

**JANUARY
2023**



Wasson Lawrence Paintings Exhibit and first meeting of 2023

Thursday, January 19th, 2023 6pm Fairfield Public Library

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)

The Wayne County Historical Society will have their first meeting of 2023 Thursday, January 19th 6pm at the Fairfield Public Library. Everyone is invited to attend. President Judith Puckett will welcome everyone to the meeting and report any new business. Those attending the meeting will get the first look at a retrospective exhibit of paintings done by Wasson Lawrence.

2023 marks 70 years that the Wayne County Historical Society has been organized as a community organization. The group was formed in 1953. Wasson Lawrence was the first president.

The Wayne County Historical Society has many wonderful activities and events planned for 2023 under the leadership of **President Judith Puckett**. Watch our Facebook page for dates and times of coming events.

We will kick off the year with an art exhibit, followed by a spring guest speaker. The summer will bring children's activities along with highlighting local churches and landmarks. Plans are underway for our third **MAPLE HILL CEMETERY TOUR** scheduled for early September.

With your participation as volunteer, member, participant or visitor we can all work together to highlight the history of Wayne County, Illinois. **Membership is only \$15** per calendar year, **or \$300 for lifetime membership**. A membership form can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

The Early History Museum, The Hanna House Museum and the Historical Archives are vital components in preserving the history of Wayne County. The collection of artifacts and records are obtained through donations. The Society does not sell, buy or appraise historical items, but continues to accept donations. The **Acquisition Policy** is attached to this newsletter.

Wasson Lawrence (1902-1977) was the first president of the Wayne County Historical Society in 1953. He suggested building the meeting room and the museum room of the Fairfield Library. In 1956, he painted the mural that hangs above the meeting room. Several of his paintings will be on display at the Fairfield Public Library from January 19 until February 18th. View this wonderful exhibit of mid-century art during normal library hours.—and *Don't Let Local History be a Mystery!*

Wayne County Historical Society 2022 Year in Review

By Donna Savage

The Wayne County Historical Society began the year with Dave Morris, President, Donna Savage vice president, Terry Prizer secretary, and Judy Griswold treasurer. The group finalized a committee to manage the Boggs Trust with the FNB Financial management group. A decision was made to earmark a set amount every year for major projects and improvements. Plans for renovations to the Early History Museum, in tandem with the library renovations, included carpet, paint and electrical improvements. The remodel was completed Spring, 2022. Work was continued on the Historical Society By-Laws to protect the non-profit organization. A copier was purchased for the Archives and Historical Society.



With the advancements of the COVID vaccine, public gatherings returned and allowed people to attend the January meeting with presenter Don Woods discussing his life and his published book of photographs from the Mill Shoals flooding of 1961.

At the end of March 2022, the Historical Society was saddened by the death of President David Morris after a battle with cancer. David had a deep interest in Wayne County history, FCHS sports history, and local manufacturing and engineering. David Morris was community and civic minded working with youth sports programs and leading the Historical Society. He was generous, caring, intelligent, thoughtful, and unselfish in his actions.

At a spring meeting of the Historical Society held at the First Christian Church, Donna Savage was named acting president, and Delanna McDuffee was named acting vice president. Long-time members of the Historical Society, Donna Savage was instrumental in initiating the Cemetery Tour event in 2019, and a love of family history. Delanna brings a life-long interest in Wayne County history and experience assisting with the cemetery tours in 2019 and 2021.

Secretary Terri Prizer served as chairperson for the 2019 and 2021 cemetery tour events. Her skills in organization, management, and planning are unmatched. Terry organized the information and artifacts associated with Kenny Kays Hanna House exhibit and was instrumental in updating the Historical Society By-laws. Late summer 2022, Terry and husband Steve made the decision to move to Texas to be closer to family. Terry Prizer continues to assist the Historical Society as a valued non-resident, lifetime member.

Historical Society member, Jala Morris was named acting secretary. Jala has experience working with a local accounting firm and serving on the library board. She has the needed skills for managing the membership and correspondence of the organization. She will work closely with long-time treasurer Judy Griswold. Judy as treasurer manages the numerous trusts and accounts of the Historical Society with competence and grace.

In 2022 the Early History Museum and the Hanna House Museum continued to make historical displays available to the public. Jami and Niki Roethe continued to serve as curators for the Hanna House Museum, updating displays, hosting visitors, and conducting events. Donna Savage began working with the Early History Museum in November 2021 to provide access to the Early History Museum and the archives. Various donations of items, photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts were made to the museums and the archives throughout the year.

In June of 2022, while visiting the Early History Museum, local attorney and historical society member, Matt Vaughn, became interested in a Civil War ledger on display. He invited the Illinois State Archives personnel to make a trip to Fairfield to view the ledger. In agreement with the Historical Society, the ledger was transported to Springfield, examined, repaired, and digitized. The Civil War ledger was returned to the Early History Museum at Fairfield along with the digitized files, for safe keeping.



Wayne County Historical Society 2022 Year in Review continued

By Donna Savage

The Olive Branch School House was open to the public various times during the spring of 2022. A local group of home-school students and their parents came to the school house as a field trip and had a fun afternoon learning about one-room schools in Wayne County.

Museum personnel and Society volunteers assisted with the Summer Library Program. Every week, hundreds of people, young and old, attended the presentation on the lawn of the library, came into the meeting room for crafts, and walked through the Early History Museum. The program was held once a week, for six weeks. Our thanks to Librarian, Michelle Conard for organizing the program.

