

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. VIII, No. 1

January, 1967

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

Prepared by John A. Gustafson

Therefore when we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for the present delight, nor for present use alone. Let it be for such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon our labor and wrought substance of them, "See, this our fathers did for us."

Ruskin in Bridges and Their Builders.

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1967 at 3 P.M.

in the Bartholomew Civic Center

PROGRAM

WINTER PASTIMES OF TIMES PAST

The following people will each talk, write or read about one phase of the subject: Mrs. Erma Jeffery, Mrs. Horace Jones, Mrs. W. C. Spencer, Mrs. B. S. Snow, Carl W. Johnson, Robert Larson, Ralph Benson, John Gustafson and maybe others. Mrs. Eunice Shumway will MC the program. Each speaker will have a time limit.

This program will be preceded by an election of officers. The following slate is proposed by the Nominating Committee:

President	Miss Eunice Shumway
Vice President	Mrs. C. J. Kruger
Secretary	Miss Joan Kane
Treasurer	Ralph C. Benson
Trustee for Two Years	Carl W. Johnson
Trustee for Two Years	Mrs. Carl W. Johnson

Mrs. Jos. A. Burnham is chairman of the committee on refreshments; Mrs. John F. Masters and Mrs. Evan D. James will assist her.

The two hold-over Trustees are Philip B. Carlson and Stanley Lenart; the two completing their term of office are Arnold Benson and Angelo Perna. They have given much time and thought to their office and the problems of the Society and we thank them.

The program as well as the attendance at our last meeting on December 4th was excellent despite the weather. Mr. Willey with his chorus of twenty High School students and soloists were outstanding.

We have had a good year. It is a lot of work to keep an organization like ours functioning smoothly. We appreciate that our last year's officers have consented to run again this year. This is the beginning of our 8th year. Possibly this year we will find a building in which to store our increasing number of mementos.

What was Batavia like a hundred years ago? The following is a partial answer and is taken from the Kane County Gazetteer for 1867:

"This large village is beautifully situated on both sides of the Fox River and possesses great advantages of water power for the several mills erected at this point. Improvements on an extensive scale have been made, and many large and substantial buildings erected for business and for residences which will compare with any in the West of its size. The surrounding district is not only beautiful but well adapted for the successful operation of any manufacturing purposes requiring water power for propelling machinery. Here also are inexhaustible quarries of the best limestone and abundant supplies of valuable timber from the Big Woods, which tend to render this location permanent and flourishing.

"The interest in the cause of Education had been carefully fostered by its citizens, till they could boast of having as good schools as any town in the State. Among others we may mention the Batavia Institute more prominent than any of the rest, which is the pride of the village, and, indeed, of the whole county. The interests of religion have also been carefully nourished, till now six churches is the result of the united efforts of a few good men. The improvements of this place are large and attest the enterprise and activity of the citizens; which, together with its manufactories, foundries, etc., tend to make all that should be asked for in a live and rapidly growing town."

These things happened in Batavia in 1867:

The Challenge Windmill and Feedmill Co. was started by Nelson Burrand Hugh M. Armstrong to manufacture the Nichols windmill, also feedmills, corn shellers, pumps and a host of other products.

A. N. Merrill started a small foundry here that year and the next year took D. R. Sperry as partner. In 1869 Mr. Sperry bought out Mr. Merrill thus starting the D. R. Sperry & Co. organization on its way. The Merrill & Shumway Foundry Co. was organized in 1872, this developed into the present C. W. Shumway & Sons foundry. Thus one man, Mr. Merrill, was instrumental in starting two businesses which are still going strong today. That is something of a record.

Two literary societies, the forerunner of our library, were formed by the students of the Batavia Institute. The young ladies called themselves the Sigourney Society and the young men, the Laconian Literary Society. Later they started a small library, circulating the books just among themselves. When those two societies disbanded, the small nucleus of 200 books was turned over to a Library Association. This, in 1873, became our Batavia Public Library.

