



# WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Don't let local history be a mystery!

FALL 2020

### WELCOME FALL!

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

Early History Museum & Archives  
300 S.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fairfield  
Open Saturdays year-round  
10:30am - 1:30pm

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

Olive Branch Schoolhouse  
Leo French Park, Fairfield  
Open Tuesdays June-October  
5:00pm-7:00pm

e-Mail:  
[wayneillinoishistory@gmail.com](mailto:wayneillinoishistory@gmail.com)

Website:  
[wayneillinoishistory.com](http://wayneillinoishistory.com)

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

Fall is in the air. The beautiful weather has allowed many to enjoy being outdoors. Around the county, harvesting has begun and it looks to be an exceptional year. School has begun with added health and safety procedures. 2020 will be the fall without a **Fairfield Fall Fun Fest** or **Wayne City Bean Days** celebration. After months of very few cases of COVID19, the County Health Department has seen a swift increase. As of September 2020, the Health Department has recorded over 260 positive cases with 6 deaths due to **COVID 19**. Our sympathy goes to those families.

The **Wayne County Historical Society conducted meetings** in July at the Community of Christ Family Life Center, in August at the Fairfield Library meeting room, and in September at the Wayne City Community Center. The **Early History Museum** and the **Hanna House Museum** have been open Saturdays. The **Olive Branch Schoolhouse** has been open on Tuesday evenings. Museum staff conducted a Saturday History activity for kids and a fun **pumpkin painting** activity. The annual **December skating party** for kids is being planned.

The Historical Society will participate in the **Veteran's Day Parade in Fairfield**. Look for our **new banner**. The image of the banner can be seen at the top of this page. Thanks to Jason and the Wayne County Press for the creation of our new banner!

### Don't let local history be a mystery

Tune in 5 minutes before 7am to **WFIW 104.9 radio** in the mornings to hear the latest "History Mystery" story. The informative stories can also be found on our **Facebook page**. Recently, while doing research for the stories, Gina Bashore discovered that the founder of the **National Grand Army of the Republic—The GAR**, was born in Fairfield. **Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson** moved with his family from Fairfield to Sagamon county, Illinois when he was only three years old. After serving in the Civil war, he founded the GAR to recognize veterans.

### Membership

It is a great time to become a member of the Historical Society. New members joining in October, November and December qualify for membership for the remainder of this year, and the full new year, 2021. Annual Memberships are \$15 per person per calendar year. Lifetime membership is a one-time payment for \$300.

Find a membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

**“DON’T LET LOCAL HISTORY BE A MYSTERY!”**

**VOTE**

One hundred years ago on Thursday, August 26, 1920, the Wayne County Press reported that the Nineteenth Amendment, known as the Susan B. Anthony Woman’s Suffrage amendment, was ratified, giving women the right to vote throughout the United States.



Suffrage movements began in Illinois as early as the 1860s, although attempts to grant women the right to vote often had limitations and restrictions. Finally, with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, women were granted equal voting rights for all local, state and national elections.

All citizens should exercise their right to vote. The 2020 United States presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Voters will select presidential electors who in turn will vote to either elect a new president and vice president or reelect the current president and vice president.

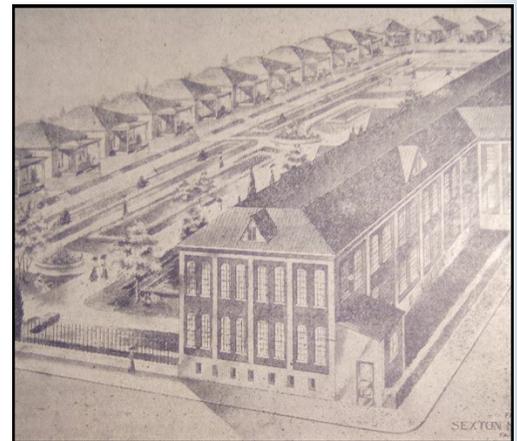


Walter and Clara Morgan  
Geff, Illinois 1921

**SEXTON Manufacturing Fairfield, Illinois 1910**

1910 photo caption; *“For the comfort and convenience of the young ladies who come to Fairfield to learn to sew, we are erecting modern houses. They are illuminated by electricity, heated by steam radiation, have fine modern sanitary plumbing, and mirrors on the closet doors. In the short time you should be earning \$1.50 a day.”*

The Sexton Manufacturing sewing factory made underwear.



**APPLE PICKING TIME**

Wayne County was at one time well known for its apples. All varieties of apples were grown here and in large amounts.

The apple barrels were also made in Fairfield.

The photo is from 1910.



## WAYNE CITY SCHOOL ARCHIVES

The Wayne County Historical Society met on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Wayne City Community Center. The speaker for the evening was Darla (Barnard) Green. Darla helped to organize a volunteer committee to collect and archive the memorabilia and history of the Wayne City schools.



Dave Morris, Mike Mossburger and Darla Green

The village of Wayne City was incorporated in 1882. The downtown area straddles the Southern Railroad tracks. About 1000 people live within the town limits. For years, Wayne City has held an annual fall festival known as Bean Days. This event usually includes a gathering of high school alumni. Local citizens and people returning to their home town often look to photos and memorabilia to reminisce and at the 2015 Bean Day festival began voicing their concerns about the fate of these items.



In 2015 the Wayne City school district began construction of the new high school and elementary building. The concern of community members grew about what would happen with all of the class photos, trophies, banners, plaques and memorabilia that were housed throughout the old school buildings. This concern evolved into a group of volunteers who approached the school board and from that concern the Archives Committee was formed. This committee reports to the school board each month on their progress.

