

Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 26, No. 1

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

March 1985

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY MEETING
OF THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY -

DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1985

TIME: 2:00 PM SHARP - TO 4:00 PM

PLACE: ALICE GUSTAFSON SCHOOL, Carlisle Road, Batavia

PROGRAM: This special meeting will recall the beginning of the Batavia Historical Society - its charter members, early programs, etc. There will be special speakers, as well as reminiscences of any attending members. Special commemorative booklets relating to the history of the Batavia Historical Society will be presented to those attending this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

BOARD MEETINGS

At a recent meeting of the Board it was voted to change the days the Museum would be open from Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday - to Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Adding Mondays will accommodate the visitors who could come during long holiday weekends. The Park District agreed with this change and it is now in effect. The sign outside the Museum also now reflects these new days.

There has been continuing discussion and work on the Coffin Bank Restoration. It is hoped that this project will get under way soon and we will have this addition to Batavia's History given a new location near the Depot Museum.

NEW DISPLAYS

Carla Hill, our Curator, has developed new displays of Civil War artifacts; list of Batavia voters in an 1860 election and a list of Batavia voters in an 1864 election; and Challenge Company and Halladay Company Windmill literature.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

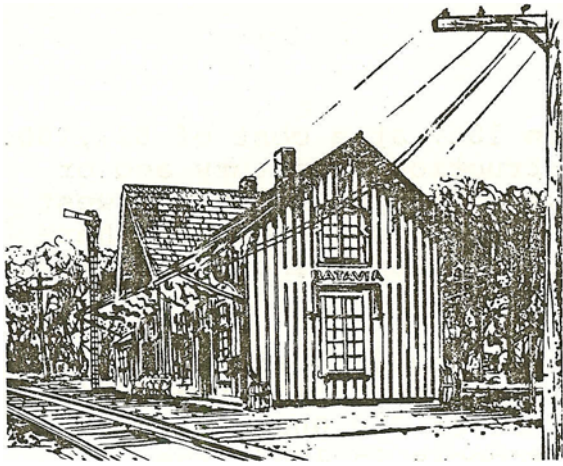
Our new members are Don Schielke and Helen Owens. Welcome to our group.

CONDOLENCES

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of our members, Eldora Hoover, June Carlson, and Lucile Wenberg.

THANK YOU

To the Park District for cleaning and polishing the Museum during January and February; to Carla for the interesting new displays; to all the willing volunteers who help keep us going.



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
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Vol. 26, No. 2

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

June 1985

PLEASE COME TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO BE HELD -

DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1985

TIME: 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

PLACE: DEPOT MUSEUM, LOWER LEVEL

PROGRAM: An interesting meeting is planned regarding plaqued homes in Batavia. Several speakers will give short histories of these homes and tell us what interior and exterior changes have been made. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The Silver Anniversary meeting of the Batavia Historical Society, held at the Alice Gustafson School on April 14, was very well attended. Charles and Bernice Kline, in charge of the meeting, introduced the following speakers: Jeff Schielke, who talked of the Society's early days and its accomplishments; Dave Sawitoski, Harold Patterson, Georgene Kauth, Carla Hill, and Lucile Gustafson. Pictures of moving of the depot from its original spot on Webster Street at the Burlington tracks to its present location were on display. Commemorative booklets were given to all who attended. Thanks to all who assisted in making this a successful meeting.

BOARD MEETING

At a recent meeting of the Board, the moving of the Coffin Bank was discussed at some length. A committee is being formed and work on this project will be continued. A \$500 donation from the Furnas Foundation additional determined has been received for this purpose and will spearhead our drive for contributions to underwrite the moving project. The site will be by the Park District and Batavia Historical Society.

It was decided to again have a table for promoting the Society at the Windmill City Festival Days, July 26, 27, and 28. Volunteers will be solicited at the June meeting to take care of the table Friday and Saturday, the 26th and 27th. We are fortunate in getting a spot near McDonalds again.

