

Since 2015

Volume 4, Issue 4

October - November - December 2021

THE CHAIR'S REPORT OUR BICENTENNIAL IS COMING



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

In this newsletter, you'll catch up on our activities, displays and new acquisitions.

Personally, I'd like to recognize my family, with 14 siblings, who will be featured on the 2021 **Cemetery Walk**. Why? Because among this year's notable citizens are those parents who raised large families in the '40s, '50s and '60s. It'll be interesting to hear their stories.

Others to be portrayed include local businessmen and women: The Petrovich sisters who managed a grocery store at 447 East Birch, and the Divilbiss family, manufacturer of cigars, 1888-1901, who then transitioned to the production of men's hats as Dave & Dick's. There are more voices to be heard. Hope to see many of you, September 26. (Details on p. 4).

Editor's Note:

We hope you'll join us to learn more about these extraordinary people. At the same time, you'll be supporting the museum with your donation.



Two hundred years since the founding of Canton, in 2025. Watch for details of a colossal Bicentennial celebration, as plans are developed.

The Canton Bicentennial Committee, invited by Mayor Kent McDowell, includes the following people:

Mike Walters, President
Carol Davis, Vice President
Carla Bobell, Secretary
Rick Klinedinst, Treasurer
Chuck Jarvis, CEO of Committees
Kevin Stephenson, Spokesperson and Promotion

There will be volunteer opportunities, too. Watch for updates here.

MEMBERSHIPS SOUGHT

We recently began our fourth year as your community museum! Progress has been made in acquisitions, organizing the facility, and reaching out to those who support our mission. We thank you for visiting us. Even with the pandemic closures, we are at 1500 visitors over three years. Thank you for continuing to gift historic items.

Annual memberships and donations are also vital for facility maintenance and programming. Memberships and donations for 2022 are now being sought through the end of the year. Find the Membership Form inserted in this issue and return with a check, payable to the Canton Area Heritage Center.

Memorials are also an option for gift-giving. We invite you to honor a loved one by donating in his/her name. We'd like to receive the full name (including maiden name), personal connections to the Canton Area, and birth-death dates. Contact Treasurer Jim Morgan for details, (309) 224-6422, or email jf.morgan@live.com.

Thank you for your support! Please contact us with ideas and/or information for newsletter articles or questions you have about local history. We enjoy hearing from our patrons and friends.

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



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INSERT: 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM	

45th Annual Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive October 2-3 and 9-10, 2021



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

STUDENTS PANDEMIC PROJECT, PHASE 1, COMPLETED



Project team (L-R): Alexa Reavley, Cheryl Bielema, Kelsey Watson, Lucas Reith, Jaydon Fleisch, Bethany Pankratz, Harold Rose, Landon Smith and Angela Drach. Not pictured: Eleanor Fournier, Chloe Nelson, Anna O'Brien and Aurora Ridley. Photo courtesy of John Froehling, *Fulton County Democrat*

This project team worked during the summer of 2021 analyzing data from the 226 surveys returned by their Canton High School classmates.

Results. Overall, the responding students felt they “had lost a year.” They also mentioned suffering from depression, fear, paranoia, sadness, and worry. The upside to this is that they were more likely to talk about seeking help from professional counselors. Respondents also expressed the importance of family and friends for bolstering their emotional health. The team went on to identify possible strategies for coping should this pandemic worsen, or for preparing for future pandemics.

Positive responses included finding more time to do the things they loved, learning a new hobby, and discovering themselves. There was a noticeable increase in time outdoors, either alone or with friends and family. With this newfound independence and somewhat looser daily structure, some students sought out jobs or began working longer hours. Other students assumed more responsibility at home, caring for siblings, cleaning, preparing food, and tending animals.

Negatives included many expressions of online instruction not being a preferred means of learning. In fact, students stated they weren't as successful in the remote and hybrid models as when attending in-person classes. They wrote about being distracted, unmotivated, unable to keep up with their assignments, and unable to stay in touch with their teachers.

These students also listed the loss of specific extra-curricular activities for which they had prepared, such as football, basketball, plays, marching band, concerts, archery, dance team, speech, FFA and 4-H contests. They also missed being able to congregate in groups at the school and with their friends at local hang-outs, which were shuttered.

Teachers were recognized as the *front-line* of help for troubled or failing students. The data likewise identified lacks in student learning support. Extra staff, counselors and social workers, substitute teachers and friends of students might have roles to play. The Pandemic Reflections team will invite Canton Union High School administrators and teachers to review their findings. An Educators' Pandemic Reflections online survey for CUSD administrators and teachers is currently open, and the team also plans to survey the Canton High School Class of 2020, whose spring activities and graduation never happened. The data will be analyzed and developed as separate research reports.

