

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 16, No.1

Batavia, Illinois, January 1975

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 9, 1975 at 2:30 P. M., Bartholomew Civic Center

PROGRAM

Speaker Mr. Fred Graham Subject "Flickering Lights"

Mr. Graham, president of the Aurora Historical Society and a recognized authority on antiques, will present a brief discussion concerning the development of artificial means of lighting, going back almost to the time of Christ. He will bring a great variety of lighting fixtures to demonstrate his talk that those present may inspect afterward.

Also, those attending are invited to bring unique lamps or candles. Lucille and Herb Carlson will sort of organize this phase.

Local Lights? The old Newton house was the first in town to be lighted with gas lamps. (By the way, in 1902 Batavia was the first place in the world to have artificial gas piped in under pressure). The old manorial William Van Nortwick house on the site of the present Junior High School athletic field was the second home in the world to be lighted with electricity.

BUSINESS

The Batavia Historical Society will recommend for your consideration several changes in the existing by-laws as submitted by Martha Wood, chairperson of constitutional revision committee, to wit:

RECOMMENDED CHANGES:

Article IV -- Officers:

The officers of the Society shall consist of a president, vice-president, recording secretary, treasurer, historian, and four trustees.

Amended to read:

The officers of this Society shall consist of president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, historian, and six trustees.

Under Article III, a new provision for dues changed this to: \$2.00 per person yearly, except for husband and wife paying \$3.00 jointly and each additional member of family paying \$2.00 yearly. This could be changed to: membership fee as determined by the Board.

I would recommend that we go over the whole Constitution and update it.

Article XI -- "Amendments to the by-laws may be made at any meeting provided a notice is sent to all members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. "My interpretation would be that it is not necessary to send the actual changes but just notify that changes are to be

SO MANY CONTRIBUTIONS

We are grateful to both Glenn Haines and to Bob Scott for their many, many courtesies to the association. At the February 9 meeting you will see early lithographs that Bob framed at cost and an elaborate glass case that he constructed at no cost for a windmill donated by Elmer Nelson. We are also grateful to Phil Elfstrom for printing first-day covers to commemorate the Depot Museum dedication April 12 and 13.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

When “thank you’s” are given out for the success of the Christmas party, special appreciation goes to the Square Dancers. They volunteered most courteously to postpone their meeting time until 3:30 P.M. so that we could conduct our meeting without disruptive noises.

ACQUISITIONS

Guess what! We now possess a Newton wagon, a scarce item these days. You figure out how to pay for it without touching our \$4000 government certificates.

ERMA JEFFERY

This newsletter ends in a note of sadness because of the death of Miss Erma Jeffery. But she would not want to be remembered with sorrow, but with happiness. She lived a life full of fun, creativity, liveliness. And that is the way this charter member of the Batavia .Historical Society made her contribution to the association and to all with whom she came in contact. She will be greatly missed.

REMINDER

See you February 9 at 2:30 for our annual meeting in the Bartholomew Civic Center!

Lucile Gustafson, Chairman.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 16, No. 2

April 1975

Batavia, Illinois

Published by, the Batavia Historical Society

* * * * *

Regular open meeting - Time: Sunday, April 6, 1975, 3:00 P.M.

Place: Bartholomew Civic Center

Program: Symposium: The Depot, How it was, The Museum, where it is
We're all steamed upPat Verderbar
Mary Todd Lincoln slept hereAlice Saum
Last, but not least, the cabooseDan Holbrook
We dedicateDave Sawitoski

Business Meeting - Announcement of coming projects, etc.

Social Hour: Hostesses - Mrs. Marguerite Brown, Mrs. Irene Kreitzer Members and friends are invited to signup as hosts and hostesses after the meeting. Those of you who cannot do so may wish to make a contribution to the iron pot.

* * * * *

The Fiscal Situation

The Batavia Historical Society board has the responsibility to the total membership for the financial structure of the association. We are definitely solvent but the current year is one of great expenditures as we enter a period of increased activity with the opening of the museum. The park board has assumed the responsibility of reconstructing the depot, maintaining it, and employing a museum director. All this has been financed by very generous local contributions and a small tax levy. They have done a fine job.

