

Since 2015

Volume 1, Issue 4

October-November-December 2018

The Chair's Corner



Much has happened since our last newsletter.

WE ARE OPEN!!!!

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 10-4

(other times by appointment)

Many of you know about and were involved in our successful opening the first weekend in September. We are extremely pleased and gratified by the visitor count (180+) this first month. Congratulations are in order to all who have contributed to this significant accomplishment. Your gifts of labor, dollars, materials, display items, special skills and belief in our mission are manifested in what the center looks like today. Thank you!

I see primary goals for the next 12 months to be as follows:

- ◆ Collections' growth and diversity*
- ◆ Publicity/awareness of facility
- ◆ Fund raising and grant-writing
- ◆ Seeking our next location.

*We have received items from Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Montana, Texas, Pennsylvania, as well as Illinois

Ribbon-cutting with our Board and Chamber Ambassadors, Joe Stone is poised with scissors.

As our annual meeting approaches and dues for 2019 will be due, we are indeed hopeful that you will support us with your membership renewal. If you're not a member, won't you *step up* and join us on our journey?

There are many ways to contribute and be part of the journey:

- ◆ Become a member
- ◆ Renew your membership
- ◆ Make a contribution
- ◆ Donate or loan items
- ◆ Become a docent
- ◆ Tell a friend, neighbor, and/or relative about us
- ◆ Stop in monthly.

Please attend the CAHC Annual Meeting on November 1, 2018, at Donaldson Community Center, 250 South Avenue D, in Canton. YOU WON'T BE SORRY!

We will unveil a **very special** item, recently acquired, at the annual meeting. And, the program will be presented by one of our board members, Phil Gregory.

NOTE: We're looking for artifacts of the following: area merchants/businesses; P&O; IHC; and other manufacturers; coal mines/mine towns; stockyards; brickyards; auto dealers; gas stations; churches; schools; transportation (rail roads, depots, stops); social or fraternal organizations; and, communities in our area (19 townships by my count). Hope to hear from you soon!

Joe (J.D.) Stone, President

Heritage Center Contact Information:

PHONE: (309) 647-2242
EMAIL: cahcpo19@att.net

We monitor frequently, and replies can be expected within 48 hours.

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

A SHORT HISTORY OF GRAHAM HOSPITAL	2
CAHC MISSION	2
ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 1	2
MEET PHIL GREGORY, VICE CHAIRMAN	2
HERITAGE CENTER OPENING	3
MEET DEBBIE STEPHENSON, SECRETARY	3
PHOTOS OF HERITAGE CENTER OPENING	4



Newsletter

A Short History of the Graham Hospital

"The first hospital, known as the Altruistic Hospital was started by Ms. Harriet Vittum in the home of her parents, G. B. Vittum, about 1890. It was located on the southeast corner of Main Street and Maple Street. Ms. Vittum set up the hospital following her graduation from high school and a nurse's training course. She moved to Chicago in 1893 where she became an internationally known personality in the field of social welfare. The Altruistic Society of Canton equipped the hospital with the surgical instruments needed. At the turn of the century the Altruistic Hospital was fading into oblivion. Members of the County Medical Association including Dr. J.E. Sutton and Dr. J.E. Coleman, and city officials met to establish a new and larger hospital. The Progressive Art and Altruistic Clubs

of Canton held meetings to establish a means for promoting the new hospital. The Canton Public Hospital Assn. was formally organized at a meeting of citizens held November, 1903. Ms. Florence S. Morrow was employed as the first superintendent at a salary of \$50 a month.... The hospital was located on South Second Avenue....

"The Canton Public Hospital found itself in financial difficulties due to lack of funds and was forced to close its door in 1906. In 1905, Mrs. Alice and Caroline Graham were living in Washington, D.C. They were originally from Canton, the daughters of John G. and Lydia Graham. John Graham was originally from Northumberland, NY. He was a civil engineer and came to Canton in

the 1840's to help construct the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. With money earned, he then established a General Store in Canton. He became one of the largest stockholders and chief advisors of the Canton National Bank. The Graham sisters gave a monetary gift to build a hospital in Canton. Graham Hospital was officially dedicated on October 4, 1909. At the time, its style was described as Italian renaissance. It had three stories, and a basement [and] was located on Walnut Street. It had an 18-25 patient capacity, office, children's ward and solarium. The third floor was used for student nurses." (More to come)

This article was compiled by Judy Kemper for National Hospital Week, May 11-17, 1997

OUR MISSION

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.

