

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 15, No. 1

February, 1974

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

I think for any American, who has 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 he saw around him.

Dwight Eisenhower

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, February 3, 1974 at 3 P.M.

Bartholemew Civic Center

Program

Batavia Architecture - films by William J. Wood

Promises to be interesting and much fun!

Refreshment Committee: Mrs. Earl Judd, Mrs. Walter Wood and Mrs. T. L. Favoright.

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A large group of friends enjoyed the music by the Junior High at the December meeting.

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The society was sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Florence Graham, a long time member of the Society.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

- President - Dr. Lucille Gustafson
- Vice Pres. - Phillip Talbot
- Secretary - Mrs. Walter Evert
- Treasurer - Neal Conde, Jr.
- Trustee (2 years) - Joel Sawitoski
- Trustee (1 year) - Howard Matteson

Thanks go to the outgoing officers for their sincere interest and concern for the society.

We are grateful to Phil Elfstrom of Bader Publishing Co. for the printing of our quarterly bulletins.

The Daniel Halladay Windmill

Daniel Halladay - from Coventry, Conn. to Batavia, Ill. While listening to the album "The Old Post Road" by Holbrook, I came across the following item of particular interest to the people of Batavia. The Talking Book describes the three routes from Boston to New York City. The upper road, the middle, and the lower road. These were the first roads to carry mail on horseback between the two towns in the early 1600s.

The author, describing the middle route, its towns, industries and people from Springfield, Mass., along the Connecticut River, came to Coventry. Here he wanted to see the evidence of one man, Daniel Halladay, who invented the Halladay Self Regulating Windmill. This was the first windmill to regulate the amount of surface exposed to the wind which depended on wind velocity.

In 1857 Daniel Halladay moved to Batavia, Ill. to form the U. S. Wind Engine and Pump Co. The author said he had never been to Batavia, but would like to some time. He had a colored lithograph produced by the U. S. Wind Engine and Pump Co., showing the Halladay Self Regulating Windmill, the U. S. Solid Wheel (wooden) and the Gem Steel Wind Engine.

Mr. Holbrook said there were three things that helped settle the West: the Colt Revolver, the Glidden Barbed Wire, and the Halladay Windmill.

(J.A.G.)

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Report of the Depot Museum:

- \$16,265 (Community donations)
- \$13,000 (matched by Furnas Electric)
- \$ 5,000 (In memory of Gilbert Hansen of Furnas Electric)
- \$19,648.15 (total spent)
- \$14,617.02 (balance on hand)

A "hearty thank you" to all citizens, Park Board Blue Ribbon Committee and others for the nearly complete cooperation in this community project.

See Neal Conde about dues for 1974!

Or mail to Box 15, P.O. Batavia, Ill. 60510

THE BATAVIA .HISTORIAN

Vol. 15, No. 2

Batavia, Illinois, April 1974

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 28, 1974 at 3 P.M. Bartholomew Civic Center

PROGRAM

(Anecdote - Col. Lyons and the Squaws)

Myths and Legends of Batavia.	Jeff Schielke
Upstairs and Downstairs (Directions to Phase IV)	Ruth Burnham
Full Steam Ahead	Pat Verderbar, Museum Director

Business to be Considered

Charter Changes	A Summer Caravan
New Appointments	Outing Memorial Trees

Hostesses - Barbara Sawitoski and Committee

Another charter member of the Historical Society died recently. The death of Mrs. Mary Williams, sister of Elaine Cannon, is mourned by many friends.

Memorial contributions honoring the following persons have been received:

- Mrs. Florence Graham by family and friends
- Mrs. Betty Anderson by Mrs. Pearl Ellis
- Mrs. George Ellis by Mrs. Pearl Ellis
- Mrs. Mary Williams by family and friends

OUR HISTORY LESSON

History keeps on happening day by day and hour by hour. And hourly and daily John Gustafson clips pertinent news from the local papers and files them in appropriate notebooks. Items may vary from a story of a bad fire, to the promotion of some local person, to scholastic honors, to the, starting of a trampoline class by the Park Board. It is interesting and reassuring to see that the material is used:

Jeff Schielke had been requested to speak to a WCC Class about the Fox River Valley as a resort area. The notebooks yielded material about Glenwood, Laurelwood, and Mill Creek Parks.

Bud Patzer needed information about early Appleton Manufacturing products. For his use there were catalogues issued before the turn of the century.

