

What You'll Find at the Museum in 2021

We're showcasing our collections in the following descriptions.

***Parlin & Orendorff Plow Company...and International Harvester



P & O Plow Company and International Harvester Company were among the economic drivers of the region for more than a century. The historical exhibit of the two companies is the cornerstone of the Canton Area Heritage Center. See a variety of artifacts along with rare and captivating pictures and other information about these two companies known around the world.

High school students visit and learn

***Canton Country Club

More than a century ago, in 1912, a group of Canton leaders each invested \$100 and formed Canton Country Club and its nine-hole golf course. The Club was a focal point for the community for many years. A second nine holes was added in 1967. As the community evolved and the economy changed, Canton Country Club was dissolved in 2008. Follow the lifespan of this longtime Canton institution at the Canton Area Heritage Center.

***Almost Anything Goes

It was the mid-1970s. ABC-TV had a popular national weekly show called "Almost Anything Goes." It pitted teams of everyday citizens from small towns across the United States competing in wacky and outrageous games and competitions. Canton was the host of a 1975 showdown with Keokuk, Iowa, and Hannibal, Missouri. Watch the videotape of the entire show!

***History of Health Care

With the help of Michelle Quinones, Graham Hospital School of Nursing, our salute to health care leaders and philanthropists includes medical tools, inventions, photos of physicians, donors and the administrators of our highly-ranked hospital. Did you know the first hospital administrator, Signa Axel Thomas, was among the first Nursing School graduating class in 1913? Mrs. Thomas served 30 years as the administrator.

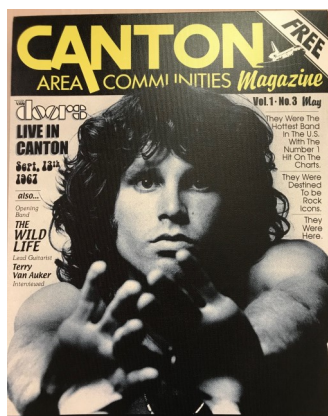
***Local Musicians and Famous Performers

Jim Morrison and the Doors performed at the high school auditorium as part of the 1967 Friendship Festival, co-sponsored with Spoon River College. Fans' recollections, an article by a young reporter, and this magazine's front cover are part of the collection.

Profiles of local musicians Tim Drummond and Skeeter Boughan (later changes his name to Bonn), are also on display.

***History of Mining in Fulton County

There were many families whose husbands, fathers and sons worked the mines in the late 1800s through mid-1900s. This Truax-Traer photograph is captioned with names of most of the miners. Do you recognize anyone?



"The Doors Live in Canton." CAC Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 3, May, 2006. Ken Huggins, publisher.

***Dairies' Hub in Canton

Canton has been the hub of milk delivery and other dairy products in Fulton County since the late 1930s. Getting fresh milk delivered to your front porch several times per week was the "in thing" during the 1940s and 1950s. There were several dairies in Canton over those years, but the two most successful were Sebree and Senn-Soldwedel. The Heritage Center has an extensive display of items from these dairies, as well as artifacts from other smaller Canton dairies. Come in and relive your childhood memories and enjoy the nostalgia of times gone by.

***Drug Stores and Pharmacies

Drug stores and pharmacies played a very important role in small cities and towns throughout the country in the late 1800s and forward until modern doctors and medical practices and procedures were developed. They were the "go to" place for help in curing what ailed you, especially if you were in pain. Canton was a booming place for drug stores and pharmacies in the early 1900s. At one time, there were four on the square and others down the side streets. We have a nice variety of artifacts and advertisements from the Canton drug stores at the Heritage Center. The advertising trade cards given away by most drug stores had nice graphics and were very colorful. Come take a look!!

Our focus is on the industries which fueled the growth of Fulton County, our notable people, and significant events, including disasters, from which we've emerged and prospered, like the Phoenix from the fire.

***Cigar Manufacturing, Big Business in a Small Town

Hand-rolled cigars, along with the boxes they were shipped in, was a major business in Canton from around 1870 until the 1920s. At the peak, 20 million cigars were made annually in Canton. The tobacco was purchased from Havana, Cuba. It was shipped up the Mississippi River to the Illinois River to Liverpool and on to Canton by horse and wagon. There were several cigar rolling shops around the square, usually on the second floor of the downtown buildings. Two of the larger companies were a block from the square. We have a very nice display of local cigar boxes; many have really cool pictures and colorful graphics.

Cigar manufacturing met its demise with the popularity of cigarettes in the early 1920s.



