

Our December program was a perfect curtain-raiser for the Christmas season. The Batavia High School Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Elwood J. Willey, sang both as a chorus and in solo parts. Then Miss Erma Jeffery gave three Christmas readings in her inimitable way.

FROM YOUR RETIRING PRESIDENT

Now that I have completed another two years as your President, I wish to express my appreciation of the fine response of the members whenever they were asked to assist in any project and of the excellent cooperation of the Board Members.

I am wondering how many realize the hours that John Gustafson spends in filing material, acknowledging gifts, replying to -requests for information, conferring with Junior history students and preparing our interesting newsletter, The Batavia Historian.

I have enjoyed serving as President for five of the nine years of our existence. My only regret is that we have not established a museum but I still hope that will be realized soon.

My Best Wishes to the incoming officers and to all the members.

Eunice Shumway

We are most grateful recipients of the following mementos. They have been acknowledged with thanks:

James Quinn for 1 book, 25 postcards, 1 booklet and 9 copies of old newspapers.

Frank F. Scobey for duplications of a list of Batavia Professions and Trades for 1855 and a Batavia Business Directory for 1868.

Misses Edith and Alice Bailey for a pamphlet showing early windmills of the U.S. W. E. & P. Co.

Frank Elwood for 1-5 x 7 photo of The Chas. Johnson house on N. Water Street, recently razed.

We are grateful to our officers and members for a multitude of services too numerous to mention.

We thank the Furnas Electric Company for printing, folding and addressing our Newsletters this past year.

We also thank the Aurora Beacon News and its reporter, Mrs. Marj Holbrook, for excellent coverage of our news.

We are saddened by the death of Mrs. Roy C. (Kathleen Gunnon) Andrews. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Amos Hartman is progressing nicely since his operation. We understand that Miss Caroline Nelson fell the other day and broke her hip. At this writing she is at Community Hospital.

We have copies of Eunice Shumway's "History of Batavia" and "Batavia: Past and Present" Fund Report as of December 24, 1968. Copies will be at our next meeting for examination.

When thinking about gifts, don't forget our book Batavia: Past and Present now only \$1.00, on sale at the Library.

Mrs. Leone Schmidt's book Come Fly to the Prairie is out. It is a history of the Warren family, of Warrenville, from 1832 to 1844. Cloth bound, 90 pages, price \$4.75.

IN OUR NINE YEARS, THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS -
held 39 regular meetings,
issued 36 different newsletters,
placed bronze plaques on seven homes in Batavia,
sent information about Batavia and Batavia people to dozens of interested persons all over the United States,
through our newsletters, kept in touch with many former Batavians. Many of them have sent us mementos,
received nearly a thousand memorabilia, plus newspapers, now in temporary storage. These will be placed in a museum or permanent storage eventually.
placed our books Historic Batavia and Batavia: Past and Present in the libraries of many universities, museums and State libraries throughout the United States,
through our meetings and news items, Batavia is much more conscious of its historic past, interested our schools and its students in writing Batavia history for the magazine "Illinois History."
vigorously striven to preserve historic buildings in Batavia.

The present Kane County Courthouse was saved with our help because we had learned that at least five of the county offices could occupy it and still allow space for expansion. Now, after 76 years, it is said to be a fire hazard, particularly because of the dome. What about our State Capital, other State Capitals and the National Capital, they all have domes. Talk to your supervisors about avoiding the expense of an entirely new building.

The following are new members or have rejoined:

Mrs. Joseph S. McClurg	Hart Road
Misses Theresa and Mary Feldott	511 E. Wilson Street

Dues are due. If you are in arrears, see Ralph Benson.

The Society has received a copy of the Illinois Register, Springfield, for December 3, 1968 from Ed. Hampton. This gives a history of the Old State Capital.

Published by the BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An acquaintance of mine did a very wise thing recently. He spent weeks working up his genealogy. Then he mailed a sealed copy to each of his children, on the outside of which appeared this statement: "All that I ask is that you promise not to throw this away until you are sixty."