The Batavia Paper Mill was sold to the Chicago Fibre & Paper Co. of Chicago.

In 1867 Newton & Co. were advertising all kinds of buggies and wagons as well as two types of hearses for sale. They built the front three story stone office building this year at a cost of \$12,000.

The Christian Church built their frame edifice. They were organized in December of 1852 as the Disciples of Christ with ten members.

These people arrived in Batavia in 1867: Whitely Shaw~ blacksmith and Grand-father of Mrs. Ruth Shaw Logan; Dr. Richard C. Patterson and son John C., the founder of the Bellevue Place Sanitarium; Barton E. Sperry, one of the early officers in the D. R. Sperry & Co. foundry.

There were many important events happening in 1892, 75 years ago, but these will have to wait until the next newsletter.

Did you see this item in the Chicago Tribune? It is disturbing to say the least. "The National Thrift Committee, Inc., which has been promoting regular savings and thrifty habits for 49 years, went out of business last July 1. Its members, including 725 financial institutions of all types, began to reduce their contributions about eighteen months ago, and this year the board was unable to raise its budget of \$50,000.

"This means the end of promoting National Thrift week, a national thrift essay contest, and other efforts by the committee to teach school children to be thrifty.

"The days of saving for a rainy day, or for old age, are over. Eat, drink and be merry. The government will provide for you."

The following Amendment to the Fire Ordinance was passed in the Town of Batavia, May 18, 1867:

"The Fire Department shall consist of one Engine Company and one Hose Company. The Engine Company shall not exceed fifty members. The Hose Company to be boys under the age of 21 years and not to exceed twenty-five in number. li

That year, also, the Town Board found that a Fire Engine would cost from \$1500.00 to \$2000.00. Thus, the town fathers said it was not expedient to get an Engine then.

The same week that Mrs. Quentin Blewitt died, we received a request from Miss Virginia E. Lampson of Philadelphia, Pa., a relative of Mr. Blewitt, for information about Mrs. Blewitt. We wrote her immediately giving her copies of the obituary notices of both Mr. and Mrs. Blewitt.

We thank the Furnas Electric Co. for their kindness in printing our newsletter. They not only print it, but furnish the paper and address the letters.

Membership dues are \$1.00 per year and are payable to Ralph C. Benson, 207 N. Washington Avenue.

Don't forget when buying a gift for a friend, that our book, Batavia Past and Present makes a good gift and can be purchased for \$1.50.

We want to write an article on the bells of Batavia and we are going to need help. There are, or were, church, school, factory and alarm bells; hand, sleigh, locomotive and cow bells; dinner, bicycle, street car and Christmas bells. You may remember others. Please let us know.

In view of the recent improvements of Houston Street, here is an interesting note from the Town of Batavia record books: In February, 1873, Houston Street was extended east of Batavia Avenue down the hill to N. Water Street. The West side C & NW Ry. came to town the preceding year primarily to get stone to build its shops in West Chicago and at Crawford Avenue in Chicago.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. VIII, No 2

May, 1967

Published by the Batavia Historical Society

Never before in our history have the American People been so concerned, articulated and moved to take action about the plight of our cities. And never before have we been so conscious of the need for discovering and preserving tangible reminders of our past.

Robert C. Weaver, Sec. Department of
Housing and Urban Development

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1967 at 3:00 P.M.

in the Bartholomew Civic Center

PROGRAM

Mr. K. A. Williams of Aurora

Will Show Colored Slides of Wild Flowers

Your surplus wild flowers (with soil and in "baggies") can be brought for exchange to the meeting. These plants should have been grown in one's own garden as it is illegal to dig up many kinds of plants in the wild. Also many of these wild plants are difficult to transplant.

