

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. II, No.1 Batavia, Illinois February, 1961

Published by THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.

Abraham Lincoln

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We are issuing this newsletter before rather than immediately after our meeting. By doing this, you will know the subject of our February meeting as well as our nominees for officers for this year.

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1961 AT 3:00 P.M.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING IN THE REAR OF THE HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner E. Wilson and N. Van Buren Sts.

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PROGRAM

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

HISTORY OF THE HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

By Monsignor Wm. J. Donovan

AMONG MY TREASURES

Old-time irreplaceable treasures will be shown and explained by a group of our members. If you have not been asked but have some interesting antique, bring it along, we would like to see it.

Mrs. Walter Wood will be in charge of this part of the program.

NOMINEES FOR OFFICES IN THE BHS FOR 1961

President	Miss Eunice Shumway
Vice President	Mrs. Pauline Campbell
Secretary	Mrs. Victor E. Anderson
Treasurer	Mrs. Walter Hood
Trustee for Two Years	Neal J. Conde
Trustee for Two Years	Robert H. Larson

NOTES

Our first plaque on a century-old Batavia home is up. This is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Quentin H. Blewett, 239 E. Wilson St., right across the street from the Catholic Church. Notice it when you come to our February meeting. Mr. Blewett wrote up a splendid history of this 109 year old house.

Our exhibit at THE FRME in April will stress objects owned by Batavians that have to do with the Civil War. If you have anything of such nature that you will show, please get in touch with the Civil War Centennial Observance Committee:

Mrs. Quentin Blewett, chm., Ralph Finley, Miss Lydia Stafney, Arvid H. Peterson, J. Harold Blair, and Mrs. Frances Moran.

LIST NO. 6. FINAL LIST OF CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE B. H. S.

Alexander, Mr. Mac	713 Morton St.
Alexander, Mrs. Mac	713 Morton St.
Anderson, Mrs. D. P.	322 Illinois Ave.
Carr, Mr. Francis J.	1705 Laurel Road, Belleair Estates; Clearwater, Florida
Derus, Mr. Wilbur	221 Main St.
Gardner, Mr. Gilbert	221 Main St.
Hendrickson, Mr. Paul	9 S. Van Buren St.
Hendrickson, Mrs. Paul	9 S. Van Buren St.
Johnson, Mr. Clarence	260 S. Water St.
Johnson, Miss Florence	260 S. Water St.
Johnson, Mrs. Grace	607 S. Batavia Ave.
Kane, Miss Joanne	453 Cleveland Ave.
Kautz, Mr. Lloyd	309 Union Ave.
Kautz, Mrs. Lloyd	309 Union Ave.
McLain, Mr. Jacob S.	515 N. Washington Ave.
McLain, Mrs. Jacob S.	or Munich, Germany
Pearce, Dr. John E.	408 N. Prairie St.
Pearce, Mrs. John E.	408 N. Prairie St.
Phelps, Mrs. Robert L.	249 N. Harrison St.
Swanson, Mr. Elmer	336 Delia St.

This makes a grand total of 240 charter members, including three life members:

Miss Eunice Shumway, Mr. August Mier and John Gustafson (honorary).

Our portfolios of notepaper of Batavia views are going fast. The entire quantity is now paid for and all money received for them from now or goes into our own treasury. We received a nice write-up about these portfolios in the January issue of "Dispatch," the Illinois State Historical Society paper.

The Civil War Centennial Observance Committee has been quietly at work recording Civil War memorabilia owned by local people, lining up a program for one of our society meetings, getting data about all Civil War monuments in Kane County, etc.

Mrs. Helen Jeffries is arranging a display of Civil War books at the Batavia Public Library for April. They also have a uniform, sword and bayonet from this war, and a complete 53 volume set of "The War of the Rebellion. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies."

These were presented to the library by the late Major H. K. Wolcott.

The countryside will be replete with programs commemorating the Civil War Centennial for the next five years, 1961 to 1965. Newspapers and magazines will be featuring articles about the war. Arrange your vacation so as to view at least one observance and read at least one good book about the Civil War. The accent of the whole commemoration will be on National unity.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

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"---in our youth, our hearts were touched with fire---we have seen with our own eyes, beyond and above the gold fields, the snowy heights of honor, and it is for us to bear the report to those who come after us"---

O. W. Holmes

Union Captain (later Supreme Court Justice)

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NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 16th, 1961 AT 3:00 P. M.

PARISH HOUSE OF THE CALVARY CHURCH

Corner Batavia Ave. and Main St.

