

Since 2015

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THE CHAIR'S REPORT



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

We recently marked five years of opening our doors. Grand Opening was September 7, 2018. I'm proud of the progress we've made. We have many one-of-a-kind items -- P&O plow scale replicas, a Uriah Heep cigar poster, Senn-Soldwedel milk carton bank, Little Toot, artificial heart model created in a college course, to name just a few of the treasures.

I was asked what the museum means to me. I'm a lifelong Canton resident, graduated from both CHS and Spoon River College. At age 19, I started working at International Harvester.

After IH closed the shop, my father taught me furniture refinishing, and we bought and sold antiques throughout Illinois.

I love antiques, especially old Canton collectibles and artifacts from our past industries. *At the museum, I'm able to use my expertise and love of Canton, all in one place.* I would like to help you get involved, too; just give me a call!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Smithfield, IL, had a bustling "Meat Market" in the early years after the turn of the century (1900)? The market building was built and operated by James Pierce McCaughey. He was born in 1852 and raised in Bernadotte, IL. As a young man, he played baseball, a good pitcher who took part in Sunday afternoon ball games at Tuthill Park in Bernadotte and surrounding towns. Jim's earliest occupation was as a painter. He also worked with his father, Harrison, at the National Hotel in Vermont, IL.

He later moved to Smithfield to build and open his meat market. He was Justice of the Peace for many years. He moved to Glendale, AZ, in the 1920s, to work with his son-in-law, James Huett, to operate his grocery store. In the later years, the former meat market building in Smithfield became the Grange Hall.

During the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, small businesses like grocery stores, taverns and saloons gave away small mini-jugs to promote their respective businesses, usually during the holiday season. The jugs typically contained vinegar, cider or whiskey.

Pictured here is an example of the mini-jug McCaughey gave away at his meat market. Advertising mini-jugs are quite rare from small towns like Smithfield, and they are highly prized by collectors today.

James P. McCaughey's grandson and namesake, "Jim," may have been influenced by his grandfather's

occupation. Jim McCaughey was Managing Chef at Wee Ma Tuk Hills Country Club for many years.

Jim Morgan, Treasurer

P.S. You'll find a Membership Form for the new year included with this issue. Annually, we solicit memberships and donations to support our mission.

"To foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Canton's and the surrounding area's history, culture, and industry."

Your support is vital to care for historical artifacts, host educational programs, and initiate projects with other organizations as we strive to preserve our history for future generations.

We salute the generosity of major donors. As a 501(c)3 organization, your donations are tax-deductible.

Have questions?

Email, cahcpo19@att.net, or call us, (309) 647-2242.



Special points of interest

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

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Our hours are
Fridays, 10am-12 noon
Saturdays, 10am-2pm
Sundays, 1pm-3pm
Come see us!

The Museum Newsletter

TRAVELING MUSEUM AT THE FULTON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023, LEWISTOWN, IL



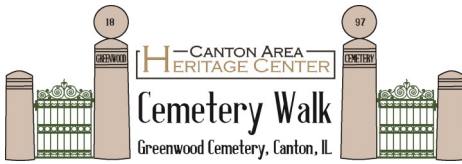
Jack and Mary Pollitt, board members, are pictured at our booth with items representing the main industries of Fulton County. They included Parlin & Orendorff Plow Works, International Harvester, Mining and Cigar-making. Newest item on loan is a photo of The Third Booth band, shown on right. Visit us for details about this local band, which included Deb Rodney.



THE CLASS OF '68 AT THE MUSEUM AND THE CLASS OF '73 AT AN OUTDOOR MUSIC FEST



Board member Mike Walters and volunteer Kathy Myers invited their classmates to visit during the Class of 1968 Reunion held in August. There was a special display of high school memorabilia, and guided tours were given. In addition to visiting our museum, board member Harold Rose invited his class of 1973 to a music fest, featuring fellow classmate Les Hunter of the Bits & Pieces Band from Galesburg. Who do you recognize in these pictures?



“CLOSING THE GAP” (FROM 1975 TO 2023)

A unique public event about the lives of well-known, interesting, and influential people of the past from the Canton area takes place Sunday, October 1, 2023. It's the annual Cemetery Walk hosted by the Heritage Center. These people each made significant contributions in the past 50 years, between 1975 and now. “We are ‘closing the gap’ in local history, the period between Canton’s Sesquicentennial and the upcoming Bicentennial, by focusing on these leaders,” explained Mike Walters, historian and author.

The six people to be portrayed are...

***Dorothy Fennell, a member of team of scientists at the Peoria Ag Research Laboratory who developed a way to mass-produce penicillin in the 1940s. She'll be portrayed by Belle Hardy.

***Charlotte Bennett, a strong advocate for the arts and music in the area. The portrayal will be by Andrea Barbknecht.

***Bill Cook, who founded what is now the largest privately owned medical device company in the world. He'll be portrayed by Mike Krulac.

***Charlie Wright, the longtime owner-operator of WBYS radio, will be portrayed by Kevin Stephenson.

***Kay Ragsdale, a world-renowned flutist, who performed and travelled for many years with the stage musical, *The Lion King*. She'll be portrayed by Carol Davis.

