

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 19, No.1

Batavia, II. P.O. Box 15

Regular Open Meeting

February 12, 1978

Time: Sunday, February 12, 1978, 3:00 P. M.

Place: Bartholomew Civic Center

Program: Speaker: Dr. Peter Koehler . . . PROTONS, PRAIRIE, PEOPLE 3:00 P.M.

Dr. Koehler from the Fermilab will speak of the involvement of the Fermi experiences in the Batavia community. See below for further information.

Business Meeting and Reports 3:30 P. M.

Social Hour 4:00 P. M.

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Dr. Peter Koehler brings a new approach to our understanding of the community of Batavia, and perhaps to our realization that Batavia must remain a community. What has happened and is happening on the 600-acre site occupied by the Fermilab is of great significance to all of us. Their anthropologists have informed us of the archaic Indians who frequented that site ten thousand years ago searching for livelihood by harvesting a bounty of acorns. Again, the east side of Batavia was largely wooded but the west side was covered by rough prairie grass that grew ten feet high or more. Once buffalo roamed here in the Valley. Now prairie and buffalo can be found only on the Fermilab site.

We can understand wagons and windmills more readily than we can protons and quarks and charms. It may be enough for us merely to realize their existence, which is tantalizing. But Dr. Koehler aims to present not a scientific lecture but chiefly to describe the cultural and social roles of the whole Fermi project in our area.

According to Yvonne Autenreith, program chairman, he comes well prepared to speak on any phase of the subject. Our speaker was born in Germany but migrated to the United States in 1957, twenty years ago. He continued his education apace. First he enrolled at George Washington University but was graduated from Harvard. He received his Master's degree from George Washington but his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester.

His paychecks have come from various institutions. First he taught at the University of Maryland. Then he went into research, first at the Argonne Laboratory and then in 1973 at the Fermilab. He was formerly head of the Meson Laboratory but is now chairman of the Physical Laboratory.

Hearing him cannot help but be an exciting experience. Come yourself but bring a newcomer, an old timer, a student, or whomsoever!

Future Meetings

April 9 Easter in Batavia. Waubensee Madrigal Singers.

May 29, 30 or 31 Civil War Presentation

Do most of you know Dr. Rodney Ross? He is an historian and archivist located in Washington, D.C., who spoke in '75 at the dedication of the Batavia Depot Museum. His father, Dr. Ross, psychiatrist, bought Bellevue

Civil War Presentation - continued

Place in 1947 and established a mental hospital there once again. Consequently son Rodney and his sisters were in Batavia and attended Batavia schools. (Mrs. Ann Ross spent regular hours as a volunteer librarian after Dr. Ross' death. She also spent hours helping at the museum). All this is background for the statement that Rod has a deep interest in and affection for Batavia. He has long been an active member in the Batavia Historical Society. Sometime before Christmas he wrote, offering to speak at an historical meeting about Batavia's contribution to the Civil War. Apparently, the average percentage of volunteers in the state was 9%; in Batavia it was 19%, a total of 298. Most of the men enrolled either in the 52nd or the 124th infantry. In his discussion Dr. Ross will incorporate five diaries by Fred Morris that he has transcribed, one that Mary Matteson has deciphered and any material that you readers may offer, into a history of the 124th that he has found in Washington. (Mr. Morris lived at 335 Union Avenue and was employed by the U.S. Wind Engine and Pump Company. He lived on McKee Street).

When will he speak? It may be at a specially called meeting of the Batavia Historical Society May 29 or it may be in connection with the regular city Memorial service sponsored by the VFW. When we talked with him, Commander James was pleased with the suggestion, but must discuss it with his men. We shall let you know at the February meeting. We had a conference last week with Dr. McFeeley, High School principal, to offer our assistance in the writing of research papers and whatnot. He was extremely interested in having Dr. Ross speak to upper level classes as a consultant. By the way, Dr. Ross is the authority on Mrs. Lincoln's stay in Batavia.

July or September . . . Illustrated Talk on Preservation

Dave and Barbara Sawitoski and Walter and Georgene Kauth heard W. Lockwood Martling, Jr. speak about the preservation of the inner city. They were enthusiastic about his talk and anxious that he come to Batavia to speak. He charges more than we are accustomed to pay (\$75.00) but with our downtown looking like an old crone with two missing teeth we believe that we can get support from at least two other organizations. Supporting such a project is, of course, part of the raison d'etre for an historical society; such a talk would, of course, be free to the public. What is your reaction, please?