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PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE- CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

By Mrs. Carl N. More

Great-Grandmother's Diary 1861-65

Arranged by Mrs. Quentin Blewett and her Civil War Centennial Comm. Participants - Miss Lydia Stafney, Ben Limbaugh and Sue Nelson. Miss Stafney is the High School Latin teacher, Sue Nelson is a Sophomore in High School, Ben Limbaugh is a Sixth Grader in the McWayne School.

Music arranged by Mr. Elwood Willey.

Mr. Bernard Wax, Field Representative of the Illinois State Historical Society, will be our guest. The Illinois Historymobile, telling the history of Illinois through the Civil War Period, will be on Main St. in front of the Parish House on April 16th. It will visit the Public Schools on Monday, April 17th.

DISPLAY AT "THE FRAME" 139 3. BATAVIA AVE.

Theme "Batavia - 100 Years or So Ago."

Opening Night, April 7th, Friday, from 7:00 to 9:30.

The hours thereafter will be from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P. M. every day except Sunday and Wednesday.

THE FRAME will be open Sunday, April 16th, after the meeting at the Calvary Parish House.

COMMITTEES FOR "THE FRAME" EXHIBIT

ARRANGEMENT OF DISPLAYS - Mrs. Clare J. Kruger, Mrs. Elaine Cannon, Mr. Richard Lewis, Mrs. John Pearce and Mrs. R. W. Cowan.

REFRESHMENTS: (Opening night) - Mrs. Malcolm R. Derby.

HOSPITALITY - Miss Ruth Challman, Mrs. Michael G. Schomig, Mrs. Dewey Swan and Miss Marie Larson.

We thank all contributors to the display for so generously lending to the

Society their remarkably interesting momentos.

#### NOTES

Our new display cases at the Batavia Civic Center will be filled with momentos of the Bartholomews for the Grand Opening. These are being collected by Mrs. Carl N. More and arranged by Mrs. Elaine Cannon. The displays thereafter will be changed from time to time. Notification of the changes will be in the newspapers.

There have been some erroneous ideas about our first bronze plaque, this one on the home of Mr. and Mrs. Quentin Blewett. This is not the oldest house in town, but Mr. Blewett was the first to furnish written proof properly authenticated that his house was over one hundred years old. He also paid the fee of \$25.00 which included the cost of the plaque. The Society acts as the sponsor. Anyone who has such a house and meets these requirements is eligible for a plaque.

#### NEW-MEMBERS

Brooks, Mrs. Earle	1020 Woodland Ave.
Clever, Mrs. Lynn	406 Blaine St.
Clever, Mr. Robert	406 Blaine St.
Donovan, Monsignor Wm. J.	313 E. Wilson St.
Grehn, Mr. Walter	320 Morton St.
Green, Mrs. Walter	320 Morton St.
Hildebrand, Mrs. Lita	1880 Jackson St., Oakland 12, Calif.
Kerfoot, Mr. Robert	337 Main St.
Kruger, Miss Coburn	125 S. Washington St.
Kruger, Mark	125 S. Washington St.
MaCurdy, Mrs. Charles F.	613 Houston St.
Marcuson, Mr. Maurice	426 W. Wilson St.
Marcuson, Mrs. Maurice	426 W. Wilson St.
Murray, Mrs. Ruth L.	220 Spring St.
Paddock, Mr. Bruce B.	620 North Ave.
Paddock, Mrs. Bruce B.	628 North Ave.
Perna, Mr. Angelo	610 North Ave.
Perna, Mrs. Angelo	610 North Ave.
Schuler, Mr. John	213 S. Prairie St.
Shumway, Mrs. Robert	324 First St.
Swanson, Mr. Arthur	241 N. Jefferson St.
Vieregg, Mrs. Olga	328 Union Ave.
Weisner, Mrs. Jack	135 S. Washington St.
Windsor, Mr. H. T.	547 N. Batavia Ave.
Wood, Mrs. Irma	425 Cleveland Ave.
Wood, Mrs. May S.	125 S. Jefferson St.

Dues are due. Annual dues are \$1.00, life membership, \$25.00. Mrs. Walter H. Wood is the new treasurer.

The Batavia Public Library will have a display of the new Civil War books during April. Stop in and see them.

In June, 1911, 50 years ago, Supt. of Schools H. A. Bone, stepped into the High School assembly room and said: "The marriage of the two districts, 100 and 101, has just been completed. From now on there will be one district known as District 101.

