

Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 14

Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 29, No. 1

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

February 1988

SPRING MEETING PLANNED

You are cordially invited to the Spring meeting of the Batavia Historical Society. Our co-vice presidents, Marilyn and Bob Phelps, have arranged for an interesting program.

Date: Sunday, March 13, 1988
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Riverain, North Island Avenue
Program: Mr. Martin Ingalls, historical archeologist and project manager for the Kane County Rural Structures with the Illinois State Museum will speak and show slides on the history of Kane County including homes, farms, etc. dating from the early 1800's.
Social Hour: Time for old friends and new acquaintances

Parking is limited but is available on the south side of the Riverain complex. A short business meeting will precede the program.

MAILING LIST UPDATE

A new membership mailing list will be prepared soon. To insure being included, please pay your 1988 dues soon if you have not done so already. Also, we ask you to check the mailing label and let Jim Hanson know of any corrections needed. (379-7492)

As of February 9th, our records indicate that you:

___ have paid your 1988 dues. Thanks!

___ are a Life Member. Great!

___ paid dues in 1987 and should forward the 1988 dues shortly.

___ have overlooked paying dues for some time. How about renewing your membership?

Dues are nominal and your support is appreciated. An application form may be found at the end of this issue.

BOARD BRIEFS

The Board of Directors met January 27, 1988 at the Depot Museum. Ed LaMorte and Ray Anderson were appointed to fill two vacancies as Trustees and Bill Wood was named Historian for the Society. A committee headed by Jim Hanson and Tom Mair will review the Bylaws and make suggestions for any needed revisions later this year. The Society now has a complete set of Newsletters thanks to Ray Patzer, who loaned his collection so we could make copies of those missing in our files. Good news was reported that Eldon Frydendall had located a new insurance carrier for us at our old fee after our former one had tripled the cost. Later in the spring the Board will be taking a close look at the feasibility of placing an historical marker on East Wilson St. indicating the site of the Payne cabin. (See our feature article on Christopher Payne in this issue.)

LEND A HAND

As with any volunteer organization, there is always need of help. If you can lend a hand with any of the following, please give a call:

- a) With the Depot Museum scheduled to open in March, May Lundberg is looking for additional hosts and hostesses. The Museum is open from 2 - 4 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week. Two hours a month is easy and it is an interesting experience. Our curator, Carla Hill, will provide a short training session to help you get acquainted. If interested, call May at 879-3660.
- b) Now that we have a complete set of Newsletters, the Board would like to see them indexed since many issues contain valuable historical data that people could use. If you would feel comfortable in taking on this task, call Jim or Dot Hanson (879-7492).
- c) Marilyn Phelps would appreciate help on refreshments for our general meetings. Can you assist? Call Marilyn at 879-1924.
- d) If you would be interested in helping Tom Mair and Jim Hanson review the Bylaws, they could use several other members on their committee. Give Jim a call at 879-7492.

MINI-QUIZ

Below are several questions related to upcoming events or items in this and forthcoming Newsletters. How well can you do?

1. An important referendum for Batavia schools will be held in March. Question: How long after Christopher Payne built his first cabin here in 1833 was the first school started in Batavia?
2. Our feature article this month is a biography of Christopher Payne. He came in 1833. Question: How long did he stay in what is now Batavia before selling and moving elsewhere?
3. A future newsletter will have a history of Batavia libraries. Question: From what source did the first library secure its initial books?
4. What do the names Tews & Mitchell, Pollocks, Pedersons and Blakeslees have in common regarding Batavia's past?

(Answers can be found following the Payne biography)

CHRISTOPHER PAYNE

By Raymond J. Patzer

Christopher Payne was born December 18, 1186, in what is now Somerset County, Pennsylvania. This area was not organized into a county until 1795.

This area of Pennsylvania was still a wilderness in 1786. Here he grew up with little or no opportunity for a formal education. In fact, he lived his entire life unable to sign his own name. His mark was an "X" between his first and last name, written by someone else.

When he was 14 years old his father took his family to Belmont County, Ohio (1800). This part of the country was then the frontier of the west. Here young Christopher became an excellent hunter. The family stayed here for seven years (1801).

Their next move was to the southeast corner of the territory of Indiana, (now Dearborn County). Here Christopher married Elizabeth Dawson, ten years his junior. They lived in Indiana for several years. Christopher spent part of his time with a party making a survey of Public lands.

When war broke out in 1812, he volunteered in the Indiana Rangers and served for 12 months in Indiana and Illinois.

In 1814 he was one of 25 defenders of Fort Harrison, Indiana. There were 20 soldiers and five settlers, who had taken refuge there with their families. This was one of the last sieges by the Indians. The 300 well armed Indians finally gave up the attack.

After the war Christopher and Elizabeth and the elder Paynes moved to Vincennes where they farmed for 3 years (1816). It was while Christopher lived in Vincennes that their first child died. The elder Paynes moved onto the Haley farm in Dearborn County, Indiana. Christopher had a brother, Adam, who was a traveling preacher who depended on others for his room and board. He was a little eccentric and wore tattered clothes, had long hair and long whiskers. John Chapman, alias Johnny Appleseed, was sometimes a companion of Adam Payne. One day Adam was attacked by the Indians and beheaded. They put his head on a pole as a trophy.

Because of this attack, Christopher hated Indians all his life. It also caused the elder Paynes to move away to Lawrenceburg, Ohio, but they later returned to the Haley farm and then to the Dearborn County Asylum where they lived until they died.

In 1818 Christopher and family moved to Madison County, Illinois, 20 miles east of the Mississippi River opposite St. Louis. Here they farmed for 9 years. But here he encountered so much ague and fever that again he pulled up stakes. This time he moved to Sangamon County, near Springfield, in 1827, where he took up farming for 3 years.

In 1830 he decided to go to Galena to try his hand at lead mining. After two years he gave this up, as he had little success at it. Next he moved to Putnam County near Hennepin and farmed for two years. In 1833 he moved to Dupage County near Naperville. Christopher Payne served in Captain Joseph Napier's Company of the Illinois Volunteer ODD battalion under Major N. Buckmaster.

Payne took up a claim near Batavia in 1833, thus becoming the first settler in what was to be Kane County. His cabin was located where the C.B.& Q. tracks are now -- north of Wilson Street and about a half mile west of Kirk Road. He stayed in Batavia 2 years with his family. While in Batavia his oldest daughter, Abigail, was married to a Mr. Hiram Trimble from West Virginia who took up land on what is now East Side Drive in Geneva. They had a "Scotch" wedding in Payne's cabin. They said their vows in front of the guests because there wasn't a minister present. In 1836 the Paynes sold out and moved, with the Trimbles, to Squaw Prairie, near Belvidere, and took up farming again. At this time his family consisted of 4 sons and 2 daughters, plus his sons-in-law Hiram Trimble and George Trimble. Payne's other daughter, Lucinda, had married George Trimble and eventually moved to Minnesota.