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Memories of Winters

This is being written January 27, 1978, the night after we "weathered the weather" as the commentator stated. Various times we have heard that this blizzard is the celebration of a similar extravaganza exactly eleven years ago. It is surely one to remember. Will there be a repeat performance eleven years from now?

Our Batavia Bank calendar informs us that 137 years ago Batavia's first church building was dedicated on January 31. This was a small wooden structure costing \$411.38. One can imagine the churchgoers arriving wrapped warmly in buffalo robes with the women's skirts tucked around little punched metal boxes containing hot coals which were later taken into the church. We hope the sermon wasn't too long!

Will VanNortwick in 1836 in a letter to his son John (who was still in New York) said that winters back home were more mild than here for there was not even enough snow to haul cut logs to the newly built sawmill.

Our present members recall a variety of winter experiences. One remembers the fierce Knights of Pythias fire (DeLuxe Cleaners) when she was a little girl. Some of you may remember Erma Jeffrey's account of the burning of the East Side School, a limestone building, one cold night in 1893. She

Memories of Winters - Continued

told how while Albro Prindle was hauling the fire hose from down on the Island it stiffened with the cold so that it stuck out like a pole! What a raconteur Erma was!

Memories of fun outweigh those of catastrophes. Without exception those who trudged daily from the "Northend" to Blaine Street School in Jericho remember with delight the snow that piled up in front of the board fence at Bellevue Sanitarium (Fox Hill). It crusted over so that youngsters could climb young mountains three feet high. West side kids took daring sled flights down Smith (Houston) or Paper Mill (First) Street hills. They did not share their parents' concern about a possible collision with the fast Northwestern train on Water Street. (No one remembers an accident). The feeble, palsied train that now crawls the tracks would today probably be frightened by a kid on a sled! East siders slid down Buttermilk Hill (State Street) plunk into Kee and Chapel Dairy (Elfstrom Publishing House).

A few remember ice cutting that was recently described in the Chronicle but most memories cluster around skating in the days when one had to squat on a log and fumble with a cold key to screw on old-fashioned iron skates to old-fashioned stout shoes. (How grateful they would have been for the luxury of the warming shelter built "under" the Museum under the auspices of the Batavia Park Board). Then up and away. Young and old. The scene of the skaters caught the imagination of artists. John Falter's painting of that scene appeared as a Saturday Evening Post cover in February 1958. The Batavia Woman's Club owns the original oil painting, which has been placed in the Museum for safekeeping and display. A Florida artist, using antifreeze in zero weather, produced a lively water color which Mr. Eckman saw, recognized, bought, and presented to the Historical Society.

Today's experiences are tomorrow's memories. Today's children may not be hauled home on a wooden sled after Christmas services, but they will remember being driven around town to see the beautiful luminaria lit to guide the steps of the Christ Child. No one can remember the winter of 1878-9 when the snow was so deep and had drifted so much that sleighs could drive over the tops of fences. But everyone will always remember the blizzard of 1978 when winds reaching 70 miles in gusts halted motorists and then proceeded to cover abandoned cars so that they were disguised as snowdrifts. There will be many tales of hardships and worries these last few days even though in this valley there have been no bad fires, no deaths, no catastrophes, but there will be many more memories of repeated kindnesses and services. Warm and comfortable in our homes we listened to Jeff Schielke on the radio as he told about fifteen firemen gathered at the station in case there should be a fire. They "circumnavigated" the periphery of the town regularly in order to search for and aid stranded motorists. It was reassuring to learn of sanctuaries opened in the various towns to give shelter and food to stranded motorists. But what was most inspiring was the almost heroic roles played by young people such as the young fellows who plowed out our own driveway and kept our sidewalks shoveled several times a day. And the little papergirl who stuffed the Beacon inside the door!

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Sentences Rather than Paragraphs

All goes well at the Batavia Depot Museum. Carla Hill and Charles Ohlsen have been invited to report at the February meeting.

Dues payable February 12, or send to Batavia Historical Society, Box 15, Batavia, Il.

The Society would be happy to receive any April 13, 1975 "covers" (envelopes) the present owners do not wish to keep

More Sentences

The Society would appreciate any copies of HISTORIC BATAVIA by John Gustafson that are not in use or desired. The libraries and schools need them. Both do a masterly job teaching about Batavia.

