

Since 2015

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The Chair's Corner



Vice Chair Phil Gregory shares his take on center progress, his goals and more.

I'm hoppy to report that we are at 625 visitors at the center. There are new items to see, too. Our "Salute to Military Heroes," including a special display honoring Canton's astronaut Steve Nagel, is in place. You can read more about these exhibits on page 2.

One of my goals has been to create interest by changing our displays every 3-6 months and that has worked well so far. With *Christmas Toys to the Bill Cook Early Years* to our *Hometown Heroes*, we have attracted more people.

A concern of mine is that people still do not know about our museum and don't know where we're located. We need your help to get the word out. Please come in, bring your family, as well as your "vacationing" family, to the center. Talk with others about what you see and hear.

I also would like you to consider how you could volunteer...there are many ways to support a museum. Call any of us and we'll fill you in.

And, here's a reminder that we have the book, *Legacy: Parlin, Orendorff, and Ingersoll Families*, by Brooks Carver and Mike Walters, available for a donation of \$20.00. Also you'll find *On the Corner of Union and Prairie* and *Plowboys to Little Giants*. Local authors include Brooks Carver, Mike Walters, and Roy Hopper. Part of these donations stay at the center.

Notice our summer hours on this page and we hope to see you soon.

Phil Gregory, Vice Chairman

Summer Hours

Fridays, 10-12

Saturdays, 10-2

Sundays, 1-4

Come see us with your family and friends.



Like our Facebook Page

Social media manager Erika has plans to focus on "good guys and bad guys" this summer. Stay in touch with her history lessons on Facebook.

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

Cemetery Walk to be Reprised

Plans are to host a **Cemetery Walk on September 15 (rain date, 9/16)**. This innovative outdoor theatre introduces significant people in Canton's past. The Cemetery Walks were originally part of Canton's Big Reads program.

Mike Walters and Erika Davis are co-chairs. Watch for details and join us, won't you?

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Beta Sigma Phi members toured the Heritage Center recently. We invite other community organizations to contact us. We will adjust to size of group and your time requirements. Phone (309) 647-2242, and leave message, or email, cahpc19@att.net

Newsletter

Meet Mary and Jack Pollitt, Board Members and Early Advocates



Jack and Mary Pollitt are long-time residents of Canton, having chosen to remain here even with career changes and dramatic community changes. They have been married for 54 years and are members of Wesley United Methodist Church. Both serve on several committees and boards. Jack is on the church Administrative Board and chairs its Permanent Endowment Comm. Mary is active in P.E.O. Chapter LY; she also serves as Historian for the Altruistic Club.

Mary was born and raised in Pottstown, IL. Her favorite subject in school was always history, she revealed. After graduation she worked at Caterpillar and ten years later married Jack and moved to Canton.

Mary ran the business office at Wee-Ma-Tuk for several years and later served as head of the Energy Department with the Fulton County Health Department before she retired.

Jack was born and raised in Canton, active in high school sports and received All-State status at halfback. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the 1955 yearbook that won national recognition with an Outstanding Award in its category with nearly a thousand other yearbooks. He was instrumental in starting and organizing the first all-night Prom at Canton High School.

After graduating from Carthage College, Jack taught school at Lewistown Junior High. He speaks with pride of his students winning awards in Art and Speech. The basketball team he coached won 85% of their games and the track team finished in second place in State Track and Field.

Jack spent 20 years at International Harvester, rising through positions in materials management, ultimately serving as last Plant Manager. He had the unpleasant task of closing the plant. Wherever possible, materials, supplies and IH assets were given to the City, area schools and county groups, he explained.

Jack attempted to save valued memorabilia for future use. He accepted early retirement with International Harvester in 1983.

He then took a position with the State of Illinois to coordinate final construction, provisioning and opening of the Illinois River Correctional Center. He assumed the role of first administrator of Business Operations and Facility and Maintenance Operations.

Jack administered Hanna City's Work Camp and worked on additional assignments from the Governor's Office until retiring in 2000.

Mary and Jack had discussed the possibility of an IH-Canton Plant Museum early on and are glad to be a part of the Heritage Center's organization as well as its successful opening. They hope that the museum will expand and become a stable part of this community.

The Pollitts are Founders of the Heritage Center and serve on our Executive Board. They also help staff the center. As members of the Acquisitions Committee, they have contributed pieces of IH memorabilia for our center displays. Jack and Mary demonstrate their commitment and passion for our mission, day in and day out. We want to thank them for their dedication and service over the past five years.

Featured Exhibits: Col. Steve Nagel and more Military Heroes

Air Force Colonel Steve Nagel, veteran of the NASA program, was a hometown hero who never forgot his birthplace. He is featured along with others in a new exhibit, **Honoring Canton's Military Heroes**, as of July 1, 2019.