***Bob Ems, the longtime executive director of the Canton Park District. Ems will be portrayed by Bob Juraco.

What makes the event especially unique is where it takes place. The site is Greenwood Cemetery at 640 South Main Street in Canton. There will be three, approximately one-hour performances. The first one at 3:00 p.m. will be on a stage in front of the mausoleum. Visitors are urged to bring lawn chairs. Trees provide some shade, but bringing an umbrella to block the sun is recommended. Golf carts will take visitors from the parking area to the performance area. Restrooms will be available.

The next two performances, walking tours, are set for 4:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Portable sound

systems will be used at each site to make sure everyone hears the narrative.

There is no admission charge for the Cemetery Walk, but donations are welcome. Net proceeds from the event will help support our programs and activities.

Kevin Stephenson, Museum Volunteer



Mike Krulac will portray Bill Cook at the Cemetery Walk. Cook, his family and Cook Medical have been instrumental in bringing jobs and visitors to Canton.

CANTON WOMEN OF NOTE, CONTINUED

Women trailblazers from the Canton area are now on display at the center. Title 9 legislation (requiring equal opportunities for girls and women in public school sports programs since 1972) has made a big difference, providing resources and recognition for girls and women. We wanted to recognize our own talented athletes.

Meet five women who made their mark in sports at Canton High School and the universities they attended. These women have all been inducted into Canton High School's Hall of Fame. You'll learn more about their accomplishments, families and careers at the museum, in late October.

Virginia McBroom Barnard, Friend, *2006.

1938 graduate; attended University of Illinois. Faithfully attended Canton sports for years, at her favorite seat in the gym. Inducted by Illinois Basketball Coaches Assn. Hall of Fame, 1994; Canton Little Giants Hall of Fame, 2006. Virginia died April 11, 2017; legacy as super fan intact.

Nora Weber Corbitt, Track & Field, Basketball, *2006. 1993 graduate. Overcame a fall at the state meet to win 4th Honor Roll high jump. 1993

state high jump champion (5'9"). IL Gatorade Circle of Champions. CHS career rebounding record. At University of Illinois, tied for 4th in high jump, NCAA. Lives in Bridgewater, NJ.

Alicia Curtis, Softball, Basketball, Volleyball *2011. 1983 graduate. All conference honors in volleyball (2 years); softball (3 years). Batting average, .418-.390. Played on ICC and Bradley teams. In amateur career at Delevan, named National All-American Team as outfielder. Lives in Germantown Hills.

Sarah Taylor Hopwood, Basketball, *2013. 1994 graduate. 4-year varsity basketball. All-time scoring with 1245 points until 2019. Led in double figure scoring (26). First in consecutive games making 22 3-point shots in single season. First Team All-Conference. Lives in Dunlap.

Nancy Rabel, Basketball, Softball, Volleyball, *2008. 1990 graduate. Only girl on early teams; Elem./Jr. High State Basketball Champions, 1984. Ranked 1st-8th every basketball statistic in history of Lady Giants. Led in runs scored, 2nd team All Conference softball. Top of all career volleyball statistics. Set basketball records at SRC and Knox College. Lives in Urbana.

*Date of induction in Canton Little Giants Hall of Fame

Cheryl Bielema, Jan Bruster, Hannah Cox and Kathy Myers, Programs Committee



“Canton’s Women Athletes of Note” will be introduced at Spoon River College’s Life-long Learning Conference, October 27, 2023, on campus.

Presenters from the museum are Cheryl Bielema, Jan Bruster, Hannah Cox and Kathy Myers.

The conference will include Rick Klinedinst, President/CEO of MidAmerica National Bank, co-sponsor and Lincoln historian, who keynotes the conference with Lincoln’s life and times.

For information about attending, contact the Community Outreach Office (309) 649-6260.

Preserving our history...

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We're on the Web:

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

ANNOUNCING ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to learn more about this organization and meet the people with a passion for preserving history.

A review of our past year will headline the business meeting of the Canton Area Heritage Center, set for Thursday, November 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Donaldson Center, 250 South Avenue D., Canton. We will elect officers for 2024-2026, in addition to welcoming new board members.

The nominative slate of officers include Jack Pollitt, Chairman; Phil Gregory, Vice Chairman; Mary Lou Kuchan, Secretary; and, Jim Morgan, Treasurer.

Nominated board members are Jan Bruster and Kathy Myers.

Program Details: Returning by popular demand is Librarian **Laura Keyes**, of Dunlap, IL, who portrays famous women of the past. She presented last year's program, "Mrs. Lincoln in Love," and garnered rave reviews! Watch for announcements of her portrayal on our Facebook page and our webpage. Meanwhile, please save the date, November 9!

We would like to see many members and partners at the Annual Meeting. Light refreshments will be served

afterwards. There is no fee to attend the program, and donations will be appreciated.

For additional details about museum's programs, acquisitions policy, members and donors, and volunteer opportunities, please check out our webpage, www.cantonillinois.org/heritage-center.

Cheryl Bielema, Secretary

For more information, see Laura Keyes [Historic Voices](http://www.laurafkeyes.com) webpage, www.laurafkeyes.com.

Wishing You and Your Family a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas! Thank You for Your Support in the Past Year.

The Heritage Center Board

