



WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter



Don't let local history be a mystery!



JANUARY
2024

Wayne County Historical Society
Fairfield Public Library
300 S.E. 2nd Street
Fairfield, Illinois 62837

Early History Museum & Archives
300 S.E. 2nd Street, Fairfield
Open Saturdays year-round
10:00am - 2:00pm

Hanna House Museum
100 E. Center Street, Fairfield
Open Saturdays April-October
10:00am - 2:00pm

Olive Branch Schoolhouse
Leo French Park, Fairfield
Open by appointment

e-Mail:
wcilhs@gmail.com

Website:
wayneillinoishistory.org

Facebook: [Wayne-County-Historical-Society](https://www.facebook.com/Wayne-County-Historical-Society)

We welcome another year and marvel at how "time marches on." Can you believe it is the year 2024? The Wayne County Historical Society has several projects and activities planned for the year. Monthly Society meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6 pm at Fairfield Public Library meeting room.

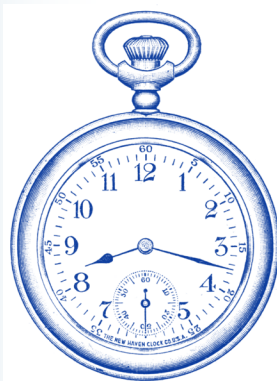


Early History Museum and Archives at the Fairfield Public Library is open Saturdays from 10am until 2pm. A new item on display is a pulpit donated from Mill Shoals.

The Hanna House Museum will open back up in April. Improvements to the flooring and updated lighting are planned for the new season.

The **Olive Branch Schoolhouse** will get a few repairs and a good cleaning in preparation for spring and summer hours.

Look for further additions to the Wayne County Historical Society **HERITAGE LANDMARKS PROJECT** with area signage and recognition. The Heritage Landmarks **CHURCH PROJECT** continues in 2024 with plans to publish.



The Wayne County Historical Society will look back 100 years to 1924, a busy year in Wayne County. Watch for articles, discussions, podcasts and photographs to be featured this year.

Visit the Wayne County Historical Society **Facebook** page and our **Website**. Links can be found to our Podcast page to replay our "History Mystery" radio spots featured on WFIW every morning.

Membership is only \$15 per year and runs January through December. Lifetime membership is \$300. Dues, donations, and bequeaths support our efforts.

Wayne County Historical Society 2023 Year in Review

Greetings,

The 2023 year in the local history of the Wayne County Historical Society has been a successful one. We take this time to express our gratitude to our members, volunteers, board members, museum staff, and patrons.

The 2023 Cemetery Tour built on past successes, excellent volunteers in all respects and positions, and perfect weather. The public appreciates and anticipates the event. It is a winner! Our thanks, in particular, to Doug Aman, for chairing the huge event and to the best bunch of workers and actors ever! It is a lot of work, but our support system and people are so, so good. Plus the actual event is satisfying and fun!

The Society inaugurated its first Landmark recognition at the Lang Hotel/Joe's Body Shop to get this program moving. Our difficulty has been with getting the plaques. The original company of choice simply did not respond to our communications. The plan now is to have Donna incorporate our logo into a striking and appropriate Landmark design. We will work with local printers on metal or heavy vinyl signage. This way we can present attractive recognition plaques in a timely manner.

The Church History Project is gathering a lot of information, with more one the way during January. We anticipate organizing, editing, and printing the booklet in 2024. This is a longer project deadline than we anticipated, but that isn't a problem. We have time to do it right. We will need some volunteers to help organize the incoming information in the files in February. This we will know which churches need further contact.

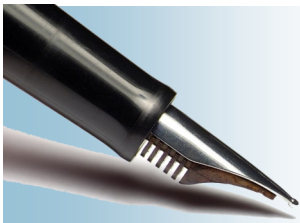
Donna, Jami, and Niki have done excellent work in both museums. Plus we made some essential floor and plumbing repairs at the Hanna House. We thank all three of them, as well, for their many extra hours with special tours and outreach programs.

Our "QR" Smartphone signs downtown were a positive experiment which we plan to refine in 2024 with improved signage and additional sites. The trial-run was good, but we see several ways to improve this "techy" opportunity. The Podcast audio spots get much more traffic simply from Facebook.

Blaine Norton's photo project of historical buildings county-wide is nearing the end. He has traveled all over the county as he worked through an extensive list. His photographs will be an invaluable collection for the future. Members will get a taste of what he has accomplished in a program next year.

It is a pleasure to be a part of this group. The Society is continuing to be a civic partner and an energetic force for preserving our local heritage. Thank you all for such a good year!