This same year Christopher Payne was to go to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, to be the first settler there. He blazed his claim on the sides of the trees, then returned to Illinois for his family. Returning to Lake Geneva, he encountered claim jumpers and spent many years in court until he finally won out. But he was so tired of it all that he sold out his claim on Lake Geneva on October 17, 1839 for \$200.00, and moved to Lake Como. (Blk 14, lot 7; blk 19, lot 12; blk 24, lot 12, and blk 30, lot 8). (See bill of sale).

At Lake Como he built a mill that he operated for 7 years. He extended too much credit and sold out to his son-in-law, and moved to LaFayette County, Wisconsin in 1844. In 1846 or '47, he moved to Winnebago County where he made claim on the north side of the Fox River opposite Delhi. For the next two years there were 27 lawsuits with a man named Crego over the land. Payne won but was greatly in debt from the legal fees and sold the property. He lived for a short time in Fon du Lac County and then returned to Walworth County and lived there until the fall of 1864. In the fall of 1864 he and Elizabeth moved to Columbia County, Wisconsin, to live with their son, George. A few months after, George's only son, William, was killed in the Civil War.

June 1, 1870 we find Christopher a widower and retired farmer, 83 years old. Elizabeth had died November 17, 1869.

Christopher Payne was a pioneer who had to always be on the move, so he left little impact on the places he lived. He had another profession besides farming. He always settled near rivers and lakes where he built mills to grind grain and saw lumber. But he always built for other people as he cared little for business or making money.

He died in Scott Township, Wisconsin, on February 18, 1871, at the age of 85, and is buried along with his wife in lot 27 old section, at Marcellon Cemetery, Marcellon Township, Columbia County, Wisconsin. (I have a picture here of my sons and me standing in back of the Paynes' gravestone, taken in 1963, if you would like to look at it).

An interesting but tragic event happened to Abigail, his daughter. Her first husband, Hiram Trimble, passed away and she remarried Elijah Utter in Wisconsin. In 1860 they set out for Oregon by wagon train. Just west of Bruneau, Idaho, on the Snake River, the wagon train was ambushed by Indians and Abigail, her husband and children (except one 13 year old daughter, Emaline), were massacred by the Indians. This young girl, with a few others, escaped and finally reached Fort Walla Walla, Washington, after 40 days of travel on foot.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The first school was erected in the fall of 1834. This was an important event, bringing people from miles around to assist. Some had not even put up their own houses and others were young men with no families according to John Gustafson in his book, *Historic Batavia*. There were 9 children in attendance. You can see early settlers, like present residents, were interested in their children and the importance of schools.
2. Payne left Batavia within 2-3 years, selling out in 1836 and moving to the area of present-day Belvidere --- only one of his many moves. As we know, frequent moves have become quite common in modern America.
3. Batavia's first library secured the books that had belonged to the Batavia Institute when it closed and its Literary Society's collection was made available. More on our library in a future issue courtesy of Miriam Johnson.
4. All four were names of neighborhood stores in Batavia about 1911, a part of Batavia life which has disappeared and is discussed under "In the Good Old Days" in this issue.

PLAUDITS

.....to Tom Hair and the Windmill News for the new series of articles on Batavia history which began in January. He hope the best of success for "Batavia Revisted" and the interesting history and sidelights Tom is bringing us.

.....to Ray Patzer for providing us the opportunity to publish his biography of Christopher Payne, our first settler --- and for all of the research Ray put into the effort. Ray has been an integral part of the Society over the years: a charter member, first treasurer, a trustee, and as a member of many committees.

.....to Roberta Campbell and the Chronicle for the years of providing us with great articles and the ever-present "In Times Past" column that brings back memories to us old-timers.

.....to Sandi and John Wilcox who have had their applications for plaques for two homes approved. The homes are occupied by their children. One, at 123 N. Washington Ave., is owned by David and Kim Schuhow; and Bob and Kristi Ellis live in the other at 530 Main St. The Society's plaques have been ordered and should be in the Wilcox's hands soon. Congratulations to all the families.

NOTE: Plaques are available for buildings which are at least 100 years old. A completed application, including documentation of the building's age, is necessary before approval is given. The applicant is responsible for the cost of the plaque. Applications are available from Ed LaMorte (879-2077) our Plaque Chairman.

1988 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents	Dot & Jim Hanson	Trustees:	Robert Cox
Co-Vice Pres.	Marilyn & Bob Phelps		Ed LaMorte
Treasurer	Elliott Lundberg		Bob Popeck
Recording Secy.	May Lundberg		Bill Wood
Correspond. Secy.	Georgene Kauth		Helen & Cliffy Anderson
Historian:	Bill Wood	Ex-Officio:	Ray Anderson

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Remember when the grocer:

-brought your groceries to the cash register counter for you instead of you doing it?
-let you have a charge account with him?
-took orders over the phone and delivered the groceries?
-was within walking distance of your house?

If any of these sound familiar, then you remember a facet of Batavia that has disappeared: the neighborhood grocery store! I would like to save the knowledge of these stores and their owners for future generations with a collection of facts and reminiscences, but I will need your help!

At one time Batavia had at least 9 groceries located in its residential neighborhoods. All but one were directly connected with a residence. My list, using the last name I recall being used for the store, includes:

- East side:
- Beardsley's (515 N. VanBuren), once called Pollock's.
 - Bortner's (416 E. Wilson), now the Memory Lane Antiques.
 - Daniel's (NE corner of State & Delia), earlier Benski's.
 - Maves' (SE corner of Washington & Church), once owned by a Mr. York.
 - Sloggett's (NE corner of Spring & Delia).
 - Zoller's (SW corner of Wilson & VanBuren), also run by a Simpson and, earlier than that, by Blakeslee.
- West side:
- Abhalter's (418 Walnut), known earlier as The Little Store operated by Frank Bloom and, before that, as Tews & Mitchell.
 - F & H (NW corner of Lincoln & Houston), owned by Freedlund and Haines, operated earlier as Bloom's (Harold Bloom, son of Frank Bloom), and before that as Wright's.
 - C. A. Nelson's (521 Houston), previously Martin Pederson's.

Why so few on the west side? Could it have been because others on Batavia Ave. such as the Avenue Food Mart (Perna's) were accessible without going up and down a hill to get to in the business section of town? (The story of the groceries and other businesses in "downtown" is another chapter of Batavia's past.)