Our twice postponed winter meeting was finally held Sunday, February 12th. Deep snow prevented having the meeting on January 29th or on February 5th. Officers were elected and then followed the "best meeting for a long time" according to many attenders. Eight members participated, two as readers, each one handling a different phase of the subject "Winter Pastimes in Times Past." This was preceded by a historical skit of some of our pioneers in Batavia given by Cub Scout Pack Den 139 under the direction of Mrs. David Olson. Mrs. Tillie Anderson, Miss Florence and Mrs. Esther Johnson were presented with corsages for their long-time service as cooks and caterers in Batavia, making possible some of the winter pastimes mentioned. Refreshments were served by Mrs. J. A. B Burnham and her committee.

Mrs. Pauline Campbell has left Batavia to take the position of superintendent of the Queen Louise Lutheran Home for Girls in St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. She has taken many, many of our beautiful photographs of Batavia scenes, was secretary of our society for three years and has served in many other ways. We wish her the best of success but we are sure going to miss her.

The Society has received mementos from the following people: Batavia Public Library; Mrs. Ellis (Agnes Hamilton) Hefty, Sarasota, Fla.; J. W. Bradshaw, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Herbert N. Woodward, President of the D. K. Mfg. Co. (Appleton Mfg. Co. material); Mrs. Carl Hendrickson; Paul Seelye; John A. Rubo; J. Edward Anderson. We are most grateful to these friends for their thoughtfulness.

Letters have been sent to Mrs. Albert N. Schmidt, Warrenville, about the Clybournes of Clybournville (Mill Creek). Also to Alfred Bergeson who will celebrate his 90th birthday next fall. Four letters were sent out for information about bells.

BATAVIA IN 1892

Seventy-five years is a long time in our city's life, that takes us back to 1892. In 1890 Batavia had a population of 3,543 having gained 904 souls in the previous decade, it was to gain only 328 in this decade. These were the years of heavy Swedish and German immigration and much industry.

Now what was "progress" in 1892? Let's see:

In April a company had been incorporated, with a capital of \$400,000, to build an electric railroad from Elgin to Aurora. That streetcar line has come and gone. Buses have been used since 1935.

In April women cast their first vote in the school election. Some men were bitterly opposed to women voting and showed their resentment. (I wonder how. My notes don't say.) Mrs. Benjamin Branford and Mrs. Clark A. Lewis received the greatest number of votes for members of the East Batavia Board of Education. Thomas Snow was elected President. J. O. McClellan was elected President and Rev. A. Challman and C. H. Brown were elected members of the West Batavia Board of Education.

In June the Kane County Exhibition Club was formed in the home of Mrs. Wm. M. Van Nortwick, Mrs. E. H. Gammon was elected President. When she died on December 22, Mrs. Van Nortwick was chosen President. Later the name of the organization was changed to the Woman's Columbian Club of Batavia. Now this is the Batavia Woman's Club,

In this year of 1892 the Anderson Block was built by Oscar Anderson and his brother-in-law John A Anderson. Two years previously they had purchased a small frame building on this same site and had conducted their merchandise business from there. This building was moved to the corner of Houston and Harrison Streets and is the present home of the Charles F. MaCurdy family. The late Mrs. G. P. (Stella Anderson) Williams, daughter of Oscar Anderson, gave me a written account of the interesting history of the Anderson Brothers business when I talked about the "Early Swedish Settlers in Batavia" at the Society meeting September 17, 1961.

For August I have this note: W. D. Turner and H. N. Wade have purchased a controlling interest in the U. S. Wind Engine and Pump Co., and will assume management September 1st. W. H. Burnham and W. S. Derby will retire from active management but will retain an interest. Mr. Wade will retire from his Chicago business. Mr. Turner will move from California back to Geneva. Mr. Wade has been with the U. S. Co. more than twenty years, Mr. Turner about fifteen.

The 400th Anniversary of the Discovery of America was held in the Music Hall in October. This celebration was given by the west side schools assisted by the GAR. Pupils in costumes represented the army, navy, continentals, Indians, several nationalities, also a Goddess of Liberty. The exercises were repeated in the evening to a large audience. The east side held exercises in their school building.