Most other responsibilities, financial and otherwise, are borne by the Historical Society. The estimates listed below may be helpful in analyzing the situation:

A. <u>Financial Obligations</u> (estimates)		B. <u>Assets</u> (accumulated since 1960)	
Newton wagon	\$ 325	Building & Loan	\$ 614.43
Moving and understructure of bank	1,500	Batavia Bank, savings	494.32
Postage - mailings	200	Batavia Bank, checking	101.80
Fire-resistant cabinets	650	Book fund	700.57
Bookcases	100	U.S. Government notes	4,000.00
Picture frames	200		
Fine Arts insurance	?		
Miscellaneous	100		
 <u>New Dues Structure</u> *		<u>Sources of Income</u>	
Single membership	\$ 3	Dues	
Two or @ore adults at one address	5	Sales of mats and stationery	
Junior membership (under 16)	1	Cachets	
Classroom membership	5	Square nails	
Life membership	50	Wooden nickels	
		Other art objects	

* At the recommendation of Howard Matteson, the above schedule was adopted by your board. It was also agreed that a foundation fund with a minimum donation of \$500.00 be established.

It is very important that membership and the bases of support of the program of the historical society be broadened. Many newcomers say that they chose to live in Batavia because of our respect for our historic past and our consciousness of ourselves as an entity. Since 1960, the historical society has worked for such goals. However, many of the members who through the years have been the mainstay of the society are now on a fixed income and can ill afford increased expenses. They are still largely untapped sources of information, however.

The Batavia school children are enthusiastic about learning the tales of their town. Our teachers are doing a fine job of instructing them in local history, and society members speak to hundreds of youngsters every year. What the society solicits is more membership among the children's parents and more volunteer jobs that suddenly need to be done. (H'm, quite a lecture.)

Cachets

The celebration of the opening of the Batavia Depot museum has many facets. One of the most interesting has to do with the issuance of a cachet, or first day cover, which calls for the cooperation of many persons: general arrangements - Dave Sawitoski, Ray Patzer, and Arnold Gustafson; special cancellation - Phil Talbot; printing of 3,000 envelopes - Phil Elfstrom of Bader Publishing Company; block print of the depot - John A. Gustafson; art work depicting the windmill cancellation and printing of stuffer cards concerning the CB&Q and the museum - Floyd Carlson's high school printing class.

Beautiful cooperation! But there is more. Several class reunion committees are sending their notices April 12th in these special envelopes. The collection of first day covers makes an interesting, profitable hobby for kids to start, as they increase in value but have low initial cost. Many Batavia residents will be buying them to send greetings to their friends, especially ex-Batavians.

Cachets may be purchased at 35¢ each, or three for a dollar. Send money plus a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope to "Depot Covers", P.O. Box 433, Batavia, Illinois, 60510, or on April 6th come early to the meeting of the Historical Society with your address book and pen.

Donations

Miss Pat Verderbar will acknowledge incoming artifacts, but I can't resist a few comments. A delightful bedroom around the nucleus of Mrs. Lincoln's bed (donated by Mrs. Randall Evans of Aurora) is being arranged by Ruth Burnham, Alice Saum, and Sally Krueger, using artifacts from Bellevue that has been donated by many persons.

The museum is greatly in need of railroad materials to give authenticity to the recreation of the old ticket office. Ralph Shacht has donated a beautiful railroad cabinet, and someone else (who?) a ticket holder. Dan Holbrook says we need: a double desk or just an ordinary old desk, an adding machine or old typewriter, old style rubber stamps, CB&Q telegraph, agent's chair, waste basket, old CB&Q forms, telegraph phone and headset, train order hoop, small safe, pot belly stove. If you have something to donate, phone 879-1800. Donations are tax exempt.

