

Since 2015

Volume 4, Issue 2

The Chair's Report



Philip Gregory, Chairman
Canton Area Heritage Center
Executive Board
Cell: (309) 208-2943

We're Open, as of April 2,
and very happy to be at this point!
Hope to see you soon.

In this issue of the newsletter, we want to recognize both teachers and students who have had their world turned upside down by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Read a few reflections written by teachers and students, on pages 2 and 3.

We'll have a new display: "Comparing Spanish Flu Epidemic, 1918-1919, and the COVID-19 Pandemic," and we've expanded "Businesses in the Canton Area."

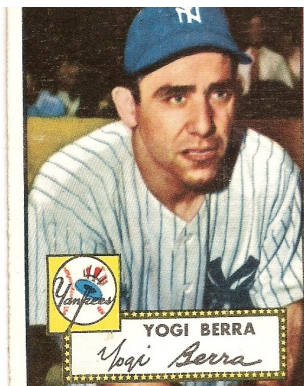
Did you know the flu epidemic started in North America (first case was identified in Kansas)? Soon after, the virus spread into Europe by US soldiers serving there during WWI. History teacher Harold Rose tells us mitigation strategies were similar - and just as controversial - as today.

A Pandemic Reflections project is being assisted by a new volunteer at the museum. Meet her on pg. 2.

Remember Yogi-isms?

In honor of Yogi Berra, and just for fun...

- You can observe a lot by just watching.
- It ain't over till it's over.
- It's like déjà vu all over again.
- No one goes there nowadays, it's too crowded.
- Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical.
- A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore.
- Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours.
- We made too many wrong mistakes.
- You better cut the pizza in four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six.
- You wouldn't have won if we'd beaten you.



New York Yankees catcher and major league manager and coach. Berra played 19 seasons in MLB (1946-1963, 1965).

Our Business Community

Locally-owned small businesses have been the lifeblood of rural communities (and still are today) as they provide jobs, donate money, products, and people-power in support of schools, civic organizations, and crisis or need.

We'd love to build our collections with more business artifacts, advertising, photos or descriptions. Please contact us if you have items that could add to our local history.

Call Mike Walters, Acquisitions Chair, at (309) 338-6272, or email, cahcp19@att.net.



New Acquisition: A variety of matchbooks from local businesses were discovered in a house owned by Elmer and Wilma Jacobs, of E & R Shoe Repair and Western Store in Canton. You'll see banks, an auto dealership, restaurants, a dry cleaner, and one captioned with, "Know Cancer's 7 Danger Signals." The matchbooks were donated by Kathy Haffner of Canton.

Spring has sprung!

April - May - June 2021

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

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OPEN

Our hours are

Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sundays, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

(closed Easter Sunday, April 4)

Come see us!

Teaching and Learning in a Pandemic

Amanda Sipe, 4th Grade Teacher, Westview Elementary School



Amanda Reneau Sipe has taught in her hometown of Canton for 18 years, following her WIU graduation with a Bachelor's degree in Science Education in 2001. Mrs. Sipe earned a Master's Degree in Education from WIU in 2007. She was recognized by the Canton Union School District as Outstanding Teacher in 2014, and last year Mrs. Sipe won one of 10 Golden Apple awards, the Illinois Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching award. She was only the second teacher outside the Chicago area to receive this award.

When asked what led her to teaching,

Mrs. Sipe said her inspiration was her own 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Sharon Dawson Odendahl. Sipe has had continuing connections with Westview, as well. She did her student teaching in a 2nd grade classroom after attending Westview in her youth.

Mrs. Sipe describes her teaching style as hands-on. She tries to "gamify" learning in order to engage her students and make learning fun. "It's been difficult, stressful and worrisome in light of the changes necessitated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and when we transitioned to remote learning. I worried whether I was teaching [my students] what they needed to know," she said.

