

Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 27, No. 1

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

February 1986

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD -

DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1986
 TIME: 3:00 - 5:00 PM
 PLACE: THE HOLMSTAD
 PROGRAM: ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 SPECIAL MUSIC - EARL MARKS, TENOR
 SPEAKER - MAYOR JEFF SCHIELKE
 REFRESHMENTS

It is important that all members attend because election of new officers will be held.

CHRISTMAS MEETING The Christmas meeting held December 1 at the Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall was well attended in spite of the mini-blizzard that day. From comments of those present, the program was very much appreciated. A local brass group, The MusikanTERS, played familiar numbers; an old recording of Erma Jeffries' humorous talk on old fashioned sleigh rides (taped 25 years ago) was thoroughly enjoyed by all; and then the program was suitably capped with Christmas carol singing under the inspirational direction of Elwood Willey, accompanied by Miriam Johnson at the piano. A great variety of tasty pot-luck food was served and enthusiastically eaten.

CHRISTOPHER PAYNE MARKER A committee will be formed in the future to carry out the work of getting a proper marker for the site of Christopher Payne's cabin which will be in the vicinity of the Batavia Apartment. Buildings on East Wilson Street.

COFFIN BANK The Coffin Bank Committee will soon resume its meetings under the direction, of Dave Sawitoski, Chairman.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCHEON On Wednesday, February 19, the Park District hosted a luncheon at the VFW for all museum volunteers, in appreciation for the many hours of dedicated service to our museum. Thank you, Park District. About thirty people were able to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS Two local churches, the First Baptist and the Methodist, are celebrating their sesquicentennials this year.

FROM CARLA HILL,
CURATOR

The main floors in the Depot museum are being totally refinished, they are being stripped, re-stained and re-waxed.

We have handsome new brochures, regarding our museum, which came out in November. They are being distributed through ours and several other museums.

The opening date of our museum this year is March 10. At that time there will be exhibits, from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Viet Nam War.

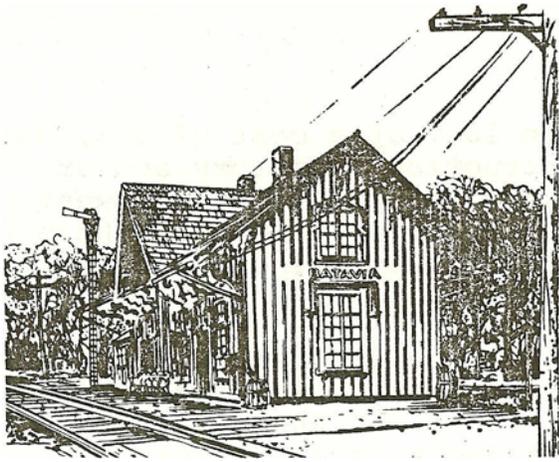
REMINDER - 1986 dues are due.

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LOOKING BACK - April 1893 Batavia Herald: Some miserable sneak raided A. H. Jones chicken house last Thursday evening and took seven of their fine Plymouth Rock hens. The person or persons left behind them a hand satchel, which they may have by calling and proving ownership.

June 1893 Batavia Herald: The first M. E. Church is now beautifully illuminated from the Batavia Electric Plant, and the interior very much resembles the great Auditorium in Chicago. This church, for grandeur, beauty and convenience, is not surpassed in the State. Every visitor is charmed with its beauties and advantages.



Batavia Historical Society

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Vol. 27, No. 2

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

June 1986

COME ONE! COME ALL! BRING A FRIEND!

DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 1986
TIME: 2:00 to 4:00 pm
PLACE: DEPOT MUSEUM, lower level

PROGRAM: Mr. Lee Moorehead, a new Batavia resident, and student of Lincoln lore, will speak on "the Meaning of Abraham Lincoln in American History."

Mr. Moorehead is presently Parish Minister of the United Methodist Church in Naperville. His previous ministry was in Madison, Wis. He and Mrs. Moorehead are looking forward to retirement years in a home they purchased in Breton Manor here in Batavia.

During the summer of 1985 Mr. Moorehead led a three-day Abraham Lincoln Study seminar to Springfield and New Salem, with 36 participants, including two couples from Batavia. It is good to know that Mr. Moorehead is vitally interested in Batavia Historical Society.

BOARD MEETING

Many things were discussed at a recent meeting of the Board, including an update on the "COFFIN BANK." Dave Sawitoski gave a fine, detailed report on the progress of moving and restoring this old Bank building, plus the committee's plans on making it always available for public viewing.

MUSEUM DISPLAY

Carla Hill, Museum Curator, has prepared an interesting display concerning the history and uses of kites.

OUR THANKS

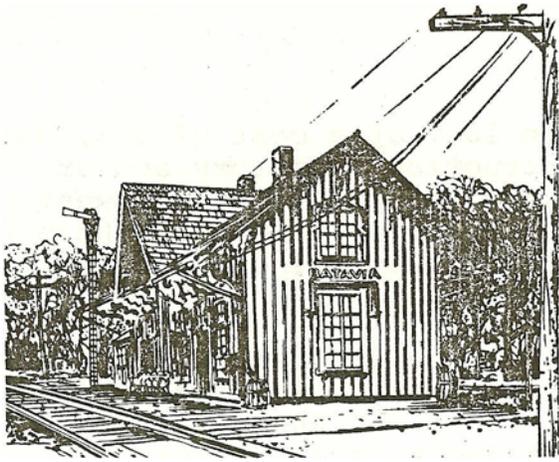
Thanks to the volunteers who willingly give of their time and friendliness to host the Museum.

Thanks to Bob Swanson for donating the gavel used by the Green Pheasant Athletic Assn.