What I have listed are only names and places and do not tell the story of these stores or the people involved. What can you add to fill in the details?

What stores have I missed? What names have I left out? When did each first open? change hands? finally close? Who, other than the owner and his family, worked in each?

What other business(es) were located at the same places? I believe there may have been a laundry pick-up service at Simpson's and possibly a postal sub-station. Anyone know?

Are there pictures of the stores and/or their owners and employees the Society could have or borrow?

Which delivered groceries? went to the homes of those without phones to take orders?

What personal anecdotes, stories, etc. can you share to give a sense of what these stores were like and the personalities of their owners?

Share your recollections or additional facts by sending them to the Society for its files. If you know people connected with any of the stores, talk with them or ask them to share their knowledge. Mail your memories to the Batavia Historical Society, P.O. Box 14, Batavia, and help keep a record of Batavia's past.

Some of my own recollections relate to the clerks at Bloom's who had the patience of Job while we peered into the candy case trying to decide how to spend our pennies; and of my mother telling about Mr. Bloom who always said, "I can hear your clock ticking, Mrs. Hanson" when she called the store. Later, as the delivery boy for Don Abhalter, I recall Don having me go to the other stores to buy items his customers had ordered if he were out of them, and of collecting unused ration tickets (remember those in WW II?) so he could help get extra coffee for some of the older Swedish women who always kept a pot brewing on the stove. With our contributions, we can add a great deal to more clearly portray the essence of the now gone neighborhood grocery and market.

"EDITOR'S COMMENT"

One responsibility of the president is to write the newsletter. With this issue, I have started to use the term "Batavia Historian" again as the newsletter title as was done when the Gustafsons wrote it. My intent is to include items of historical interest or research in each issue. Unlike John Gustafson, however, I do not have the knowledge of our past to do it without your help. Share your recollections of Batavia's past. Keep in mind that our "past" will be "history" to those in the future. Consider researching a topic of interest to you to be included in a future issue. Finally, let me know your ideas on how the newsletter may be improved.

J.H.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CURATOR

Dear Historical Society Members:

I am still working on securing the Challenge Grant for the downstairs displays. The Tri City Optimist Club has agreed to build platforms for the displays. I am hoping that this part of the project will begin within the next couple of months.

The Museum will re-open on March 2nd with a history of Batavia and Railroads display.

The ACCESS Heritage Committee of which I am a member will be hosting an evening with Mark Neely, author of "The Insanity File – The Case of Mary Todd Lincoln." Mr. Neely will be presenting a program called "Lincoln in Photographs," on Thursday, February 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Batavia Congregational Church.

I am looking forward to another good season at the Museum.

Sincerely,

Carla

BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: 1988

Rates

Single: \$3

Tandem: \$5

Sustaining: \$10

Life: \$50

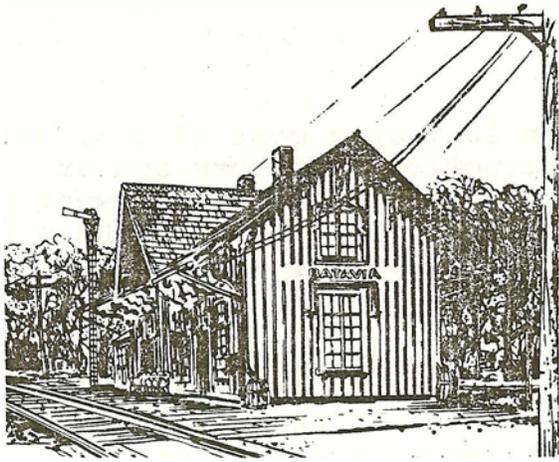
NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

Mail to: Elliott Lundberg, Treas.
P.O. Box 14
Batavia, Illinois 60510

A GIFT MEMBERSHIP is an answer when you don't know what to give a special friend, wish to say "Thank you" to someone for their thoughtfulness, or want to welcome a new neighbor.



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 14

Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 29, No. 2

July 1988

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

SUMMER MEETING PLANNED

Our co-vice presidents, Marilyn and Bob Phelps, again have arranged for an interesting program for the next meeting of the Batavia Historical Society.

Date: Sunday, August 28, 1988

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Batavia Civic Center, 327 W. Wilson Street, Batavia

Program: Marlene Kettley of Aurora will speak on "Margaret", a characterization of a pioneer relative. This will give us all a better insight into the life of a pioneer woman.

Mrs. Kettley is a graduate of the Batavia schools and at present serves as a volunteer at the Mormon Library in Naperville. Please plan on joining us so that you may become acquainted with "Margaret."

Social Hour: Time to chat with friends and meet new ones.

A short business meeting will precede the program.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As of July 1st, the Society had 20 new members who joined this year. They are welcomed and we hope they will be active in our organization. In addition, so far this year four new Life Memberships have been purchased: Genevieve Becker; Eldon Frydendall; Darlene Violetto; and the Gary-Wheaton Bank of Batavia.

Look at your mailing label. A red dot indicates your 1988 dues have not been paid. Please take care of this promptly. More than 100 names were deleted from our mailing list this spring as a result of failure to pay past dues.

MARK THE CALENDAR

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, December 4, 1988. Details in the next newsletter.

BOARD-BRIEFS

The Board of Directors met on June 30th and again on July 14th at the Depot Museum. Among the items discussed, the Board:

- a) gave approval to proceed on the placing of a marker on E. Wilson St. indicating the site of the Payne cabin once permission can be obtained from the property owners,
- b) agreed to work cooperatively with the Park District in acquiring and moving the "gazebo" located on the old Gunzenhauser property.
- c) informed Marilyn Robinson, a retired Batavia teacher, that the Board might be interested in helping publish a book on Batavia history which she is writing that will be written at an elementary school reading level. More details will be needed before a final decision will be made.
- d) will contact several local artisans to repair several of the artifacts in the Museum.
- e) approved the purchase of a book on the Lincoln Highway (which ran through Batavia) and a reference book related to preservation of limestone buildings.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Mr. and Hrs. John Jaeger of 419 Union Ave. are the newest owners of an Historical Society house plaque. Their home is dated from 1863. Congratulations!

Several of our members need a special "Thanks" for taking on responsibilities that make our Museum a success: May Lundberg for securing and scheduling the volunteer hosts and hostesses each month; Walt and Georgene Kauth for opening and closing the Museum on weekends; and all the volunteer hosts and hostesses.

Marilyn Robinson has taken on the task of indexing the articles in all of the Newsletters. This will be most helpful for those wishing to locate information about our town, particularly the recollections which John Gustafson wrote during the early years of the Society.

