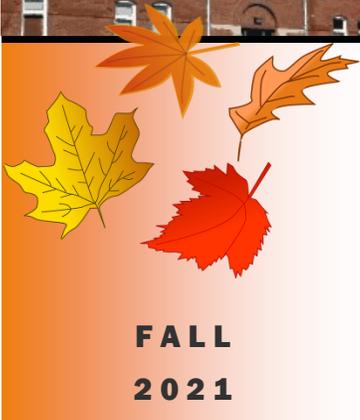




# WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Don't let local history be a mystery!



**FALL  
2021**

Wayne County Historical Society  
c/o 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 various times and by  
appointment

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

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

Facebook:  
*Wayne-County-Historical-Society*

**Hello! The Hanna House Museum will be open each Saturday in October, and then close until next spring.**

There will be a special display for **FCHS Homecoming** Saturday, October 16th and **Halloween treat bags** on Saturday, October 30th at the Hanna House.

The Hanna House stairs have been re-carpeted!

**The Early History Museum** located at the Fairfield Library, is open year round on Saturdays from 10:30am until 1:30pm. You may enter through the Library.

We want to thank **Gina Bashore** for her amazing job as Curator and Archivist the past several years. The Early History Museum has never looked better or been more organized thanks to Gina. As of the end of October, Gina has resigned due to family obligations. We wish her well and hope that she will consider returning to the museum in the future. Donna Green Savage will assist patrons at the museum on Saturdays and serve as interim archivist.

**The Wayne County Courthouse** has done extensive foundation repairs and uncovered a large rock originally buried when the Courthouse was first built.

**2020 Census** results were published in August.

According to 2020 Census results, Wayne County population has decreased by 3% to a total of **16,179**.



## Historical Society Happenings



**History Camp** packed with FUN! The event was held on Friday, July 23rd and all the young people had an amazing time visiting the museums and doing the activities. Twenty-six young people participated and several have returned to the museum bringing friends and family. Thanks to Nikki, Jami, Gina and helpers.



**The August meeting of the Historical Society** was a picnic held at the park shelter followed by a tour of the Olive Branch Schoolhouse.

Neil Vaughan shared stories of attending the school in its original location.

During the Fairfield Fall Fun Fest in September, the Hanna House held free **Pumpkin Painting** on Saturday. 50 kids participated.



## 2021 Cemetery Tour “The Famous and The Infamous”

The Wayne County Historical Society held the second cemetery tour on Friday and Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Maple Hill Cemetery, Fairfield. The theme for this year’s tour was “The Famous and the Infamous.” The tour featured six vignettes plus a couple of on-stage portrayals.

Actors, volunteers and attendees all agreed that they learned something about local history. Who knew that Wayne County had so many colorful gangsters, politicians, business leaders and amazing citizens.

The event was well attended both nights, entertaining close to 500 people. Of those attendees, 40 were children, and 33 were from out of town.



## 2021 Cemetery Tour Booklets Available at the Library

The 2021 Maple Hill Cemetery Tour “The Famous and The Infamous” booklets are available at the Fairfield Library . The booklet includes a biography for each individual highlighted in the 2021 tour. A map of Maple Hill Cemetery, with the grave locations marked, is included in the booklet. This allows interested persons to drive through the cemetery, locate the gravesite, and read about the person. “Don’t let local history be a mystery!”

The 2021 historical vignettes portrayed by local actors were video taped and will be shared at a later date as a pod cast, on-line video or DVD. Our thanks to Jeff Vaughan and Colin McDuffee for this service.



## 2021 Business Supporters

We want to thank the following patrons who graciously purchased an ad or assisted with the 2021 Cemetery Tour booklet.