In November the Batavia Herald was started when its editor, F. E. Marley, came to town from Kendall County. However it was February 23, 1893 when Vol. I, No.1 was issued, although it wasn't so marked. The 50th Anniversary of the paper was celebrated in the issue of February 27, 1942, Vol. 50, No.1. The front page of the first issue was reproduced in this Herald. I am quoting from an article on the history of the paper which was in Section 3 of this anniversary issue:

"The Batavia Herald Company was founded in 1892 by F. E. Marley, an experienced newspaper and print shop manager, but it was not until February of 1893 that the Batavia Herald made its debut. . . ."

For fifteen years, from 1892 to 1908, Batavia had two weekly papers. The Batavia Weekly News, edited by Clark A. Lewis, started May 8, 1869 (the Society has a copy of this Vol. 1, No. 1) and expired in December of 1908.

Following is a summary of our Building Fund Account as reported by Miss Eunice Shumway on Jan. 10, 1967.

Contributions	\$ 565.00
<u>Historic Batavia</u> account	600.00
Boulder Hill Benefit and Lecture Series	488.00
Interest	<u>49.50</u>
TOTAL	1702.40
Loaned to the <u>Batavia Past & Present</u> Account	<u>1150.00</u>
TOTAL	552.40
Returned from the <u>Batavia Past & Present</u> Acct.	<u>575.00</u>
Balance as of January 10, 1967	\$1127.40

We are saddened by the passing of the Misses Madge and Hazel Geiss, Mrs. Alma Hendrickson, Mr. Sidney Diephouse, the father of Mrs. Ruth Johnsen, Mrs. Maud Baily, Miss Lillian B. Sweet and Mr. Henry Wenberg. Our sympathy is extended to their families,

This fall and next year, we are going to hear a lot about the Illinois Sesquicentennial Celebration. Illinois became a state December 3, 1818, the 21st state to enter the Union. Batavia, in fact all of Northern Illinois, wasn't even thought of at that time. It was an Indian reservation, wild and woolly, and it wasn't until Black Hawk and his tribe was forced across the Mississippi in 1832 that his land was open for settlement. The Batavia area received its first settler, Christopher Fayne, the following year. Now, 134 years later, we are very much alive.

Membership dues payable to Ralph C. Benson, 207 N. Washington Avenue, phone TR 9-3525.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. VIII, No.3

AUGUST, 1967

Published by the BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Prepared by John A. Gustafson

Christian society is like a bundle of sticks laid together whereof one kindles another. Solitary men have fewest provocations to evil but again fewest incitations to good. So much as doing good is better than not doing evil will I account Christian good fellowship better than a hermitish and melancholy solitariness.

Joseph Hall

NEXT MEETING

(At the invitation of the Congregational Church)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1967 at 9:30 AM

IN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BATAVIA

PROGRAM

THE CHURCH OF YESTERYEAR

The minister, Rev. Robert Bond, has been invited by the National United Church of Christ to attend a "Centers of Renewal" tour as a leader. He will tour the countries of England, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, and France during the month of August. The Church has granted this request. Therefore the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses has planned August as Anniversary Month.

As you will note in the following outline of its history, this Church was founded back in 1835 and was the first church in Kane County, so the Batavia Historical Society thought their members might like to know this and to attend this meeting if possible.

There will be a collection of mementos, church-wise and otherwise on display in the ambulatory and class-rooms. Anyone having anything appropriate to display, please call Mrs. George France, 879-7658. She will appreciate your helpfulness.

Our May meeting was well attended, Mr. K. E. Williams of Aurora showed colored slides of wild flowers. His pictures were excellent and he was well qualified as a speaker on this subject. He has taken photographs of wild flowers for years as a hobby, and during that period, has taken hundreds of slides. Refreshments were served following the program.

