

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

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January 1963

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past."

Speech of Patrick Henry before the house of Burgesses, 1775

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20th, 1963 at 3:00 P. M.

BATAVIA CIVIC CENTER

PROGRAM

ILLUSTRATED TALK BY PRINCIPAL WILLIAM J. WOOD

Some of the Historic Places of the U.S. - Washington, D. C; Williamsburg, Va., Charleston, S. C.

NOTES

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is composed of Malcolm Derby, Chm., Ralph Benson, Mrs. Clare J. Kruger, Miss Alice Storer and Philip Carlson.

WE ARE GRATEFUL to the Bethany Lutheran Church for asking us to share the celebration of their 90th Anniversary with them. They have set such a high standard in type of program and in interesting display of photographs and mementos that it is going to be difficult for any other organization to excel them.

WE ALSO WANT TO THANK ALL who have served as officers this past year, all who have taken part in any of the programs and all who have served on the various committees. We appreciate all who pay their dues promptly but this is not enough - active participation of all members is needed to make an active society and to get things done. Won't you volunteer to help this year if you haven't done so before?

WE HAVE ONLY 20 COPIES of the book "Historic Batavia" left. You have cooperated beautifully in buying and selling these books. Many have gone to former Batavians now living in distance parts of the U. S., Mrs. Harry Hunter, LeRoy Loker, Francis Carr, Miss Elsie Hunt and Ted Daniels to mention a few.

Our membership, as of Dec. 31, 1962, is about 268, of whom 27 were new members. Dues for 1963 are now due.

1963 IS GOING TO BE A BIG YEAR FOR ANNIVERSARIES. It was in 1833, 130 years ago, that Christopher Payne came to these parts and settled on land along the eastern edge of our town.

In 1863, 100 years ago, Daniel Halladay brought his windmill factory here from Ellington, Conn. At a meeting of men interested in the office of John Van Nortwick of the CB&Q RR, the Halladay Windmill Co. became the U. S. Wind Engine & Pump Co.

The Batavia Public Library was established as a free library in April 1873, 90 years ago.

On March 18, 1888, 75 years ago the present First Methodist Church building was dedicated, and two days later, March 20th, the Bethany Lutheran Church building

was dedicated. On September 28th, of this same year, the cornerstone of the First Baptist Church building was laid.

It was in 1913, 50 years ago, that five Batavia boys visited the Rev. T. M. Higginbotham of the Congregational Church and organized the first Boy Scout Troop here. About the same time a troop was organized in the Calvary Episcopal Church by the Rev. Frank Victor Hoag. This same year saw the beginning of Mooseheart.

OUR COLUMN "THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN" in the Herald has been temporarily discontinued due to the change-over to offset printing. Let the Herald Staff know that you miss this column as well as other columns once so popular.

ON OCTOBER 30th we had a most enjoyable visit from John Warne now living in St. Charles. He has a brilliant mind even at 80 and remembers so many things of early Batavians and the Eola-Big Woods area. It was an inspiration to talk with him. After he left we jotted down as many things as we remembered that he told us.

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR MEMENTOS given to the Society since our last recording: Harry Strain, Miss Lillian B. Sweet, Allie Johnson, Philip Carlson, Mrs. Lloyd Kautz and the Earl Newton Estate. About the last donor, Mrs. A. W. Nelson asked Miss Alice Gustafson and William B. Benson to select the items in the Newton home which they thought the Society would like. This was done and the mementos have all been catalogued. Most of these were old newspapers and photographs.

PROJECTS IN THE OFFING. Dedication of the Louise White School Bell. This has been placed on a concrete pedestal by the City after the bell had been cleaned and repaired by the C. W. Shumway & Sons foundry. Neal Conde was the guiding light.

Tabulating the information on the old headstones in both of our cemeteries. This should be done at once as many of the inscriptions are being obliterated by the weather.

Possibly placing a marker on the north side of East Wilson Street opposite the site of the Christopher Payne cabin. This was located some time ago by Augie Mier. This would be a very simple marker compared with the elaborate one on the Batavia Centennial boulder.

WE WERE GLAD TO HELP a man from Bloomington, Illinois who wanted information about Horatio Bent and his wife, Mrs. Lucinda Grimes Bent.

NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, Wm. B. Benson:

I am grateful for the large attendance at meetings during my year as president, also that "Historic Batavia" was published and sold out and that also a fund has been set aside towards the purchase of a permanent museum for which gifts and contributions will be appreciated.

It has been a most interesting year.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

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April 1963

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

“In 1475 Florence was the most powerful state in Italy, a position it had gained over centuries of growth. It was characteristic of the city to have instructed the thirteenth century architect of its cathedral to design it 'to be worthy of a heart expanded to greatness, like that of the city's soul, the sum of the souls of all its citizens.’ - The Life of Michelangelo by Chas. H. Morgan.

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 21st, 1963 at 3:00 P.M.

LIBRARY HALL, BATAVIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

PROGRAM

BEGINNINGS OF OUR LIBRARY By Mrs. Carl W. Johnson, our Librarian.

EARLY LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS - By Mr. Amos Hartman, President of the Batavia Library Board. This promises to be an interesting meeting.

NOTES

We are grateful to the library for this opportunity to meet with them in their hall and to share their program. Truly the above quotation is true about our library, its Staff and its Board - it is “a heart expanded to greatness.”

Our new, president, Oliver Freedlund, sends greetings to all members of the Batavia Historical Society. He asks for the cooperation of all members to make this one of our most successful years. There is much that the Society can do if we will to do it. It's up to you.

We are initiating our new addressograph method of mailing out our newsletter this time. Do we have your name and address right? We thank the Furnas Electric Company for their assistance.

Your Board of Trustees met Friday evening, February 8, 1963. You'll hear the minutes read at the regular meeting but here, for your information, are the high points projected:

Clare Kruger was made Chairman of the Membership Committee; Miss Eunice Shumway, Chairman of the Finance Committee; and Neal Conde, Chairman of the Publicity Committee

The dedication of the Louise White School Bell on its pedestal, will be in September. The Society meeting will be in the Louise White School, probably preceding the bell dedication. Neal Conde is in charge of this program.

Wm. B. Benson is Chairman of the Research Committee. There are several projects that this committee will undertake. These were discussed at length at the board meeting.

Some questions. Do you have the answers? Who was John Karlson who made excellent violins here in the 1890's? Who was John Wahlgren who issued a Swedish paper called "The Posten" here in 1894? Who has any information about James Latham?

Mrs. Blanche Nelson and Mrs. Elaine Cannon have done a beautiful job in arranging the Earl C. Newton mementos in our cases in the Civic Center. Have you seen them?

We are grateful to the Aurora Beacon-News and our reporter, Mrs. Don Johnsen, for publishing several articles about Historic Batavia; also to the Batavia Herald for publishing their column "From Our Early Files."

We have received the third lot of mementos from Edwin Parre which his father, L. A. Parre, had collected. We have also received a third allotment of items from the Earl Newton Estate. Our thanks for these gifts.

We are most happy to announce that Bonnie Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Anderson, and pupil in Mrs. Glen Riley's room in the McWayne School, is having an essay printed in the May issue of "Illinois History." Her subject is "The Amish Religion in Illinois." Paul Ross has written an article titled "The Batavia Institute" for the April issue of this magazine but was unsuccessful in getting it published. It may appear later.

Mrs. Riley is taking twenty students to a Regional meeting of Junior Historians in Elgin on April 27th.

The Galena Historical Society will be host for the 1963 Spring Tour of the Illinois State Historical Society May 17, 18 and 19. Walking and riding tours of historic Galena's mines and museums will be a featured part of the program.

This summer, if you have never done it before, visit some of the nearby museums - Aurora, St. Charles, Freeport, Graue Mill, Kankakee, Princeton, and Milton, Wisconsin. The latter museum is housed in a cement (grout) building built in 1844 and "is the only hexagonal historical landmark in the nation."

Some other places to visit are the Bishop Hill State Memorial; the Metamora State Memorial; the covered bridge north of Princeton just off of Route 26; the Illinois and Michigan Canal at Channahon; the locks at the Illinois State Park at Marseilles; Starved Rock Park; and the Father Marquette statue at Utica.

Then there are the Jubilee College State Memorial, Grand Detour, Galena, Prairie du Chien with its Villa Louis, in Wisconsin. Other places in Wisconsin that are interesting are the Swiss Village in New Glarus, the old lead mining town of Mineral Point, Little Norway and the Octagon House at Watertown.

