

Since 2015

Volume 2, Issue 4

October - November - December 2019

The Chair's Corner



After I attended my first meeting, October of 2015, I was hooked. Years ago (late '60s), we were involved in the Ecumenical Institute Initiative. We studied various forms of media. I especially recall the Guernica painting. At the conclusion of one seminar, we were to select an epitaph for our grave marker. I chose "He Cared." And that's how I feel about CAHC--I care!

In an effort to summarize our progress during my tenure, I offer the following:

When asked to be chair, I knew that my mission/task would be to lead towards a successful opening of the facility we had been offered. Accepting the challenge and surrounded by many people of the same mind and necessary skills, our opening was accomplished in early September, 2018. To each and everyone who supported our mission, I salute you, and a major 'Thank You' to the Graham Hospital Board, our landlord!

Fortunately, I was able to acquire LH's "Little Toot" from its conservators and

place it in the care of the Heritage Center. We must continue to seek out memorabilia, treasured artifacts, photos and documents so that they can be displayed, interpreted and learned from! I believe we *must know our history so that we may better determine our future.*

Where are we now? I like to say we are well past Alpha stage, but a long way from Omega.

What do we need? A **larger venue** and **funding** for same!!!! This should be the primary effort for 2020. We need storage area for fixtures, shelving and files for ephemera, a dedicated work/processing area and display spaces in which to grow.

Funding....could there be a Parlin, an Orendorff, an Ingersoll or a Cook out there somewhere? Is there an area governmental or financial entity to invest or match funds?

People still ask where we are. After four years of being in the news, on radio, sponsoring events and having hosted over 850 center visitors, what more can we do?

What will I be doing after handing responsibilities to a new Chair?

I hope to help plan the next step, a Capital Campaign, with others and prepare it for board approval. I want to continue work on several other projects I've been proposing. Stay tuned for those...I promise I will not fade away, but I will slow down!

It's been an honor to serve as Chair for the past two years. And, I wish the best to our new officers!

Joe (J.D.) Stone, Chairman

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

October 10, 2019 - 6:00 PM

Donaldson Center, Wallace Park

Program:

"Around the Canton Square"

Mike Walters, Historian/Author

Business Meeting:

Committee Reports

Election of 2020-2021 Officers

Outgoing Chair's Remarks

Light Refreshments

You are invited to attend.

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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Featured Exhibit: **Post-Civil War Canton Quilt.** Charity Hedge Lingenfelter hand-quilted names of local businesses and others who paid dollars and cents to assist veterans and their families in 1889. The quilt was later auctioned. The quilt was donated to the Illinois State Museum and is on loan with us through January, 2020. Come see it!



Cemetery Walk Ensemble Bring Early Canton Families to Life



Five hundred attendees enjoyed the portrayals of 12 members of Canton's early families and entrepreneurs by today's talented citizen-actors, pictured above. Plans are to return in 2020 with the stories of more notable citizens.

If you would like to know more about these families, the book, *Legacy of Three Families*, is available at the center. Contact us for details at cahcop19@att.net, or phone (309) 647-2242 and leave a message.

NOTE. Mark Bixler is selling DVD.s of the Cemetery Walk presentation at \$15.00, with \$5.00 donated to the heritage center. DVD's may be purchased at the museum or order on webpage, <https://s/mbixler-legacy-media.mybigcommerce.com>. Thank you, Mark, for your support!

The **Heritage Center Cemetery Walk** was reinstituted after a brief hiatus (when the unique outdoor theater was first organized by the Big Reads program).

We want to recognize the principal players involved in this historical presentation, located in Greenwood Cemetery, on September 15.