The responses of these Canton teenagers paint multi-layered and complex reactions and outcomes for them. Time will bear out what happens next for these young people. We hope we see stronger, more confident, versatile and problem-solving young adults because they survived the COVID-19 Pandemic.

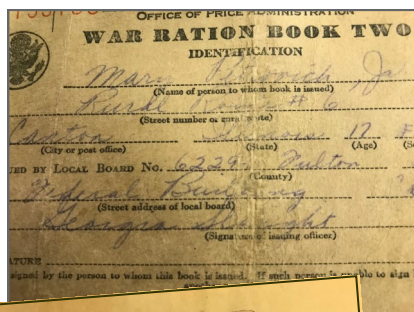
Another result of the project is a display in the Canton museum showcasing specific students' pandemic experiences. This effort was headed by Museum Studies student Angela Drach. Interested parties may view the display at the Canton Area Heritage Center, 111 South Main Street, in Canton. Check our webpage for hours and current CDC guidelines, www.cantonillinois.org/heritage-center.

For more information, contact Cheryl Bielema, Ph.D., Project Co-leader. Cell phone: (314) 440-0326; email, bielema@comcast.net, or Harold Rose, Project Co-leader. Cell phone: (309) 357-9240; email, hrose@cantonusd.org

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM

We continue to receive unique Fulton County historic items from around the country. Military and wartime artifacts are among our recent additions. Pictured below are a WWII Ration Book (Mary Petrovich) donated by Colin Miller, Churchville, PA, and an Open House program from Camp Ellis, July 4, 1943, donated by the Estate of Denny A. Gilson, Lewistown.

In the full military display, we have several uniforms owned by local residents: the WWI uniform of Ferdinand Luthy Jr., father of Charles Luthy of Canton; the WWI Red Cross volunteer's dress and cap of Mary Flahavin, longtime secretary at Parlin-Orendorff Plow Works; and a WWII nurse's uniform donated by Marcella Zaborac.



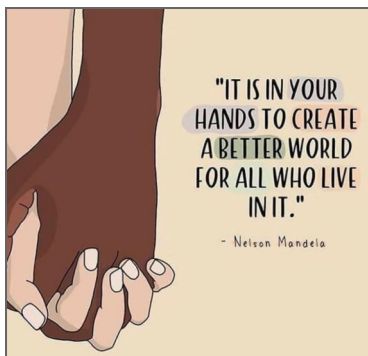
Pictured is Charles Luthy's father in his World War I uniform, Ferdinand Luthy Jr.

ALTRUISTIC CLUB WORKING FOR OTHERS SINCE 1897

The Altruistic Club, with a 124-year history of service to Fulton County, was recognized with a Women of Achievement Award by Canton's YWCA in 2020.

The Altruistic Club works along with social service agencies and Graham Hospital to help individuals with medical needs. Support is offered in various ways--assistive equipment, or optical, dental and medical financial assistance. Since 2018, an Altruistic Scholarship has gone to a nursing student at Graham School of Nursing. This organization mainly seeks to work anonymously to achieve its goal, "Not for ourselves, but for others."

We plan to add a special tribute to their good work in the Heritage Center. We congratulate the club on their history of altruism, "alleviating suffering among individuals in Fulton County."



The Hunter's Moon

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU



Angela Drach has been volunteering at the museum while pursuing a Certificate in Museum Studies, Northwestern University.

She is moving into a new position with the Peoria Riverfront Museum as a Museum Educator/Program Coordinator. We wish Angela the best in her new role and thank her for an excellent job with our Pandemic Reflections project and help with the kids' scavenger hunt (below).

KIDS AT THE MUSEUM

This summer we collaborated with the Canton Union School District to engage kids in local history using an indoor scavenger hunt.

Pictured is third-grader Audrey. Assisted by local historian and Acquisitions Chair, Mike Walters, she tracked down artifacts matching those pictured on the list. Upon completion of the Scavenger Hunt at the Museum, Audrey chose a prize from our treasure chest.

This hands-on activity remains available for interested parents and elementary school-aged kids. Just ask for the activity sheet at the reception desk when you accompany a child, Kindergarten through 8th Grade.

Address:
111 South Main Street
P.O. Box 526
Canton, Illinois 61520

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

CEMETERY WALK

Join us at this unique outdoor theater, our main fundraiser, September 26, 4:00 p.m.

Have questions? Call to leave message at (309) 647-2242; email cahcpo19@att.net



Find us on:
facebook®

We're on the Web:

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



Walk from headstone to headstone and hear the stories of people who made our region what it is today!

Seated version of performance: 4:00pm in front of the Mausoleum.
Walking performances held at sites north of the Mausoleum at 5:30pm and 6:00pm.

- Golf carts will be available to individuals with special needs.
- Bring your lawn chairs!
- Free event, but donations are greatly appreciated!

Rain Date: September 27th

"VOICES OF THE PAST"