Truax-Traer Coal Company, first row (L-R): yet to be identified, 2nd, 8th and 9th men. Others have been named, thanks to Jack Pollitt, Tim Surrey and Jake Lindstrom.

What You'll Find at the Museum (continued)

***Ogden Mounds, Woodland Indians – Visitors Log, 1929-1930

An unassuming visitors log book made its appearance at the museum early in 2020. One of our board members researched the Ogden-Fettie Mounds, a group of 14 smaller mounds, dated 100-400 AD, south of Lewistown and the larger Dickson Mounds – Illinois State Museum. We still don't know why 2600 visitors from around the world registered in this one-year period, but we'll continue researching to find out.

*** Soda Bottling and Manufacturing

Soda or "Pop" (our Midwest term) has a long history in Canton. Some of the early soda bottling began in the 1880s and continued into the 1950s. Early soda bottles are quite interesting because of their unusual shape and various types of closures. The metal soda bottle cap we know today was not invented until around 1910. Our soda manufacturing display includes several examples of local bottles used over the years. The last bottling in Canton was done by Coca Cola in the 1950s. It was located in the building now occupied by the VFW on South 5th Avenue. Do you remember when soda pop was only five cents? Times have changed since then.

***Streetscapes and Historic Buildings

Thanks to donations by Camille's and loans of local collectors, the Canton Area Heritage Center has enlarged replicas of vintage postcards' streets and buildings – Parlin & Orendorff Plow Works on Elm St., City Building and Fire Station along First Ave., as well as prints of favorite hangouts over time, Southern BBQ and Dog N Suds, to name a couple. Check them out!

***The Farmer's Telephone

While Bell was occupied with the urban market, independent companies like Stromberg-Carlson supplied much of the equipment to develop rural phone service. Superior quality helped these products become known as the "Farmer's Telephone," since rural users could supposedly hear not only a caller's voice, but also the sounds of the farmyard just outside their home. These phones, 1900-1910, were originally part of Illinois Bell's collection in Chicago.



***WBYS 1560

WBYS has been "The Voice of Fulton County" since going on the air October 5, 1947. Listen to actual WBYS recordings of news events in Fulton County history in addition to notable other happenings over the years. Couple that with pictures putting faces with the voices heard for decades and you have the WBYS exhibit at the Heritage Center.

***Canton's Centennial and Sesquicentennial Celebrations

In 1925 and 1975, Canton celebrated its first 100 and 150 years in great style. Our collections include souvenirs, cookbooks, programs, histories, Centennial plates, Sesquicentennial medallions and more. We'll help celebrate Canton's 200th year in 2025.

***Notable Canton Area Citizens

Communities have history. The Canton area is no exception. And, who creates that history? Its people...and the impact they have on the community during their own lifetimes. Frequently, the effect is felt for many years beyond.

The following is a list of 28 impactful individuals with strong ties to the Canton area who did just that. They made their mark in the fields of medicine, government, science, music, athletics, business, industry, and philanthropy. You can learn about all of them at the Heritage Center.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| -Dr. David Bennett | -Alice Graham |
| -Rich Johnson | -Steve Nagel |
| -William Parlin | -Alice Parlin Ingersoll |
| -Robert Welch | -Tom Zaborac |
| -Charles Duryea | -Robert Chipperfield |
| -Bill Cook | -Frank Duryea |
| -Dave Downey | -Charles D. Ingersoll |
| -Caroline Graham | -Skeeter Bonn |
| -John Orendorff | -Boomer Grigsby |
| -William Parlin Ingersoll | William J. Orendorff |
| -Harry Jacobs | -Dr. John Welch |
| -Dr. Jack Gibbs | -Tim Drummond |
| -Carolyn Orendorff Parlin | -Albert Scott |
| -Ethan Blackaby | -Ulysses Grant Orendorff |

***Hometown Businesses and Organizations

We've been gifted photos, advertisements, including trade cards and customer appreciation gifts, from local businesses, like Sutton and Moore, Cliff's Conoco, Gambles, Lockard's Auto Sales, T. L. Greer & Co., First State Bank & Trust Co., the First Baptist Church, and so much more. Take a step back in time with us.

In addition to the exhibits just described, as you make your way through the museum, you'll find many other artifacts and small displays portraying the intriguing and totally unique heritage of the Canton area.



Variety of Centennial and Sesquicentennial items on display.

Contributors: **Jim Morgan, Cheryl Bielema, Debbie and Kevin Stephenson**