Mike and Susan Walters -Writers and Directors

Carol Davis -Director

Carla Bobell, Colin Davis and Kevin Stephenson -Tour Guides

Brooks Carver -Author and Reader

Mike Walters -**John Orendorff** (Farmer, father of 7 and philanthropist)

Larry Eskridge -**William Parlin** (Inventor and owner of P&O Plow Works)

Andrea Barbknecht -**Carolyn Orendorff Parlin** (Wife of William Parlin)

Dave Lewis -**William J. Orendorff** (Salesman and co-owner of P&O Plows)

Nancy Stiglish -**Alice Parlin Ingersoll** (Parlins' daughter; endowed Ingersoll Gym)

Craig Zilly -**Charles E. Ingersoll** (Alice's husband, farmer and lumberman)

Carol Davis -**Elizabeth Mitchell Ingersoll** (Philanthropist, endowed Parlin-Ingersoll Library, Ingersoll Middle School, School District and Graham Hospital)

Claudia Moss -**Anna Hollandsworth** (Caretaker for W.P. Ingersoll, whose Trust still endows 19 Canton organizations)

B.J. Stone -**Ulysses Grant Orendorff** (P&O Co. Treasurer, negotiated International Harvester purchase, 1919)

Mike Krulac -**James Donn** (Gunsmith, sold guns and powder during Civil War)

Bill Leitze -**Thomas Jefferson Carr** (Law enforcement officer, under Presidents Cleveland and McKinley; part of "super posse" chasing Hole in the Wall Gang)

Chuck Taylor -**Theodore Chellis Taylor** (Farmer, helped establish Fulton County Farm Bureau and donated land for Westview School)

"Thank you to everyone who assisted us in so many ways!

Thank you to co-sponsors, the City of Canton and the Canton Daily Ledger."

from Mike and Susan Walters, Directors

Soldwedel Dairy Owner Visits the Museum

Jim Morgan was able to talk with Jack Soldwedel, former owner of Senn-Soldwedel Dairy, and his son Steve when they visited the museum recently. Jim has been a collector and historian of dairy businesses and artifacts for 30 years. Morgan provides a brief history of this successful local family business.

Soldwedel Dairy was started in Pekin, IL, by Fred Soldwedel. His son was Carl. Carl worked at the dairy in Pekin before coming to Canton around 1935 to open his own dairy. He was soon joined by his brother-in-law Bill Senn.

Carl's son John (Jack) worked for his father and eventually took over the operation of the Canton plant. At first, they only sold cream and butter,



but later they started bottling milk when some of the area farmers asked them to bottle their milk. Ice cream mix was prepared in Canton and shipped to Soldwedel's Dairy in Pekin.

Jack owned and managed the dairy for many years after his father Carl's retirement.

Soldwedel Dairy was sold to Prairie Farms in 1977. Jack continued to work for Prairie Farms at the Peoria plant until his retirement. He still lives in Canton.

"It was interesting to talk to Jack since he and I had worked together at the Community Bank (him on the board and me a loan officer) years ago," Jim said.

Jim Morgan, Treasurer and Facilities Committee



Museum Hours

Fridays, 10-12

Saturdays, 10-2

Sundays, 1-4

We look forward to your visit!

Meet Dean Gibson, Acquisitions Committee and Contributor

Dean Gibson serves on the Acquisitions Comm., helps staff the center and helps prepare exhibits. He also contributes to collections at the center.

Dean Gibson has been involved in the Heritage Center almost from the beginning. He's a hometown boy, born October 29, 1942, and graduate of Canton High School. He also proudly states that he was in the first class graduating at Canton Community College in 1962. He remembers attending classes in the band room at the high school—that's where the college started offering classes.

As Dean was making the decision about where to work, he reminisces that 1962 was also the year that graduates with community college degrees could teach (while working on completion of their Bachelor's degree). He explained that he chose to work at International Harvester for \$2.50 an hour, because he decided he could make more money there than teaching! "It was a good place to work," he declares. He worked at IH 18 years before it closed. Gibson then worked briefly at Canton Industrial Corporation before its closure.

He began auctioneering with Don Wolf, later partnering with Wolf until his death in 2002. Gibson now works with Curtis Gorsuch Realty & Auction Co.

