

## From the President...

I can't believe that 2022 is quickly coming to an end. Progress has been made every week with the museum artifacts. Faithful volunteers have explored, researched, sorted, catalogued, scraped, stained, nailed, laughed, learned and continued to be surprised with the unique collection. Refreshing a WWI uniform, straightening a calf weaner, cleaning a painting by Mrs. Gucker, polishing a Zither, and saying "I wonder what this is??" is just a tiny bit of what I experienced. It is an honor to work with these wonderful caring folks and all these precious Piatt County relics, but we could sure use more help. When spring returns and temperatures allow, please consider coming out to help. As the holidays approach, it reminds me how thankful I am to be a part of this forward-thinking and yet history-remembering group. I hope everyone has a blessed holiday season.

As Thelma always said, "Onward and upward."

-Lucia Wilkin



Piatt County Board President, Lucia Wilkin. Through her involvement with the Piatt County Museum, Lucia has transcribed and transferred information for over 10,000 items into the inventory.

## Volunteers Welcome!



Top: Robert Kingston of Monticello stains a piece of furniture from the collection after cleaning.

With a building full of items from the first storage trailer, and three more to empty out, there is plenty to sort, identify, catalog and clean, making it a great opportunity for volunteering with the organization.

While the museum takes a break due to the cold temperatures in the unheated education building, we look forward to welcoming old and newcomers back in the spring to help with the process.

Individuals interested in volunteering should coordinate with Lucia Wilkin (217.649.1766) about tasks needed and work days available.

Right: Tim Maier of Monticello stands by a hall tree recently cleaned.



Far Right: The Walsh family of Bement helps move the rolling stock out of the first floor of the barn to make way for preparation and pouring of the concrete floor.



## Facilities Update



Above left: The Piatt County Museum barn as it stands at #1 Heritage Lane. Below Left: The concrete floor being finished in the barn. Right: The upper story of the barn. Long-term plans are to completely finish the interior of the structure to allow for the site to be used for display, educational and meeting space.

You can't miss the tall red roof of the barn when you're driving on I-72, and while it is not open to the public, we assure you that a lot is happening to move forward towards the goal of the site being host to Piatt County's significant agricultural and historical artifacts. The majority of the first floor in the large barn has been poured, allowing the larger rolling stock to be placed indoors and out of the elements, and up off of the previously gravel floor. This also creates more space in the education building where these items were previously housed, as we sort through and clean more collections. The upper story is wide open and offers so much potential for our vision of making it a place for displays, events and educational opportunities for the region. Piatt County has such a vast history and deserves to be remembered.

In the education building, volunteers are going through the collections that have been stored in the in various containers and storage sites, which is no easy task in a building with no heat. Completed in early 2022, the office and restrooms of the education building allow volunteers to work longer, and better organization for the museum administration. The loft of the education building was constructed to create more storage opportunities, and get the items packed appropriately once they have been prepared.



Left:  
New shelving and totes begin to fill the loft of the education building as the collections are cleaned, cataloged, and packed for safer storage.

Right:  
A view from the loft of the education building, showing the quantities of boxes of collections. All items are inspected, cleaned, cataloged, and possibly repaired where needed, prior to being repacked and stored.





## Pieces of Piatt's Past Quilt Show Recap

This past August, the Piatt County Museum hosted Pieces of Piatt's Past, the first quilt show fundraiser for the organization, showcasing local quilted items. Over 150 quilting enthusiasts representing 18 towns donned their plastic gloves and came to the Wabash Center in downtown Monticello to see a large selection of various types of quilting artistry made or collected by Piatt County residents.

Speakers, including the Alliance Chapter DAR Docents, presented on topics such as quilting care and storage, and Masterpiece Quilts. Visitors were able to get their own quilt inspected and appraised, and the event closed with a "show and tell" period for visitors to share the stories behind their own quilts. Additionally, 13 donated quilted items were raffled off, and 3 vendors from Bloomington, Arthur and Urbana were set up with various quilted items and supplies for sale.

The Museum would like to thank the volunteers that helped with the preparation and the event, as well as the Arthur Chamber of Commerce for loaning the Museum their quilt racks.

**\*\*Save the date\*\***

The 2023 quilt show, which will feature quilters from a Piatt County community, is scheduled for August 19th, 2023!



## Acquisitions Update

The Museum receives many requests to accept donate items. While every item is important in it's own way, the Museum has historical significance, condition, transportation and storage of the item to consider prior to accepting donations.

If you have an item you would like the Museum to consider accepting, please contact the Museum.

Acquisitions manager GloAnn Walsh, has reported many items received by the Piatt County Museum this year. The inventorying of the new items and unpacking of the old, only builds excitement for future goals. Below are some of the unique items the Museum received to add to the collection this year.



This pump organ was donated by Steven and Roberta Sparenberg of Monticello.



A buckboard wagon was donated by Sonny Dodd of Monticello.



This piece, donated by Bill Glasgow of Monticello, was constructed from the lumber of the second Piatt County courthouse.

# Piatt County Museum Board & Membership

## 22-23 Museum Board

Lucia Wilkin, President  
Duane Cassout, Vice President  
Donna McClure, Treasurer  
Callie McFarland, Secretary  
Jim Ayers, Board Member  
GloAnn Walsh, Board Member  
VACANCY, Board Member  
Tari Bricker, Advisor  
Blanche Stoller, Advisor

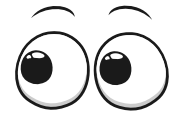
### Upcoming Events to look for...

**February** - Dinner with Lincoln

**April** - Antique Dolls,  
Speakers Cindy & Larry Skeels

**June** - Regimental Civil War Flags  
Speaker Dr. Schmale

**August** - Piatt County Quilt Show



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for more information!

## Join us!

The Webster Dictionary of Synonyms defined the word MUSEUM as LIBRARY, GALLERY, ARCHIVES and TREASURY. Library (where books and literary materials are kept for use but not for sale), Gallery (a room or building devoted to exhibits), Archives (a place housing private and public collections, old records, documents, old files and papers), Treasury (a designated place where items of interest are kept and sometime displayed). The volunteers working at the museum would probably agree that the artifacts they work among each day confirms that the Piatt County Museum Building is indeed a Museum.

The Museum is located adjacent to the Monticello Railway Museum. The big white barn and the long building just east of the barn belong to the Piatt County Museum. The Museum artifacts have been in storage for years until this spring. Slowly, all of the artifacts have been returned to the main building where they are checked in, cleaned, repaired, numbered, boxed and stored. It is going to take time, and cold weather will make working in the building difficult.

The fire to bring the Piatt County Museum back to life never went out. The spark to see all the artifacts on display still glows. Thank you for your support.

-Blanche Stoller



The Piatt County Museum is an all-volunteer organization that maintains it's non-profit status. This allows for members to receive the benefits on their income tax status through membership dues.

With 2022 almost to an end, we invite you to consider the gift of membership for 2023 to go towards preserving Piatt County's past and help the organization achieve future goals. Mail in your membership form below with the enclosed envelope before the end of the year!

(Circle One:)

Name: _____	\$25 Individual
Address: _____	\$35 Family
City, State, Zip: _____	\$20 Senior
Telephone: _____	\$30 Senior Family
Email: _____	\$75 Business