A pleasant close to this issue of the Historian . . . special thanks for generous donations to our Society from the Luminaria Committee, Batavia Rotary and the Batavia Centennial Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you February 12 at 3:00 P.M.

Lucile Gustafson.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 19, No. 2

Batavia, Illinois, P.O. Box 15

Regular Open Meeting

Sunday, April 9th, 1978

Time: 2:30 P.M. (Note change in time)

Place: Bartholomew Civic Center

Program: 2:30 P.M. - Waubensee Madrigal Singers in springtime mood:
Medley of Renaissance Songs . . .
Modern Tunes in Madrigal Style . . . Sterling Hayden
-Lucille Halfvarson, Conductor-

3: 00 P. M. - Report on Newberry Conference on Local History

3:15 - Business Meeting and Reports
- The Walter Kauths presiding -

Social Hour: All in attendance are invited to enjoy good company over a cup of coffee.

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Mrs. Lucille Halfvarson, instructor of vocal music at Waubensee Community College, is well known and. respected for her musical ability and charm. So are her madrigal singers. We are most fortunate that Yvonne Autenreith, program chairman, could procure them for our entertainment. Singing for us this particular afternoon means that they will have to forego hearing a very special concert on campus. That situation accounts for the meeting starting at 2:30 P.M. in order that they may catch the last half of their campus concert.

Future Events

April 14, 1978The Batavia Depot Museum will be three years old.

April 29, 1978Loyalty Day. Come and watch the parade.

May 29, 1978Dr. Rodney Ross, loyal Batavian and member of the Batavia Historical Society, will act as speaker and consultant with certain social science classes at Batavia Senior High School. (Dr. Ross wrote, offering to speak before the society concerning the contribution made by Batavians to the Civil War, stressing the role of the 124th. That program will come next year, but we are happy to support him and the city in memorial services).

May 30, 1972Memorial Day services under the sponsorship of the VFW. Formal service in the Junior High School Auditorium. Speaker: Dr. Rodney Ross. Music: Choruses of the Batavia High School. Parade.

Museum News

As you know, far-sighted members of the past were diligent in saving valuable documents that help us understand their day and ours. There is an especially fine

display of war materials being shown now. It's worth seeing. That's what 30 or 40 out-of-towners think every Saturday and Sunday as they visit your museum.

Too much honor and credit cannot be given to the many volunteers who contribute their time regularly as hosts and hostesses, nor to the faithful few who prepare the news letters for mailing.

Sympathy

We are sorry to have to report that Miss Loretta McKenna is still convalescing at the Aurora Manor. Her home address is 347 Elm Street. Cards would certainly be appreciated. She has our best wishes and love. She is one of the faithful few who have folded and addressed the news letter.

Our sympathy is with the family of Mrs. Iras Elfstrom on the occasion of her recent death. The Elfstroms have always been strong supporters of the community. (Philip Elfstrom has frequently spoken before the Historical Society). A memorial has been established in Mrs. Elfstrom's memory to be used as friends and family wish.

EXTRAS! EXTRAS!

The Historical Society would appreciate receiving any copies of John Gustafson's "HISTORIC BATAVIA, BATAVIA, PAST AND PRESENT," and copies of the special "cover" (special dedication envelope issued April 13, 1975, now not needed). The school libraries and the public libraries are badly in need of the book.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN BATAVIA

The libraries of the University of Minnesota, and the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, are cooperating in the task of listing repositories of materials that relate to the history of women. Our library has quite a wealth of such material on hand but the Historical Society is enlisting your aid in the discovery of added materials. Such materials will not only be noted in the WOMEN'S HISTORY SOURCES SURVEY to be published next year but will establish a file for local research.

We should like to know about or receive information about, organizations, patriotic, religious, social, cultural, helping, etc. You may have original documents you might wish to donate (or duplicates thereof) or artifact. If you do, please note on page 3.

We would likewise appreciate information about informational women in Batavia history. Some suggestions are given below, but you may have others to add. Use page 3 and as many more sheets as you wish to relay the information. This is valued activity. Mail or bring to the next Historical Society Meeting April 9th at 2:30 P.M.