Since our last listing in May, we have received mementos from Mrs. Maude Duncan, Mr. Raymond J. Bristow, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Phillips, and Mr. Bert L. Hyde. We thank these people for their thoughtfulness.

We received a long letter from our member and society photographer, Mrs. Pauline Campbell, telling about her work and describing her home on the island of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. Her address is:

Mrs. Pauline Campbell
Box 866, Frederiksted
St. Croix, U. S., V. I. 00840

OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Aug. 8 and 9, 1835	Organized as the "Church of the Big and Little Woods," Presbyterian in government, in the log cabin of Thompson Paxton, six miles southeast of Batavia. Fourteen members from five families, under the guidance of two missionaries, Rev. N. C. Clark and Rev. R. W. Gridley, formed the nucleus of the church.
Aug. 1, 1840	"It was considered expedient to have the center of operations at Batavia." A church, 24 ft. by 32 ft. costing \$401.00, was built where Hubbard's Home Furnishings now stands. This was dedicated on January 29th, 1841.
Mar. 7, 1843	Name of the church was changed to the First Presbyterian Church of Batavia.
Sept. 2, 1843	Church voted to change the government of the church from Presbyterian to Congregational.
Sept. 1, 1856	The church membership kept increasing and soon outgrew the first edifice, and so "it was considered feasible" to build again. In 1855 and 1856 the present structure was erected and dedicated on September 1st, 1856.
Nov. 26, 1865	Audience room was lighted for the first time with bracket kerosene lamps, and a few years later, with chandeliers.
June 1, 1867	A pipe organ, costing \$1100.00, was installed in the gallery.
1871	This pipe organ was sold to an Aurora church and a larger one was purchased for \$2400.00. The church building was thoroughly renovated, the recess at the rear of the 'pulpit' was built and the bell was installed.
July, 1877	The steeple fell during a high wind partly destroying Miss Rockwell's home to the south.
Jan. 4, 1881	The first parsonage was purchased.
1891	Electric lights were installed.
1899	The stained glass windows were installed.
June, 1935	The centennial of the church organization was celebrated.
Apr. 24, 1949	The present organ and chancel were dedicated.
October, 1956	The centennial of the present church edifice was celebrated.
Jan. 16, 1966	The Educational Unit was dedicated.

Six months or so before Bill Bowron died, he came out to see me, lamenting that Batavia had no street named for Abraham Lincoln. He was a great admirer of Lincoln and had a keen student of him, saying it was a great shame that we had so slighted the "Greatest American." So it seems fitting that when one of the "Washingtons" had to be changed for clarity and to avoid confusion, the name Lincoln Street was substituted.

We are making plans now to celebrate the Illinois Sesquicentennial with a program early in 1968.

Benefits of membership in the Illinois State Historical Society:

A subscription to the Dispatch, the Society's newsletter.

Books and pamphlets published from time to time by the Society.

Invitations to two meetings each year which include historical programs and tours of historic sites in various areas of the state.

The satisfaction of knowing that your dues help to support the program of the only statewide organization dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of our state's dramatic past,

Individual member dues \$5.00 annually.
Mail to Illinois State Historical Society
Centennial Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Our member, Mrs. Agnes Perrow of West Chicago, has just completed her teaching career, forty-two years of devoted work in schools in and around West Chicago.

Now she will devote her time to a number of activities and some well-earned travel. We congratulate her on a job well done.

What has happened to the old store signs? "The wooden Indians in front of the cigar stores; the clock signs with the hands set at 8:18 over the jewelry stores; the wooden boots over the shoe stores; the apothecary jars in the drug stores; the beautiful white horse, full size as I remember it, that was in Quinn Brothers harness shop? The only signs left that I can recollect are the striped poles designating the barber shops. The use of these signs goes way back in history when the barbers acted as doctors and bled their patients for all manner of diseases. Then do you remember the beautiful colored picture of Custer's Last Fight that was in the saloon window on Batavia Avenue? For some reason I liked that picture and used to look at it surreptitiously as I went to and from school. There was a charm about these old fashioned signs that the modern neon signs don't have.

