heritage Center Board of Directors: Cheryl Bielema, Dennis Crawford, John Froehling, Dean Gibson, Roy Hopper, Jack Pollitt, Mary Pollitt, Harold Rose, Kelvin Sampson, Dana Smith and Mike Walters.

Past Chair: Kevin Meade

"I'M A HOMETOWN BOY... I'M PROUD OF THIS COMMUNITY AND I WANT TO DO ALL I CAN TO PRESERVE OUR SPIRIT AND HISTORY."
--JOE STONE

Mission of the Canton Area Heritage Center

The mission of the Canton Area Heritage Center (CAHC) is to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Canton's and surrounding area's history, culture, and industry.

To accomplish its mission, CAHC will collect, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit history and artifacts of Canton, IL and the surrounding area.

The center's board will operate the Heritage Center, including artifacts and interactive exhibits, a library of historical documents, photographs, and a museum store.



Old photographs, like this taken in the IH-Foundry Pattern Shop, will be collected to document how, when and where industries were built. *Photo courtesy of Jack & Mary Pollitt*

Acquisitions/Exhibits Committee

The **Acquisitions/Exhibits Committee** will determine the types of artifacts, documents, and photographs to be sought to support the focus and purpose of the heritage center.

The committee will create and adopt policies and procedures to help ensure security and for accurate recordkeeping.

Procedures include:

- ◆ Person offering artifact will receive Temporary Deposit Receipt Form, certifying ownership and intent to donate or loan
- ◆ Committee will research item(s) and recommend action to Executive Board. Decisions are based on meeting center's scope of collections, condition of item, non-duplication, available space (and more)

- ◆ With approval, owner of artifact will receive, sign and submit "Deed of Gift" or "Loan Agreement."

Questions? Please contact me.

Mike Walters
Committee Chair

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NOW IS THE TIME
FOR FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS TO
STEP FORWARD
WITH ARTIFACTS
YOU THINK WE
OUGHT TO SEE.

Fund-raising/Membership Committee

Fund-raising/Membership Committee will raise and oversee the funds required for the development of the physical space, displays, maintenance of physical plant and programs of the heritage center. Annual membership drives, fund-raising events and capital campaigns are part of its responsibilities.

The annual membership drive runs in September; members are welcome at any time.

Individual -	\$ 20
Senior/Student-	\$ 15
Organization -	\$ 50
Business -	\$100

Make checks payable to:
Canton Area Heritage Center;
mail as on page 4.



Highly collectible are items from the many dairies that served our rural communities.

Programs Committee

The **Programs Committee** will work collaboratively with local and regional schools, civic and community organizations and state agencies to provide interactive educational programs for all ages. The committee has previously offered programs showcasing specific

collections unique to Canton, as well as helping individuals to assess value of antiques or artifacts they own.

Our Grand Opening in Spring, 2018 will celebrate what's best about Canton: our magnanimous citizens, unique industries, and historic

downtown. Stay tuned for more information.

Speakers available.
Please contact me.

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Preserving our history...



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We're on the Web:

www.cantonillinois.org/heritagecenter

More about Us and our Commitment to Future Acquisitions



Did you know cigar boxes held a significant place in Canton's early industry?

The Heritage Center Board of Directors is comprised of passionate and professional volunteers, whose concern is to document and safeguard items which are loaned or given to the Canton Area Heritage Center.

Further, the BOD affirms its responsibility to collect and preserve the Canton Area Heritage Center's collections as a *public trust for the benefit of the community*.

Our Acquisitions and Collections Policy meets museum standards.

The policy reads, in part:

"For the purpose of this policy, acquisition is defined as the discovery, preliminary evaluation, negotiation for, taking custody of, documenting title to, and acknowledging receipt of materials and objects."

Ownership and authentication of artifacts and antiques will be thoroughly researched for verification.

Records of authentication and catalogued materials will be stored electronically and in files located off-site by the acquisitions registrar.

Finally, from the Acquisitions Policy is a statement about private sales:

"The permanent collections of the Canton Area Heritage Center are held in public trust and owned by the CAHC. Acquisition and deaccessioning practices are governed by strict policies to protect the public trust which it holds.... Private sale, gift or exchange of objects held in the permanent collections to individuals is expressly prohibited."