Thanks to Ruth Burnham for donating a copy of the Congregational Church 150th Anniversary Directory.

IN MEMORY

The death of Augie Mier brings memories of a very special person. In Batavia, he has served as Postmaster and Assessor. He has been Soldier, Collector (especially of Indian artifacts), Historian, Gardener, Scholar. Everything he did he did well. He was a member of the Batavia Historical Society. Articles from his collections will be seen at the Museum at some future date. We pay tribute to the memory of one of Batavia's outstanding citizens.



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 14
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Vol. 27, No. 3

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

September 1986

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC

Mark the date on your calendar!

Bring a sack lunch and be there at 12:30 P.M.

Sunday, September 21st, 1986

At

Fabyan's Forest preserve, in the little log cabin

By the bike trail, east side of the river.

Harold Maves and Don Adams are coming and will have many stories to tell about Augie Mier and Christopher Payne.

SPECIAL EVENT –

Sunday October 12th, 1986, 3:00 P.M.

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

This is the date when a bronze plaque will be placed at Bellevue, with an inscription stating that Mary Todd Lincoln had at one time been patient there. Mr. Mark Neely, co-author of "Insanity File – Case of Mary Todd Lincoln" will be present and will talk about his recently published book. This book will be available for purchase and may be autographed. There will be special band music, and doughnuts and cider will be served.

Rev. Lee Moorehead has been instrumental in arranging for this event. Committee chairman are:

Plaque – Ruth Johnson

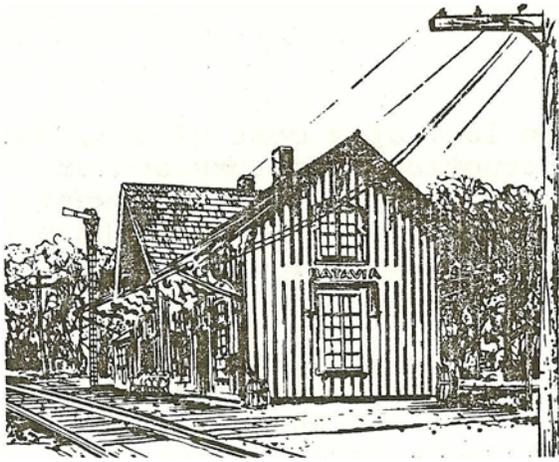
Program – Rev. Lee Moorehead

Publicity – Helen Thelin

Refreshments – Charles and Bernice Kline

Mary Matteson has generously donated a very lovely Victorian doll house to the Museum. Donations are needed to furnish and decorate it, as these little miniatures are very costly. The board voted to give \$75.00 to begin this project. When completed, it will be a great addition to the Museum. Thank you Mary!

Our next meeting will be a Christmas pot luck Sunday, December 7th, at 6:00 P.M. at Bethany Lutheran Church.



Batavia Historical Society

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Vol. 27, No. 4

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

November 1986

Dec. 7th, 5:45 P.M.
Society Christmas Party
Potluck Supper. . Bring a Dish
To pass. Society will serve meat
And coffee. Please bring gift of
canned goods for the Food Pantry.
Bethany Lutheran Church

Coming up very soon:

During our Sesquicentennial year, Roberta Campbell published an article in the Chronicle each week on historic places, buildings, and events in Batavia from 1833 to 1983. Each article, accompanied by pictures, was very special and well written. Phil Elfstrom felt that they were too valuable to perhaps be lost or destroyed. He, with the help of Roberta and the Chronicle, has published these articles in a booklet entitled "Batavia 1833-1983" by Roberta Campbell. This booklet will sell for \$5.00. The Historical Society will be in charge of the book sale and benefit from the profits.

There will be a promotion and autograph signing party at the Civic Center on Friday, November 21st, from, 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served by the Society.

The board has approved two homes for historic plaqueing: Gammon Corner, built in 1886, now owned by Joe Marconi, and 316 Locust Street, built in 1865, now owned by Scott and Susan Lencioni. Ed LaMorte is chairman of this committee and will take care of details in having these homes plaqued.

Between 200 to 250 people attended the promotion of the book, "The Insanity File. The Case of Mary Todd Lincoln" at the Congregational Church Sunday, October 12th. Mark E. Neely, Jr., co-author, was present to speak and autograph the books purchased. Although inclement weather prevented holding this event at Bellevue, a bronze plaque made by Harold and Bob Peterson of the Batavia Foundry & Machine Company was presented as a gift from the Historical Society and will be placed at Bellevue to mark the historic location where Mrs. Lincoln received treatment. We wish to thank the committee for their efforts, Dick Ward for his generosity in allowing the plaque to be placed on Bellevue property, Harold and Bob Peterson for completing the plaque in time for the program October 12th, and all who in any way made this such a successful event.

On October 10th, Museum volunteers were treated to a bus trip to the Spoon River area, visiting the Indian mounds museum at Lewistown. Our thanks to Carla

Hill and the Park District. Without Museum volunteers, there would be no Museum to keep Batavia's history alive. Thanks to all of you!

Our thanks to Mary Helen Barkei Marler for a picture of Batavia High School's graduating class of 1909. We appreciated that Mary Helen and her husband, who now live in New Orleans, took time, on a visit to Batavia, to come to our picnic.

Don't miss our December 7th Christmas party and potluck supper. George Von Hoff's Sunday School class will present a Christmas program. Elwood Willey will lead us in a carol sing, accompanied by Miriam Johnson.

Clifford and Helen Anderson, presidents

P.S. from Carla Hill:

The Museum will be decorated for Christmas by November 22nd.

We hope to have the Christopher Payne exhibit ready for March 1st opening. The Museum will be closed from Dec. 14 to March 1, for Holiday vacation, cleaning, etc.

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