Speaking of volunteers, don't forget that May Lundberg can always use help staffing the Museum (879-3660) and Marilyn Phelps would appreciate assistance with refreshments at our meetings (879-1924). Either would welcome your call!

MINI-QUIZ

1. What Batavia business has been in existence for over 50 years in the same building but at four different locations?
2. Who was Batavia's last Civil War veteran and when did he die?
3. Batavia once had 3 streets bearing the name Washington at the same time. Other than present-day Washington Ave., what are the other two called today?
4. The name North also has been used for 3 streets. Other than present North Avenue, which present-day streets once bore that name?

(See page 7 for answers)

RECOLLECTIONS OF ANOTHER ERA

Carl W. Johnson

These are a few random recollections of persons, incidents, and places in the South Batavia Avenue business section between First and Main streets where, at the southwest corner of Batavia Avenue and First Street, in the old Buck Building, my father was in the grocery business for nearly half a century. It was known first as Micholson and Johnson, then Johnson and Carlson, and finally as Swan Johnson's. You might say that this is a brief anecdotal conversation of some remembrances of those times, with no particular historic significance, but maybe with some personal interest. I shall not vouch for the accuracy of any of these early impressions.

At the south end of the block Mr. George Burton ran a grocery and hardware business. I always associate the mere mention of the name, George Burton, with this incident : My father's delivery boy, who at the time I think was Ernest Nelson, had quit to work elsewhere at a better job. Mr. Burton's delivery boy heard of this and so on the next Saturday night --- they always kept open Saturday nights --- this boy with his father in tow called on my father to apply for the vacancy. What was wrong with working for Mr. Burton? Well, nothing in particular except, for this one thing. It was customary to get your wages on Saturday night, and it seemed that Mr. Burton was sometimes a little lax and forgetful in this department. He always paid eventually, but the boy didn't exactly relish Mr. Burton's erratic habit of letting things go, sometimes for several weeks. So he told of this incident:

Not having been paid for several weeks the boy approached Mr. Burton a little timidly and said, (knowing that George was pretty hard of hearing), "Say, Mr. Burton, I wonder if I can get \$5.00 tonight?"

Mr. Burton, cupping his ear, said, "What's that? Can't hear!"

Raising his voice a little, the boy repeated, "Say, Mr. Burton, I wonder if I can get \$5.00 tonight?"

"What's that? Can't hear!" was the response again.

Now, somewhat emboldened, the boy said, "Say, Hr. Burton, I wonder if I can get TEN DOLLARS tonight?"

Mr. Burton replied, "Thought you said FIVE!"

My father's store had a well-known reputation as a gathering place for discussions and debates, cracker barrel and all, around the pot-bellied stove, by some of Batavia's leading citizens. These weren't just spasmodic gatherings but were for all practical purposes an established institution, operating especially in the wintertime on a six-day week basis. Here one could get the very last word on politics, taxes, the state of the nation, and on most any other subject, public or private, current at the time. Scandal-mongering seems to have been taboo. A climate of privacy was had by placing a rack of National Biscuit Company display shelves about six feet high, maybe ten or twelve feet in front of the stove, separating the business part from the recreation section of the store. A half dozen or so chairs were provided, augmented by wooden boxes for the overflow.

Joe McKee, a bachelor until late in life, always immaculately dressed and with an aristocratic bearing, was invariably the first to arrive at about 6:00 a.m. when my father opened to catch the tobacco and snuff trade of the factory workers on their way to work.

A little digression: chewing snuff was the final test among factory workers for separating the men from the boys, and I am certain that this is the predecessor

of what today is known as LSD. I make bold to speak with some authority on this subject because at the tender age of 15 or so I experimented with Copenhagen Snuff and as a result was wafted into the land of oblivion on the wings of the morning into the arms of Morpheus, there to commune with the spirits and the angels as they went 'round and 'round, like Dr. Timothy Leary says, until later when consciousness did again return; and when, I assure you, there was Hell to pay as well as the attending physician!

Now, to return to Joe McKee. Joe came early to read the CHICAGO TRIBUNE and to be prepared with an opening statement when the session should later on begin. On one particular winter morning Joe was pacing back and forth in front of the store, shivering in the cold, when a working man passing by asked him what was up, what was the matter. Joe answered that he just couldn't understand why that damn Swede, Swan Johnson, couldn't get down on time to open up! You see, my father was five or ten minutes late that morning.

Another substantial citizen making up this interesting circle was A. B. Burke, father of Mary Burke, long-time art teacher in the Batavia schools. His home was on South Washington Street (now 125 S. Lincoln). Mr. Burke always carried a cane. His specialty, as I remember, was the legal aspect of topics under discussion. He was the logician.

Another stalwart in this group was Henry Walt, builder of the brick building at the east end of the bridge known as the Walt block. He spoke slowly, measuring each word, and with a judgment that had the respect of his colleagues. His home was on South Washington Street directly opposite Mr. Burke's home.

Another much respected participant was Mr. C. W. Shumway, founder of the Shumway Foundry Company. The one thing I always associate with Mr. Shumway's name is that he had a special reputation for treating his employees with an unusual kind of consideration. When you went to work for Mr. Shumway, you had a lifetime job if you wanted it. I also recall he would stop in every morning on his way to the foundry to get his daily quota of cigars.

Of course there were many others constituting this fraternity, a list too long for recital here, but these made up the base on which the group owed its continuation. I remember, for example, that Johnny Ozier, grandfather of Mrs. Jennie Prince, was in some way attracted by these men and would now and then come a long way from his home on the east side, maybe to relive the days of the Civil War.

Every Saturday I would hitch up my pony and drive out about five miles on Main Street road to the Bald Mound Creamery to get several cases of butter for the week's supply. Butter, as I recall, sold for 20¢ a pound with a little fluctuation from week to week. Every now and then one of the merchants would run a special on butter, perhaps because it was perishable. Once a man came into my father's store and asked how much butter was. "Twenty cents," said my father. "Your competitor down the street is selling it for 15¢," said the man. "Did you go in and buy any?" asked my father. "Yes, I did, but they didn't have any," said the man. "Well, when we don't have any, we sell it for 5¢ a pound," replied my father.

* * * * *

NOTE: We are indebted to Miriam Johnson for sharing with us this article written in 1950 by her late husband, Carl. He was a charter member of the Society and used this as a basis for a talk given in 1967. I felt it merited sharing with all of our current members and being made a part of our recorded history.