Will anyone who has knowledge of the whereabouts of any old minutes of the Batavia Historical Society (our files are not complete) please notify the Society officers.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify any officer of a change in your address so that our mailing list can be kept up to date and you will continue receiving copies of our newsletters.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS - from:

Ruth Foland - Scrapbook containing pictures of Mooseheart.
Minutes of mid-winter conclave held at Moosehaven, Orange Park,
Florida, under auspices of Mooseheart Legion of the World, Feb. 25-29,
1924.

Lucile Gustafson – N. P. Gustafson farm diary, 1882-1887.
John Gustafson notebook - subject: Schools.

Marilyn Phelps - Numerous old greeting and postcards.
Bulletin regarding close of Local Exemption Board - 1919.

United Methodist
Church Women - One dress form (suggested by Jane Elwood).

Alma Carey - Persian Lamb Muff, 1923 vintage.

Esther McClurg - Gavel and block used by J. S. McClurg when he was Mayor of Batavia.
Gavel inscribed "From J. G. Quijaro, Philippines, 1947." Other
miscellaneous items in re J. S. McClurg's term as Mayor of Batavia.

William Wood. - 40 photos of various scenes of Mooseheart.

Dolores Carlson - World War I army uniform, belonging to Philip B Carlson, and
pictures.
Batavia H.S. catalog, 1915-16.
Batavia High School Annual, 1913.
Fire Prevention Award Photo (1962)
Framed Photo of Challenge Company Factory Workers - 1883.

FROM CARLA HILL Special displays coming soon. In July there will be a Morse Telegraph
Exhibit and Demonstration for one week. Watch the local papers for the
date.

Also, there will be an interesting railroad exhibit lasting from July to the end of August. Plan on
visiting the Depot Museum to see these special exhibits which Carla has arranged.

THANK YOU To the Park District for their courteous cooperation; to Carla for the
interesting new displays; and to all the volunteers who devote their time to
the operation of our museum.

REMINDER - 1985 dues are due.

Rates Please keep my membership current. Dues for 1985 are enclosed.
Single: \$3 NAME _____
Tandem: \$5 ADDRESS _____
Sustaining: \$10 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Life: \$50

Mail to:
PO Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510
c/o Batavia Historical Society

TIMES PAST - (From old copies of the Batavia Herald)

April 1893 - "Dr. Augustine had to take his own medicine Monday. He was gripped."

"Revere House, J. Elsworthy, proprietor. First Class Hotel. Rates \$1.50 per day. Batavia Ave, Batavia."

"A good nine room house for rent on First Street. \$15.00 month. Apply to Mrs. Abel."

"For Rent: Cottage on Prairie Street, \$8.00 per month. Enquire H B Bartholomew"

From B Ries & Co -	Prints, fast color	5¢ yd
	Sheeting	5¢ yd
	Muslin	7¢ yd
	Hose	10¢ pr
	Table Linen	40¢ yd
	White Goods	10¢ yd
	Boys Shirts	50¢
	Men's White Shirts	75¢
	Boys Knee Pants	50¢
	Flannel Shirts	40¢

Nov 1893 - "If the gentleman (?) who so kindly relieved -me of my silk umbrella last Sunday morning, at church, will send me his name, I will be pleased to send him the silk case for same." - Walter Newton

Jan 1894 - "Public School of the East Side" (now Louise White) was dedicated on New Year's Day 1894 - replacing the old stone school house that burnt Jan 10, 1893. It is called East Batavia's New Year's Gift - a modern and substantial school building. The bright and conservative Board brought the actual cost down to \$15,945.00. The seating capacity of the new building is about 500. The mammoth stone walls are 20-22 inches thick and are placed there to stay."

Apr 1894 - "Eat Bread. One and a half pound loaf of Hendrickson & Litgin's Home Made Bread for five cents, anywhere in the city."