Committee member and Archivist Darla Green consulted former Wayne City alumni Sue Ellen Lathrop for guidance. Sue Ellen Lathrop is the University Archivist at Western Kentucky University. She guided the committee on legal protocols and guidelines to properly preserve and manage all the different memorabilia.

The Archive Committee has several sub-committees to focus on the areas such as trophy collection and management led by Noeleen Tubbs. Chieftain yearbook collection is led by Trixie Lathrop, finance led by Heather Greenwalt, and technology led by Kirk Barnard. Sue Meyers is the secretary/treasurer. Guidelines were established to keep, eliminate or archive all memorabilia including trophies, banners, club awards, and memorial plaques.

*Continued on the next page*

## WAYNE CITY SCHOOL ARCHIVES CONTINUED

More information and photos can be found on the Wayne City School District website Archives page at [www.waynecity100.org](http://www.waynecity100.org). As found on the Archives page, the mission statement of the committee is to preserve the school history in order to provide the community with a location to reminisce about the strong history of the school. Class photos from 1926 through 2010 that once hung in the old school can now be viewed on-line. Soon a menu on the website will include a way to search the photos by last name and graduating year.



The committee also created a stand-alone flip display for the class photos that is now housed in the new school lobby area. Items such as plaques, trophies, banners and awards that are displayed throughout the new Wayne City school and the Agriculture building are documented by the committee. Visitors and alumni enjoy looking at the items.



Original Wayne City Grade School built 1930

The Archives committee has plans to build a memorial wall with the purchase of engraved bricks by the community. The memorial bricks are a way to recognize deceased students and staff members.

The Wayne City Archives committee members believe that historical items, trophies, photos, championship banners and awards are important to memorialize achievements of the past and to point to the future. They hope that young people who view the items will be inspired to set their own goals of greatness.

Wayne City School  
built 2015  
[www.hollandcs.com](http://www.hollandcs.com)



## MUSEUM NEWS



### History Camp

A Kids History Camp was held Friday, July 31st from 10am to noon with 17 participants. Campers learned of early laundry techniques and practiced washing clothes on washboards on the lawn of the Hanna House. The group toured both museums and were very interested in the fur coats and military uniforms at the Early History Museum. Crafts, games and snacks were also enjoyed by the kids.



### Fairfield Creamery Company Uniform Donation

A new item at the Early History Museum is a vintage uniform from the Fairfield Creamery. Thanks to Jim and Holly Harris who found the tattered uniform while remodeling. The uniform cleaned up nicely and is now on display. The Creamery Company opened in Fairfield in 1904 and was in the business of bottling and delivering milk.



### Pumpkin Painting

The Hanna House Museum conducted their annual pumpkin painting event on Saturday, September 26th from 10am to 2pm. Over 50 children ages pre-k and up enjoyed painting their own pumpkins. In the past, this event was held in conjunction with the Fall Fun Fest.

### Olive Branch Schoolhouse

Fall is a great time to visit the Olive Branch Schoolhouse. Gina has been opening the doors on Tuesday evenings 5–7pm. The classroom is decorated for Fall. The Schoolhouse will also be open Saturday, October 31st for trick-or-treating.



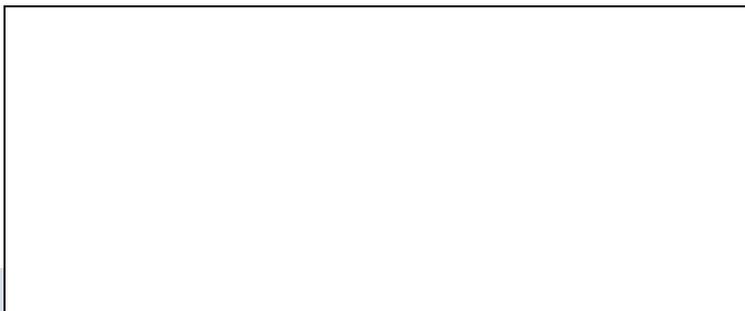
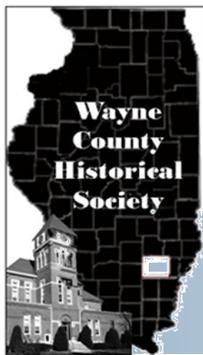
### Museums are open Saturdays

The Early History Museum located adjacent to the Library is open on Saturdays from 10:30am to 1:30pm. Museum patrons are asked to use the alley entrance door located on the south side of the building.

The Hanna House Museum is located at 101 East Center Street in Fairfield, just a block from the library. It is open Saturdays 10am to 2pm., through October.

Museum patrons are asked to practice social distancing and to wear a face mask around others.

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Fairfield Public Library  
300 S.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Fairfield, Illinois 62837



**WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER      FALL 2020**

Future meetings—everyone welcome to attend

Thursday, October 15th 6pm Cisne Community Center

Thursday, November 19th 6pm Fairfield Library Meeting Room



David Morris, President

Donna Savage, Vice President

Terry Prizer, Secretary

Judy Griswold, Treasurer

Trustees: Judith Puckett

Otis Brach

Don Wood

Doug Aman

Curators: Gina Bashore

Niki Roethe

Jami Roethe

### Wayne County Historical Society Membership Form

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Option: \_\_\_\_Annual \$15 \_\_\_\_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

**NEW Members:** It is a great time to become a member of the Historical Society. New memberships in October, November and December qualify for membership for the remainder of 2020, and all of 2021!

**CURRENT Members:** Use this form to RENEW your 2021 membership!