She went on to describe that she and her colleagues were pushed to learn new technology, and though it wasn't as difficult due to her familiarity, it was still a worry to her. She praised her colleagues, "We are all willing to do whatever it takes...we do what we need to do because we care about our kids!"

Harold Rose, Social Studies Teacher, Canton High School

Editor's Note. Rose's retirement has just been announced as the newsletter is put together. He joined the museum's Executive Board in 2017, and we have benefitted by meeting and involving his students in the intervening years. We wish you, Mr. Rose, a happy and productive retirement. And, we count on your continued volunteering at the museum, as well!

Harold Rose was born in Canton, attended school here and graduated from Canton High School. He was involved in the band and student government. He played football, basketball, baseball and track. He was also an Eagle Scout, as were his three brothers.

Rose graduated from McPherson College, Kansas, with a degree in Psychology. His intention was to be a Guidance Counselor, but by chance, he was asked to substitute-teach. Later, he took a 6th grade position at Avon and taught there for nine years.

In the fall of 1989, he came to Canton schools and has taught American History and Government ever since, and has also coached Junior Varsity football and girls' softball.



Mr. Rose describes his teaching style as built on relationships and respect. "I'm proud when I see the look in my students' eyes, I see they're excited about learning. I've never been afraid of teaching controversial topics, like racism, civil disobedience, use of propaganda or the Red Scare. I tend to teach bell-to-bell; dialoguing and expecting my students [to interact with me and one another.]"

When asked about teaching remotely in the midst of the Pandemic, Rose said that it's taken an academic village to continue educating. He's learning new tricks and has leaned on his colleagues and technical staff. "We've done the best we can, and I appreciate our administrators for their support and encouragement. They've led us on this path."

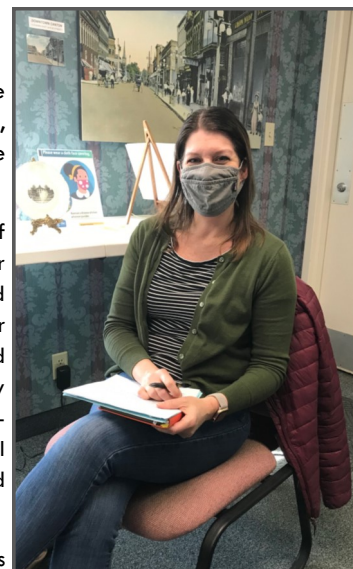
Mrs. Sipe's and Mr. Rose's remarks were originally on our Facebook page, celebrating back to school, January 25-28, 2021.

In late January, 2021, Canton students returned to their classrooms. However, families could choose to keep their children attending from home. Teachers have been asked to instruct in both modes. "Thank you" to our teachers for continuing to engage students and facilitate their learning no matter where they're located.

New Museum Volunteer

We consider it good fortune to have Angela Drach, Museum Studies student, volunteering with us this year. We've asked her to introduce herself.

"I moved to Canton in September of 2019 and first worked at the Chamber of Commerce where I got acquainted with the Canton Area Heritage Center and several of its volunteers. I had visited the museum and was really impressed with the collection and displays. For as long as I can remember, I have had an interest in museums and research.