This would be an excellent time for someone to write an up-to-date history of Kane County. The old histories are too big and bulky - what we need is a concise and well written history, like the history of DeKalb County.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. VIII, No 4

September, 1967

Published by the BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Prepared by John A. Gustafson

"In the next few days ... I thought of souvenir stands, of highway billboards, of the thing in us that tears down attractive old buildings to replace them, more often than not, with unattractive new ones that muddies the clear springs from which flow our best intentions."

The Last of the Middle West - J. R. Humphreys

NEXT MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1967 at 3 PM
IN THE BARTHOLOMEW CIVIC CENTER

PROGRAM

THE INDIANS: BATAVIA'S REAL OLD TIMERS
Leaders - Messrs. Bert Hyde, Wm. B. Benson and Austin Runde.
SIOUX INDIAN DANCERS DIRECTED BY MR. MELVIN FEW.

The above four men have spent many years researching and collecting facts and artifacts dealing with the Indians who first lived in this area centered around what is now known as Batavia, Illinois. The stories of their findings are truly exciting and the Society wishes to share them with you. The program will be concluded by the Sioux Indian Dancers directed by Mr. Melvin Few. Each of the speakers will display a limited number of their most important articles with detailed explanations. We encourage you to bring your family and friends - they will all enjoy it. Mrs. James Wertz is chairman of the Refreshment Committee.

On invitation of the Congregational Church, many members of the Batavia Historical Society attended the church service there on Sunday, August 6th, especially to hear Msgr. Wm. J. Donovan's message "The Church of Yesteryear." Msgr. Donovan is held in high regard by all who know him (and that includes nearly everyone in Batavia), for his long pastorage in the Holy Cross Catholic Church. It is impossible to quote any part of his message, it was all quotable, and we are sorry that it wasn't taped.

After the service, displays of church artifacts, going back to its origin on August 8, 1835, had been arranged in the Pine Room. These were enjoyed by all. Punch was served by the ladies of the church. Fortunately the Congregational Church service started at 9:30 so that members from other churches could still attend their own services.

One of the problems of the Atomic Energy Commission in the Weston area is what to do with the Pioneer Cemetery located on the Batavia-Warrenville Road. There is only a small part of the original cemetery remaining containing 18 graves with tombstones dating back to 1839. The property originally was part of a federal land grant made to Gen. Thompson Mead for his service in the War of 1812. He and his wife are buried here.

"We do not know exactly how it will be handled," said Kenneth Reeling, Wheaton administrator for the State Department. "There are legal complications."

We trust that the remains here buried, if they have to be moved, will be properly taken care of in a new cemetery and not ruthlessly destroyed. Cemeteries should always be respected and this cemetery is important historically as well.

Plans, only tentative as yet, are being made to celebrate the Illinois Sesquicentennial in the Tri-Cities by sponsoring a play to be given by the Playmakers in June of next year.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Johnson, 471 Chestnut Street, were here Wednesday evening, August 9th, to show us three bottles and a jug dug up in the yard at the corner of S. Prairie and E. Wilson Streets. This was the home of Mary Kearns and is the oldest house in Batavia we understand. Isaac Wilson lived here and it was the first post office in Batavia. The jug, about three gallons capacity, was salt glazed and had tapered sides. The bottles included a beautiful stone 12-sided one about ten inches high, a glass Hood's Sarsaparilla and a Kee & Chapell Dairy milk bottle. This evidently was a dump or a "kitchen Midden."

Do any of you have a photograph of the old Barker quarry taken just after it was being operated as a stone quarry? Mr. Lloyd Reynolds of Oak Lawn would like to borrow it so that he can make a reproduction of it. Mr. Reynolds grew up in Batavia and played in that quarry so he has fond memories of it. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. James H. Reynolds and his grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Gillett and they lived at 140 S. Batavia Avenue. We had a most enjoyable visit with Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds.