Joseph Burton, a member of an old Batavia family now living in Geneva, inquired about a news story written by Mrs. Frank Smith, January 6, 1944, in the Aurora Beacon. It concerned reminiscences by Miss Mary Burton at the age of 96. (Miss Burton ran a dry goods store just north of Burton Johnson's drug store).

In light of the fact that we shall soon be using the old Burlington Station from which she left for Chicago as a museum, it is interesting to hear a paragraph of what she said.

"Our only train was on the east side (the Burlington, which other residents have described as having wooden rails strapped down with metal bands). I remember one cold morning, when without breakfast and no time to build the fire, my brother Tom and I hurried down the Wilson Street hill in the light of the bright winter moon when everything was glistening. Of course, there were no street lights. We then had an early train to Chicago and we went to the wholesale house there to buy my goods. That was on the days before the traveling man."

And so John continues his clipping - Notebook 71 coming up.

Appreciation to -

Speakers for the February 3rd meeting: Mary Snow, Phil Carlson, Dave Sawitoski, Walter Kauth and Mary Matteson as hostess.

Michael Hill for two old pharmaceutical bottles from the W. A. Wolcott - the "drug store on the island".

Mrs. Barton Snow for a handmade baby dress.

Mrs. Graham Evans for the Mary Lincoln bed - the one she used while at Bellevue Hospital.

The Park Commissioners and staff, who have worked so ably in enlisting the talents of local citizens in support of the moving and establishment of the Batavia Depot Museum. It is astounding that a quarter of a town should voluntarily contribute money, talents, efforts and artifacts. The Historical Society certainly commends their achievements and assure their continued enthusiastic support of the total project.

BARGAIN AT TWO DOLIARS

Membership in Batavia Historical Society helps instill an appreciation of who we are and to meet additional expenses due to the opening of the museum.

Lucile Gustafson

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 15, No 3

July, 1974

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

CALLED MEETING

Sunday, July 21, 1974

Program

Colorful Characters, Great and Non-Great . . . Phil Talbot is sure this meeting will be great fun as "recallers" present thumbnail sketches of "famous" people, including Charley Bird, Dolly Bailey, Juny Yung, the Bartholomews, Jule Morris, Babe Woodard, Dr. Hubbard, and others for you to guess!

Business

The Coffin Bank  
Charter Revisions

Making Money  
Bicentennial Celebrations

SINCERE APPRECIATION

To those who have donated money: Mrs. Jenny Prince, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hall, Mrs. Margaret Allen.

To those who have donated artifacts: Mrs. Cornelia Snow (widow weeds and hand-embroidered baby dress) and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hill (W. A. Wolcott pharmaceutical bottles).

To those who donated time, energy, talents and pies for the catering service at the Wright House Auction. Profit, \$230.00! Especial gratitude goes to the gracious and talented co-chairmen, Barbara Sawitoski and Georgene Kauth.

To those who served refreshments at the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

To all the unnamed saints who lend their support to the Batavia Historical Society and the unifying spirit of Batavia. Extra Plus to Miss Mary Snow.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

1. Early photographers of Batavia
2. Early history of the windmill industry
3. Information of the Disney and Amsbaugh families. Help!
4. Written materials about women in Batavia. (Women's Lib?)

HISTORY LESSON

Next time you are in the library, take a look at Mr. Don Carlos Newton. He, his brother and his son managed the Newton Wagon Works that constructed such excellent wagons and carriages that they were known throughout the country. Now a Newton Wagon is a valuable "antique" although hardly appropriate for the parlor mantel.

EARNEST INVITATIONS

If you have something to tell about early Batavians or something to learn, come not because you must but because you may. You'll enjoy yourself and so will the friend you bring with you.

Enclosed please find a sheet listing volunteer jobs needed either by the Batavia Depot Museum or the Historical Society. Bring it with you, completed, to the meeting. Remember, the Museum cannot succeed without our continuing support.

Be seeing you . . . . .

Lucile Gustafson

BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 15, No. 4

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

September 9 1974

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REGULAR MEETING - Sunday, September 22, 1974 - Bartholomew Civic Center

Coffee Hour - 6:40 to 7:00 P.M., courtesy Sally Adams, Jane Elwood, Ruth Northrup. (We have requested that they keep this very simple).

Program - "How Well Do You See Architectural Details?" William Wood.