Other towns in Illinois to visit are Princeton; Hennepin - the court house is a gem - Lemont, Romeoville and Lockport, all old canal towns. Little Rock and Maremech Hill, south of Plano, are historic but they are so close that we miss them. The latter was important enough to be recorded on the early Illinois maps made in France but now the hill is unmarked. Do you know what happened there?

Any of the above places can be covered in a "little holiday" of one day, over a weekend. Read up about these places before you visit them and they will mean much more to you. By all means, take your children along and tell them the story behind the scene. Illinois is as full of history as any other state in the Union.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. IV, No.3

September, 1963

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

Dedicated men and women, convinced that a people must know its heritage to be strong, fight to preserve America's historic landmarks in the midst of modernization.

Ford Times, June, 1963

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1963 at 3:00 P.M.

TRIANGLE PARK AND LOUISE WHITE SCHOOL

PROGRAM

Dedication of the School Bell in the little Triangle Park on East Wilson Street.

The Grade School Band under the leadership of Mr. Elwood Willey will give a concert, followed by a dedicatory speech.

Then the audience will go to the Louise White School where Mr. Sam Rotolo will give a talk on the History of the School.

The program will be "MCed" by Neal Conde, Sr.

The bronze plaque, made by the Batavia Foundry and Machinery Co., reads as follows: "This bell hung in the Louise White School from 1893 until the belfry was removed in 1961. Batavia Historical Society." The bell was given to the Society by the Batavia Board of Education. It was cleaned and repaired by the C. W. Shumway and Sons Foundry. We are indebted to the City of Batavia, Mr. Ronald Rule and his department for the erection of the pedestal and the installation of the plaque.

We had a good attendance at our last meeting, May 26th, at Lockwood Hall, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney H. Brandon. They were a gracious host and hostess. After the meeting we enjoyed a tour through the main floor of this beautiful residence. It was pleasant to visit with Mrs. Margaret McGee of Oberlin, Ohio and Mrs. W. L. Davidson of Evanston and their families. They are descendants of Judge Lockwood and William Coffin.

Our ex-president, Miss Eunice Shumway, Chairman of the Finance Committee, has been busy conceiving ways to make money to reach our goal of a museum for our Society. The immediate need is for a fireproof storage room for our accumulating collection of mementos. Her projects include the following:

The play "Send Me No Flowers" starring Jack Goring at the Boulder Hill Playhouse on Wednesday evening, August 21st. Tickets sold numbered 131. All who went proclaimed it a wonderful show.

A series of four programs are planned for this fall and early winter to be given at the Batavia Civic Center. Mrs. Miriam Johnson and Mrs. Mary Williams headed up this project. Here are the programs as planned:

October 19, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. AROUND AFRICA by Eleanor Burgess, illustrated with colored slides. Mrs. Wallin talked to the PEO recently. Those who heard her say her talk and slides were outstanding.

December 7, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. AN AUTHOR'S REMINISCENCES by Lillian Budd of Lombard. Mrs. Budd is well known in Batavia.

January 11, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. READING PLEASURES SHARED by Elizabeth Hall (Mrs. James D.). She has given many book reviews to Batavia audiences and her talks are always interesting.

The price for single admission will be \$1.00 and for a season ticket book of four programs, \$3.00. The latter will be very adaptable. If you wish to take a friend to anyone of the programs, two tickets from the book can be used.

The "Then and Now" booklet is progressing nicely. Search for photographs of early Batavia is continuing by Mrs. Horace N. Jones and her committee. When this collection is completed the pictures will be published as a permanent record of early Batavia homes and business establishments. The intention is to have on each page an early view of the edifice and below that the present aspect of the site.

Members of Mrs. Jones' committee are: Miss Eunice Shumway, Mrs. Mary Williams, Mrs. M. G. Schomig, Mrs. Pauline Campbell, Mrs. Earl Judd, Phillip Elfstrom, Phillip Carlson, Ray Patzer and John Gustafson.

The fourth project is publishing a second edition of 300 of the book "Historic Batavia". Our first edition of 1000 was exhausted in three months and we have had more calls for copies of the book since.

Many of our members have been interested in obtaining the old brick C&NW depot as a museum for the Society. It would have to be moved from the present site. The cost of moving, building a foundation on a new site, doing necessary repairs and installing lights and heat would come to an estimated \$8,000 to \$10,000 and we just haven't got that money. However, we are interested in the building and would hate to see it destroyed.