Enlist Here

The society has a huge poster, dated 1861 (Civil War) urging young men to enlist in service - not to wait to be drafted, promising a bounty to each. We can

promise no bounty but we urge your enlistment Sunday, April 6th, with the following persons:

Museum guides	Pat Verderbar
Donation of artifacts	Louise Borg
Purchasing of cachets	Dave Sawitoski and Ray Patzer
Hosts and hostesses	Mary Matteson and Ione Blair
Concession sales persons	Virginia Kalina

A Note of Sadness

We end this newsletter with expressions of sympathy for the relatives of five of our loyal members, Nell Burkwist (Mrs. Axel), Miss Caroline Nelson, Mrs. Freda Wagner, Mr. Francis Carr of Florida, and Mary Ann Judd (Mrs. Earl).

At the funeral service for Nell, Mr. Kortemeier spoke of her constant role of quiet, unobtrusive service wherever she was needed, and so it was with us. Mrs. Freda Wagner was also a long-time member. Miss Caroline Nelson and Mr. Francis Carr were both charter members of the society who have supported the association since its inception in 1960. The past year or so has seen the loss of six charter members.

It is with great reluctance that I speak of the death of Mary Ann Judd. She was, of course, a charter member. She was delighted when her husband gave her a life membership as a Christmas gift. She assumed the chairmanship of this society when she didn't want to do so because no one else would accept it and the society would die. Oh, Mary Ann! Members of the Historical Society attended services for all of the deceased. Such a loss!

REMINDER

Next meeting of the Historical Society - April 6th, at 3:00 P.M.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 16, No. 3

May 1975

Batavia, Illinois

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

* * * * *

Many people of all ages and temperament have enjoyed our Batavia Depot Museum since its opening April 12. Almost a thousand persons have visited the museum. Some large groups, such as the Art Institute (48) and school children (250+) made no attempt to register. Others registered for a whole family. Mary Todd Lincoln room is the chief attraction.

Until a new curator is hired, there is special need for Batavia Historical Society and friends to help as guides, technical workers and "artists." At least fourteen hosts and hostesses are needed each week, plus extras for group appointments. Some have special assignments, such as Mary Anderson (manikins) Ella Mae Doty (photographs) and Jean Conde (accession sheets). To assist in June, whether twice a month, once a month or when needed, please call Barbara Sawitoski, (879-1193) within the next two-three days (not early afternoon). Even if you have spoken to someone else about helping, phone her. Couples needed Sundays and evenings.

Security has many facets: (1) close attention on the part of the guides to visitors; (2) fireproof safes and anti-acid filing cabinets (already purchased); (3) plastic covering for windows to prevent deterioration from ultra-violet rays (under consideration); (4) Fire prevention: the Park Board has carefully followed all requirements of the local fire department and also will install a special alarm system connected with the fire department; (5) the Historical Society, through action of its Board, will probably have determined by the time you receive this that a burglar alarm system be installed as quickly as possible. (Special meeting about this project Tuesday P. M., May 27). The system that Walter Kauth is recommending will inform the police station of a break-in and will cost an initial \$1000.00 plus a small continuing charge. (As Walt plugs for this setup, he and Dave will likewise plug for a means of paying for it. It's a crazy idea - cf. M(5) on Page 2); (6) Last, if you are the last to leave the Museum, be sure the door to the basement in the Lincoln Room is bolted and that the main door locks as you leave.

Expenditures we have. Our estimates of initial opening expenses are rising somewhat but fortunately the Society has been accumulating a cash reserve for such a hoped-for contingency.

Moving and understructure of Batavia Bank of Coffin	\$1500.00
Fire-Resistant Safes (in use)	650.00
Picture Frames (many already in use)	250.00
Wooden Work Tables (in use)	70.00
Cleaning of Garments (Illinois Cleaners did flags free).	100.00
Cataloguing of Books	100.00
Acid Resistant Cases	100.00
Shelving	200.00
Window Protection	200.00
Burglary System	1000.00
*Fine Arts Insurance	1000.00

* Mr. Richard C. Lewis, artist, has offered to take pictures of our artifacts free of cost to us. This will provide a pictorial record for inventory and insurance purposes.

