



The Society Story

Newsletter of the LaSalle County Historical Society
March 2011 * 815-667-4861

Wanted – Labels for Those Pictures



Unidentified Girl by Photographer W. A. Locke, 110 Marquette Street, LaSalle

We here at LCHS recently received a photo album from Barbara Mellers of Santa Fe, NM. She was dissolving her collection of family photo albums from the 1880s through 1900. She sent the album, purchased from an estate sale, to us since it contained photos from photographers in LaSalle and Peru, Illinois.

The album contains a number of pictures of children and adults. A couple of the photos are wedding pictures, and some seem to follow children to young adulthood.

Sadly, the only names on any photograph were Hilda Kaiser Steffen and Alma Kaiser Rupe on a photo of two little girls.



Hilda Kaiser Steffen and Alma Kaiser Rupe, by photographers Church and Campbell, city unclear.

Our LaSalle and Peru directories from that period list the photographers Locke and Churchill, but there are no listings for the name Kaiser, nor does the name appear in the plat book from that era. So who were these people? Where did they live? We may never know the answers, unless someone recognizes a relative here. We will pass this album along to the LaSalle County Genealogy Guild for their collection. Perhaps someday those nameless people will be identified.

While you are waiting for spring to arrive, take a few moments and label some of those unidentified pictures you have tucked away in albums and drawers. You can enjoy some fond memories as you give names to friends and relatives. Include any relevant dates, too. Your children and grandchildren will appreciate the effort.

For best results, label photos on the back with a permanent marker or soft pencil. Take care not to press too hard, as this will leave an impression on the photo. Make sure the ink is dry before stacking the prints.



Unidentified Couple by photographer Albert Churchill, 718 Peoria Street, Peru

Jones Family Artifacts

For many years the Jones family of Waltham Township has supported and participated in our Society programs and provided artifacts for display with both donations and loans.

Upon the death and estate settlement of the late Raymond Jones the Brown Bess Musket and Halberd currently on loan will be returned to the family. Other artifacts from the Jones family were donations and will remain in the museum collections.



The musket has been on display with other Revolutionary War items and the Halberd, a kind of battle axe, has been mounted on a ceiling beam. It was included in the "scavenger" hunt that students searched for in the 4th grade program conducted



by the Society annually in April and May as they learned the story of LaSalle County.

Thanks again to the Jones family for their many contributions.



Utica Realignment Begins

Demolition on the last few structures in the way of the new Route 178 began February 28 in Utica.

IDOT representative Herb Jung assured attendees at a February 3 meeting that no work would be done on weekends, and that there would always be two lanes of the road open to traffic from Interstate 80 to Starved Rock. Some short delays may be necessary from time to time during which flaggers will direct traffic.

Please don't hesitate to visit the museum complex and other area attractions while the realignment is going on.

Aitken School Program

This will be the 20th year that the LCHS invites all the fourth grade students in LaSalle County to spend a day experiencing life one hundred years ago. The program runs this year from April 18 to May 20.

Students spend the day in the Aitken one-room rural school, the 1848 museum, the 1875 post and beam barn, and the 1892 blacksmith shop.

There are over twenty volunteers providing the four-week program serving as teachers, demonstrators, docents and guides. Please give us a call if you would like to join the fun during this program.

On June 25th adults and children are invited to spend a day actively involved in "Remembering the Rural One-Room Schools" in LaSalle County. If you are interested in the activities planned, please contact the museum at 667-4861.

The Interurban in the Illinois River Valley

LCHS member and local artist Brian Nolan will speak on the Interurban railway at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, at the Grundy County Historical Society Museum in Morris, IL. The museum is located at 510 West Illinois Avenue. Please call 815-942-4880 for details or directions.

Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War

March 1, 1861: P.G.T. Beauregard is appointed to command of CSA forces at Charleston, SC.

March 4, 1861: Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated into the presidency of the United States.

School Book Update

“Remembering the Rural One-room Schools of LaSalle County” is in the final editing stage and is expected to go to the publisher in the near future.

The 463-page book will contain stories about 298 schools in 37 townships, and contain more than 350 photos. The expected selling price is around \$30.

If you have not yet reserved your copy, please call the museum at 815-667-4861 to make sure you receive your book as soon as possible.

Below is a picture from the Miller Township section of the school book.



Erma Wilmeta Fruland was a great-great-granddaughter of Daniel Stenson Rosdail, a part owner of the sloop “Restauration” which brought the first group of Norwegian emigrants to America in 1825. Erma was born in 1912 and was photographed with her father and neighbors after a wolf hunt. She became a teacher in the Danway School and Sampson School and was active in the school systems for many years. Erma was in the Sloop Society of America all of her life.

Calendar of Events - 2011

February 5 - April 11 - "Abe Lincoln, Self Made in America," Ottawa Scouting Museum

March 16 - Civil War Round Table -Ottawa High Cafeteria - Hank Roe - "Fort Henry"

March 22 - Grundy County Museum, Morris - "The Interurban in the IL River Valley" - 7 pm

April 18 - May 20 - **Fourth Grade School Program**, Museum Complex, Utica

October 9, 2011 - 42nd Annual Burgoo Festival

Watch our newsletter, our website www.LasalleCountyMuseum.org or find us on Facebook for information on programs and events for the coming year.

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Memorials

Sharon Applebee from Dolores Passwater
Julia Fitzgerald from J D & Mary Small



Thank You

A special Thank You goes to Mark Wenzel of August Hill Winery in Utica, who plowed out the Museum parking lot this winter. We appreciate your kindness!