Earl Sloggett, because of his health, has had to give up his store. He has given the Society a fine upright display case for which we are most grateful.

The Society is in receipt recently of mementos from the following donors: Mrs. James P. Prindle, Mrs. Charles F. MaCurdy, Mrs. Walter McGary, Carl N. More, Elmer Nelson, Pat Flaherty, Bernhard S. Lentz and Paul Peebles. All of these people have been thanked.

Have you paid your 1963 dues? Our Treasurer, Mrs. Quentin Blewett, will be happy to receive your dollar. Life and Memorial memberships are available for \$25.00.

We are happy to report that Bill Benson is doing nicely after his eye operation.

FOX TAILS

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JUDGE SAMUEL DRAKE LOCKWOOD

By John Gustafson

The first men are the historic men; such a man was Judge Lockwood. He probably would be ranked as one of the ten men who have contributed most to the advancement of Illinois.

He came to Batavia in 1853 to be near the land department of the Illinois Central Railroad in Chicago. In September of 1850 the United States had made a grant of nearly 3 million acres of land to the States to secure the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad. The General Assembly accepted this gift the following spring and passed an act incorporating the railroad. The group at the head of this company were men from the East with a well established reputation in financial and railroad enterprises.

Several important decisions had to be made. The rights of the State had to be preserved. The railroad must be built as quickly as possible. The land granted by the federal government must be made available as security for funds to build the railroad. The Illinois Central was ready to accede to these demands but insisted that they must manage their own business affairs.

Therefore, William Coffin, a son-in-law of Judge Lockwood, in his biography of him, states that the following plan was adopted: The state would convey in fee to the railroad company, the lands granted by the United States, and the company should at the same time convey all these lands, and all their other property, in trust to three trustees to be held by them, first, to secure the State in all its interests; second, to secure the payment of bonds issued by them to procure the funds needed for the construction of the road and third to protect the rights of all other parties interested. The success of the plan depended upon the integrity and reputation of the trustees selected. . . “

After much discussion the following men were selected; John Moore, a former state treasurer; Morris Ketchum of New York representing the railroad, and Judge Lockwood. It was necessary for one of the trustees to live near Chicago. Neither of the other two trustees could, so this developed upon the Judge and he came to Batavia to fulfill this duty. Until his death in 1874, he lived in the stone mansion now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Rodney H. Brandon. Here he devoted the rest of his life to the details of this new vocation.

Because he was resident trustee, he performed most of the work of the Board of Trustees. They were authorized to sell and convey to the actual purchasers of land and to apply the proceeds to the construction of the railroad. Judge Lockwood was responsible in seeing that certain restrictions were observed as required by the Act of Incorporation.

Now just a word about his earlier life. Born in 1789 in the State of New York, he came to Illinois at the age of twenty-nine as a young lawyer in 1818, the year Illinois became a state. He and several companions came by way of the Ohio River on a flat boat. After arriving at Shawneetown, they walked overland to the state capitol, Kaskaskia, 120 miles distance.

His rise in public esteem was rapid. In 1821 he was State's Attorney, then Secretary of State. In 1823 he was Receiver of Public Moneys. In 1824 he was elected an associate judge of the Supreme Court, a position he held until 1848.

Besides these offices, he was a charter trustee of the State's institutions for the insane, deaf and dumb and blind, as well as President of the Board of Trustees of Illinois College. He examined the three men for their licenses as lawyers; Lyman Trumbull, Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

William Coffin closes his biography of the Judge with the following paragraph: "Judge Lockwood was permitted to see the grand enterprises of his early life in a wonderful degree successful and rich in beneficial results - Illinois a free state - educational and benevolent institutions firmly established, and the whole land most abundantly blessed by the God of our fathers ..."

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

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Published by the BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Not all that is change is progress. We live in a world of physical comfort which was undreamed of by our ancestors a century or two ago, yet from their way of life they drew values which have been lost to us, and which we seem unable to recapture.

-Clarence B. Randall, Retired Chm. Inland Steel Co.

NEXT-MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1963 at 3:00 P.M.