Shop Owners

Mary Burton
The Kline sisters
Mrs. Brenner
Ethel Alexander
Mary Anderson

Religious Leaders

Amelia Brown
Irma Jeffrey
S.S. Teachers

School People

Grace McWayne
Louise White
Alice Gustafson
Naomi Abernathy
Mrs. Clark Lewis
Miss Barrett
Ellen Hamilton
Abigail Towne

Librarians

Margaret Twining
Cassie Stephens
Miriam Johnson
Food, Domestic
Christine Toff
Alma Hendrickson
Mrs. Birkeneder
Swedish maids at
Bellevue

Others

Mary Lincoln
Cornelia Snow
Dr. Annie Spencer
Jeannette Smith
Elizabeth Brown
Marge Rundle
Musicians
Artists
Other

A cheerful, beautiful springtime for all of us! See you April 9th at 2:30 p.m.

Lucile Gustafson, Historian

"THE WHEELS ARE A-ROLLING "

Regular Open Meeting

Time: Sunday, October 1, 1978 - 3:00 - 4:00 P.M. (note change)

Place: United Methodist Church Brief Business Meeting

Brief Business Meeting: Walter Kauth, President

Program: The Business That Was . . . Wagons . . Jeffery Schielke

Military Experiences of Captain Don Carlos Newton

Illustrated Talk Dave Sawitoski

Don Carlos Newton. the Traveling Man

. . . . Charles Ohlesen

Coffee Hour: Adjournment to the Batavia Public Library for a piece of cake honoring a hundredth birthday. No, not of a person, but of the Victorian home of Don Carlos Newton; the home is an historic structure that now houses the local library. Friends of the Library will act as docents to guide their guests through the home, describing salient architectural and decorative features of the home. They will also delineate the life and times of Don Carlos. All this is under the direction of our gracious and capable librarian, Ms. Sally Bast. It is in support of the library project that the Batavia Historical Society is directing attention to the Newton family in Batavia and holding its meeting in the United Methodist Church, which was built cooperatively by Don Carlos Newton and E. H. Gammon and donated to the church.

Mrs. June Cavins, who lives in the former E. C. Newton home at 509 North Batavia Avenue, has most generously offered to open her home for a tea/tour after the regular meeting at the United Methodist Church. Special guests will be Earl A. Newton of Aurora and his mother. This open house is for Museum volunteers only. An invitation will be clipped to the October chart of volunteers. Those who happen not to be "working" this month may pick theirs up at the October meeting. (The volunteers are so trustworthy and faithful that it is good that they are recognized in some special way. During the summer they had a tour of and brunch at Mc Donald's).

The town will be buzzing that first Sunday afternoon in October. The Museum will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. Carla Hill will have a special exhibit related to the Newton family, ranging from a Mrs. E. C. Newton nightgown to a real Newton wagon that the Society bought a few years ago. Also, Gammon Corner and the Old Church School, now the insurance agency at 355 First Street, will both be open certain hours. Watch your newspapers and the chart at the end of this newsletter for hours open. (By the way, I wonder if either Joe Marconi or Dave Mamminga realize that Reverend E. H. Gammon preached in the once "McWayne School Annex"?)

Treasurer's Account as of 9-1-78

Petty Cash	\$ 24.51
Checking Account.....	363.04
Building Fund	3,025.72
C.D. (4-15-79) 6%	2,000.00
C.D. (2-13-79) 6.5%	2,000.00

\$7,413.27 - Dave Sawitoski,
Treasurer

Sources of Income: The Historical Society has always had a good quality line of art items at its sales counter, mainly stationery and pictures designed by John Gustafson, Paul Randall and Georgine Schramer. Two good items have been added that are proving popular. One is a beautiful colored photograph of the Museum, mainly credited to Dave Sawitoski, and the other is a fine quality greeting card designed by Mary Jane Lisson, donated by Jackie Graver (Mrs. Charles) and used by us courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce. (Rather complicated? Yes.) Sales, contributions and membership fees help defray operation costs.

There have been two days of special sales: Windmill Festival Days and Art Fair Days. For "manning" the booth, the Society is indebted to Ray Patzer, Sadie Lundberg, Freda Lundberg, Yvonne Autenreith, Madeline Raymond, Ed and Grace LaMorte, Howard and Mary Matteson. (anyone else?)

Hidden in the sums are substantial gifts donated by our generous friends: \$600.00 from Furnas Foundation that is being reserved for a specific project; \$400.00 from the Luminaria Lighters for a multifold portable display standard, a Mary Ann Judd memorial for a table in the Lincoln Room, and other sums set aside for specific purposes, such as printing a history of Batavia.