J.H.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS: PART 2

The response to my request in the last issue for names of neighborhood stores was not listed in that newsletter has been great. A number of additional stores were identified as well as names by which some on the earlier list were known. Thanks to all who gave me help on these identifications. They include:

- East side: Frank Howaniec's at 407 Spring St.
Eloise Miller's at 125 N. Van Buren St.
Bert Stebbins' at the southeast corner of River and Columbia streets.
John Updike's at the northeast corner of Park and Church Streets. Daniels' was also known as Pat's (Kenneth Patterson) for a short time. Beardsley's had been called the North End Grocery in the 1890's and run by both G. R. Kenyon and E. E. Newton. Later owned by J. H. Joslyn.
- West side: Martin Pierson's at 639 Main St.
Bill Alverson's at 317 First St. Ed Peterson recalls this as an ice cream and confectionery store with cones priced at 8¢ and most candy bars at 5¢ --- but the "best" was a Wilbur which cost 15¢.
Abhalter's Little Store was once operated by Charles Lathrop and also by Arthur Anderson.
Clarence Berg and Albert Johnson both ran the C. A. Nelson store after Mr. Nelson.
F & H was run by Martin Pederson after he sold his store at 521 Houston St.

The building at 615 Houston St. was called "the Swede store" but it is not known if this referred to it as being operated as a store at that location or merely a reference to the fact it formerly was the Anderson store at the northeast corner of Batavia Ave. and Wilson St. before being moved to make way for the present Anderson building.

Another store had no address. It was the "Store at your Door" which operated from a truck which had a limited stock of food essentials and would park so housewives could come out to the street and get some basics they needed., I am sure in earlier times there were also a number of peddlers. One story I've been told had to do with one called "Tubin" who had a horse-drawn wagon. He came out of a house one day after displaying his wares and found his horse lying dead in the street. He only remarked, "He never did that before!" (Another source credits this incident to a Mr. Shelan who peddled cloth.)

When mention of the peddler's horse was made, more childhood memories came to mind for me. I recall the clip-clop of the milk wagon horse (before they had rubber horseshoes) as milk was delivered house to house. Batavia had many dairies offering delivery service over the years, something almost completely gone. Occasionally our milkman, Lennie Johnson, would let us ride in the milk wagon as he made his deliveries. I remember how well the horse knew just which houses took milk and where to stop, particularly brought to mind one day. My pal and I managed to get the horse to move while Lennie was at the back door making a delivery. The horse went to the next regular stop and no further! I'm sure that prank ended our welcome on the milk wagon. The Batavia Dairy horses and wagons were housed on the northwest corner of Mallory and Houston streets, a building which today is apartments.

Another favorite for children was the iceman. When he chipped the large blocks of ice to break them into the size which a customer wanted, we could have the

slivers to suck on --- a real treat on a hot summer day! The customer would place a card in the front window turned to show what size block of ice was needed for the icebox. As I recall, the cards had the company name in the center and along each side a number for the order size --- 25#, 50#, 75# or 100#. The iceman used his pick to break the large blocks, pick up the ordered piece with his tongs and throw it over his shoulder to carry to the house. He had a leather pad to protect his shoulder. John Gustafson wrote a two-part article on Batavia's ice businesses in the Society newsletter in 1972 which is most interesting.

Another summertime noise, but not as frequent as the clip-clop of the milk wagon horses, was the distinctive ring of the scissor grinder's bell. Up and down the sidewalks he went, belling ringing to announce his coming, so those who needed knives, scissors, etc. sharpened could bring them out to him as he came by their homes.

These are some of my recollections, shaded by warm memories and clouded by the passage of time. As Carl Johnson wrote in this issue's feature article, "I shall not vouch for the accuracy of any of these early impressions." Drop a line to add yours and/or correct or add to mine so we can have this information for the next generation who will never experience the "personal" type of service these merchants, delivery people, and peddlers provided.

Jim Hanson

ELECTION YEAR: 1844

Nathan Young, who became one of Batavia's leading citizens in the last half of the 1800's, moved to Kane County earlier and farmed near Sugar Grove. He kept of daily journal from which the following were taken in which he expressed his strong sentiments on the national election of 1844.

- Feb. 12: Mr. Weller, member of Congress from Ohio is a Democrat of the fault-finding type and the party to which he belongs are fond of and generally deal in the same article to excess and indecency. Their day of retribution is at hand. Look at the results of the Vituperations and abuse heaped upon Gen. Harrison by the party. Where did they land, far up Salt river. Let them but again take a similar course in the coming Presidential canvass and they will never land or make shore but sink in their old half tarred and shattered vessel to the bottom of Salt river and may God keep them there until they are pickled enough to live up to the Golden Rule.
- Feb. 26: Calhoun has come out and defines his position by letter. Will not consent to have his name go before the Baltimore Convention nor will he support a man opposed to free trade or one in favor of having slavery (abolition of) agitated in Congress. If such be your position, you never can be President.
- Mar. 1: The prospects for Clay are brightening. The Whigs as a body are all agreed and united upon Clay as the man for President. The Baltimore Convention is needless. The Locos are troubled very much about these days. No union among them, they have various candidates. Some for free trade. Some for no protection and others for Revenue Tariff only.

- Mar. 19: Maryland has set "the ball a-rolling on" by electing 6 Whigs to Congress, her entire delegation. Stand back and make way for Connecticut.
- Apr. 22: By news recd. today by the N.Y. Tribune, we learn that Connecticut has disenabled herself from the arms of Locofocoism and come around and take a foremost rank in the Whig line of "conquer we have, conquer we shall, and conquer we will." Hurry, give her 3 welcome cheers. Henry Clay is our man.
- For him we'll vote, for him we'll fight
And put the Locos all to flight.
- June 13: James Polk of Tennessee has been nominated by the Locos for President and Silas Wright of N. Y. for Vice President. Later news says Wright declines, probably because he is the greatest man and ought to have been first on the Ticket.
- July 6: Congress has adjourned and the members have gone to their homes and thank God, the Tariff remains undisturbed and Texas is not ours yet for all the efforts put forth by Tyler and the Locofocos. These two great and important questions will be handed out to the people during the present Presidential campaign and they will decide whether Locofocoism, that Anti Tariff and Annexation shall take the place of Tariff and no annexation.
- July 17: Pres. Tyler so violently bent on Annexation of Texas has annexed himself to Miss Gardner. So he has accomplished annexation in one way, if not another.
- Nov. 4: Election day. Sugar Grove precinct went for Clay, 5 majority. The first time the Whigs ever outnumbered their opponents by votes.

(NOTE: Mr. Young must have been deeply disappointed when he learned of the final outcome of the election when Polk defeated the Whigs.)