June 1894 - "Men's all wool, light colored suits. Single and double breasted at \$7.75. Not one suit in the lot worth less than \$10 and up to \$12.50. Do you need a suit? Then don't delay. - Louis Silverman, Thomle Block, East end of Bridge - Batavia."

Apr 1916 - "Batavia Garage Co, 6-8 N. River St, Batavia.
Studebaker Four, 7 passenger \$ 875.00
Studebaker Six, 7 passenger \$1085.00
Maxwell Four, 5 passenger \$ 655.00
With Goodyear Tires & Accessories

May 1916 - For a few days only, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, The Seymour Tailoring Co of Chicago will offer Great Bargains in Made to Measure, highly tailored \$6, \$7, & \$8 skirts, all wool, for the low price of \$3.75. Also Men's tailored trousers \$3.75. At the parlors of Hotel Batavia, South Batavia Avenue. No cash required.

TIMES PAST - (From old copies of the Batavia Herald)

Mar 1935 - "Chicago, Aurora, Elgin R R offered a Special round trip from Batavia to Chicago, for only \$1.35"

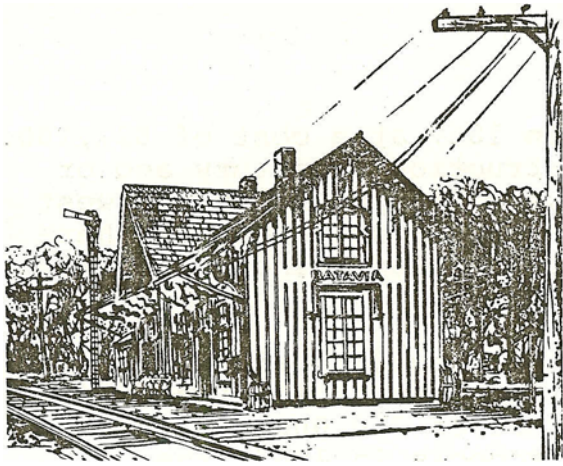
May 1935 - "A & P Specials:

Eight O'Clock Coffee	3 lb Bag	4.5¢
Sunnyfield Family Flour	24- lb Bag	81¢
Nutley Oleo Margarine	2 - 1 lb Pkgs	2.5¢
Silverbrook Butter	1 lb	29¢
Bisquick	40 oz Pkg	30¢
Campbells Tomato Soup	3 - 10½ oz Cans	22¢
Pork & Beans (Ann Page)	4 - 16 oz Cans	19¢
Ivory Soap Flakes	Large Size Pkg	21¢
Palmolive Soap	3 cakes	13¢
Camay Soap	4 cakes	17¢
Excel Soda Crackers	2 lb Pkg	19¢
Maine Potatoes	1.5 lbs.	25¢
Bananas	1 lb	5¢
Oranges, Extra Large	Dozen	39¢

May 1935 - Main Garage - On the Avenue

New Standard Chevrolet \$465.00
With Bumpers, spare
tire and tire lock \$ 20.00 additional

June 1935 - There were 85 graduates from the Batavia High School. All programs were held in the high school auditorium. Charles Johnson was the president of the graduating class. The topic of Commencement addresses was, "Methods of Freedom." Helen Brenner delivered the Salutatory address and Lydia Jeanne Staffney the Valedictory address. Dr. G. O. Kerfoot, president of the Board of Education, presented the diplomas. Other addresses were given by Joseph Morton, Doris Hassler, Adeline Arns, Donald Norris, Raymond Anderson, Violet Ward, Wendell Pitz, Carl Anderson and Jean McNair. Music was provided by the High School Orchestra and the Cecilian Chorus. A violin solo was presented by Robert Glines, and vocal solos by Grace Livermore and Ralph Dixon.