7:00 P.M. This illustrated talk concerning Batavia architecture promises to be a real treat. Mr. Wood will first show a series of details on Batavia buildings taken with a telescopic lens for us to identify if we can. He will then show a second view using a wide angle lens portraying the details set in buildings familiar to all of us. Old timers will find this as exciting as newcomers. Bring your neighbor.

Pictorial Display - Outstanding views of Batavia taken by Mrs. Pauline Campbell and presented by her to the Batavia Historical Society. Her local pictures have won prizes in Chicago area competition.

Business Meeting – Important but concise.

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SINCERE APPRECIATION . . .

For contributions to an Alma Conde Memorial Fund: The Larry Favorights, the Gerald Conde family, and neighbors and friends of Mrs. Conde.

For the recording and editing of the Society's programs by Larry Favoright. These will become a part of oral history recordings in the museum.

WELCOME WAGON FLYER

As a second sheet you are receiving a copy of a flyer to be given to newcomers and to any veteran Batavians who would like one. Credit goes to Howard Matteson, the Batavia Bank (who paid for them), printer Bob Scott, and to me. I am responsible for a grave error . . . I said "neutron" instead of "proton." (Lucile Gustafson speaking!)

SALE OF LOCAL STATIONERY

Thursday, September 6, the Society had 3000 freshly printed linoleum block pieces of stationery. The scenes were local, designed by John Gustafson. Today, September 9, including bulk sales, 1100 have already been sold, which practically pays the bill due the Herald. They were on sale at the Art Fair and will be available at the next meeting of the Society . . . and the next, and the next. A committee composed of Madeleine Gresens, Norma Carlson and Melba Pierson did the processing.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Batavians seem to have a growing appreciation of their rich architectural heritage. As a bicentennial project an excellent committee will discover which buildings are eligible for centennial placques and make proper recognition available: Research as to antiquity (Eunice Shumway, Alma Carlisle, Linda Hinds, Jo Frydendall, Ruth Burnham and Ray Patzer, who will specialize on commercial buildings), acquisition of placques (Eldon Frydendall) analysis of architectural types (Ruth Northrup and Jane Elwood).

GOODBYE . . . SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 22 at 6:40 P.M.!

## Support of the Museum

There are two ways the Museum needs our continuing support. One is the volunteers. Unlike some museums, we have been blessed with people with many talents offering their services. Now with the activities of the museum accelerating, we need more help. To volunteer, call:

- As a guide . . . Barbara Sawitoski . . . 879-1193
- As a book cataloguer . . . . Miriam Johnson, 879-3389
- As a typist . . . Jean Conde, 879-3646
- As a pamphlet organizer . . . Ann Alexander, 879-1800 (Tues-Wed-Thur)
- As a cookie hostess . . . Mary Matteson, 879-1334 or Ione Blair, 879- 5986
- As a general helper . . . Ann Alexander, 879-1800 (Tues-Wed-Thur)
- As a scrapbook keeper . . . Lucile Gustafson, 879-1212

NOTE: There will be a special coffer for all volunteers, past present and future, Tuesday, September 30 at 9:30 A.M. Please all of you come! Some of you have had no chance to met Mrs. Alexander or each other.

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And, we enlist your monies. The tax dollars administered by the Park Board meet the maintenance and curator salary (\$4500). All other expenses are met by the Batavia Historical Society and its friends. This year expenses are high, several thousands. So far the biggest cost has been the installation of the security system -- over \$1300. But the moving and reconstruction of the Coffin Bank will be even more costly. We shall have to install protective window shades, and we need more steel shelving, more picture framing, more garment cleaning and whatnot. We are parsimonious and we are beggars, but we need more dues coming in.

Are your dues in arrears? Call Jean Conde to find out. Then pay up!

Are you one of the newcomers who note Batavia's friendliness, its unifying spirit, its consciousness of its traditions, and respect for its history? (Oh, sure, we know we aren't perfect!) Do you know of the attention given to inculcating in our children love, respect and knowledge of our town so that they can have a feeling of belonging? For sixteen years the Batavia Historical Society has been a factor in the development of appreciation and understanding of our history and our people. You may wish to share the responsibility, especially if you have children, by joining the society. Note fee structure:

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Single adult . . . . \$3.00 per year | Two adults, one address \$5.00 yr. |
| Junior . . . . . \$1.00 per year     | Classroom . . . . \$5.00 yr.       |
| Life . . . . \$50.00                 |                                    |

(By the way, if you would be willing to help with a rumage sale sometime in early October, please let Georgene Kauth know - 879-5290).

