



# WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Newsletter*



*Don't let local history be a mystery!*

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.org](http://wayneillinoishistory.org)

Facebook:  
*Wayne-County-Historical-Society*



## Happy SPRING!

The Hanna House Museum is opening for another season on Saturday, April 2!

Plan to come for a visit. Even if you have visited the museum in the past, there is always something new to see.

The Hanna House main display case in the front room is providing a salute to the family this season. Several new artifacts including a concept drawing of Leo French Park have been added. The popular Shelton display and military history rooms are also ready for viewing. The Hanna House Museum will be open every Saturday from 10:00am—2:00pm until October.

The Early History Museum at the Fairfield Public Library is also open Saturdays 10:30am—1:30pm. The Library and the Museum have been busy the past few weeks making improvements and updates. The Library has all new carpet, new paint and an updated check-out desk. The Museum has made electrical updates and will be painting the ceiling. Carpet will also be installed. Watch for an open house in May, or stop by and see the new look.

The Library Summer Reading Program and Story Hour will begin in June, scheduled for Thursday mornings at 10am.

The Olive Branch Schoolhouse will have Spring and Summer events. A Summer History Camp for kids and History Mystery Events are planned for the Summer.

### Time to JOIN or RENEW membership

The last page of this newsletter includes a membership form. Membership runs calendar year, so NOW is a great time to join the Historical Society. Yearly membership is ONLY \$15 and provides e-mail notification of events and activities.

Stay connected with the Wayne County Historical Society **FACEBOOK PAGE!** The page often has interesting discussions sparked by the photos, tidbits, links and podcasts.

**SPRING**

**MARCH / APRIL  
2022**

### Historical Society March Meeting



The Historical Society March meeting was held at Geff, Illinois. Guest, Dick Simpson shared his boyhood memories of Geff having two mills (Clevenger and Burkitt), perhaps up to five gas stations and three grocery stores where the barter system was often used.

Dale Harris also shared several memories. Mary Jon Lear shared how the Farmer’s Store began in Geff. Many attending the meeting had roots in the Geff area.

Treasurer Judy Griswold received correspondence from the executor of Ruth Boggs Matthews estate about her bequeath. A check in the amount of \$84,889.32 will be sent the end of March. This is in addition to the gift from her sister’s estate from last year. The Boggs sisters grew up in Fairfield and their bequeaths will keep our Society viable for many years.

### Illinois State Archives to View Civil War Ledger

Matt Vaughn appeared before the members at the March meeting to seek approval for the State Archives to copy and digitize a Civil War ledger from the Wayne County Archives. The valuable leather-bound ledger would only be on loan and would be returned to the Museum along with a digital copy.

Member Matt Vaughn has been researching the archives for Civil War documents, and this ledger is one that was kept by a Quartermaster detailing the day to day activities of the regiment. It is full of names and data from the Illinois 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry and is a genealogical and historical gem.

A conservator from the State Archives would first come to view this ledger to see if it is feasible to make the copies without damaging the ledger that is in a fragile state.

The ledger is on display with other Civil War items at the Early History Museum.



Thank you to Don Wood for being our speaker at the January meeting.

Thank you to those who helped with food for the March meeting.

Thank you to David Land for being the voice of our History Mystery radio spots - that can be heard on WFIW radio at 6:55am, Monday through Friday mornings.

Thank you to our 5,000 Facebook followers, your comments and discussions.

Thank you to Judith Puckett for your research and informative articles in the Wayne County Press

## Member Memorials

**David Morris**



Wayne County Historical Society President  
December 2019–March 2022

Roland David Morris, 74, of Fairfield, died at 3:07pm on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at Fairfield Memorial Hospital.

David was born on November 10, 1947, in Mt. Vernon, IL, to Roland and Geneva (Kerr) Morris. On June 11, 1994, he married Jala Tyler.

David graduated from Fairfield Community High School, Class of 1965, then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Industry and Technology from Northern Illinois University in 1970. He began his career as an industrial arts teacher in Alton, IL before becoming an engineer at Airtex Products, where he worked until his retirement in 2008. He then worked as a bookkeeper for Davis and Son Oil Company. Most recently, he worked for Fairfield School District 112 as a bus driver and had previously served as transportation director of the district. He was the current president of the Wayne County Historical Society, a member of the Crime Stoppers board, and had previously served on the district 112 school board.

David was a lifelong member of the Fairfield Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he served as a Sunday school teacher, elder, morning worship guitarist, video and sound technician, leader of Crusaders children’s program, and helped with children’s musicals. He was also the inaugural director of Upward Basketball and Cheerleading, which is now celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Fairfield. He served as director for 6 years, while also filling roles of coach and referee.

Survivors include his wife Jala Morris of Fairfield, three daughters Randi (Eric) Lundgren of Tallahassee, FL, Dr. Bethany (Andy) Cook of Flora, IL, and Rev. Brittany Meeks of Memphis, TN, one grandson Ryan Morris Lundgren, a brother Jesse (Kay) Morris of Louisiana, a sister Pam (Richard) Windland of Fairfield, a special cousin Edith Harl, along with many other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Harold Morris, a sister Pat Davis, and a nephew Brad Davis.

Burial in Maple Hill Cemetery.

**Martha Heflin**



Former Fairfield resident, Martha “Marty” (Keith) Heflin, 80, passed from this world to a better one on March 29, 2022 at 9 p.m. at her home in Franklin, TN. Born April 6, 1941 to Lewis and Ethel (Rickard) Keith in St. Louis, MO. She was a graduate of Fairfield Community High school (FCHS) Class of 1959. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a BSN degree in 1963. Marty married Ron Heflin also of FCHS class of 1959, they had celebrated 59 years of marriage.

Marty worked as a registered nurse until 1970. After raising her two sons, she returned to college and received her Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology in 1993 from University of Evansville. She then accepted a position as Administrator of the Wayne County Health Department, where she served 13 years until retirement in 2007. She was a member of Beta Eta chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha and a member of the Fairfield Memorial Hospital board.

Marty served her community in many ways. When her sons were young she was a Cub Scout den mother. In recent years as a member of First United Methodist Church she started the prayer shawl ministry “Knit Together”. She loved animals and was particularly fond of Terriers, owning Welsh and Border Terriers over the years including the locally renowned Welsh Terrier Dr. Pepper, a certified therapy dog that made many visits to the Fairfield nursing home. She was skilled in many crafts and loved sharing and teaching knitting and crocheting. An excellent public speaker, Marty shared her work at the Health Department, and her hobbies with various local groups.

Marty is survived by her husband Ronald W. Heflin of Franklin, TN; sons Keith (Debra) Heflin of Ridgecrest, CA and Floyd (May) Heflin of Franklin, TN. Also surviving are grandchildren Heather Dyson, Aiden Heflin, Claire Heflin, Emma Heflin, Jack Heflin, and Eliza Heflin; great grandchildren Honor Dyson, Wyatt Dyson, and Amelia Heflin; Sisters Connie (Rod) Reid and Lew Jean Rush of Fairfield along with many nieces and nephews.

Marty was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Ethel (Rickard) Keith of Fairfield. Her compassion, creativity, wit, and dedication to her family, friends and her work will be remembered by all who knew her.

Burial will follow at Maple Hill Cemetery.

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**WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER    SPRING 2022**

Donna Savage, Interim President    Delanna McDuffee, Vice President    Terry Prizer, Secretary    Judy Griswold, Treasurer  
Trustees: Judith Puckett    Don Wood    Doug Aman  
Curators: Niki Roethe    Jami Roethe    Archivist: Donna Savage

*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!*

## 2022 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 or drop off to:  
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