Clarence B. Randall, Retired Chairman
Inland Steel Company

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1969 at 3 PM

IN THE BARTHOLOMEW CIVIC CENTER

PROGRAM

OUR BATAVIA POLICE DEPARTMENT - CHARLES R. MARSHALL, CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Charles Marshall came to Batavia in 1939, so we can count him as a real old-timer. He joined the Police force in September of 1944 and was made Chief of Police in July of 1961 when Russell Clark resigned.

Maybe? Messrs. Derby, Bunker, Beels & Hampton will have a Social Hour and serve coffee - and a small snack?? (hp)

Our February program consisted of an election of officers, then emphasized our present Post Office operation and our Postmasters. Postmaster Philip Talbot did a good job on the first part and the writer tried to cover the early history of the Post Office with a little about the lives of our Postmasters.

We thank Eunice Shumway, Joan Kane, Ralph Benson and Carl and Miriam Johnson, our outgoing officers, for much time and thought given to the interests of the Society. Eunice Shumway, as President for five years, has instituted nearly every feature credited to the Society. These are too numerous to even mention. Joan Kane has been a conscientious and hard-working Secretary for the same length of time - five years, and Ralph Benson has been Treasurer for three years. Miriam and Carl Johnson have finished their term as members of the Board of Trustees. The Society has profited much by their ideas and concern over its' problems.

We are most grateful recipients of the following mementos. All have been acknowledged:

The Boy Scouts of Troop 12, Immanuel Lutheran Church, while cleaning out a garage near the church, found a large wall map of the City of Elgin, Illinois, dated 1886.

Mrs. Clifton Hildebrand (Lit Keller) for six items:

- 1-Magazine "Headlight" 1895
- 1-Photograph Officers of the 124th Reg. Ill. Vol. Inf.
- 2-Memorial Day Programs Batavia May 30th, 1919
- 1-Hand-written Magazine of the Batavia Institute, March 3, 1857
- 1-Recruiting Poster 124th Reg. Ill. Vol. Inf.

As we write this, we understand that Viola McDowell has had an operation for a cataract. She is coming along nicely.

The big event, following our April 13th meeting, is on Saturday, April 26th, when the Student Historians of the Northeast Region of Illinois will meet here. There will be an estimated 600 of them, meeting in the Batavia Junior High School building, under the chairmanship of Charles Christianson, Junior High teacher.

The school board is taking care of the lunch for the group. We will furnish nine judges, half of the total number required. There will be three judges in each of three classes - art, handicrafts and models, and dioramas. We will furnish judges for the essay contest also. In the afternoon, the delegation will go by bus to the Fabyan Forest Preserve to view the Dutch Mill and then go over to Cantigny. If you are called on to help, and are able to do so, please do.

We wonder if you know how important the Batavia Historical Society is? We are here to be of service and people are increasingly making use of this service. Following are some of the requests for information; we were able to help in every case.

One lady wanted some stories of the early Swedish settlers here for an article for a shop paper for one of the local factories. Another person came here for information about the history of the First Baptist Church. A lady called for such information as teachers, curriculum, etc. of the Batavia Institute, that was here in the 1850's. Students of the Junior High School were given assistance in writing essays for the magazine, "Illinois History". We received a call from Fox Hill. A truck had broken through the lawn and it looked as if the break had exposed a tunnel. A man called and was incensed about the possible destruction of the present

Court House. He thought the building should be saved and used possibly for an art and culture center. We wrote to the Illinois Art Council for information. Do we get time-and-a-half for overtime?

Go back and read the summary of our accomplishments as a Society for the last nine years in the last Newsletter. It should make you proud. We could do more if our mementos were properly stored, filed and recorded so that they could be located quickly.

What is going to happen to Batavia in the next few years? From 1959 to 1968, in nine years, the City increased in area from 1,282 acres to 2,495 acres, nearly doubling, according to the report of John N. Schuler. We were told the other day, that the Chicago Tribune said that Batavia's population might increase to 20,000 by 1971. Think what that will mean. We will need "boldness" and a lot more than boldness.

While I am writing this Newsletter (March 1) trucks are roaring past my window at the rate of one every three and a half minutes, attempting to move the gravel in Bald Mound to Weston, truckload by truckload. This has been going on for weeks. They break pavements, laws and the silence.