We understand that the exhibits in the Geneva Museum have been changed recently. Everything is beautifully arranged and now would be a good time to visit it. The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 PM.

Another museum nearby that can be visited is the Ellwood House on N. First Street Road in DeKalb. This is open Wednesdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 PM.

There were many things happening in Batavia fifty years ago (1917). We can only mention a few:

July 7 to 12, the Lincoln Chautauqua was held on the West Side school grounds.

August 22. The Household Journal moved its staff from Chicago to offices in the former George Council home on S. Batavia Avenue.

December 12. Batavia has now 225 men serving in the various military branches.

Sometimes we wonder if the newsletter is worthwhile. It is a chore to get out, print, clip and mail to you. Furnas Electric does the printing and Miss Shumway with her helpers do the final work. Should we continue it? It is now in its eighth year and this is the 31st issue.

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Vol. VIII, No. 5

December, 1967

Published by the BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Prepared by John A, Gustafson

Fix your eyes on the greatness of your country as you have it before you day by day, fall in love with her, and when you feel her great, remember that her greatness was won by men with courage, with knowledge of their duty, and with a sense of honour in her action, who, even if they failed in some venture, would not think of depriving the country of their powers but laid them at her feet as their fairest offering,

Pericles

NEXT MEETING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1967 at 3 PM
IN THE BARTHOLOMEW CIVIC CENTER

PROGRAM
THE TINTINNABULATION OF THE BELLS
By Miss Erma Jeffery and John Gustafson

New England Bell Ringers of Aurora directed by Rev, Drexel V, Mollison. Special Christmas music by a Batavia High School group directed by Mr. Elwood Willey. Recordings of all of the Batavia church bells by Bob Larson, Board members will serve refreshments, Miss Caroline Linder will make the Christmas cookies.

Our last meeting on September 17th was devoted to "The Indians: Batavia's Real Old Timers, and was presented by Bert Hyde, William B. Benson and Austin Runde. As the president, Miss Eunice Shumway, was ill and our vice-president, Mrs. Sally Kruger, could not attend, Mrs. Carl Johnson, one of our Trustees was in charge. She said, "our program was exceptionally interesting. All of the speakers were informative and entertaining and Melvin Few and the Indian dancers were 'the topping of the cake.' Mr. Runde presented the Society with a map showing sites of Indian villages as well as the Indian trails in this area.

The following committee will nominate the officers of the Society for the coming year: Mr. Amos Hartman, Chm., Mr. Harold Patterson, Mrs. J. Harrold Blair and Mrs. Dewey Swan.

I received my orders from you regarding the continuation of this newsletter. I received many letters and telephone calls telling me how much you enjoyed it. I thank all of you.

The strawberry industry used to be quite important in Batavia in the early 1900's. Martin J. Abernethy used to ship 50-16 quart cases a day at one time. There were other growers: L. C. Carlow, Thomas Guyder and H. W. Williams. I don't remember much about the industry and need help from you. If you can write it up from your recollections or notes, will you please do so?

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

We thank the following people who have given the Society mementos recently (they were so thanked by letter):

Mrs. Peggy Lou Reedus for copies of "Vox Alumni," Vol. I, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 for 1894, 1895 and 1896 respectively. These were issued by the East Batavia High School Alumnus.

Joseph R. Burton for a training gun used by the Batavia High School during the first World War.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton A. Jones for an antique typewriter called "The Caligraph No.2, Manufactured by the American Writing Machine Company, New York." This is an old single key machine and was designed by George W. Yost in 1885.