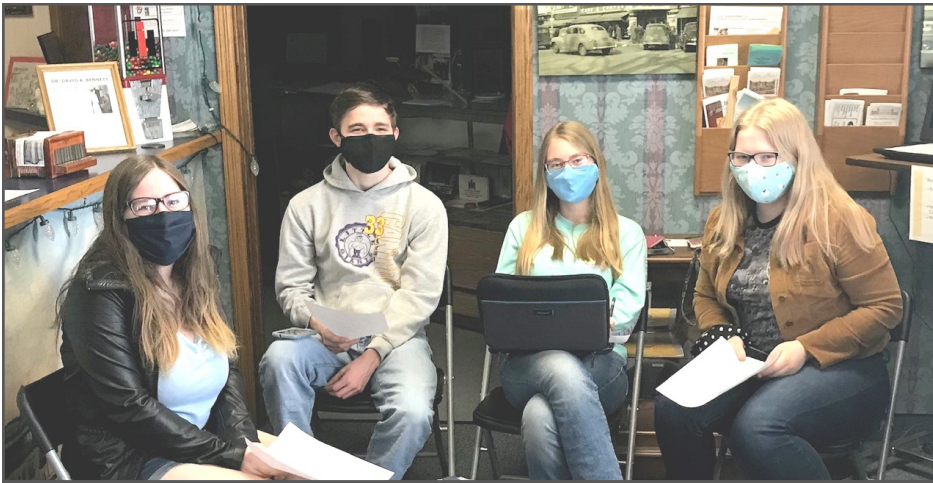


"My favorite book as a child was *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler*, about a brother and sister who run away from home and live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"Previously, I volunteered at the Art Institute of Chicago in the education department. Currently, I am enrolled in Northwestern University's online Museum Studies program, and I am very much looking forward to lending my help to the CAHC as a volunteer."



Teaching and Learning in a Pandemic (continued)



Four student leaders working with the museum to document student experiences during the current pandemic are (L-R) Aurora Ridley, Jaydon Fleisch, Alexa Reavley and Chloe Nelson, Juniors at Canton High School.



**We're open on the weekends,
starting April 2!**

We asked these history students to describe what learning was like in the first year of the Pandemic. We've included snippets of their responses below. The small group pictured above plans to involve more of their classmates and will also help produce a display at the Heritage Center. These are a few of the questions we asked them.

What did you miss most during the pandemic?

Jaydon laments the missed memories, "What I missed most was just being able to make lasting memories. It still doesn't feel like 2020 ended just cause I feel like there should've been more there."

Chloe: During this pandemic, I missed out on a lot. I missed showing sheep through FFA and 4-H, and going to the state FFA convention.

Alexa: What I missed most during quarantine were my activities such as FFA and band. FFA was the one I missed the most since I didn't get to compete in contests I looked forward to, attend banquets, State Convention, etc. I also missed getting to say goodbye to the class of 2020 and finishing my sophomore year of high school.

Did you have any positive experiences?

Jaydon: Besides being able to automatically pass my sophomore year, there's no one event that sticks out to me that was positive. Nothing was really positive or negative for me.

Alexa: I had quite a few positive experiences during quarantine due to having more time to do the things I love most. I had more time to work around the farm, I bought and raised a pig (Sue) and two ducks (Deb & Summer), I spent time with family, got to go hiking a lot more, spent quality time with my dog (Zeus), and spent time with friends.

Chloe indicated that a positive while sheltering at home was being able to help take care of animals on the family farm. In her comments, "I learned how to crochet. I also learned the 20-20 rule when working on computers or phones. Every 20 minutes of work you should take at least a 20-second break for your eyes."

What did you learn about yourself in this pandemic?

Jaydon: I learned that I like social interaction more than I thought I did. I'd consider myself more of an introvert and even I was getting tired of not seeing anyone.

Chloe: Overall, I learned a lot more about myself, [specifically] that it is super important to take care of my mental and physical health.

Alexa: The thing I learned about myself is how big a workaholic I am. I oftentimes pile a lot onto my plate and end up overwhelmed, but I realized over quarantine that I have to take on work in order to feel accomplished and avoid boredom. Quarantine definitely brought out my creative side since I always had to find something to keep me busy.

We thank these already busy teens for taking on one more project, with us. They expressed the importance of sharing their experiences before time passes and memory fades. "For that reason, we're also considering a more permanent means to add this time to our historical record," explained Cheryl Bielema, museum programs chair. "We're all involved in 'making history' right now. We want, especially, to capture what it's been like for our students," Bielema concluded.