Auctioneering is where Dean says he developed a passion for collecting "anything P&O." "Everything I've found [has been] in and around Canton," he commented. "I've become interested in our local history—names on buildings and old families. I look them up, do the research for identifying and verifying items I find. I find it all interesting!"

How did you get involved in the Canton Area Heritage Center?

Dean replied, "Members of the Steering Committee invited me to participate as the planning got underway in 2015. I've always enjoyed collecting—the hunt is what's the most fun! Now I like to show people what we have. I hope we can get more people involved; there's a lot to do [in the museum]."

"Every community should have a place for its history," he concluded.



Dean Gibson is researching using his tablet as a young museum visitor looks on.

"SUCCESS CONSISTS OF GOING
FROM FAILURE TO FAILURE
WITHOUT LOSS OF
ENTHUSIASM."

--WINSTON CHURCHILL

2020 Members

(2020 dues paid with our thanks)

1. Barbara Almeida
2. Linda Brown
3. Ken Etcheson
4. Duane & Sue Goyen
5. Judy Jarvis
6. Kay Long
7. Wendy Martin
8. Michelle Murphy
9. Aaron & Veanna Thum/
Crawfords Home Furnishings
10. Jim & Charlotte Van Sickle

Please use the membership form on
page 4 to lend your support.



Historic Churches of Canton

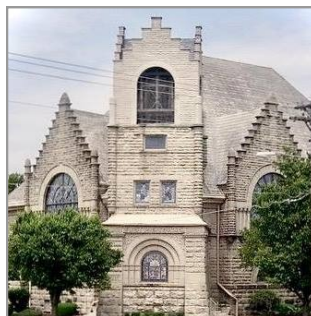
The mission of the Heritage Center is to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Canton's and the surrounding area's history, culture, and industry.

Honoring our mission, we will be focusing on the **Historic Churches of Canton**, mid-November through May, 2020. Canton churches have been invited to set up an exhibit depicting their founding and significant milestones since then. We'll continue the exhibit with a second group of churches, including those across Fulton County, in the last half of 2020.

Initially, we hope to identify nine churches to work with us on this special exhibit.

Cheryl Bielema, Programs Committee Chair

P.S. To pique your interest, here are two churches with a few pertinent facts. Match the photo to appropriate description.



Match Description to Church

Please draw a line to link the facts below to the corresponding church photo.

Trinity Lutheran Church will be celebrating 130 years in 2020, having first organized in 1890 as Bethlehem Swedish Lutheran Church. Their name was changed in 1926 to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, and they moved into current building in 1927.

Wesley United Methodist Church building was built in 1895. Their roots date to 1824 when Rev. Jesse Walker organized the first formal congregation. The first church building (1826) was a 20-foot-by-25-foot log cabin with split-log benches for pews.

Preserving our history...

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

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.

High School Students/ Seniors (age 65+) - \$15

Individuals - \$20

Family - \$35

Community 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!

We're on the Web:

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

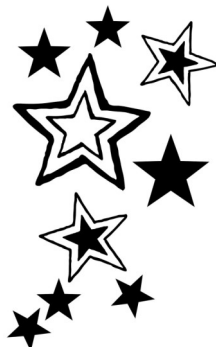


Find us on:
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MEET OUR NEWSLETTER ASSISTANTS

In the past year we have involved this dedicated group at the Fulton County Rehabilitation Center (FCRC) to address, "stuff" and seal envelopes for the newsletter. QIDP-Case Manager Dianne Cox, who works with our newsletter assistants, says they enjoy the work and the opportunity to give back to the community. Shelly Entrekin, FCRC Program Manager, tells us these newsletter helpers have a strong sense of pride in their work.

We say, "We so appreciate your help each time we ask."



"Thank you, my friends, for your care and good work to complete the final tasks before we mail our newsletters!"

Cheryl Bielema, Newsletter Editor