With all of the electioneering we read and hear this year, it is interesting to realize that even on the frontier of Kane Co. 140 years ago, concern about nominations and elections was of interest and concern.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The popcorn stand now on N. Water St. It started on Batavia Ave. just south of the K.P. bldg.; was then moved across the street to the lot just south of Stosh's barbershop; then to W. Wilson St. where the Batavia S.& L. employee parking lot is situated; and then to its present location.
2. Seymour Wolcott who died at the age of 93 in an automobile accident in 1940. Born in 1847 in New York, he came to Batavia at the age of 7. In adult life he was involved with Bellevue Place from its early days until his death. In 1863, at the age of 16, he enlisted in Co. B., 141st Infantry.
3. Both Lincoln and Logan were named Washington street. Mayor Schielke, as a young man, convinced the City Council to make the change to Lincoln to eliminate the confusion of the last duplicate name, particularly for the fire and police departments in emergency situations.
4. Both Illinois Ave. and Lake St. were previously called North St.

(With the help of our historian, Bill Wood, an article on the many street name changes in Batavia will appear in a future issue.)

BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: 1988

Rates

Single: \$3

Tandem: \$5

Sustaining: \$10

Life: \$50

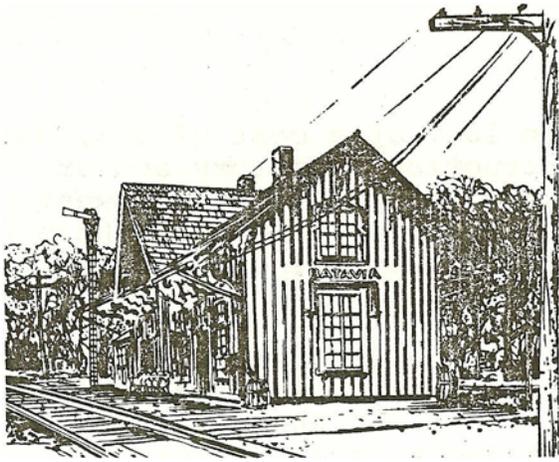
NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

Mail to: Elliott Lundberg, Treas.
P.O. Box 14
Batavia, Illinois 60510

A GIFT MEMBERSHIP is an answer when you don't know what to give a special friend, wish to say "Thank you" to someone for their thoughtfulness, or want to welcome a new neighbor.



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 14

Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 29, No. 3

October 1988

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

ANNUAL MEETING IN DECEMBER

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be a Christmas Pot Luck Dinner as has been the custom in recent years. Mark your calendars!

Date and Time: Sunday, December 4, 1988 at 5:00 p.m.

Place: Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

Dinner: Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Meat, rolls and coffee will be furnished.

Meeting: The business meeting will include a presentation and vote on adoption of new By-Laws and the election of officers and trustees for the coming year. The By-Laws Committee composed of Atty. Tom Mair, Trustee Ray Anderson, and Pres. Jim Hanson have prepared the proposed By-Laws to better meet present-day needs and current practices and procedures. The Board will have reviewed the proposal. Copies to read will be available at the Museum after Nov. 3rd. Members requiring a copy should write the Society making a request. Copies will be available at the Dec. 4th meeting.

Program: Slides of the moving of the Gunzenhauser gazebo will be shown followed by a program of Christmas music.

Our Treasurer will be on hand to collect 1989 dues. Also, copies of our two books, HISTORIC BATAVIA and BATAVIA: 1833-1983 will be available. These make nice Christmas presents and members are being offered a 20% discount on the purchase of these books. See details on the discount on page 7 of this Newsletter.

SOME OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 26 and 27: The Chamber of Commerce's "Home for Christmas" house walk with proceeds to benefit the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry. Watch the newspapers for details.

Feb. 12, 1989: ACCESS Committee dinner/theater program at the Lincoln Inn starting at 5:00 p.m. The program is entitled, "An Evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln."

GOOD OLD DAYS: AN ADDENDUM

The second part on neighborhood stores and deliveries in the last issue of the Newsletter was intended to be the end of that topic. However, I ran across the following item regarding milk deliveries that I thought merited being shared. It certainly pre-dates my memories of Batavia Dairy's horse-drawn wagons.

"Abraham Lund lived in a house just south of the West Batavia Cemetery. In fact, he had to drive through the cemetery to get to his house and barn. In this barn he had a cow or two and it was the selling of milk from these cows that sustained him, that gave him what little money he needed.

He used to drive around his route in a one horse buggy or wagon with a small milk can full of milk in front of the seat with a long-handled ladle in the can and hooked over the top edge. When he came to the home of a customer, he would ring a small hand bell. The housewife, or one of the children, would come out of the house bearing a pitcher. Mr. Lund would fill it from the ladle and hand it back to his customer and receive the proper change in payment or a little blue ticket with the words on it, 'Good for one pint (or quart) of milk.' Then he would drive on to the next customer. Sterilized, homogenized? Of course not. Mr. Lund wouldn't have known what those words meant."

In the last article, I mentioned the cards placed in the window to inform the iceman how much ice was needed. Of course, the dairies also had cards on which the orders were marked for the milkman. If you ever run across either of these types of cards for any Batavia companies, a donation of such cards to the Museum would be most welcomed!

Speaking of "cards" to be seen from the street reminds me of one other common one in earlier years. Remember the red "QUARANTINE" signs that were tacked to the front of the house when someone (usually a child) had one of the communicable diseases? The medical discoveries and development of "shots" to protect from most such diseases have made such warnings obsolete today. That is another type of sign I would like to see discovered and donated to our Museum.

SPEAKING OF ARTIFACTS

Several of our artifacts are in need of repair. I am pleased to report that Mr. Wiberg is repairing the old spinning wheel and this winter Bob Hawse will repair the two unique model windmills. Tom Mair has taken on the responsibility to raise the funds and contract for fixing the pneumatic clock so it will operate again as it did for years in Batavia High School (now the Junior High)

. AND OTHER OLD ITEMS

A 1963 Newsletter listed the placing of a marker on E. Wilson St. opposite the site of the Christopher Payne Cabin as a "project in the offing." Now, 25 years later, the project is underway. Thanks to the cooperation and assistance and donations of the City Council for using the right-of-way, Bob Popeck for securing fill, Frank Saupp, Jr. for clearing the site, Phil Elfstrom for donating a stone, and Terry Carlson of St. Charles Memorial Works for working on the plaque, a marker will be in place this year.