May the Wind Always Blow Strong! The windmill with its silver-plated vanes and its head turning gently with the Fox River Valley breezes is really beautiful, isn't it? It is just one more bit of "class" to our downtown area. It didn't happen without vision, cooperation and hard work. Walter Kauth says that the "dream" was Harold Patterson's, who kept a steady prodding through the years. For years this U.S. windmill did good service on the Schimelpfenig farm. Came the Fermilab. Eldon Frydendall and Harold Hall had it moved and stored on Park Board property. Walter Kauth and Dave Sawitoski got involved. A couple of men painted the vanes and placed it on a wall in the City chambers for one of the Society's meetings on windmills. Then came the magic switch from Boo Boo Days to Windmill Festival. Action! Walter Kauth and "Bosco" Hall got busy. Erected the 40-foot tower; John Pitz hauled in his "erector set" and placed the head. Meanwhile, two eager Eagle Scouts, Tom James and Mike Dallesasse were busy, as free laborers, with the almost endless tasks that had to be completed before erection. Young heroes, they.

But look! Thar she blows!

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Some money is left in the donation box at the Depot door, but mainly by out-of-towners. But sometimes persons like William Wood picking up a pile of "giveaways" to use on a tour of the town with the local teachers or Bob Ducar at the Museum to work on the semaphore will leave a sizeable tip.

Other Gifts Received: The most munificent gift presented to the Depot Museum lately has been two articles for the Mary Todd Lincoln Room . . . a white marble-topped walnut table and a clock stand, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Nelson. The Historical Society is certainly appreciative of these gifts, as we are of Sally Krueger's generosity in letting us use her Victorian table all these years. Other interesting artifacts come our way: Valuable old documents from the Knecht family; an antimacassar with Hazen-Davis heritage; a Swedish family Bible from Rose Wagner; a coffeepot given by the Newton Wagon Company to George Barr; office equipment from Eldon Frydendall; a Civil War uniform from Mrs. Gilbert Johnstone; a railway express wagon from Howard Rasmussen. We feel blessed with such riches!

Gifts Given: Two long-time members were remembered by the Society at the time of their death. A ten-dollar bequest was given to the First Baptist Church in honor of Pearl Ellis and a copy of Letters of Mary Todd Lincoln by the Turners was given to the John Gustafson Library in memory of Loretta McKenna. They both honored us with their constancy and loyalty.

Newly Acquired Books and Documents: The Batavia Historical Society has acquired copies of various local histories: Lombard, Warrenville, Geneva, Batavia, St. Charles, Barrington, Sugar Grove, West Chicago. All of these have been gifts. We need copies of Wheaton and DuPage County. In telling their own story, each historian inadvertently informs us in some way of our own story. The Illinois Historical Society says we need a good United States history, too.

Concerning Windmills: We undoubtedly have one of the very best collections of documents in re windmills in the country. One of our all-time great gifts, as you know, is a huge notebook of windmill materials donated by Larson & Becker. Dr. Lindsey, who found our Museum library so very helpful in writing his forthcoming book concerning windmills, has gifted us with a xeroxed copy of Thomas O. Perry's lengthy study of the efficiency of different types of vanes, tower heights, etc., begun in 1882. Hired by the U.S. Wind Engine and Pump Company, the local factory, instead of utilizing all this valuable information, "sat on it." In 1889, Mr. Perry was free to take his study of over a hundred pages to Mr. Noyes of Chicago, who used the information to build the Aermotor windmill, which soon surpassed all others. (By the way, does anyone know where Mr. Perry lived?)

Another very early scientific treatise on "wind wheels," written by Alfred Wulf, Windmills as a Prime Mover under date of 1885 was purchased with some of the money presented to us by the Rotary. We are most fortunate to acquire this. Our newest acquisition in this category is Wind Catchers by Volta Torrey, a discussion of old time windmills of Asia, Europe and the United States, as well as the windmills of tomorrow. (Some teenagers may well use this as a "project.") Needless to say that we are delighted to note the big play given to Batavia in these books.

Speaking of Research Materials: Charles Ohlesen, museum cataloguer, has done a noble job in preparing library materials for future research. This means not only political and economic development materials, but also the filing of family and individual data, material about schools and churches. Pictures are in especially good order. In the process, Chuck has accumulated a vast amount of information

Research Materials (continued)

concerning not only individuals and institutions but their relationships. The grant supporting his continuance here ends October 1. He will be a real loss! (Conferences have been held with instructors from the local schools, as well as those from Waubensee Community College, as to the availability of this material.)