During the summer, groups of children and adult supervisors from the "Kids in Motion" summer day care and "Kiddie Kollege" day care visited the museums. Niki and Jamie Roethe conducted a summer, day-long History Camp for 20 young people at the Hanna House.

In August the Historical Society held its annual "back to school" picnic at the shelter and toured the Olive Branch School House. During the Fall Fun Fest, a new upright banner displaying historic photographs of downtown Fairfield buildings was on display next to the Chamber tent.

The Hanna House conducted a fall pumpkin painting activity for children and hosted a museum scavenger hunt for the October meeting of the Historical Society.

The November meeting of the Historical Society was the showing of the locally produced movie "The Last of the Outlaws" filmed in Wayne County in the 1980s and starring local actors. The showing of the movie at the CP Church was attended by over 130 people.

At the December meeting of the Historical Society members approved the revised Society By-Laws and elected directors. Elected to serve for a two-year term as Historical Society directors are Judith Puckett, Jala Morris, Judy Griswold, Donna Savage Delanna McDuffee, Doug Aman and Dave Land. The Directors met and appointed Judith Puckett as president, Delana McDuffee as vice president, Jala Morris as secretary and Judy Griswold as treasurer.



Wayne County Historical Society Acquisition Policy

Our mission is to preserve the history of the people, events, institutions, and communities of Wayne County, Illinois and to share this heritage with current and future generations through our museums, archives, exhibits and publications. We are a private, not-for-profit organization doing this work as a community service. Our collections are the result of donations by members and supportive citizens.

Acquisitions have been accepted since 1953. Over time the Society's policies have been modified to reflect the Society's mission more closely and to address practical concerns. We are always interested in accepting objects, records, images, and other memorabilia directly connected to Wayne County history. We are fortunate to have the Early History Museum and the Hanna House Museum to display and share historical artifacts.

Feel free to contact the Society with any questions about a possible donation. Donations may be dropped off at the Fairfield Public Library during normal business hours, or at the Early History Museum on Saturdays, 10am – 2pm or the Hanna House Museum from April to October on Saturdays, 10am – 2pm.

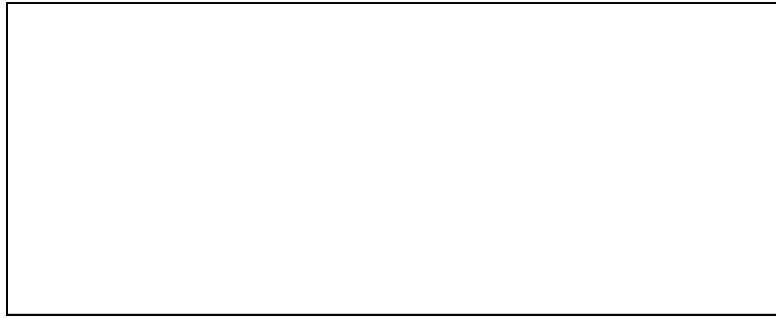
Small items may be shipped or mailed at the following address: Wayne County Historical Society, 300 S. E. 2nd Street, Fairfield, IL 62837. Include your name, address and item information. Donor may also remain anonymous. **WE DO NOT BUY, SELL, or APPRAISE items.**

This policy applies to donations to the Wayne County Historical Society, its archives, museums, and collections.

- 1.The Society accepts only artifacts, records, items that are directly connected to the people, events, structures, businesses, institutions within Wayne County, Illinois. This does not include items just because they were purchased at a local estate sale. There must be a specific connection to Wayne County.
- 2.The donors must be the sole legal owners of any material offered to the Society and are responsible for establishing this status. Usually, ownership is expected to be on an individual, not group basis. Concerns regarding ownership must be settled before donation occurs.
- 3.Donors are asked to sign an acquisition form. Donors receive a copy, and a copy is kept in the Society files. Donations dropped off or shipped should include the donor's name, address, and a description of the item. Donations may be made anonymously.
- 4.All donations become property of the Society. Our purpose is to permanently preserve the item. As of January 1, 2012, we can no longer accept loaned items either on a short-term or long-term basis, except in rare case-by-case basis. We continue to honor previous, documented, loan arrangements.
- 5.The Society does not sell items from its collections, does not purchase items, and does not appraise items. Our collection is derived from donations of generous citizens, and we do not apply market values to our collection. The Society's work is a community service.
- 6.Donated items will be exhibited or reserved in archival storage according to their condition and museum exhibit needs. Clothing and fragile documents are rotated to prevent damage from light and air.
- 7.While we take our commitment to safeguard our entire collection very seriously, we cannot guarantee against damage or loss. Donated items become the property of the Society, and should a loss occur, the Society is not responsible for replacement or monetary reimbursement.
- 8.We are honored to accept the donation of military uniforms of local veterans. We exhibit some and preserve all.
- 9.We can no longer accept most large pieces of furniture. Storage is limited, but you may contact us if it is an unusual local piece.
- 10.We can no longer accept actual property or buildings for preservation. We may be able to assist in researching or publicizing an historic property.
- 11.Except in rare situations, the Society representatives no longer make home visits to arrange for a donation. Donation methods are described elsewhere on this page.
- 12.The Historical Society and the Fairfield Public Library are cooperative, but separate entities. The two organizations have been linked since 1953. The library staff and the Historical Society maintain a cooperative communication but are distinct institutions. Library staff are not expected to handle donations or questions. Please contact the Historical Society for all your questions and concerns.



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



WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

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

2023 Wayne County Historical Society Membership Form

Individual First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

High School attended: _____ Graduation year: _____

_____ 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