We congratulate the First Methodist Church of Batavia on reaching the 125th mile-stone in their history and wish them well in all of their future efforts for good to the community and to the world.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. II, No.3 Batavia, Illinois September, 1961  
Published by THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

O there are Voices of the Past,  
Links of a broken chain,  
Wings that can bear me back to Times  
Which cannot come again;  
Yet God forbid that I should lose  
The echoes that remain!

-Adelaide Anne Proctor

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NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, 1961 AT 3:00 P.M.  
BASEMENT OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH  
Corner N. Washington and Houston Streets.

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PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

By Miss Jennie Larson

EARLY SWEDISH SETTLERS

By John A. Gustafson

There will be a display of early Swedish momentos by William and Cora Benson and their Committee.

NOTES

We had a most interesting meeting on the subject "Our Fox River" at the Boat Club Building, N. River Street, Friday evening, August 4th. It was an informal discussion and we all learned a lot about the early uses of our river. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate as it started raining before we finished. Mrs. Earl Judd was in charge of refreshments.

We trust that you read and enjoyed Mrs. W. C. Spencer's series of three articles on "A Walk Along East Wilson Street in the Early Days". We are all grateful to her for writing this. She has always lived on this street and knows it from beginning to end.

We deeply regret the passing, during the summer, of four of our valued members: Miss Ida Kline, Mrs. B. B. Paddock, Mr. Edwin D. Stafney and Mr. H. T. Windsor. Our sympathy goes to their families in this their great loss.

The Batavia Board of Education has given to the Historical Society the old school bell, with its mounting, which hung in the Louise White School for so many years. Neal Conde and Dr. A. G. Baxter are to find a permanent location for it. It will be placed on a concrete platform out-of-doors. Do you have any suggestions?

## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. W. L. Davidson	2304 Park Place	Evanston
Mr. Jacob Feldman	363 N. Washington St.	Batavia
Mr. Norman Freedlund	712 McKee St.	Batavia
Mr. David Kenneth Glidden	617 Carlisle Rd.	Batavia
Mr. R. Mark Glidden	617 Carlisle Rd.	Batavia
Miss Sigred Johnson	403 Elm St.	Batavia
Mr. William Jones	206 Main St.	Batavia
Miss Myrtle Kerfoot	337 Main St.	Batavia
Mrs. W. B. Limbaugh	316 N. Van Nortwick Ave.	Batavia
Dr. L. L. Linville	445 Maple Lane	Batavia
Mrs. L. L. Linville	445 Maple Lane	Batavia
Mrs. Amy H. Moulding	803 Hamlet St.	Batavia
Mrs. Clifford R. Shaw	354 N. Batavia Ave.	Batavia
Mrs. William Slobe	122 S. Jefferson St.	Batavia
Terry Sperry	216 S. Batavia Ave.	Batavia
Miss Edith Spuhler	708 Church St.	Batavia
Mr. A. Dewey Swan	739 Houston St.	Batavia
Mr. Carl Swan	739 Houston St.	Batavia
Miss Esther L. Swanson	20 S. Jackson St.	Batavia
Mr. Richard W. Wolcott	752 N. Lincoln Ave.	Geneva
Mrs. La Verne Woodard	254 N. Washington St.	Batavia

Dues for 1961 are due. Annual dues are \$1.00, Life Membership, \$25.00. Mrs. Walter H. Wood is the Treasurer.

### NOTES

Gifts to the Society, since our last reporting, have come from Mrs. Ernest Brown, Mrs. Fred Womack, Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Wynn, Mrs. J. P. Prindle, Mr. Edwin D. Stafney, Mr. Ralph H. Finley and Mr. John Van Nortwick. We thank these contributors for their momentos.

Our portfolios of notepaper of Batavia Views will be on sale at the meeting. They will make excellent Christmas or birthday gifts.

Have you seen the Bartholomew exhibit in our display cases at the Civic Center? By all means see it at once. Mrs. Elaine Cannon has tastefully arranged an interesting and instructive display.

Miss Eunice Shumway has been invited to represent the Society and to participate in a panel discussion at the meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society on Sunday, October 1st, at Springfield, Illinois.

The three-day History Museum Workshop which will be held September 28th through October 1st is designed as an intensive training course for those engaged in the operation of local historical societies and small history museums.

The Batavia Historical Society is honored to be asked to discuss its work since it has been organized for only a year and a half. At present it is the largest historical society for a community of its size in the state.

We are receiving fine write-ups about our meetings in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. This Journal, issued quarterly, itself is worth the \$3.00 annual membership dues charged by the State Society. This is only one of the advantages of becoming a member. If you are interested in the History of your state you should join.