Meetings Ahead

- October 20 - 22: Illinois State Historical Society's 79th annual meeting at Joliet. . . . Easy opportunity to attend significant meeting. Chief concerns – Illinois-Michigan Canal and local history. The Kauths (879-5290) and Lucile Gustafson (879-1212) have materials. Also available at next meeting. Watch papers for information.
- October 11 - 15: Annual Meeting - National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States Excellent opportunity to acquire valuable information. Larry Kelley, a longtime member of our Society, will attend . . . our Society is paying a small part of his expenses. Call him (879-1185) or Lucile Gustafson (879-1212) for further information.
- October 28: Regional Meeting of the Landmark Commission at the Government Center in Geneva. Day meetings with box luncheon. Topics to be discussed: How to form historic districts; Funds available for preservation and restoration; State and Federal recognition of historic structures.
- November ? Organizational meeting to form an "umbrella" over the efforts of the Fox Valley communities in order to integrate publicity about our separate small museums to develop tours. (Jerry Musick, West Chicago) to establish historic districts in order to create, through tourist trade, a third source of income (Larry Kelley of Batavia), and thirdly, to have a unified "don't" when an historical structure is unjustly threatened (Eve Johnson). Steering committee members are Helen Jane Hamlin (Geneva); Jamie Daniels(Geneva); Eve Johnson (Elburn); Geo. Keyser (St. Charles); Dan Hoefler (Batavia); Ed LaMorte (Batavia); Jerry Musick (West Chicago); Larry Kelley. Two jobs need to be done by our Historical Society; Advertising the beautiful heritage found in Batavia and the compilation of an inventory of heritage structures.

In Conclusion (at last) . . .

CONGRATULATIONS: To Dan Holbrook on his new book. We look forward to acquiring a copy and reading it.

To Batavia with its buoyant spruce look in streets and plantings. Happy and hopeful. Thank you, City Council and voters . . . and taxpayers.

BEST WISHES: To Gammon Corner. Queen Anne herself was never decked out more beautifully than this building at the top of the hill.

To the Wolfe-Mamminga Insurance Co. The old Church School has served the community for years. The building is beautiful again. Good luck!

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. 19, No. 4

Batavia, Il. P.O. Box 15

REGULAR OPEN MEETING

Time: Sunday, December 10, 1978, 3:00 P.M.

Place: Social Hall, Holy Cross Church

Program of the Day

3:00 P.M. Social Hour Grace Grzanek, Georgene Kauth

3:30 P.M. Business Meeting Walter Kauth presiding

3:45 P.M. Christmas Dinner

During the meal we can admire our Christmas decorations and toys that decorate the center of each table. You are invited to lend them to the Museum during the Christmas season for their old-fashioned display . . . they will be kept in an enclosed glass case.

4:30 P.M. A Christmas Concert . . . Mrs. Dorothy Bettcher,
Choir from Louise White and J. B. Nelson Elementary Schools

Sing-Along All Merry Souls

Yvonne Autenreith, Program Chairman

Concerning the Dinner

We all enjoyed the Christmas dinner two years ago so much that we decided on a repeat performance . . . with some variations. The Catholic Daughters will arrange the tables and decorations, but more importantly, they will provide meat, coffee and rolls at a cost of \$2.00 per person. To supplement the entree, each of us will bring a dish to pass . . . salad, vegetable or dessert. Please indicate which you will bring when you make four reservation, which you may do by calling either the Depot Museum (879-1800) during open hours or Mrs. Josephine Jones from 9 - 11 A.M. or 6 - 8 P.M. (879-7994) by December 4 . . . she has most graciously agreed to take reservations.

We are looking forward to a joyous occasion •

. Georgene Kauth, co-president •

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Treasurer's Report as of 11-1-78

Petty Cash	\$26.57
Checking account	363.90
Bldg	3060.15
CD	4000.00
Total	\$7450.62.

Dues are now acceptable . . . time for you to get in on the 1978 tax deductions. We are really not as wealthy as the figures indicate, as much of the money is committed. Our biggest bill presently is \$350.00 for a portable display stand with ten 30"x40" "leaves."

