

Since 2015

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July-August-September 2022

THE CHAIR'S REPORT



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

Cigar boxes have been one of my passions to collect. And, I've found several rare ones which are now on display at the museum. Above, I'm holding one of the wooden cigar boxes made right here in Canton.

A little history. Sawmills, grist mills, distilleries, packing houses, cooperages, brick kilns and cigar factories were among early industrial enterprises in Canton. Cigar making, begun in 1855, grew until in 1892... twenty million cigars were being made in 14-15 factories and by a number of "Buckeyes," or small private rollers.

Do you know why the cigar-making business faded by the 1920s? It was the advent of cigarettes.

Come visit us to learn more about the industries and people who have made Canton the special place it is.

Have a great summer, everyone!



CIGAR-MAKING IN CANTON

These decorative cigar boxes are still sought actively by collectors.

Take the mystery out of your local history. The answers, you'll see 'em at your Canton Museum.

Many interesting things to see and admission is free. Come see us...

Dean Gibson
Board Member



L-R, Lottie Wertz Manufacturer, Farmington; High Life 5-cent Cigars, Tony Tomlianovich, St. David; Callan Bro's., Joseph E. Callans Manufacturer, Astoria; WL Shurtleff, Prop., Cuba Cigar Co., Cuba.



L-R, McCreary & Trites Co., "Plow City," Canton; Dean's Cantonola, W.O. Dean Company, first cigar factory built in Canton; Big Run, Harry Howell Manufacturer, Lewistown; Popular City, Savill & Rafferty Manufacturer, Canton.

Special points of interest

- FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS IN THIS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- MEET MOVERS AND SHAKERS, THEN AND NOW
- LEARN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY
- VOLUNTEER WHERE AND WHEN YOU CAN

Inside this issue

SUMMER DISCOVERY DAYS	2
DID YOU KNOW? NEW FEATURE	2
FAVORITE RECIPES IN 1902 CHURCH COOKBOOK	2
LU DLUM'S GROCERY & MEAT MKT.	3
JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH	3
DONORS	3
2022 CEMETERY WALK, SEPT. 25	4

Our hours are
 Fridays, 10am-12 noon
 Saturdays, 10am-2pm
 Sundays, 1pm-4pm
 Come see us!



The Museum Newsletter

SUMMER DISCOVERY DAYS FOR KIDS

Do You Know?
What industrial giant once called Canton home?

Does our town have a birthday?

DISCOVERY DAYS AT THE MUSEUM

Does Fulton County have any Olympic Medalists?

Who was the 100th astronaut in space?

Find the answers and more at
Canton Area Heritage Center Museum!
Use your super sleuth skills on our
"K-8th MUSEUM BINGO!"
*K-8th
ADMISSION IS FREE!

111 South Main Street, Canton
309-647-2242
Fridays 10-12 • Saturdays 10-2 • Sundays 1-4

DID YOU KNOW?

July 4, 2022, will mark the 79th anniversary of the "Dedication Day" at the US Army Camp Ellis Training Center near Ipava, IL. This ceremony was an all-day major extravaganza with people coming from far and wide to Fulton County to see the newest military city (in the middle of the country). It would rival a modern day Super Bowl since 50,000 people converged on the camp that day. That was more people than had resided in the county at the time, and also more residents than we have today in 2022.

It makes me wonder what motivated people to attend. Was it curiosity, patriotism for the war effort, something fun and exciting for the family to do for the day, or a military command performance -- we will never know. I can say that this celebration is undoubtedly the largest one-day event in Fulton County in the past 100 years.

What did visitors experience? They saw military demonstrations with live ammunition being used, a 1000-troop review, and visits to the largest military training hospital in the country -- with 1000 beds and the main corridor one-half mile long. They witnessed a gas mask drill, visited chapels, movie theatres, GI 5 & 10 stores, mess halls and service clubs. They rode in jeeps and trucks, played field sports and games, and ate a lot of food. By the end of the day, I am confident they were overwhelmed and tired!

The attendees also witnessed the unveiling of a portrait of Sergeant Michael Ellis, a WWI hero, for whom the camp was named. The Illinois Governor welcomed everyone and a young lady from Peoria, Miss Ester Ready, was crowned Dedication Day Queen.

I wish I could have attended.... I was close by in Littleton, IL, that day, being cradled in my mother's arms. I was two days old!

Jim Morgan, Treasurer

TO PRESERVE A HUSBAND.