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
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Vol. 26, No. 3

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

August 1985

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO BE HELD -

DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1985

TIME: 12:45 PM

PLACE: WARMING HOUSE, FABYAN'S FOREST PRESERVE, NEAR WINDMILL

PROGRAM: A FIRST! HERETOFORE UNRERVEALED FACTS ON THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER PAYNE

PLEASE BRING A SACK LUNCH - DESSERT AND COFFEE WILL BE FURNISHED BY THE BOARD

PLAQUED BUILDING MEETING

The June 23 meeting was devoted to the subject of plaqued houses and buildings in Batavia. Speakers included Elsie Cottrell, who spoke on the history and recent sesquicentennial of the Congregational Church; Jean Conde, who told about the Conde Home; Georgene Kauth - who substituted for Ruth Burnham - bringing many pictures of the Burnham home; Adelaide Nelson, who spoke on the Nelson home, and who brought pictures; Salle Kruger Stead sent pictures of the Kruger home; and Ed LaMorte, who told us about the requirements and procedures necessary to plaquing a home or building.

BOARD MEETING

At a recent meeting of the board, it was reported that work by the committee on moving the Coffin Bank is continuing, and in this regard a questionnaire will be sent to the members soon soliciting their opinions.

Drafting of a slate of nominees for officers for next year is under way. If contacted to become an officer, please be sure to respond by saying "Yes"!

WINDMILL FESTIVAL

Again this year the Batavia Historical Society had a table near McDonalds and recruited new members and sold copies of HISTORIC BATAVIA, and left-over sesquicentennial key chains and mugs. The inviting umbrella table and chairs presented a welcome spot to tired shoppers to sit down and rest and chat a while.

NEW AQUISITIONS

It is noted that a number of new artifacts have been presented to the museum. Proper acknowledgement of these will be made when the Wednesday morning crew returns to work and catalogs these articles and then they will be itemized in a future newsletter.

NEW
MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members: Shirley Vest, Salle Kruger Stead, Patricia A. Will, Judith P. Luken, and Philip & Nancy A. Bridges (son-in-law and daughter of Dave Sawitoski).

FROM
CARLA
HILL

On June 20 the Park District received a \$2,000.00 grant from the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. This grant is to be used for the general operational support of the museum.

A special railroad exhibit began on July 19. The exhibit consisted of histories and artifacts from the C. A. & E. Railroad, the Burlington Railroad and the Chicago North-western Railroad. This exhibit ran through Windmill Days in conjunction with the Morse Code demonstration.

The Chicago Chapter of the Morse Code Club put on an excellent demonstration during Windmill Days. The museum was open from 10:00 - 6:00 PM Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and the attendance figures were well over 200. We received great publicity and many favorable comments.

For the first time this year Carla will be offering an encapsulation service to individuals, churches, businesses, etc. The encapsulation process is a preservation technique much like lamination, but the artifact can be removed, if desired. She has already done an 1800 John Adams document and an 1812 James Madison and Monroe document for a Batavia resident. "There is a small fee for this service and should be able to show a small income for the museum.

Glen Nelson was hired to again mortar the top row of stone of the museum stone walls, which had been vandalized. We, hope this will stop further damage to the wall and plantings.

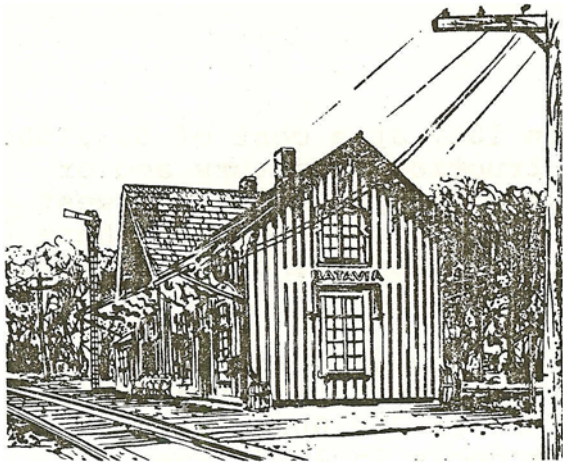
NOTES OF
INTEREST

From old files and through the courtesy of the Batavia Board of Education, records show that during the 100 year history of Batavia High School, the following numbers of students graduated from school (figures are at 25-year intervals):

1885 - 8 (from the East Side - no record of West Side)
1810 - 15
1935 - 85
1960 - 112
1985 - 165

REMINDER

1985 dues are due. Please contact Elliott Lundberg in this regard.