CHILD WELFARE: 1864

Those of us living in Batavia were able to read Tom Mair's articles related to the "County Farm" in the September issues of the Windmill News. It housed both the insane and the poor of the county for many years. One such "poor" person in Batavia (and probably a number of others) was not sent to the County Farm. Instead, most likely due to her young age, she was indentured to a local resident. Below is a copy of this agreement with only the name of the child changed to protect her identity. This was an answer 125 years ago to present-day "foster homes."

Indenture

This indenture made and entered into on the first day of March A.D. 1864 by and between Wallace Crawford, Overseer of the Poor of the Town of Batavia in the County of Kane for the year 1864 of the first part and William Cherry of said Town of the second part Witnesseth:

Whereas it hath been made to appear to said Overseer of the Poor that Elizabeth Williams is a minor child whose Mother is dead and is disowned by her Father and has become chargeable to the Town as having a lawful residence therein. Therefore the said Overseer of the Poor by virtue and conformity to the law in such case made and provided hath bound the said Elizabeth Williams who is now the age of one year seven months and twenty days to the said William Cherry to dwell with and serve said William Cherry from the date hereof until the said Elizabeth Williams shall have attained the age of eighteen years which will be on the nineteenth day of July 1880. And it is hereby agreed and understood that the said Elizabeth Williams shall faithfully serve the said William Cherry during the said term and shall obey all his lawful and reasonable commands that she will not willingly or suffer to be done any harm or damage to the goods, property or interests of the said master but that she shall in all things during the said term demean and behave herself as a good and faithful child to her said master. And the said William Cherry doth on his part hereby covenant and agree in consideration of the undertaking and binding aforesaid to teach and instruct the said Elizabeth Williams or cause her to be well and sufficiently taught and instructed in some trade or profession by which she may obtain a livelihood, that he will furnish and provide or cause to be furnished and provided unto the said Elizabeth Williams meat, drink, lodging and suitable and proper clothing in sickness and in health and medicine and medical attendance and nursing in sickness during said term. And the said William Cherry further covenants and agrees that he will teach or cause to be taught the said Elizabeth Williams to read and write and the general rules of arithmetic and at the expiration of said term will pay to her the said Elizabeth Williams the sum of Fifty (\$50) dollars, a new Bible and two complete suits of new wearing apparel.

In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals on the day and year first above written.

Wallace Crawford (signed)
Overseer of the Poor of the town of Batavia
William E. Cherry (signed)

BATAVIA POLICE: NOW AND THEN

In June, the Batavia Police Dept. welcomed its first female officer. Officer Colette Jung came to Batavia with experience as an officer in Kirksville, Missouri and as a security officer at St. Louis University. She was one of the thirty-two applicants out of 200 who qualified for the eligibility list after taking all of the tests required of an officer. Immediately upon appointment she spent 10 weeks of intensive training at the Illinois Police Training Institute and receives additional "on the job" training with department personnel.

In April, 1863, Allen Merrill had been elected constable for the "Town of Batavia," a different method of becoming a law enforcement officer compared to that of Officer Jung. Below is the oath of office required of Constable Merrill upon assuming his duties. The first paragraph of his oath of office and the oath taken by Officer Jung were no doubt somewhat similar in content, but she would have been as surprised to find a part of her oath to include the second paragraph of Constable Merrill's as the people in 1863 would have been to see a female officer.

State of Illinois
Kane County

I, Allen N. Merrill, having been elected to the office of Constable in the Town of Batavia in the County of Kane aforesaid, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and of the State of Illinois, and that I will according to the best of my judgment, skill and ability, diligently, faithfully and impartially perform all the duties enjoined on me by the virtue of my said office.

And I do also solemnly swear that I. have not fought a duel, nor sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel, the probable issue of which might have been the death of either party, nor been a second to either party, nor in any manner aided or assisted in such a duel, nor been knowingly the bearer of such challenge or acceptance, since the adoption of the Constitution, and that I will not be so engaged or concerned, directly or indirectly, in or about any such duel, during my continuance in office, So help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me,
this 14th day of April, 1863.

A. N. Merrill (signature)

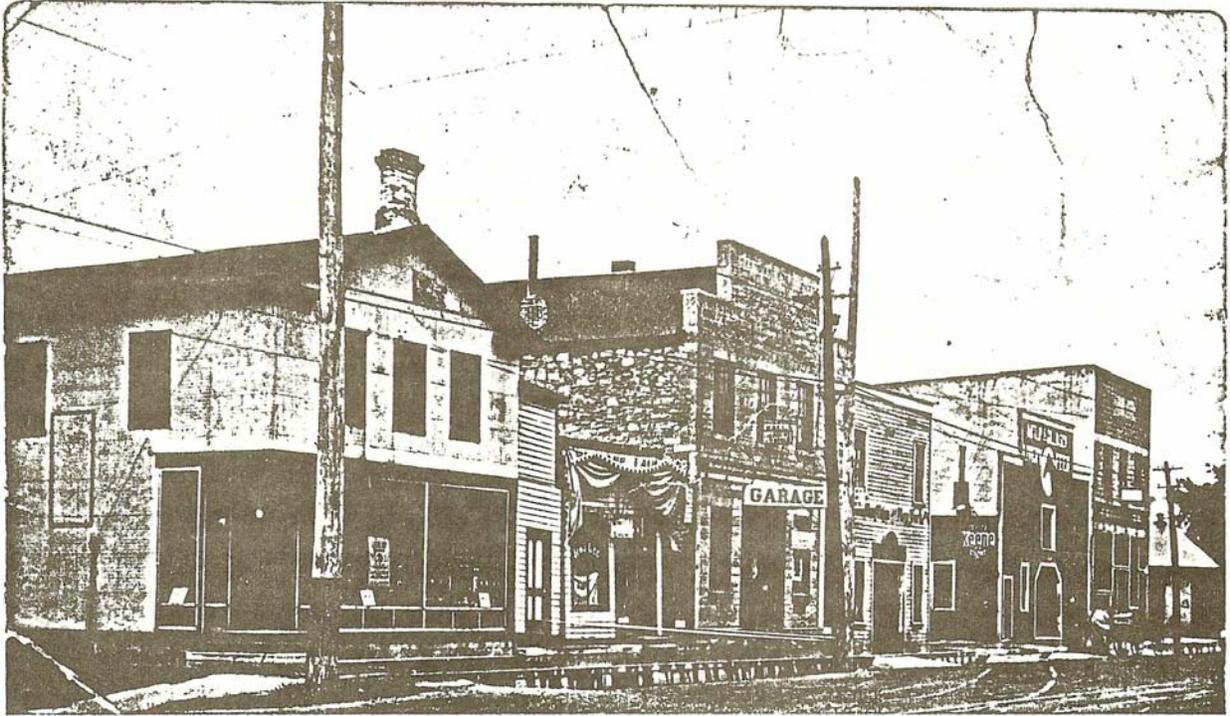
C. H. Brown (signature)
Justice of the Peace

MINI-QUIZ

1. Which existing business building originally have a third floor on which there was a hall with a stage and also, at one time, was used for roller skating?
2. In what year did a Batavia resident first have a "horseless carriage"?
3. Where was Batavia's first cemetery located?