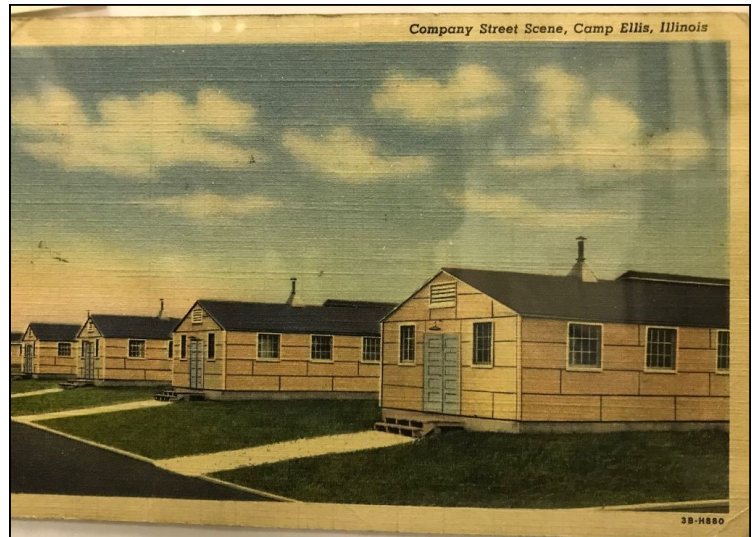
Be careful in your selection, do not choose too young and take only such varieties as have been reared in a good moral atmosphere; when once decided upon and selected let that part remain forever settled, and give your entire thought to preparation for domestic use. Some insist on keeping them in a pickle, while others are constantly getting them in hot water; even poor varieties may be made sweet, tender, and good by garnishing them with patience well sweetened with smiles and flavored with kisses to taste; then wrap well in a mantle of charity, keep warm with a steady fire of domestic devotion and serve with peaches and cream. When thus prepared they will keep for years.

AN OLD FASHIONED RECIPE FOR HOME COMFORT.

Take of thought of self one part, two parts of thought of family, equal parts of common sense and broad intelligence; a large part of the sense of the fitness of things, a heaping measure of living above what your neighbors think of you, twice the quantity of keeping within your income, a sprinkling of what tends to refinement and beauty, stirred thick with christian principle of the true brand and set to rise.

SCRIPPS-GREER THE
DRY GOODS CO. READY TO WEAR
CANTON, ILL. STORE

First Methodist Episcopal Church Cookbook, 1902. The recent donation of a turn-of-the-century cookbook led one of our board members to suggest we include these recipes for your reading pleasure. Hope you enjoy!



Barracks at the U.S. Army Camp, 1943. German prisoners-of-war numbered up to 5000 at the same time as U.S. Army soldiers participated in hundreds of training exercises. The Illinois National Guard also used part of Camp Ellis until 1950.

LUDLUM'S GROCERY & MEAT MARKET, 37 S. SIXTH AVENUE 1929-1971

Editor's Note: Connie Ludlum and Shirley Ludlum Brush recently loaned a collection of photographs and artifacts from Ludlum's Grocery Store on Sixth Avenue. On display are an adding machine, bottled vanilla and an accounts ledger, to name a few of the artifacts. The Ludlum family ran the store for 42 years, from 1929-1971. Daughter-in-law Connie wrote a description of how the Ludlum children worked with their parents Imo and Ira at the store.

She also helped her dad with deliveries. Sometimes, he would take the groceries into homes and put them away. Linda remembers the soda machine, penny candy, and candy bars priced at 5-cents." [The grocery store closed in 1971 as the sign in the window below indicates.]

Connie Ludlum, Contributor



Imo and Ira Ludlum,
circa 1919

"Ira and Imo Ludlum owned and operated the grocery store and meat market at 37 South Sixth Avenue in Canton for 42 years. Their seven children helped with various jobs, cleaning, packing, shelving, boxing eggs and sacking potatoes. Prices were labeled on the shelves, not on separate containers.

"Their children were Zelma Nishiser, Dean, Helen Johnson, Shirley Brush, Eugene, Ira (Larry), and Allan. Shirley remembers writing out and adding receipts, often checking out customers. Some customers would run up a tab, to be paid later. Dean and Zelma ran the delivery van, a 1937 Plymouth panel van. Larry helped with store chores, like de-eyeing the potatoes and bagging them. Ira was also a Notary Public. Mother Imo and daughter Helen served up three meals a day for this 'working crew.'

"In 1967 their son Eugene Ludlum and his wife Berneice took over operating the store with help from their daughter Linda, who worked with her parents after school and on weekends. Linda remembers taking phone orders, scooping ice cream cones, cutting up chickens and slicing meat.



JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH

"That is all it is -- just a piece of cloth. You can count the threads in it and it's no different from any other piece of doth. But when a little breeze comes along, it stirs and comes to life, and flutters and snaps in the wind. All red and white and blue! And then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it.

"It has your whole life wrapped up in it -- the meals you eat; the time you spend with your family; the kind of things your boy and girl learn at school; the strange and wonderful thoughts you get in Church on Sunday.

"Those stars in it they make you feel just as free as the stars in the wide, deep night. And those stripes they are bars of blood to any dictator who would try to change this way of life.

"Just a piece of doth, that's all it is -- until you put your soul into it, and all that your soul stands for and wants and aspires to be.... Get that straight -- it's just a piece of cloth. It don't mean a thing that you don't make it mean. What do you want to make it mean? A symbol of liberty and decency and fair-dealing for everyone? Then snap out of it. The enemy's been getting closer every day. Don't let him get any closer. Start driving him back now.

"There aren't enough ships yet. [There] aren't enough cannon, tanks, planes. How are we going to get them? Make them, of course. But how are we going to make them, force people, the way they do in Germany?

"No, sir. We're going to pay our way. And you've got to help....No, you don't even have to give up your dough. All you have to do is lend it, *at interest*. Higher interest than you can get in almost any other way -- in U. S. War Bonds.

"Interest that makes the Bond worth 1/3 again as much as you paid for it, in just ten years, just at the time you'll be wanting to take that vacation or buy that home in a world that's free and peaceful and swell to live in again.

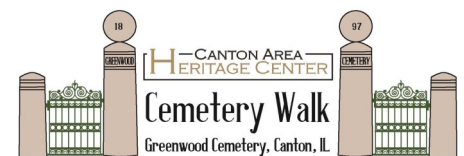
"Yes, that flag is just a piece of doth until you breathe life into it. Until you make it stand for everything you believe in and want and refuse to live without. Mister, is it worth pledging 10% of your income for, in U. S. War Bonds?

"BUY U. S. WAR BONDS"

Source: Advertisement, *The Palladium* (page 6), February 25, 1943. Retrieved June 12, 2022, <https://www.cmich.edu/research/cmuh-library/library-services/>

P.S. A version of this piece, minus the War Bonds pitch, was found in my mother Betty's collection of poetry/prose. She often shared a favorite one in notes and cards that she sent to her family. While attempting to find the author, I came upon this war-time advertisement. I still don't know for sure who the author is.

Cheryl Bielema, Editor



Read details of the **2022 Cemetery Walk**, set for Sunday, September 25, 3:30 p.m., on p. 4. We hope you'll join us for this unique outdoor history program.

DONORS

We recognize major donors, George H. Mills, Bellingham, WA, and CFC Properties, Inc./Cook Medical, Bloomington, IN and Canton, whose generous gifts this year have put them at the Founders level (\$1000 and above). Thank you, George Mills, and James Murphy, CFC Properties, for your generous support.

Preserving our history...

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We're on the Web:

[www.cantonillinois.org/
heritage-center](http://www.cantonillinois.org/heritage-center)



2022 CEMETERY WALK, SEPTEMBER 25

We will host the 8th annual **“VOICES OF THE PAST” Cemetery Walk** on Sunday, September 25, 2022, with a rain date set for the following Monday. Participants walk from headstone to headstone and are met by local performers who portray selected individuals interred in Canton’s Greenwood Cemetery by recounting key episodes of their lives.

Among those to be portrayed this fall are two brave young men who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. Other portrayals will be dedicated to a few local businesses around the square that thrived until the “big box stores” popped up around the country. Did you know the Canton Park District, which was founded in 1923, has only employed five Executive Directors since its incorporation? Which director do you think reached out to the W.P.A. to help build a new, modern swimming pool in Big Creek Park?

The Cemetery Walk is a very personal way for residents to celebrate our town’s past. Participants hear colorful historical stories about some of Canton’s most interesting residents who helped make our community what it is today. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this one-hour program offered sever-

al times during the early evening. Golf carts will be available to individuals with special needs to help get to and from the parking lot to the mausoleum. The first performance is a seated version to be held at 3:30 p.m. in front of the mausoleum. The other historical stories are to be told at sites east of the mausoleum beginning at 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Spectators are urged to bring a lawn chair for all performances.

The cost of the tour is free; however, donations are greatly appreciated. Our Cemetery Walk is one of the museum’s major fundraising events. A team of researchers, actors and supporters put countless hours of preparation into each year’s walk. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this unique and remarkable experience.

Mike Walters, Cemetery Walk Chair