The Program Committee met the other day and planned topics and speakers for the entire year. Ruth Northrup is Chairman, Jeff Schielke and the writer are members.

Help our new Officers as much as you can. We can all use your cooperation and we can benefit from your suggestions - so please suggest. If your ancestors were German, English, Scotch, Irish or "what have you", will you please write up your ethnic group as far as you can go. So far only the Early Swedish Settlers in Batavia have been written up and that was only a partial job. It's a big task and should be done NOW by every one of us,'

One advantage, among many others, in having a Historical Society, an organization primarily interested in the history of Batavia, is that people in surrounding towns find out about us and send us items of interest. For instance, Mr. Frank F. Scobey of West Chicago has sent us much Batavia material because he had heard about our society.

Then the other day, we received a letter from Mrs. Waldo Erickson of Western Springs. She had purchased a copy of our book Historic Batavia and in that book had come across the name Joseph W. Churchill. She had been helping with some

research of the Churchill Family in America and had discovered some information for which we are most grateful because we had very little about him. Among other things, the article said, he was married in Batavia, September 29, 1829, to Delia S. Wilson, a daughter of Judge Isaac Wilson.

By deduction then, Delia Street, located on the east side and parallel to, and the next street east of N. Prairie, was named in her honor. On Batavia maps as far back as 1860, this street is named Delia, although we do have this note taken from the files of the Batavia Herald:

"May 26, 1895. A petition to the Council Monday asked that May Street be extended to Church Street, and that the name be changed to Delia Street." Now who was May? And did the street have two names for a time- May and Delia? Does anyone know?

john g.

We still don't have a Historical Museum in Batavia but hope that something will materialize soon, before our temporary storage bursts at the seams.

A new Belson Building would cost \$20,000, plus the lot (30-60 ft. bldg.). The Covenant Church would cost \$60,000, but much larger, if you have any suggestions give them to the Officers or Directors.

We might cooperate with the Library Board and be part of their new building or their new addition.

Batavia has had a historical past; we should preserve the records and antiques for the future generations. Each generation advances on steps built by the past generation. Support your Historical Society. Thank you.

hop

P. S. We have been offered a storage room in Fox Hill home.

hp

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

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I think for any American who had the great and priceless privilege of being raised in a small town, there remains always with him nostalgic memories ... And the older he grows the more he senses what he owed to the simple honesty, the neighborliness, the integrity that he saw all around him

Dwight H. Eisenhower,
To the National Editorial Association,
June 22, 1954

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1969 at 3 PM
IN THE BARTHOLOMEW CIVIC CENTER

PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BATAVIA - Mrs. B. S. (Veneta) Lentz
MUSICAL NUMBERS - Members of the Church

The First Baptist Church of Batavia celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the Church Sanctuary and the 133rd Anniversary of the founding of the church, last March 15 and 16. We thought it appropriate that they tell us the story of the church so that those of us who didn't hear it then, could hear it now, Mrs. Lentz has compiled a most interesting booklet of the history of the 133rd year old organization. A committee from the church who are also members of our Society, will serve refreshments. There will also be a display of their mementos.

The Police Department of Batavia was the topic of our April meeting. Charles R. Marshall, Chief of Police, told us about the history of the department, also their duties and the increasing complexities of their work.

It is with deep sorrow that we record the death of F. Oliver Freedlund on April 17 last. He was our President during the year 1963. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Our sincere sympathy to the families of the following people who passed away

Doctor Irwin F. Thomle, Aberdeen, S. D.	March 18, 1969
Mr. Arvid H. Peterson	March 25, 1969
Mr. Franklin G. Elwood	August 6, 1969

Not a matter of history, but we want to mention that the North Eastern Illinois Junior Historians met here in the Junior High School, 450 of them, on April 26. It was successfully headed by Charles Christiansen, Host Teacher. Our students won second place in the contest for historical essays, art work, handicraft, models and dioramas. Later, Kenzie B. Harris received a certificate from Governor Richard B. Ogilvie on Awards Day, May 22, at Springfield. Kenzie was the author of two articles published during the past school year. We wish him, and all of the other contestants continued success.