Unless some handy craftsmen, carpenters especially, help Dan Holbrook with fixing up the caboose, it will be a long time a-fixing, in spite of his efficiency and dedication.

Money - we like -

(1) Have you paid your dues? Please phone 879-3646 (Jean Conde) to discover your fiscal status.

(2) The cachet was really a money-maker, thanks to Dave Sawitoski, Ray Patzer, Phil Talbot, Arnold Gustafson and Mr. Arthur de la Cruz. It brought in \$384.65 for the treasury.

(3) Sale at museum concession on opening weekend - \$384.65.

(4) Generous gifts amounting to \$165.00 contributed by non-members, several of whom have never seen the Museum; Mary Russell's brother, Carolyn Sibr's mother, Amy Bell, Viola Peterson, a NIU instructor.

(5) The crazy idea? Do you know what you are going to do? You are going to pay \$2.00 to paint a fireplug - or sponsor someone to do it for you. By the way, the project has the blessing of the Fire Department. Moreover, the Bicentennial Committee has donated \$30.00 for red, white and blue paint. Swanson's have donated six gallons of the same patriotic colors and the Jewel Store 2000 plastic containers. Start thinking of how you would like to paint your plug and come to the Depot Museum Saturday, May 31, to register, pick out your favorite plug and splash away. Have fun! Imagine a crazier or more wonderful way to pay for a Museum burglary system?

NOTE: Saturday, May 31, at the Museum.

E T C.

1. A few historical structure placques will be presented June 14. Watch news stories and posters for further information for "placquing." You may call Jo Frydendall, 879-2099.

2. There will be a coffee hour in the near future to honor Museum assistants.

3. The Fox Hill Home has kindly loaned the Museum Mrs. Lincoln's dresser. We will do a necessary restoring only.

4. The honor ladies this month for service beyond the call of duty: Jean Conde, Mildred Carlson, Ione Blair.

5. The Art Institute people were interested that they visited the Mary Todd Lincoln Room 100 years to the day that she came to Batavia.

6. You will enjoy the exhibits that have been newly placed - flag, Civil War stuff, Continental note, factory pictures, early school "visual aids."

7. We are invited to visit Mooseheart Museum June 29 from 2:00 to 4:30 P.M.

Be seeing you at the Museum.

L.G.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 16, No. 4

September, 1975

Box 15, Batavia, Illinois

Regular Open Meeting

Time: Sunday, September 21, 1975, 3:00 P.M.
Place: Council Chambers, Batavia City Building
Program: Symposium . . . BATAVIA, THE WINDMILL CITY
When the Wind Furnished Power Mrs. Mary Snow
Turning Vanes Today Walter Kauth
Wind Power as Future Energy Source Dave Sawitoski
Hostesses: Eldora Hoover, Shirley Hoover, Mary Jane Miller.
Parking: Adequate. A flag will mark entrance you may use.

Comments on Program

In the present mood of general nostalgia, it is certainly understandable why we should recall Batavia's history as a windmill producer. We sentimentally use it on our city seal, as a park district symbol, to head a Herald editorial column, and elsewhere. It is good that we have a focal symbol for our interest, appreciation, and love for our town. Some local citizens worked in one of the three major windmill companies, the U.S., the Challenge, and the Appleton. They have knowledge and memories to share. Others had relatives employed in the production of windmills. Many more have not the foggiest notion what the whole deal is about. We are intrigued by the probable return of wind as an energy source.

There are several unusual attractions about this meeting:

- 1). Your City Council has declared September 21 Windmill City Day. Hurrah!
- 2). The meeting will be held in the council chambers with the Honorable Robert Brown welcoming us. Batavians will be pleased to see the room and to learn present plans to restore the windows and walls to what they were in old Appleton days.
- 3). There will be an actual U.S. windmill in the chambers. No, not the whole thing, just the head. This is an artifact that we can actually touch, which is more than we can do when it is mounted on its tower and erected on the museum grounds near the pond.
- 4). Numerous pictures of windmill factory groups will be on display. (HEW would close down these factories as unsafe as fast as a cyclone could turn a vane.)
- 5). There will be two beautiful model windmills, one Challenge and one Halladay-U.S.
- 6). There will be two new acquisitions on display, one a picture of Thomas Snow (Challenge) and the other Daniel Halladay (U.S.). The latter was given us by Max Finley whose wife was Katherine Sperry, daughter of B. E. Sperry (432 Main Street) where Mr. Halladay lived.
- 7). Descendents and relatives of employees of the three major companies may register and receive a "collectible."
- 8). There will be newcomers and strangers in our midst. Visitors will be here from Lombard -- they learned about us from the first-day covers. We expect a number of scientifically and mechanically inclined men. And farmers. We are hoping for Junior High School boys. And we are hereby sending a special invitation to the loyal Batavians in the 14th Colony.
- 9). Those who have not met our beautiful and capable curator, Mrs. Ann Alexander, will be able to do so.
- 10). Lastly, and best (?) of all, windmill cookies will be served during the coffee hour.

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 coffee 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 meet Mrs. Alexander or each other.

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 rummage sale sometime in early October, please let Georgine 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.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 16 No. 5

P.O. Box 15

December, 1975
Regular Open Meeting

Time: Sunday, December 7, 1975 3:00 p.m.

Place: Pine Room, Congregational Church of Batavia

PROGRAM: In the Sanctuary - 3:45 p.m. Organ Recital, Mrs. Miriam Johnson
4:00 p.m. THE GENEVA CHOIR BOYS,
Lawrence Barton, Director

“THE STORY OF THE HOLY NATIVITY”

THE PROLOGUE: "Ave Verun" Mozart
"THE PROCESSIONAL: "The Angel of Goodwill and Peace" Mendelssohn
THE ANNUNCIATION SCENE: "O Jesulein Suss" (sung in German) J. S. Bach
THE NATIVITY SCENE: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" S. Wesley
THE SHEPHERD'S SCENE: "Lobt Gott Ihr Christen Allzugleich"
(soprano recitative sung in German)
Quartet: Kyle Danielson, Charles Nelson, Todd Parillo & John Stone
THE THREE KING'S SCENE: "Processional of the Kings" (Trumpets and pipe organ)
THE THREE KING'S ANTEPHON: "Jesu Christus kommt aus Himmel"
(sung in German)
Quartet: Kyle Danielson, Todd Parillo, John Rosenkrans and John Stone
THE RECESSIONAL: "O Blessed Saviour" Gounod
THE EPILOGUE: "Pax Domini sit Semper Vobiscum" (sung in Latin) arr. Barton

NOTE: We are indeed fortunate to be able to present a program of such high quality as a service to the people of our community. All the churches have received individual invitations to attend. There will be no admission charge but there will be a free will offering for those who wish to help defray the immediate costs. We shall be sure the balcony seats are dusted because we expect a large attendance. Since this is a robed, treble choir we think children will enjoy it too.

Revolutionary change . . . there will be no refreshments for adults but there will be punch and cookies for the choir after the program. If you feel ambitious, call Mary Matteson to tell her you have a spare dozen cookies that you would be happy to bring for the boys' party.

CONTESTS DEPARTMENT: THE WINDMILL HERITAGE PHOTO CONTEST - In order that Batavia may better celebrate its heritage in the up-coming Bicentennial year, as it is related to the windmill industry, the city of Batavia, in conjunction with the Batavia Historical Society, is sponsoring "THE WINDMILL HERITAGE PHOTO CONTEST".

The contest will be operated under the following rules:

- 1) The contest is open to all residents of the City of Batavia, Batavia Township and residents out of the area who are members of the Batavia Historical Society.
- 2) There will be four categories of competition:
 - a) Amateur - 9grades 5-8
 - b) Amateur - High School
 - c) Amateur - Age 18 and up
 - d) Professional
- 3) The pictures may be of any windmill and may be color or black-and-white, prints or slides,
- 4) Judging will be based on:
 - a) Composition
 - b) Appropriateness
 - c) A photo's ability to take enlargement
 - d) Fitness for display purposes,
- 5) Photo of winners will be enlarged, matted and displayed in the City Hall and/ or the Depot Museum and given to the winners after an appropriate time.