IN THE BARTHOLOMEW CIVIC CENTER

PROGRAM

THE STORY OF THE BATAVIA NATIONAL BANK
BY EARLE W. HORTON, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"The Friendly Bank with an Interest in Your Future." They have a great story to tell and Earle Horton is a master hand to tell it. Come out and hear him.

NOTES

Harold Blair is chairman of the Nominating Committee to select our officers for 1964. If one of them asks you to be an officer or director, please don't refuse them. We need the help and cooperation of everyone of our members.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the third of our winter programs will have come and gone. Our own Mrs. James D. Hall will give the fourth and last program on Saturday, January 11th, 1964 at 7:30 at the Civic Center. Her subject is "Reading Pleasures Shared." Price is only \$1.00. This should be the biggest and best of all. Get your friends to come.

The booklet "Then and Now" is progressing, but rather slowly, due to the illness of two of the committee members lately. These members are now well and the booklet will be in the hands of the printer soon. The Society owns, and has received besides, many photographs from interested people to be used in this brochure. We can assure you that it has been difficult for the committee to select the best and most interesting photos for this project. We thank all who have loaned us pictures.

The Society is saddened by the loss of three of our members recently. Our deepest sympathy goes to the families of Mr. Quentin Blewitt, Mr. Harold Sweet and Mrs. Irma Wood.

At our Board meetings we have been discussing the possibility of acquiring the brick C & NW Ry. depot or the frame CB&Q RR depot as a museum or a storage

place for our increasing number of mementos rather than a museum, but a museum is a goal that we should aim for. Do you have any suggestions?

Talking about memorabilia, we have received gifts from the following donors since our last report: Glen S. Crane, Mrs. Lisle Hawks, Miss Nora Corning, Mrs. Lorne A. Griffin, Mrs. Harry Duffy, Miss Grace Markuson, Mrs. Albert A. Gordon of Glen Ellyn, Mrs. Jennie Prince and Harry Bunker of LaFox. We have thanked all of these people for their gifts.

We wish the Geneva Historical Society success in their drive for funds to build a museum in Wheeler Park. They are planning a beautiful structure designed by Mr. Howard Raftery.

Our second printing of the book "Historic Batavia" is selling well. One quarter of the paperbacks have already been sold. Many more will be sold as Christmas presents. For anyone living in Batavia at present, or who has lived here, it makes a thoughtful gift. Price for the paperbound is \$2. 00, clothbound, \$4. 00.

Have you paid your dues to date to be a member in good standing? If not, see or call Mrs. Quentin Blewitt, our Treasurer. You might pay your dues of \$1. 00 for the coming year, 1964, at the same time.

Both Miss Eunice Shumway and Mrs. Pauline Campbell have been on the sick list, but we are happy to report are well again now.

The gift that we received from Mr. D. Harold Bunker was a most valuable book of 39 sectional photographic reproductions of a Kane County map of 1860, now 103 years old. One map shows Batavia Township with the names of the land owners of that ancient day. The names are all legible. Another map shows the town of Batavia. Times have changed. Here are a few of the changes: We had three Washington Streets in those days. There were two Jefferson Streets, one on each side of the River, and two Jackson Streets, although the one on the east side was called Jason Street. The map shows a park one block square, bounded by Hay, Van Buren, Latham and William (present Park) Streets. What happened to that park?

The industries shown are McKee and Moss' Batavia Mills; Corwin Ward & Co. Sugar Factory about where B. D. Price's building is now; Newton's Carriage Shop; Smith's Lime Kiln about where that old stone house is on N. Water Street; car works on First Street; several buildings where the Paper Mill was; a flour and sawmill about where the old raceway is on First Street and a steam sawmill about where the Pure Oil Station is on E. Wilson Street. Four stone quarries are shown; two on the east side, Clark's and Morgan's; and two on the west side, McKee's and Whipple's. The Catholic Church is about where Hubbard's Furnishings are today. The west side school is on the present site of Bethany Lutheran Church. Bellevue Place is a three story building without wings and with a tall tower.

The area on E. Wilson Street along the CB&Q RR tracks was laid out to be a business district. There are ten narrow lots in half a block on the north side of Wilson, west of Prairie Street and seven even narrower lots on the south side of Wilson Street. Howell's Hotel is shown on S. Van Buren Street where Walt's Shopping Center is today. The book is a fine addition to our growing library of old books and we thank Harold Bunker for it.