QR Codes Added to Displays

A new interactive feature at the Heritage Center is use of QR Codes to further enhance the visitor experience while viewing several of the exhibits. For visitors with a smartphone and a QR Code "app" installed on it, pointing the phone at an easily-found symbol at the exhibit will take them to photos or videos about that exhibit. For example, the Canton astronaut Steve Nagel exhibit QR Code takes the visitor to a video showing Nagel describing one of his space shuttle flights. Another example is the Bill Cook exhibit where a QR Code opens a video of Cook describing how he and his wife started the worldwide medical device manufacturing business, Cook Medical, Inc.

Kevin Stephenson, Volunteer

Preserving our history...

Mailing address:
209 East Chestnut Street
Suite 2
Canton, Illinois 61520

Phone: 309-647-2242
Fax: 309-647-2712
Email: cahcpo19@att.net

First location is 111 S. Main,
Canton, Illinois 61520

INQUIRY ABOUT GRISTMILL IN LONDON MILLS

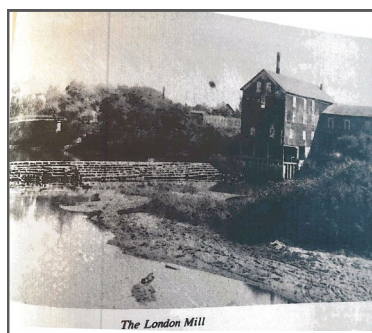
Recently, Dave in Colorado wondered if we had information about the gristmill in London Mills. Gristmills, powered by water wheels to grind grain into flour, have been around for many centuries, some as early as 19 BC. In the United States, they were common by the 1840s. Here are details Mike Walters found in researching this gristmill.

"The history of the Village of London Mills had its beginning in September of 1835 when James M. Shreves patented from the government a tract of 16 acres of land situated in the northwest quarter of Section 3 in Young Hickory Township, Fulton County, Illinois. In February, 1844, this land was transferred to James Eggers. Here in 1846, Eggers built a gristmill on the south bank of Spoon River and gave the site the name of London, in honor of London, England, the original home of his family. In September, 1851, Eggers platted a town of 52 lots and named it London. The gristmill then became known as London Mill. A post office was established about April 9, 1875. On November 27, 1883, the village was incorporated, and since there was already an organized town in Illinois by the name of London, the newly incorporated town was called London Mills.

"Shortly after the turn of the century, when the mill had ceased to operate, it was torn down, and the area between the business district and the mill site was turned into Riverside Park. In 1939 the mill wheel and other relics were recovered from the river bank. They were later mounted on a base and put on display in the park along with a marker and plaque commemorating the old London Mill. The idea of getting those old wheels and other machinery out of the mud of the river bank was conceived by Weldon Shreves, and it was through his efforts and the help of volunteers under his direction that the work was successfully carried out. Added to the exhibit is a millstone brought from the old mill at Troy in Ellisville Township. Riverside Town Park is located on the north end of Third Street in London Mills."

Source: *Historic Fulton County, Sites and Scenes – Past and Present, 1823-1973*, compiled by Fulton County Historical Society, 1973

Mike Walters, Acquisitions Chair



The London Mill



Find us on:
facebook®

We're on the Web:

www.cantonillinois.org/heritagecenter

2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete the form below and return with a check to become, or renew as, a member of the Heritage Center in 2021, if you haven't already done so. Help spread the word about our museum.

High School Students/ Seniors (age 65+) - \$15. Individuals - \$20/ Family - \$35. Organization - \$50.
Business/Commercial - \$100.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Check the appropriate category: ___ Student/Senior - \$15 ___ Individual - \$20 ___ Family - \$35 ___

Community Organization - \$50. Name: _____

Business/Commercial - \$100. Name: _____

Donation amount: _____

Quarterly newsletter preference: ___ Postal mail to address above/ ___ Email to me at email above

Make check payable to Canton Area Heritage Center. Mail to:

Canton Area Heritage Center, 209 East Chestnut, Suite 2, Canton, Illinois 61520

Thank you!

Happy Spring-time!