The "Grand-Prize Winner" will be enlarged, matted and framed, and displayed in the City Complex.

There will be special prizes for the youngsters. Entry photos should:

- 1) Be no larger than 8 x 10, if prints
- 2) Have name, address and category on slide or print.
- 3) Accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope, if return is desired.

Entries should be sent to the attention of:

William B. Hamilton
c/o City of Batavia
Municipal Bldg., 101 N. Island Avenue
Batavia, Illinois 60510

All entries must be in by January 15, 1976.

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THE HISTORICAL WRITING FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTEST Under the joint sponsorship of the Batavia Public Schools, the Bicentennial Commission, the Batavia Historical Society, the Batavia Depot Museum and you, "Illinois History", a magazine for young people, each month during the school year offers our children opportunities to write on various topics of local history, the best ones being printed in the state paper. Various times local students have won publication. The November, 1975 issue topic was "Indians in Illinois" for which we had no entry. However, Mrs. Margaret McConnaughay, curriculum director, has distributed material about the upcoming topics so our students can participate:

Publication date	Topic	Due Date
February, 1976	Abraham Lincoln	December 1, 1975
March, 1976	Life on the Frontier	January 1, 1976
April, 1976	Revolutionary War Ancestor	February 1, 1976
May, 1976	Bicentennial Celebrations	March 1, 1976

The special emphasis in the Centennial Celebration is local history, so if you have any letters, newspapers, diaries, or whatnot, that would be helpful they would certainly be appreciated. Xerox copies are being made available for their use, e.g., Xerox copy of Lincoln's legends relating to Judge Lockwood.

OUR CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 3: "The Colonial Printer" - film at the Depot Museum at 8 p.m.

December 7: Regular meeting of the Batavia Historical Society at 3 p.m.

Musical concert in the sanctuary at 3:45 p.m.

December 21: Christmas reception at the Depot Museum at 3 - 5 p.m. Mrs. Ann Alexander, our curator, dreamed this up and it will be truly delightful. Brownies and scouts, some of our favorite museum customers, will help with decorations and serving. Carollers too!

"Do you suppose the Historical Society will help?" she asked. Of course, that is our business. Who has an artificial Christmas tree to give or lend? Who has Christmas decorations, roping or toys? If you do, please drop them off at the museum Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Or phone 879-1800 for pickup.

December 25: Merry Christmas to all of you, especially those who are not with us because of distance or illness. (Do you remember the delightful Christmas Swedish party we enjoyed last year?)

MUSEUM GOSSIP

The museum's security is a great satisfaction. It seems that our generous friends are leaving precious artifacts with greater confidence that they are safe. The fire safes hold many an old valuable document, for example, the original 1854 Halladay catalog that you saw duplicated in the Beacon a few weeks ago. (Didn't Marj Holbrook do a beautiful job on the windmill story? As a result of it, Mr. Goldstrap of Aurora sent us an order made on Kinne and Shaw bill head of a case of strawberries for \$1.27.) Ann has purchased many anti-acid boxes to hold the hundreds of old newspapers, magazines and photographs. More safety, valuable artifacts may deteriorate from exposure to the sun.

This has worried both Miss Pat Verderbar and Mrs. Ann Alexander. The B.H.S. board, months ago, arranged for a \$10,000 umbrella insurance on the contents of the museum. We need to have all items cataloged, appraised and photographed before more insurance work can be done. That is why professional librarian, Miriam Johnson, is processing the many ancient books. Ann Ross is assisting her. Through the length of the storage room, two professionals, Carol Larson and Jean Clark have offered to work with the gowns. Other very knowledgeable persons are working elsewhere. (One of these days, Ella Mae Doty may refuse to measure one more photograph!)

Blessings on the faithful persons who come month after month to act as host and hostess. And typists too.

End of page even though there is much more to be said. We'll have to say it on December 7, at the December meeting at the Congregational Church.

Good bye for now

Lucille Gustafson