



A



**FALL
2023**



Historical Society



1953-2023

WOW ! 2023 Maple Hill Cemetery Tour was a HUGE SUCCESS!

A Big THANK YOU to our Members, Volunteers, Actors, Sponsors, Audience, Committee, and Chairperson; DOUG AMAN.

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

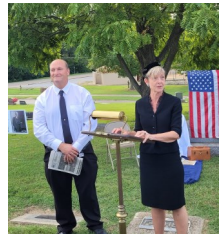
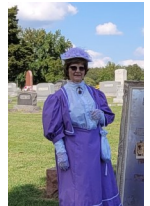
Hanna House Museum
100 E. Center Street, Fairfield
Open Saturdays April-October
10:00am - 2:00pm

Olive Branch Schoolhouse
Leo French Park, Fairfield
Open by appointment

e-Mail: wcihs@gmail.com

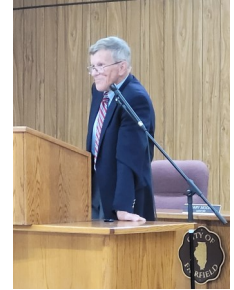
Website: wayneillinoishistory.org

Facebook:
Wayne County- Historical Society



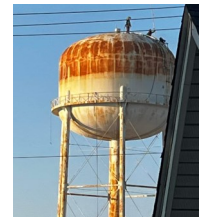
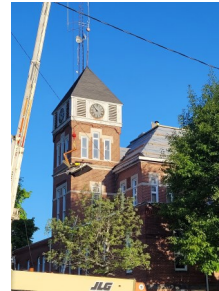
Mr. Groppe speaks at May Meeting

The May meeting was held at the Fairfield City Hall with guest speaker Thomas Groppe. Mr. Groppe was the White House staff officer in charge of special ceremonies. He shared memories of meeting Kenny Kays at the Medal of Honor ceremony and assisting the White House with the Nixon funerals. Our thanks to Matt Vaughn for arranging the program.



Summer 2023 Happenings

June 2023 marked the 100th anniversary of the Wayne County Courthouse Bandstand. Several renovations have been happening around the Courthouse including a new roof and repairs to the clocktower. Additionally, the water tower located at the Fairfield Electric Plant was dismantled and a new water tower is now located on North Seventh Street.



The Summer Reading Program held once a week in June was again a huge draw, with so many family members attending. The Early History Museum was open along with other activities and guest speakers each week. Children from the Kids in Motion program also visited the museums. The Hanna House conducted a Kids Day.



Local Broadcaster Dave Rigg speaks at July Meeting

Dave shared several stories from the Edwards County Museum and local lore from the county to our East. He discussed how he shares his historical research on several Facebook Group pages.

The August Historical Society Annual Picnic was well attended with lots of fun, good food and fellowship.

Pumpkin painting at the Hanna House on the Saturday of Fall Fun Fest was a big hit. The 100 year old vintage fire truck was also on display for the day.



Wedding Photo donated to the Historical Archives

Our thanks to the family of William Russell and Mary Parrent for the donation of the vintage wedding photo and a serving dish. The photo is lovely in and of its self, but is also of interest because of the identity of the couple.

According to the family, this is Lucy Woods and Carl Shelton. Lucy or "Lulu" was Carl's first wife. They were married in 1909 and she died in 1912 at the age of 23. "Lulu Shelton" is buried in the family plot at Maple Hill Cemetery, Fairfield.

Carl Shelton also had a baby sister that was called Lulu, who was married to Guy Pennington. The couple left town after being fired upon. Lulu Shelton Barger is buried in Florida.

Our thanks to Tom Parrent, Sharon Hoffee and Jeanne Caudill for their donation.

Wayne County Historical Society HERITAGE PROJECT

Recognition of the People, Places, and Events important in the history of Wayne County, Illinois

Local churches awarded the

ILLINOIS SESQUICENTENNIAL HOUSE of WORSHIP AWARD

The Illinois State Historical Society recognizes Illinois houses of worship that have served their congregations continuously for 150 years or more. Local individuals submit church information that becomes part of the Illinois State Historical Society archives.

The Wayne County Historical Society will erect a bronze plaque at each of the following sites that have received State Historical Society recognition.

Brush Creek Community of Christ

Located in the Orchardville area, the Brush Creek Saints were organized by T.P and Sarah Green in 1842. The congregation used the Caudle log schoolhouse for many years before a church was built. A small replica of the log structure sits across from the church. Their story is of historical significance to the community, to the county, and to the history of the denomination. Saints still gather every Sunday within the walls of the 1880 sanctuary.

Lebanon North CP Church

The Cumberland Presbyterian churches of Illinois, White County and Wayne County were started by David Wilson McLin as early as 1819. The Lebanon North congregation is located south of Fairfield. This congregation began meeting in 1871. The first church building was erected in 1895 and used until 1956, when the current building was erected. The modern fellowship room and kitchen were added in 2003.

Oak Valley Free Will Baptist Church

Located just north of Geff, Illinois, the Oak Valley Free Will Baptist Church has a large and active congregation. Several persons can trace their roots back to the first group, lead by Rev. Samuel S. Branch from Meigs Co, Ohio. He moved his large family and congregation to Wayne County in 1852 and established the Oak Valley Free Will Baptist Church in 1854.



Heritage Churches

This year one of our priorities is to collect the histories of the churches of Wayne County. We cannot do this without the help of congregations and individuals who can collaborate with us on specific churches. We are especially interested, too, in churches that are no longer active. In those cases, we need help finding people to talk to about the old churches.

We certainly appreciate your consideration of this work. We believe it is important to get this material collected and preserved for the future. To submit Church History information you can contact us by mail or email.

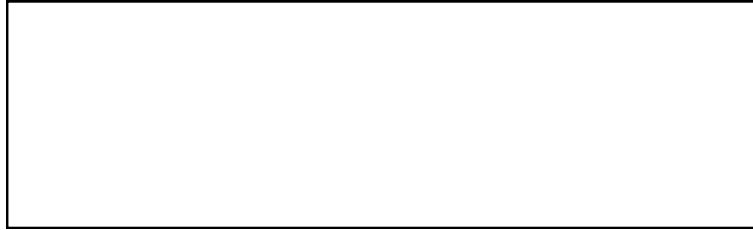
WC Historical Society
300 S.E. 2nd Street
Fairfield, IL 62837
E Mail: wcilhs@gmail.com



*Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.*



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



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

WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FALL 2023



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!*

2023 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:

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