As a little note of appreciation to the Junior High School teachers and students for the success of the April 26th meeting, the Batavia Historical Society presented the School with a framed copy of the engraving "Bird's Eye View of Batavia in 1869", showing Batavia just one hundred years ago.

SPECIAL MEETING. On June 22, President Harold Patterson called a special meeting of the Society to consider action on acceptance or rejection of the gift, of the old Burlington depot for a museum. This had been purchased by twenty Batavia businessmen who donated \$50.00 each or a total of \$1,000.00. Our part, if we accepted the gift, would be the restoration of the building.

At a Board meeting, held May 9th, the President had appointed a committee to inspect the depot and decide what remodeling and repairs were needed. This committee was composed of Herbert Carlson, Raymond Patzer and Mrs. Walter H. Wood.

Herbert Carlson, as Chairman of this committee, reported their findings at this special meeting. He also stated that the Society had a present building fund of approximately \$3600.00. After much discussion, the following motion was passed: That -

The Society appoint a committee to get estimates of the cost of renovating the Burlington depot and present these costs to the membership in a letter with a ballot, asking each member to vote as to whether the committee should, or should not proceed with the renovation.

The President appointed the following committee: Herbert Carlson, Chairman, Miss Mary Snow and Miss Mary Feldott.

Since writing our last newsletter, March 7th, we have received mementos from the following people: John P. Strobel, Geneva; Frederick C. Richter; D. M. Terhune; Mrs. Marguerite Brown; Mrs. Peggy Lou Reedus; Mrs. William Lundeen; Greg Johnson, Geneva; Miss Melba Pierson; Mrs. Barton S. Snow; and Carl W. Johnson.

June 11 the Blaine Street Grade School closed its doors. The 4 classroom building has been in use since 1906 and was getting old and obsolete and had to be abandoned for school purposes. The Blaine Street School PTA held their last meeting early in May. That was an occasion for memories. We furnished some history notes about the school to Mrs. Marguerite Brown, a kindergarten teacher in that school, in 1956.

On May 1 Mrs. Dudley Pierce, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., requested information about the James Pearl and the Prindle families. We sent her a genealogy of the Prindle family and other data.

In March, Miss Eunice Shumway received a letter from Joseph E. King, Urbana, Ill., requesting information about two members of the Wolcott family who had lived in Colorado. We wrote Mr. King but were not able to help him much. We wrote him again on June 18 when Eunice received a letter from a friend who had a complete genealogy of the Wolcott family.

After receiving Vernon Derry's article on "Kane County's Early River Dams", we wrote him a letter of thanks. This was in "Thrift Corner Yarns" issued by the Aurora Savings & Loan Association. He told me that the view of industrial Batavia was an artist's painting reproduction. I asked him if he knew how many horsepower the old Fox River generated between Carpentersville and Yorkville back in those important "water power" days? He didn't know. I told him that I understood that the turbine under the machine shop of the now non-existent U. S. Wind Engine & Pump Co., south of First Street developed 100 hp. This part of the U. S. Company was originally part of the Paper Mill. Batavia also had two wing dams besides the one still existing that at one time served the Challenge Co.

On May 26 we had the enjoyable experience of talking to the two 4th grade classes in the Louise White School about the history of Batavia. Other Society members should be available to do this instructing. It is a rare opportunity for us.

The book, Batavia; Past and Present is still on sale at \$1.00 per copy. The other book Historic Batavia is out of print.

Mrs. Pauline Campbell is back in Batavia, returning from St. Croix, Virgin Islands where she was one of the House Mothers of the Queen Louise Lutheran Home for Girls. However, she will not stay in Batavia for long. She has a job to do in Colorado that sounds most interesting. We wish her well.

If we accept the depot for a museum and accept the cost of remodeling, every one of us will have to help both financially and physically as much as possible. Volunteer now to do more than your share.

John G.

Arthur T. McIntosh & Co., Chicago, Illinois will give the windmill which is on the old Wallace farm to the Batavia Historical Society if we move it to a site in Batavia. Any suggestions?