A & D Auto Parts  
 Barbre's Woodworks, Inc  
 Barnard Auctions  
 Black's Fashion Flowers  
 B-Way Design & Decorating  
 Carnaby Square  
 Carolyn's Hair Design  
 Carter Trucking  
 CARTER TURF and TRACTOR  
 Conard Financial Group  
 CSI Insurance  
 Dan's Modern Auto & Towing  
 Ed's Medicenter Pharmacy  
 Edward Jones-Andrew Diesel  
 El Mexicano Restaurant  
 Fairfield Banking Company  
 Fairfield Chiropractic Clinic  
 FNB Fairfield National Bank  
 Farmer's Daughter  
 First Christian Church  
 Fairfield Redi Mix/  
 Garman Trucking  
 Gordy's Machine & Tool  
 Farm Credit Illinois-Brad Legg  
 Farmer's Daughter  
 Frontier Community College  
 Fairfield Memorial Hospital

Fyie & Rice Law Office, LLC  
 Harris Insurance Group LTD  
 Hase Interiors Inc  
 Hayes Plumbing/ HVAC  
 Hefley & Associates, P.C.  
 Hosselton-Meridith Funeral Hm  
 Hutchcraft Welding  
 Jim's Custom Automotive  
 Joe's Body Shop  
 John's Butcher Block  
 Johnson & Vaughn Funeral Hm  
 K & M Carpets Inc  
 K & M Diner  
 Kincaid's  
 Kiwanis  
 Knapp Oil Co, Inc  
 Legg Up Productions  
 LeMond Chevrolet  
 Larry Hobbs & Co  
 Main Street Gym  
 Mama Bear's 4 Seasons Crafts  
 McDowell, Kenshalo & Jesop  
 McGaha's Liquor  
 Morton Buildings, Inc  
 Nale's Funeral Home  
 One Step Ahead & HME

Patrick L. Molt, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
 Peoples National Bank  
 Pizza Hut  
 Precision Eye Center  
 Save A Lot  
 Skateland Rollersport  
 SynEnergy Partners LLC  
 State Farm Doug Aman  
 The American Legion  
 Anthony Wayne Post 176  
 The Clothes Line  
 The Corner  
 The Victorian on Main  
 Tyree Tax Service  
 Uniquely Rustique  
 Vaughan Equipment Inc  
 Vaughan's Diesel Repair  
 VFW #4535  
 Wayne County Abstract Co  
 WFIW Radio  
 Zurliene Enterprises  
 In memory of  
 John C Robinson III  
 Mary Ellen Harriss  
 Wayne County Press and Printing

## 2021 Cemetery Tour



## 2021 Cemetery Tour Volunteers



### Actors

Pam Barbee  
 Carol Dreith  
 Mike Dreith  
 Derek Dunn  
 Galen Dunn  
 Lisa Konopasek  
 Dave Land  
 Brogan Lavine  
 Sheri Lavine  
 Tom Lavine  
 Colin McDuffee  
 JC McDuffee  
 Don Wood  
 Linda Wood  
 Delanna McDuffee  
 Margaret Dunn  
 Debbie Legg  
 David Savage  
 Joshua Livesay

### Entry Greeters

Gina Bashore  
 Brenda Rister /costume alterations

### Golf Cart Loan

Kathy/Bill Book  
 Mike / Cori Copeland  
 Jay / Lisa Fyie  
 Fairfield Memorial Hospital  
 Bridget/John Mourey

Judith Puckett     scripts / props / photos  
 Judy Griswold     treasurer  
 Julie Aman         stage vignette  
 Sam Miller         statistician  
 Terry Prizer        chairperson / coordinator  
 Donna Savage      chairperson / coordinator

### Golf Cart Drivers

Dave Morris  
 Mike Mossburger  
 Blain Norton  
 Steve Prizer  
 Clifford Reeve     Mike Copeland

### Group Guides

Kathy Land  
 Brenda Rush  
 Karen Zimmerman  
 Vernon Gwaltney   straw bales loan

### Parking

Henry Barbee  
 Jami Roethe  
 Jim Roethe  
 Niki Roethe  
 Roger Squire and crew

### Ticket Booth

Mary Lou Gwaltney  
 Jala Morris  
 Debbie Phillips  
 Susan Roethe  
 Joan Sons

### Tractor Drivers

Doug Aman  
 Keith Baumann  
 Gary Carter     Tractor/trailer loan  
 Tim Schoenborn  
 Bill Taylor

Kathy Hill - photographs  
 Amanda White - photographs

## Memorials



### Grace Maxine Talbert

102-year-old Grace Maxine Talbert of Fairfield, died at 4:25pm on Tuesday, August 3 at Ferrell Hospital in Eldorado.

Maxine was born on October 20, 1918, in Cisne, to Arthur and Rachel (McNeeley) Brach. She was married to Orville H. Talbert for 60 years, before he preceded her in death in 2002.