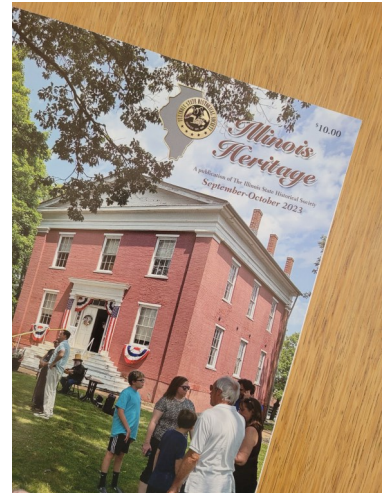
Judith Puckett, president



Heritage Church Recognition

The October 2023 edition of the *Illinois Heritage* magazine published by the Illinois State Historical Society listed the 41 Illinois churches added to the Sesquicentennial Houses of Worship List. Included on the list was the Brush Creek Community of Christ and the Lebanon North C P Church of Wayne County. The Wayne County Historical Society assisted members of these congregations submit application for the award.

The Illinois State Historical Society's Sesquicentennial House of Worship program seeks to recognize historic churches and their congregations, who have served their communities continuously for 150 years or more. Visit www.historyillinois.org



Heritage Churches of Wayne County

The Historical Society will continue to collect documentation on the churches of Wayne County. The information will be on file as part of the archives and also compiled into a book.

Heritage Landmarks Program Continues

The Wayne County Historical Society plans to recognize several more area buildings for their historical significance. The landmarks are then highlighted in the newspaper and online. Signage will be erected that includes the date the landmark was built and a QR code with more information on the history of the building.



QR Codes provide “smart” access to information

Continue to look for the Wayne County Historical Society QR CODES around Wayne County. The small graphics are similar to a bar code and can be scanned by a smart phone to provide a link to on-line information. The Society has used the QR codes at the Cemetery Tour to highlight biographical information and around downtown Fairfield to highlight information about historical buildings. Currently the codes are linked to our podcast site and provide information in an audio format.

History Mystery Podcast audio stories are added and featured on the WFIW morning radio program. The link to each new story is posted to the Historical Society Facebook page.

“Like” the **Wayne County Historical Society Facebook** page for meeting and event information. Past newsletters and general information can be found on our website at <https://wayneillinoishistory.org/>



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MEMBERSHIP

The Wayne County Historical Society offers Annual and Life Memberships. Dues are tax deductible and are a key source of funding for the Society. Annual Memberships are \$15 and run from January through December. Lifetime membership is a one-time payment for permanent membership for \$300 (also tax deductible). Find the membership form PDF on this page. Download, print and send in your membership.

The Wayne County Historical Society maintains a 501(c)3 status with the State of Illinois as a not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

In addition to memberships, the Society gratefully receives donations from individuals or civic organizations, grants from community foundations, bequeaths, and transfers of stock for sale to benefit our mission.

Members receive our quarterly newsletter and e-mail notices of events and programs.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Membership MEMORIALS

Kay Borah, 79, of Fairfield, died on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Kaye had worked at the Wayne County Courthouse for 26 years, retiring as the Deputy Circuit Clerk. She was also a member of the Ellen Moore United Methodist Church.

Kaye and the love of her life, Mickey Borah, eloped in Texas. He preceded her in death in October, 2021.

Sharon Arthur, 78 of Fairfield died May 3, 2023. She graduated from FCHS with the class of 1962. Sharon married Bill Arthur on September 22, 1963. Sharon had been an active member of the Fairfield First Baptist Church since 1954, when she was 10 years old. She is survived by her husband Bill of Fairfield, daughter Melissa (Ralph) Barbre, and 2 stepchildren.

Larry Odum, 87, passed away September 6, 2023. Larry married Sue Reid on January 25, 1957. Sue Odum died November 16, 2014. Coach Odum remains the highest scoring basketball player at Marion High School. Larry was a Football Tailback at the University of Florida. Larry was an educator, teaching English and Grammar at Fairfield Community High School for 38 years and coach. Larry is survived by his daughter Lara (Jim) Griswold of Fairfield, IL, and two sisters.

Richard Allen Musgraves, 86 of Geff passed away September 20, 2023. After graduating from Fairfield High School in 1955, he joined the Navy and studied electrical engineering. Richard served 4 years, spending time on aircraft carriers. After the Navy, he attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. Richard became a student worker at the Central Research Shop, a facility serving the various schools at the university, and eventually became the Shop Supervisor. Marsha Ann Smith and Richard married in 1961.

In the 1960's, when Buckminster Fuller was a professor at the SIU School of Design, Fuller's students, including Richard, built a prototype for a geodesic dome which was erected on Campus Lake Drive. It is still on display at the SIU campus.

Richard retired from SIU in 1994 after 32 years of service, and he and Marsha moved to the family farm southwest of Geff, IL. For many years he was active in the Geff Ruritan Club and the Sons of the American Legion in Fairfield. Richard was an inventor, builder, and philosopher.