SPECIAL MEETING
BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BATAVIA CIVIC CENTER
JUNE 22, 3:00 P.M.

Batavia, Ill.
Juno 3, 1969

Dear members of the Batavia Historical Society:

At the meeting of the official board of the Batavia Historical Society held on May 9th, a group of Batavia businessmen presented a plan for the restoration of the old Q depot located at the corner of Webster and Van Buren streets. The park board would use the upper rooms for offices, the old waiting room and ticket office would be restored as in the early days of the railroad. They would allow the Historical Society to use the remaining rooms of the apartment downstairs for storage, filing, and display of objects and papers which have been given the Society over the past years.

There are many questions which have arisen:

1. How much of an obligation will the Society assume if the offer is accepted?
2. How much will it cost to restore the building?
3. Who will raise the money to pay for the building?
4. Will the building remain where it is or will it be moved? If it is to be moved, where?
5. How will the building be maintained?

There are many other questions which will be discussed at a special meeting to be held at the Civic Center on June 22..

Please plan to be present to voice your ideas and vote on whether to accept or reject the offer. You may mail suggestions if you cannot be present.

Sincerely,
Martha D. Wood
Secretary

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

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December, 1969

Published by the BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Unless we keep the stream of the past with living significance for the present, we not only have no past but we have no present. Tradition is not a barren pride in a dead glory; tradition is something that provides refreshment for the spirit.

It is something that gives us deep assurance and a sense of destiny and a determination to hold fast to the great things that have been done through valor and imagination by those who have gone before us.

-Felix Frankfurter

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1969 at 3:00 PM
IN THE BARTHOLOMEW CIVIC CENTER

PROGRAM

MUSIC PROGRAM
A CHRISTMAS STORY

- Batavia High School Chorus
- Mrs. Carl W. Johnson
Librarian, Batavia Public Library

Refreshments will be served . . .

The Nominating Committee is composed of Mrs. Carl W. Johnson, Ansgar Carlson and Miss Joan Kane. They will report a full slate of candidates for office of 1970 to be acted on at the first general meeting of the new year.

Our September meeting program was a History of the First Baptist Church of Batavia, prepared by Mrs. B. S. Lentz and read by her son Bob. This was preceded by two duets sung by the Misses Peg and Priscilla Snyder, accompanied by Miss Charlene Jobe. There was a display of artifacts. Refreshments were served by Baptist members who were also Society members.

At the business meeting which followed, Herb Carlson, Chairman of the Depot Repairing Committee, reported. He said that work is under way. Re-roofing had been completed, the work done by Allen Johnson of Al's Roofing and members of VFW Post 1197. Several sash will be replaced, and the exterior will be sandblasted and painted so that it will be ship-shape for winter. Money, and time, have been furnished by the original twenty Batavia businessmen who purchased the depot. Money and time have been furnished also by some of our own members. Much more of both will be needed by everyone interested in the project. Volunteer to help, both financially and physically. Your Society is giving

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\$1,000. for repairs. Interior renovating and cases to hold our mementos will be needed later.

At a Board meeting on September 30, our President, Harold Patterson, appointed a Depot Repair Committee consisting of Philip B. Elfstrom, Miss Mary Snow, Jeff Schielke. Their job is to coordinate all of the repair work. At the same time a Museum Development Committee was designated composed of Miss Eunice Shumway, J. A. Burnham, Mrs. Lloyd Kautz, Philip R. Elfstrom and John Gustafson. They will plan the interior layout.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Frank Jarvis. He died September 6. He was president of the Geneva Historical Society. Also to the family of Miss Pauline Koehler, and Mrs. Arvid Peterson.

Since writing our last newsletter, August 2nd, we have received mementos from the following people: Stephen Lusted; Mrs. Harold Pearsall, Dundee; Father S. E. Blackard; Mrs. L. R. Huxtable, C. E. Cottrell, Decatur; Mrs. Werner Amrien; the Estate of Lyle Hendrickson.