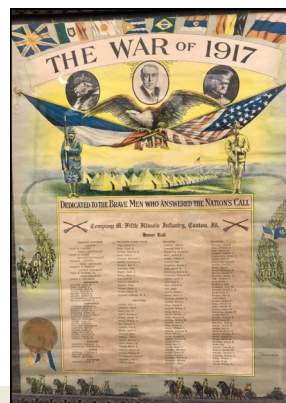
Steve Nagel became an astronaut in August, 1979. He was born in Canton, graduated from Canton High School in 1964 and the University of Illinois in 1969. Colonel Nagel was the 100th American to fly into space and was a veteran of four shuttle missions. They included:

- ♦ Shuttle Discovery, as Mission Specialist – June, 1985
- ♦ Shuttle Challenger, as Pilot (a joint mission with Germany) – November, 1985
- ♦ Shuttle Atlantis, as Flight Commander – April, 1991
- ♦ Shuttle Columbia, as Flight Commander (sequel to 1985 mission, involving German D-1 Spacelab) – March, 1993

Colonel Nagel concluded his Astronaut career in February, 1995. He became NASA's Deputy Director of Rehabilitation & Quality Assurance at Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. He later taught at the University of Missouri in Columbia, as did his wife Linda.

The **Military Heroes** exhibit includes lists of local soldiers, those serving in the Revolutionary War and those in World War I. Mannequins are dressed in uniforms from World War I and II.

You'll find photos, commendations, service and combat medals belonging to local soldiers. And, there's more. Bring your family and friends to see and learn from this compelling exhibit.



We Salute our Staff in this 1st Year

"We depend on volunteer staffers to keep our doors open. The 24 people who've volunteered during this first year include board officers, members and interested residents. I want to express a huge 'thank you' to each one of you **super people**," says Cheryl Bielema, who coordinates the schedule. "We couldn't do what we've done without you."

And, why do people volunteer at the center? John Putman told us he enjoys keeping up with recent acquisitions and reading historical publications while he works.

Jim Morgan says he enjoys sharing what he knows about Canton area history. Erika Davis loves the stories she hears from both current and former residents who visit.

Tabitha Watson, in addition to staffing at the center, is Recording Secretary of

Fulton Co. Historical & Genealogical Society. She likes working to preserve and to share local history in both positions.

Do any of these reasons speak to you? We're ready to talk to you about getting involved.

"NEITHER A WISE MAN NOR
A BRAVE MAN LIES DOWN
ON THE TRACKS OF
HISTORY TO WAIT FOR THE
TRAIN OF THE FUTURE
TO RUN OVER HIM."

--DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



Pictured above (lf-rt): Jim Morgan, Phil Gregory, Mary Pollitt, Jack Pollitt, and Mike Walters. At left: Roy Hopper, Debbie Stephenson, Cheryl Bielema, and John Putman.

Want to join our center staff?

Call (309) 647-2242 or email cahco19@att.net

You choose 2- or 3-hour shifts and how often you work at the center

Two people work together

We lead a training session with information you'll need.

Thank You, Staffers!

(not pictured)

Emily Cleer
Ray Cleer
Carol Davis
Jackie Davis
Caryl Harrison
Harold Rose
Mark Smith
Kevin Stephenson
Susan Walters



Pictured above: Joe Stone, Erika Davis and Tabitha Watson. At right: Ron Bielema, Carolyn West, and Dean Gibson.



Preserving our history...

2019-2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 South Main
Street, Canton, Illinois 61520

We're on the Web:

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



Please complete the form below and return with a check to become, or renew as, a member of the Heritage Center. Thanks in advance for your investment and for your willingness to be a part of honoring our area's rich and vibrant history.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

As of July 1, prorated dues for remainder of 2019 include dues for 2020.

___ Student/Senior - \$22 ___ Individual - \$30 ___ Family - \$52

___ Community Organization - \$75. Name: _____

___ Business/Commercial - \$150. 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!

Census Data Then and Now

The 1950 Census lists 16,419 employed men and women in the county. The major types of employment and percentage of the total are listed below.

FULTON COUNTY

Employed men and women	16,419
Manufacturing	25%
Agriculture	22%
Trade	15%
Mining	.8%
Construction	.4%
Canton population, July 1, 1953	12,075

From a *Comprehensive Planning document*, 1953. "If we take into consideration the agricultural area in the northeast section of the region not in Fulton County, it is probable that manufacturing and agriculture would attain approximately the same percentage of employed persons. Thus, the Canton region is basically dependent upon both industrial and agricultural types of employment. [A]s might be expected trade occupations come third, since Canton acts as a trading center for the region. Fourth... is mining, a natural resource especially prevalent in the Canton region. The fifth largest field of employment, construction, utilizes less than 1% of the labor force or 708 people."

Current Census data (2018 estimates):

FULTON COUNTY

Total employment, 2016	6,325
In civilian labor force, % age 16+, 2013-2017	55.2%
Total employer establishments, 2016	626
Canton population, July 1, 2018	13,720
[County] population estimates, July 1, 2018	34,844

Notice the dramatic loss of employed people in 66 years: 16,419 (1950) vs. 6,325 (2016).

According to the Census web documents researched, the occupational classifications continue to change based on evolved "ways to work." Changes to be implemented for the 2020 Census in these *Occupational Classifications* include additional **Information Technology and Health-care Codes**. Specific numbers: (a) Total number of occupations-570; (b) Census codes added-155; and, (c) Census codes deleted-125.

Editor's Note. I didn't find comparable percentages for types of employment in current Census data (e.g., Manufacturing, Agriculture).

Dr. L.L. Vitt, former Exec. Director of the Fulton County Health Dept., is credited with compiling the 1953 statistics.