Richard worked lovingly on the repurposed antique staircase at the Fairfield Hanna House Museum.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marsha Ann Musgraves; son Timothy Allen (Linda Hill); daughter Laura Christine; grandchildren Rigdon, Jack, Kate, and Maria; sister Doris Elaine Musgrave

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

as of January 2024



Dianna Carroll	Winston, GA	David Land	Fairfield, IL
William Carroll	Winston, GA	Brad Legg	Wayne City, IL
Bridget Clausen	Champaign, IL	Clint Legg	Fairfield, IL
Rusty Coomer	Fairfield, IL	M.J. Lehr	Fairfield, IL
Evelyn Doty	Fairfield, IL	Todd Lehr	Fairfield, IL
Judy Ehrhart	Wayne City, IL	Lemond's Chrysler	Fairfield, IL
Eledith Falk	Austin, TX	Steve Liston	Fairfield, IL
Lisa Felix	Fairfield, IL	Colin McDuffee	Fairfield, IL
Beverly Fisher	Fairfield, IL	Delanna McDuffee	Fairfield, IL
Donald Garrison	Nashville, TN	Bonni Markeson	Mt. Gilead, OH
Chuck Griswold	Fairfield, IL	Karen Mayfield	Fairfield, IL
Judy Griswold	Fairfield, IL	Ruth Moore	Jacksonville, FL
Dena Griswold	Fairfield, IL	Reva Meeks	Fairfield, IL
Gayla Grote	Fairfield, IL	Connie Mitchell	Fairfield, IL
Mercedes Grote	Fairfield, IL	Jala Morris	Fairfield, IL
Terry Grote	Fairfield, IL	Marsha Musgraves	Geff, IL
Mary Faye Gubbins	Fairfield, IL	Earl O'Malley	Indian Head Oak, IL
Mary Lou Gwaltney	Fairfield, IL	Paula O'Malley	Indian Head Oak, IL
Terry Harper	Albion, IL	Elaine Parker	Fairfield, IL
Dale Harris	Fairfield, IL	Peggy Parker	Fairfield, IL
Robert Hawkins	Kentucky	Jan Pollard	Fairfield, IL
Marty Hawkins	Kentucky	Mike Pottorff	Fairfield, IL
Ron Heflin	Fairfield, IL	Terry Prizer	Corpus Christi, Texas
Phyllis (Hilliard) Wilks	Mt. Vernon, IL	Stephen Prizer	Corpus Christi, Texas
Pam Holman	Fairfield, IL	Jim Puckett	Geff, IL
Cheryl Holmes	Fairfield, IL	Carolyn Puckett	Geff, IL
Carl Hubble	Bellville, TX	Judith Puckett	Fairfield, IL
Roberta Simpson Jones	Dexter, KY	Ramona Reed	Fairfield, IL
Kevin Kakac	Fairfield, IL	Curt Robbins	Fairfield, IL
Dave Kenshalo	Fairfield, IL	Jim Rush	Fairfield, IL
Pat Kenshalo	Fairfield, IL	Matt Rush	Fairfield, IL
Tom Konopasek	Fairfield, IL	Donna Green Savage	Fairfield, IL
Lisa Konopasek	Fairfield, IL	Roche Smothers	Bt. Prairie, IL
Hunter Konopasek	Fairfield, IL	Linda Smothers	Bt. Prairie, IL
David Land	Fairfield, IL	Sharon Stanley	Fairfield, IL
Brad Legg	Wayne City, IL	Bob Stewart	Fairfield, IL
Clint Legg	Fairfield, IL	Walt Townsend	Geff, IL
M.J. Lehr	Fairfield, IL	Steve Vandever	Fairfield, IL
Todd Lehr	Fairfield, IL	Sandra Vandever	Fairfield, IL
Lemond's Chrysler	Fairfield, IL	Jared Vaughn	Fairfield, IL
Steve Liston	Fairfield, IL	Anita Vogel	Fairfield, IL
Colin McDuffee	Fairfield, IL	John Walker	Fairfield, IL
Delanna McDuffee	Fairfield, IL	Dana Wilson	Fairfield, IL
Bonni Markeson	Mt. Gilead, OH	Jo Wilson	Pittsburgh, PA
Karen Mayfield	Fairfield, IL	Wilma Yates	Fairfield, IL
Ruth Moore	Jacksonville, FL	Patricia Young	Henrico, VA
Reva Meeks	Fairfield, IL		
Connie Mitchell	Fairfield, IL		
Jala Morris	Fairfield, IL		



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Judith Puckett, President DeLanna McDuffee, Vice President Jayla Morris, Secretary Judy Griswold, Treasurer
Directors: Judith Puckett Doug Aman David Land Donna Savage Judy Griswold DeLanna McDuffee Jala Morris
Curators: Niki Roethe Jami Roethe Donna Savage



2024 Wayne County Historical Society Membership Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

High School attended: _____ Graduation year: _____

____ Annual Individual \$15 ____ Annual Couple \$30 ____ Lifetime \$300

Make checks payable to Wayne County Historical Society

Mail or drop off to:
Wayne County Historical Society Fairfield Public Library 300 S.E. 2nd Street Fairfield, Illinois 62837