See page 6 for the answers.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



East side of Batavia Avenue south of First Street in 1908.

Left to right: Use unknown. Previously had been a saloon and became the Andrew Matson saloon in 1910. However, in 1908-1909 Batavia was voted "dry."

John Larson's shoe store. Walter Johnson recalls how narrow it was --- a person could barely get through! Mr. Larson also did shoe repairs.

Sing Lee's laundry.

Korte & Opperman Garage downstairs. Upstairs was the Norden Soner Hall and the Bricklayer's Hall. The garage was operated later by a Mr. Null, a Mr. Foster and Mr. Anderson, Bob Guy. Ray Johnson, and Larry Favoright (a member of the Society.)

Charles Pomp's Blacksmith Shop.

Artlip & Gillikson's Livery. A few years later it changed to Wheelock & Sons Avenue Livery.

Knights of Pythias Building with the meeting hall upstairs. In the same building were Henry Tincknell, tailor; and the Exchange (a second-hand store) operated by Albert Davis. The basement may have had Schneider's bowling alley as it was located there definitely a few years later.

Henry Wenberg's home and his Batavia Greenhouse Company.

With the demolition of the K.P. Building to make way for the Gary-Wheaton Bank's new drive-in facility, the entire block along the east side of Batavia Avenue has now changed. The only building remaining on the entire square block which dates to 1908 and before is the Martin Goers home on the southeast corner, one of Batavia's historic homes.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The building which today houses Johnson's Drug Store and Dr. Casillas' foot clinic was known at one time as the Dorn Block and had a meeting hall, and for a time, a roller rink, on a third floor. After a fire, that floor was not replaced.
2. In 1895, Edwin Meredith of Batavia built a "horseless carriage". He planned to enter it in what may have been the first auto race in the country, a race from Chicago to Milwaukee. Unfortunately, he headed for Chicago but the car did not make it.
3. Batavia's first cemetery was located on the N.E. corner of Washington Ave. and Church St. Eventually, when the East Side Cemetery was developed, all the graves were moved and the property sold for building.

100 YEARS AGO: 1888

The year 1888 was one of church building for Batavia. Both the First Methodist Church and Bethany Lutheran Church were dedicated that year and the cornerstones laid for the First Baptist Church and an original Immanuel Lutheran Church (which was later replaced by the one on Webster St.)

Some items from the "Geneva Patrol" newspaper for that year regarding Batavia included the following:

- Jan. 13. School was closed Thursday afternoon as a token of respect for Mrs. McWayne who died Tuesday night. Two of her daughters have taught for many years in the Batavia public schools.
- Feb. 10. The revival meetings have been most phenomenal and the interest and feeling are unabated. Batavia has not experienced such an awakening in many years, if indeed at all. There have been upward of 100 conversions. It has become almost useless for merchants to keep their stores open after 7 o'clock as the streets are deserted and the meetings crowded.
- Mar. 2 Thomas Meredith, whose fight against the ravages of disease for the past weeks and months has been so closely watched by all, yielded the palm to the grim destroyer Tuesday morning.
- June 29. Tuesday evening Ed Highland got into a row in Kinblade's saloon and smashed in several windows and a door, besides attempting, as we understand, to smash Kinblade, whom he attacked after they left the saloon. The marshall burned some powder in attempting to stop Highland, who did not wish to surrender and who made good his escape.
- July 13. The first sale of the Batavia Horse Market Association occurs tomorrow. We believe this will be a great benefit to horse raisers in this part of the country.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Six additional life memberships have been purchased since July 1st making a total of 10 for the year. New life members include Batavia Savings & Loan; Allen Benson of San Jose, CA; Old Second National Bank-Batavia Facility; the Holmstad; Walter Johnson of Geneva; and Ray Wolcott of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. There have been 30 new Society members this year. We welcome them and trust they will find their membership worthwhile.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

All dues received after October 31st will be credited toward membership for 1989. Dues for individuals remain the same. The Board of Directors recently created a new category for businesses and institutions with annual dues of \$10 and life memberships for \$100.

Prompt payment of your 1989 dues will be appreciated. It helps with our record keeping and in maintaining an accurate mailing list for the Newsletter. See the back page for a form to use when mailing your 1989 dues or for use in giving gift memberships. Dues may also be paid at the annual meeting on Dec. 4th.

* * * * *

SPECIAL HOLIDAY DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

The Board of Directors voted to offer all current members of the Society a 20% discount on the purchase of our two books on Batavia's history: HISTORIC BATAVIA by John Gustafson and Jeffrey Schielke and BATAVIA: 1833-1983 by Roberta Campbell. These books make excellent Christmas gifts and is an easy way to solve some of your holiday shopping problems!

To take advantage of this offer, the books must be purchased between November 1st and December 11th. Take the order form below to the Depot Museum to purchase the books you want. Museum hours are 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Books will be available also at the Annual Meeting December 4th.

If you cannot get to the Museum, books will be mailed to you upon receipt of the order form and payment, but an additional \$1.25 per book will be required to cover postage and handling. As we do not have regular secretarial help, please pick up your orders at the Museum or meeting if at all possible---it will save you money and help us out greatly!

No discounts will be given without use of the order form below which has your mailing label on the back. Be sure to bring (or mail) it when getting books!

ORDER FORM FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

Batavia Historical Society
P.O. Box 14
Batavia, IL 60510

FORM MUST BE PRESENTED FOR
PURCHASE. OFFER GOOD ONLY FROM
NOV. 1 THROUGH DEC. 11, 1988.

I wish to purchase the following books at the special membership discount:

_____ copies of HISTORIC BATAVIA.	Regular price:	\$7.50 each
	Discount price:	\$6.00 each
_____ copies of BATAVIA: 1833-1983.	Regular price:	\$5.00 each
	Discount price:	\$4.00 each

If unable to pick up books at Depot Museum or Annual Dinner Meeting, an additional \$1.25 per book is required to cover postage and handling.

Total submitted: \$ _____

(Checks payable to Batavia Historical Society)

BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: 1989

Rates

Single: \$3

Tandem: \$5

Sustaining: \$10

Life: \$50

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

Mail to: Treasurer
Batavia Historical Society
P.O. Box 14
Batavia, Illinois 60510

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