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 26, No. 4

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Fall 1985

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE THE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER.

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1985
TIME: 5:00 PM
PLACE: BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
DINNER: BRING DISH TO PASS AND YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE.
COFFEE, MEAT, ROLLS AND DESSERT WILL BE FURNISHED.
DONATIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO DEFRAID THE EXPENSE.

PICNIC MEETING At the September 15 picnic meeting held at Fabyan's Preserve Warming House a fine program on the life of Christopher Payne and his family beginning in Pennsylvania and ending in Wisconsin was presented by Ray Patzer. He is one of our charter members and has kept an extensive record of the history of Batavia, and the Batavia Historical Society since its beginning.

At the end of the meeting Ray conducted a few members to the site of the Christopher Payne cabin located north and west of the Batavia Apartments, near the Burlington Railroad.

BOARD MEETING On November 4 the Board met at the Depot Museum. Georgene Kauth (our Corresponding Secretary) reported that she had sent a letter to the Kane County Chairman asking about a marker on the highway near the Christopher Payne homesite but had received no reply.

Ed LaMorte, Plaquing Chairman, said he has received four applications for plaquing houses.

It was suggested that some interested member volunteer to keep the articles we have for sale at the museum up to date and perhaps recommend items to add to our supplies. Any good organizer willing to volunteer?

NEW ACQUISITIONS Box of ledger books, table cover, ceremonial collars and swords from the Ladies of the Vikings - donated by the estate of Theresa Nelson.
Five fire maps of Batavia, dated 1885, donated by the Gustafson family.

NEW
ACQUISITIONS
(Continued)

Oil painting (scene) given to Bert Johnson's grandmother by Don Carlos Newton, donated by Bert Johnson.

Old tape recording of a Christmas meeting of the Batavia Historical Society, and book of minutes from the Auxiliary Society of the W.B.M.I. (organized in 1876), donated by Jean Conde.

Small, unusual adding machine in lined case, given by Ruth Foland Johnson - which was owned by her father.

SYMPATHY

We greatly mourn the passing of Jean Conde who was a long time member of the Batavia Historical Society and volunteer at the museum.

She was active in many categories in our organization and her contributions will long be remembered. The great spirit and courage she displayed in enduring her illness was indeed inspiring. Our sympathy to her family.

FROM CARLA
OUR CURATOR

On Friday, September 6, a fire extinguisher demonstration was held at the maintenance barn for the benefit of the volunteers at the museum. The demonstration was well done by Randy Zees of the Batavia Fire

Department and received many favorable comments from everyone who participated.

On September 24 WLS-TV was in the Fox Valley taping a special on the Fox River Trail bike path. The Museum was filmed inside and out and was a part of the special which was broadcast on Sunday, October 13, at 4:30 PM.

The Museum's first brochure was completed and delivered to the museum during the week of October 7.

On October 19 the Museum was one of four CB&Q West Suburban Historical sites toured by the CB&Q State Convention which was hosted in Aurora this year.

Laura Schrader, Betsy Dobbs and Carla Hill met to discuss a survey that will be used to help formulate the Museum's 5 year plan. They hope to have the survey distributed and the results tabulated by the end of November.

Remember the encapsulation service available at the Museum. This process is a preservation technique much like lamination, but the artifact can be removed if desired. Those interested should contact Carla.

THANKS

To all our volunteers who donate their time - and to the Park District for their maintenance of the Museum.