Schools

As for the schools, we stand ready to help in the splendid job that the schools are doing whenever we can do so. We have been giving talks to schools for twenty years. I understand William Wood took the faculty on a house-viewing trip at the first of the school year and that Jeff Schielke talked at the Junior High. I talked at Fox Hill one day and the girls visited the Museum later. Presently we are lending to the schools for their viewing a copy of Noah Webster's Blue Speller (donated by Ida Kline) as well as a McGuffey Reader. It is a rare and valuable book that usually spends its time in our fireproof safe down at the Museum, where it is safe but useless. (By the way, anything valuable is released from the Museum only under the signature of both a member of the Park Board staff and an Historical Society board member).

Student Researchers

Batavia as a community in transition is becoming an object of concern by college Seniors who are researching the local situation to discover, chiefly, what can be done to decelerate the destruction of our unique identity by a suburban sprawl. One young lady studying at Northern Illinois is trying to ascertain the factors that tend to strengthen our identity, our self-awareness as a community, and those that fragmentize us. One of the chief factors binding us together, as she sees it, is our Thursday School and the general ecumenical spirit between the churches and the church peoples.

Another student at George Williams College is trying to discover if, with more women working, there is a real need for a child care center and where it should be located. She may be collecting data from-a group to which some of you belong. Of course, you all know about the architectural study that Bill James of Lombard made of downtown Batavia. He fears that our town may become the scattered, incoherent sprawl that his town had become. His plan calls for greater use of the Fox as a major building area . . . shops and residential, principally.

Oh, yes, the latest research student is eight years old and in third grade. He is studying Batavia architecture. His whole class is researching . . . God bless them!

More Research

Back to study and research. A gentleman called from Elgin the other day to inquire if we had any information about windmills. I replied very modestly that we probably had more information than any place outside of Washington, D.C. He said he was a writer and publisher and was writing a book on that topic. I described a couple of books just finished or nearly finished that he might like to investigate and told him we should be glad to assist him. We received a letter from a gentleman from the historical society in Columbus, Indiana. They were trying to write up the histories of county industries but had met a block when they came to Reeves and Company, makers of farm implements. He was frustrated! The Reeves Company became the Emerson-Brantingham Company in Rockford. In 1912 a branch came to Batavia under the leadership of Mr. A. T. Jackson as president. (They made Newton wagons). Well, you know that became the Batavia Body Company, which the Katy Industries took over. (Funeral this last summer). We found five persons who could and would give information on different parts of the story. And we have much documentary material in the Museum. Sally Adams just finished typing the letter. I am sure it will be a good cure for frustration.

More Research (Continued)

Another request for information required research by us. A grand-nephew of Colonel Edgar Dale Swain requested information about him and the date of his wife's death. We had no luck on the latter in spite of haunting the cemeteries and harrying the secretaries of the Methodist and Calvary churches. But Alice Gustafson and Elaine Cannon both had remembrances of him and Mrs. J. P. Prindle had comments. He was our highest Civil War officer. Became a dentist, helped form the Chicago Dental College. Lived at 232 Elm Street. Married one of the daughters of Benjamin Smith, neighbor Andrus married another (306 S. Batavia Avenue). His father-in-law, Benjamin Smith, had married Rachel VanNortwick, the rich John VanNortwick's sister. Smith made agricultural implements in a shop where the Calvary Church is presently located. Now the story moves nearer. Librarian Sally Bast plans to have a Batavia writers reception in the near future. So I decided to read *THOUGH TIME BE FLEET* by Louise Andrus. Written in 1937. The latter part of the book is set in a thinly disguised Batavia. Batavia is Pottawatomie; Lockwood Hall is Braidwood Hall; the low temporary bridge used while the stone bridge some of you may remember; and she borrowed Colonel Swain as her story's son's grandfather instead of granduncle. Some of you would enjoy reading it, I am sure.

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I'm quitting before space runs out. I shall not tell you here about some interesting people who have been in town lately: young Hobler (from Peter, Charles, Atherton family, who were chief executives at Appleton); Harry Strain (formerly lived in the Kauth house); Ethel Larson (mother of the present Auditor General of Illinois); the Dyson family (descendants of Judge Wilson, who have moved to Shabbona Trail).

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We trust that you all will have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

We look forward to greeting many of you at the Historical Society Christmas meeting December 10. Be sure to make reservations by December 4. The residents of Holmstad are invited as guests.

..... Lucile Gustafson, Historian.

P.S. Mrs. Hauptman just left a collection of about twenty Civil War letters at the door.

P.P.S: Carla Hill extends an urgent invitation for you and your guests to visit the Depot Museum during the holiday season . . . toys, skates, old Christmas cards, decorations, paintings. Chance to buy a club exchange gift.

L.G.