Your Society helps Batavia people in many diverse ways. Recently we aided the Batavia High School graduating class with material for their annual. The first graduating class came from West Batavia in 1870, 100 years ago, although my records show this was in 1871. We have no definite record of a class graduating from East Batavia before 1879. Then we loaned a student of the Northern Illinois University material about the Batavia Institute. He had to write a story about this early educational academy.

This is the 40th issue of your newsletter, closing the tenth Volume. Our first issue came out in January, 1960. We are most grateful to the Furnas Electric Company for printing, addressing and folding the letter.

Remember our book, Batavia: Past and Present at \$1.00 makes an excellent inexpensive Christmas gift.

Kenzie B. Harris, student at our Junior High School, has done it again. He has an article on "Batavia Institute" in the October issue of "Illinois History." The magazine also contains nine photos of the April Regional meeting that was held here.

The Leon Feldott farmstead, on the Batavia Road, has been approved by the NAL as the site of their museum. This will contain exhibits showing farm artifacts and life before NAL came into existence.

THE BATAVIA BURLINGTON DEPOT

The Galena and Chicago Union RR Co. completed its line from Chicago to Turner Junction, now West Chicago, in 1849. About that time a meeting of interested citizens was held in Batavia to plan a connecting route from Aurora to Turner Junction. This was adjourned to Aurora. Money was raised to finance the project and a strap-iron railroad track was

started from the east end and reached Batavia, twelve miles distant on September 2, 1850. This was called the Aurora Branch RR. It was continued on to Aurora and reached there October 21, 1850.

The Railroad officials borrowed the locomotive "Pioneer" and one coach on that illustrious day, September 2nd. Now Batavians could make the trip all the way to Chicago over the G&CU RR rails from the Junction and return to Batavia the same day. Think of it! Before it took them two or three days by stagecoach or with a wagon load of grain to go there and come back home.

One of the first things the Aurora Branch RR did was to build a passenger depot here that same year 1850. The story of this is told in a manuscript written by A. W. Newton in 1941. A copy was sent to Miss Mary Snow by Mr. A. M. Rung, Director of Public Relations and Advertising for the CB&Q RR. I quote from this manuscript:

"There are three buildings still standing that were erected at the time of the building of the Aurora Branch in 1850: one at Turner Junction, one at North Aurora and one at Batavia. The first two are still in service and in wonderful state of preservation, while the third, at Batavia, is in a sad state of dilapidation and not used for any purpose. The accompanying photograph shows the building as it now is. (The reproduction of this photo is very poor. Caption under, 'Original Batavia Depot, built in 1850') Its existence was disclosed by a statement of Mr. A. N. Parre (L. A. Parre), Superintendent of Power & Light at Batavia, whose father, at the time when the building served as a depot, lived just across the street from where it stood. At the time of building of the present depot, in 1855, it was moved to its present location about one block north.

"The Batavia depot (Original) was a building about 50' x 24', built entirely of white pine, and the fabrication of its framework is most interesting. Timbers were mortised and tenoned, and held together with wooden pins. Because of its age, now 90 years, (1940) the pine has become weathered to a rich brown color"

So the present depot was erected in 1855. If it had a memory and a voice it could tell some interesting experiences, such as the time when a boy lost his two legs under a train and an emergency operation was performed in the depot.

Here is a partial list of the station agents, in sequence, as far as I have been able to obtain them: Edward Dixon, Thomas L. Cleveland, W. Van Etten, Edwin R. Freed and, lastly, Florian F. Walter. Cleveland was agent from 1860 to 1881. He was a cousin of President Cleveland. Van Etten didn't live in the depot but lived in his home at the corner of Spring and VanBuren Streets, according to Wm. A. Davis. A section boss named Flaherty lived there during this time. Walter was agent for 17 years and bought the building about 1945.

In 1852 the Aurora Branch RR became the CB&Q RR. In May of 1864 the direct line from Aurora to Chicago, through Naperville, was completed during the presidency of John Van Nortwick.

Herbert Carlson, Treasurer, reports the receipt of generous donations to the "Q" Museum restoration fund from: Miss Norah Corning, Mrs. Joyce LaVoy of Batavia and Mrs. James Charnley (Shirlee Snow) living in far-off Fairfax, Virginia.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all . . .