With Sympathy . . . The Batavia Historical Society has lost another long-time member in the person of Mr. Ralph Finley. Mr. Finley died August 25 in Santa Barbara, California after quite a long illness. His ashes were flown to Batavia for interment in the West Side Cemetery.

Mr. Finley was the son of William Finley, one-time president of the Northwestern Railway, who lived one block west of the Museum in a house later moved to 231 North Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Finley moved to what is known as the McKee house on North Batavia Avenue, presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Hall. Ralph Finley was one of the Old Timers who contributed to the initial fund to move and reconstruct the Museum. His interest and support have been continuous. More especially, he was a great good soul.

See you September 21 . . . . Lucile Gustafson.

BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 15, No. 5

December 1, 1974

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Regular Meeting - - A Swedish Christmas Party

Time – 2:30 P.M. – December 1, 1974

Place – Bartholomew Civic Center

PROGRAM

Swedish Music	Mrs. Pauline Faeth, Leader
Singers From faith Covenant and Bethany Lutheran Church Choirs	
Swedes Come to Batavia	Pastor Gustaf Lund
Our Swedish Churches	Miss Jennie Larson
Swedish Music	
Swedish Nicknames and Stories	Mrs. Ralph Larson Judith Johnson
Swedish Dancing	Ingrid Hoelzle, Leader
Girl Scouts – Troop 98	
Photograph Display	Frank Olson

REFRESHMENTS and Svenska Cookies . . . Mrs. Svea Erd, Chairman

NOTE: All Swedes are invited / urged / required to bring a dozen cookies to share with the less fortunate non-Swedes.

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GOD JUL . . . MERRY CHRISTMAS

What a joyous occasion this promises to be for those who come with happy hearts and a spirit of goodwill! December 1 is the first day of Advent, which accounts for the earlier hour . . . 2:30 P.M. rather than 3:00 P.M. In this way, those present can attend late afternoon church services (as well as avoid some of the competitive commotion of square dancing).

Batavia has been rich in ethnic differences. Lest we become entirely homogenized culturally, let us enjoy and gain understanding of our various cultural heritages. (Phil, how about St. Patrick and the Irish?)

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MUSEUM·NEWS

The museum refurbishing goes well with renewed momentum. Miss Pat Verderbar, director, says that the building will assuredly be ready for occupancy in the next two or three months with dedication definitely set for April 12. She is now beginning to organize volunteer help. The Historical Society assures her every assistance. In terms of the conduct of the Museum our role, under agreement, will be principally supportive rather than directive. (As an aside, you will be thrilled with the beauty, safety and convenience of the finished building).

Our supportive role, in part, means a financial subsidy limited to equipment not built in. This takes some doing. The beautiful stationery of Batavia buildings as depicted by John Gustafson will again be available December 1. Some of you have bought sets for framing. Each of you will need at least six sets more for personal use, gift exchanges and long distance mailing. These are unique, on excellent quality paper.

Also available on that date will be an entirely new item. Sadie Lundberg and her committee will have sepia table mats decorated with an 1872 lithograph of John VanNortwick Greek Revival House that once stood where the Junior High School is now. (Some of us know this as the Home Economics Building but none of us ever saw such high-stepping horses or fancy carriages as are in this view). These will be available in quantity or in packets of twelve suitable for bridge parties, gifts, or daily use. Good quality paper again.

#### CONTINUING PROJECTS

The Heritage Structure Committee has met and started plans for the identification and “placquing” of hundred year old houses. They are meeting November 25 and representatives of other likeminded organization with Mr. Ted Hild of the Illinois Landmark Survey Commission will tour the town in order to identify historically significant structures. This ad hoc committee will stretch ahead to become part of the Bicentennial Celebration.

Other projects under way: Dave Sawitoski and Ray Patzer have made plans to have issued a special postal cancellation at the time of the museums dedication. David Brady is working up a very different project . . . a wooden nickel. An inflation fighter? The Constitution Revision Committee and the Membership Dues Committee will have reports ready for the December meeting.

DUES . . . Notice from Neal Conde,  
Treasurer

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Attendance at the Historical Society meetings is open to all. However, there are expenses attendant to mailing the newsletters supporting our projects, and so, you will surely want to know that:

- 1) Your dues are paid through \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) 1975 dues are now payable \_\_\_\_\_

GOD JUL

L.G.