Annual Meeting, November 1

The Annual Meeting is set November 1, 2018, 6:00 p.m., Donaldson Center, in Wallace Park, 250 South Avenue D, Canton. Agenda items include yearly highlights by Chair Joe Stone and a presentation of recent acquisitions and history bytes by board members. Phil Gregory will give the program, "Cigar-making's Impact on Canton's Prosperity." Light refreshments will be served.

NOTE: You will find a dues statement included in this newsletter. Annual dues for 2019 are due by November 15. See details in the statement.

Meet Board Vice Chairman Phil Gregory



Gregory and Missy Towery, Partnership for Economic Development Director, at the center opening.

I grew up in Canton and attended school here through high school. At age 19 I started working at the IH plant in 1970. I worked in several departments throughout the plant – hot and cold metal fabricating and assembling farm implements. I was laid off in March, 1982, and the plant closed the following year, 1983. I had married in July of 1982 – and then, I had no job to go to.

And, there were very few jobs in this entire area, so I started buying antique furniture and my Dad

taught me how to repair and refinish furniture. I had several shops that I worked from over the next 25 years. The main selling I did was at antique shows in Peoria and Chicago. I've also dealt in antique glassware, pottery and other collectibles.

Later, I worked at Caterpillar Co., 1994-1996, and when I was laid off at Caterpillar, I went back to my antique business.

My main interests in collecting are P&O Plow Works and IH Co., as well as dairies and other businesses of our area. I like finding rare items that no one else has!

I find it interesting to be involved in the Heritage Center where I can share my passion for collecting. It has been fun to be at the museum talking to people who have an interest in our city's history. I hope to see the Heritage Center grow with many more items that people want to share with the community.

Phil Gregory
Vice Chair

Heritage Center Opening

The **Canton Area Heritage Center's Private Preview and Grand Opening/ Ribbon Cutting** events were very gratifying to those of us who have worked on this project.

One hundred people toured the newly-opened heritage center, September 6-8, 2018. We've had dozens more persons visit since then, including Canton's 60th Class Reunion attendees, hosted by class member and Board Chair Joe Stone.

Visitors tell us how much they have enjoyed reminiscing and learning from the exhibits.

People are calling with historical items they would like us to see, and members have been contacted to present at civic organizations.

In addition, board members Phil Gregory, Jim Morgan, Harold Rose and I are scheduled to present an update on the Heritage Center at the Spoon River College *Lifelong Learning Conference*, October 12.

Finally, we've recruited volunteers to help staff center hours, Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. We could use additional people, so if you are interested in devoting time once or twice a month, please call the center, (309) 647-2242, or email, cahcpo19@att.net.

Cheryl Bielema

CAHC Executive Board Member



Can you help?

LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF
THE HERITAGE CENTER

—
LOOKING FOR CANTON
AREA ITEMS, PHOTOS
AND FACTS



Jim Morgan answers questions at the center's Grand Opening.

**CANTON AREA
HERITAGE CENTER**

Meet Board Secretary Debbie Stephenson

When I attended the initial planning meeting for the Heritage Center, my interest was due to my previous employment at International Harvester Co. where I had worked after graduation from college. My memories of IHC were good ones due to the people who worked there and the quality products made in the Canton plant.

But as the years passed, the people and physical structures were no longer around. I knew many employees and/or their families still had items of memorabilia from the "shop," and I felt these items needed to be preserved for future generations.

As the Heritage Center evolved, facts about numerous industries and people in Canton and surrounding areas emerged. We board members realized the Heritage Center could have multiple displays for visitors. It has taken the commitment and cooperation of many people to succeed in developing a museum to be proud of.

And, these many people have volunteered numerous hours towards this success. We continue to try to attract new members and donors since we want the Heritage Center to grow and prosper so residents and visitors can appreciate what has come before them.

Debbie Stephenson
Secretary



Debbie prepares to send meeting notice to board.



H—CANTON AREA HERITAGE CENTER

Preserving our history...

Mailing address:
209 E. Chestnut Street
Suite 2
Canton, Illinois 61520
Phone: 309-647-2242
Fax: 309-647-2712
Email: cahcpo19@att.net

First location is 111 South Main
Street, Canton, Illinois 61520

We're on the Web:

[www.cantonillinois.org/
heritagecenter](http://www.cantonillinois.org/heritagecenter)

PHOTOS OF OUR GRAND OPENING, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