Maxine attended Fairview School in rural Wayne County, Fairfield Community High School, and graduated from Southern Illinois University, magna cum laude, with a Master's in Counseling. She taught school for 33 years, including the Title I Development Reading Program, and Junior High Language Arts. She was a member of the First Christian Church, PEO, Every Wednesday Club, Benedicts, Duplicate Bridge Club, and PHI Kappa Honorary Society.

Maxine knitted a few hundred baby caps and booties for new babies born at Fairfield Memorial Hospital. She was on the hospital auxiliary board, beautification board, and served on the teacher's certification board from 2004-2006, until it was dissolved by the governor. In 2014, Maxine was chosen as the Outstanding Community Service Award recipient. She was also a life member of the NEA, IEA, a member of the Exemplar Club, Historical Society, and Arts and Crafts.

Survivors include one daughter Lonna Taylor of Geff, one son-in-law John Sterne of Evansville, IN, three grandchildren Robyn (David) Ewing of Fairfield, Benjamin Sterne of Virginia Beach, VA, and Teddy (Sarah) Sterne of Carmel, IN, two great grandsons Rylee (Tiffany) Ewing, and Addison Ewing both of Fairfield, three great great grandchildren, one brother Otis (Carol) Brach of Fairfield, along with several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Orville, one daughter Cindy Talbert-Sterne, and two brothers Orlan Brach and Lon Brach.

Burial in Maple Hill Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to the Fairfield Public Library and will be accepted at the Johnson and Vaughn Funeral Home which is in charge of arrangements.

### Ruth Boggs Matthews

Ruth Boggs Matthews passed away peacefully May 22, 2021 at the age of 94 due to advanced Alzheimer's Disease. She had resisted and endured the effects of the disease for more than a dozen years. Having survived all her close family members, she was lovingly cared for by the staff at Magnolia Home Care Adult Family Home. Her medical care was overseen and managed by a dear friend with the indispensable advice and assistance of Aging Wisdom, Inc.

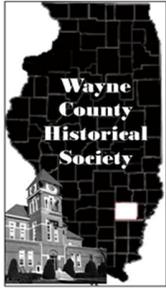
Ms. Matthews was born to Corrinne Steiner Boggs and John Dalgus Boggs, M.D, in St. Louis, MO, and spent her youth in the small town of Fairfield, IL. She was a graduate of Fairfield Community High School, 1944. She received a BA, Cum Laude, in English from McKendree University, Lebanon, IL, in 1957 and taught English at Belleville Township High School, Belleville, IL, 1957 - 1967. To be near her son, Ms. Matthews moved to Seattle where she earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Washington in 1969. She then worked for the Lake Washington School District as a librarian until her retirement in 1995.

Ms. Matthews was preceded in death by her parents, her brother John D. Boggs, Jr., her sister, Sarah Lee Boggs of Kirkwood, MO, and her son, John Dunscombe Matthews, of Seattle. She is survived by a large community of friends and cousins.

Ms. Matthews was a wonderful photographer and poet. She enjoyed music, reading and writing, travel, history and friendship. Most of all she treasured moments shared with her son and her sister. She was an active member and officer of the Queen Anne Historical Society. Ms. Matthews was an inspiration to everyone at the Queen Anne Pool where she continued to swim early morning laps until her eighty-fourth birthday.

Even when ravaged by the effects of Alzheimer's disease, Ms. Matthews continued to find moments of joy and beauty and often repeated her favorite expression: "Every day is a gift".

Ms. Matthews' remains have been interred in the family plot at Maple Hill Cemetery, Fairfield, IL, where she rests alongside her parents, sister and son. .



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David Morris, President  
 Donna Savage, Vice President    Terry Prizer, Secretary    Judy Griswold, Treasurer  
 Trustees: Judith Puckett    Otis Brach    Don Wood    Doug Aman  
 Curators: Niki Roethe    Jami Roethe    Gina Bashore—archivist

*Don't let local history be a mystery! Support the Wayne County Historical Society.  
 Use the following form for **NEW** and **RENEWAL** memberships. Thank you!*

**2021 Wayne County Historical Society Membership Form**

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

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

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

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

High School attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation year: \_\_\_\_\_

Option:  Annual \$15     Lifetime \$300

Make checks payable to Wayne County Historical Society

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