One can never know what he will discover in looking through some of the artifacts. We received recently a few torn, brittle, discolored part-pages of a magazine called "The Farmer's Review," no date, from Mrs. Dahlstrom, formerly Mrs. Mildred Pinner, when she was having an old garage torn down. I ran across this old illustrated ad on one of the torn sheets:

Common Sense Potato Digger
The only low priced
Successful digger known
Manufactured by
C.E. Mann & Company Geneva, Illinois

Who was C. E. Mann? He was superintendent of the West Batavia Public Schools from 1903 to 1907, when he died. That was when some of us were in high school. Early in life he went into the cooperage business in Geneva and was twice burnt out. Then he went to Aurora and was in the same business. He sold out and became a teacher in the Geneva schools, was Kane County Superintendent of Schools for 17 years, Superintendent of the St. Charles schools and lastly had the same office in Batavia. And to think that some time during his life he made potato diggers!

The Society has furnished a bronze plaque for the following two houses recently:

The Kruger home at 125 Lincoln Street was written up in the Historic American Building Survey. It was built for Thomas J. Cleveland about 1852. Through the years it was owned by Rev. Thomas North, a Methodist minister; John Burnham, an inventor; Albert G. Burke and his daughter, Miss Mary Louise Burke and, lastly, by the C. J. Kruger family.

John Burnham's father manufactured pumps in Vermont and John conceived a plan to use the wind to run these pumps. He laid his plans before Daniel Halladay who was an inventor and had a machine shop. They formed a partnership to manufacture windmills in Connecticut. In 1857 he came to Chicago and met John Van Nortwick in his CB&Q RR office. He interested Mr. Van Nortwick in using windmills for pumping water for locomotives. They formed a company calling it the United States Wind Engine and Pump Company with John Van Nortwick as president and general manager, Daniel Halladay as superintendent and Burnham as general agent. A windmill tower once stood on these premises and may have been used for his experiments.

The other plaque was furnished for the Dr. and Mrs. Roland T. Ely home at 414 Main Street. This house was erected by Ezra Abbott in 1856 according to information in the Abstract of Title. Much of the following notes was furnished by Michael H. McCormick, a realtor with the A. L. Allen & Sons organization. Hugh Armstrong lived in the house at the time of the 1867 census. It was Mr. Armstrong, with Nelson Burr, who started the Challenge Windmill & Feedmill Co. this year of 1867 to manufacture the Nichol's windmill, also feedmills, cornshellers and pumps. We don't know how long Mr. Armstrong lived there or who the occupants were for a number of years following, until Laurens E. Wolcott came to live here after marrying Miss Ethel Patchin in 1905. The Patchins lived at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets.

Then about 1912 Rev. Nelson O. Freeman, a retired Methodist minister, bought the house and lived here until his death. Later occupants were The Wilbur Woods, Robert E. Davis and William J. Pross.

Dr. Ely, the present owner, is a teacher in the Department of History at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois. Both Dr. and Mrs. Ely are members of the Society.

There is a sentence in Mr. McCormick's letter that disturbs me. He phoned Mr. Davis, one of the former owners, who obtained the date of erection of the house from the Abstract of Title. Mr. Davis told Mr. McCormick that he "turned this abstract into the Chicago Title & Trust Co. in exchange for a guaranteed title policy. I learned today that this source of information has been destroyed, according to their policy, by burning it six months after issuing the title policy".

The Society welcomes the new pastor of the Evangelical Covenant Church, Rev. Rodney L. Holmberg and his family.

We mourn the sudden death of Rev. Paul E. Kunkel of the Holy Cross Church. They have our deepest sympathy. The Rev. Joseph J. Reikas from Amboy succeeds him.

The Bethany Lutheran Church has just celebrated their 95th Anniversary. The Society was invited to see the display of pictures of Batavia families of "days gone by" at the Historical Program on October 15th. We thank them for the invitation. We know that some of our members attended and enjoyed the program.

We congratulate the Calvary Episcopal Church on breaking ground for the Educational Building. This building will be a tremendous asset to their church plant.

Some horse-drawn vehicles were not cheap. In May, 1909, liveryman John Peterson purchased a \$1,400 brougham and a \$900 set of harness at a sale in Chicago. His livery stable, as many of you will recall, was on the site of the new First National Bank building.