

Winter Newsletter, 2023

From the President...

A Museum... what Museum? And what do you get for your money as a member? The original Piatt County Museum began in 1965. With many joys, trials, challenges and successes, we have come through the years with thousands of local artifacts from all over the County. Faithful volunteers have sorted, stained, nailed, cleaned, researched, and inventoried more of the collection this year. All the objects that are part of the collection must meet the strict criteria of being aesthetic, historical or educational, or have a research value pertaining to this county. We received items from General Cable and Viobin. We received items from clubs, county school desks, and a Civil War era flag. Your interest, membership and financial gifts will help sustain the collection and will keep you informed of the progress in making our County's history available.



Piatt County Board President,
Lucia Wilkin.

Thanks to Tari Bricker for keeping our Piatt County Courthouse display revolving. She has featured Civil War items, jewelry, postcards, toys, china, Ray McIntyre's metal banks, and is currently displaying part of the button collection, organized by Glenna Mosgrove and Jessie Morgan. Hope you can check it out when you are there.

From November until March, the Education Center will have to be closed to volunteers because of our Illinois winter temps, snow, etc. Contracts for installing the insulation of the ceiling and heaters have been let and should be in place for this spring's work. If you are interested in helping, call me at 217.649.1766 and I can describe the tasks needed and work schedules.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our members who have supported and trusted your Piatt County Museum. Our motto is "to be the Rememberers," and we are working to preserve and cherish Piatt County memories and dreams. The progress seems so slow, but we keep pushing forward and I can hardly wait to show you the results.

Please consider coming out to help. Call me at 217-649-1766 and I can describe the tasks needed and the work schedules.

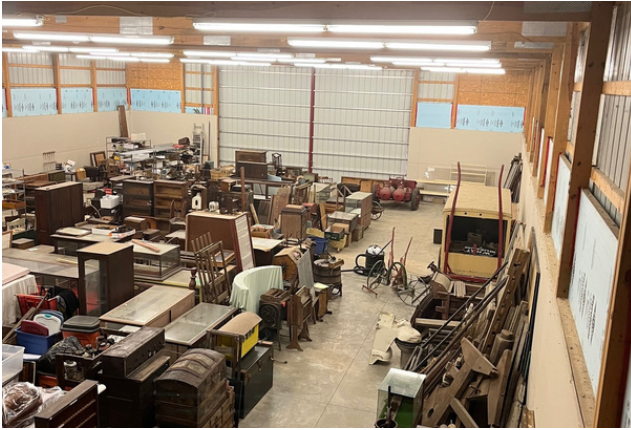
I hope everyone has a blessed holiday season.

-Lucia Wilkin

Our 2024 Wish List...

- Increase Membership-*
- Continue to process through the collections-*
- Empty & Remove Storage Trailers on Site-*
- Clear Totes for Storage-*
- Metal Shelving Systems-*

Facilities Update



Top Left: Cleanout and organization of the education building continues. The Museum will be installing insulation and heaters in the building this winter.
Lower Left: Three generations of Stollers (Blanche, Alex and Janet) help with the cleaning sorting process.
Right: Sam Bricker installs new barn doors on the Museum barn building.

2024 Deaccession Sale

Over the years, the Piatt County Museum has acquired many items that are not necessarily reflective of the mission and values of the Museum organization. To keep the collections relevant, the Board recommended removal of items from the collection through deaccessioning. Deaccessioning is the process of permanently removing from the collection items that do not relate to life in Piatt County. The items may be irrelevant to the purpose and mission of the museum. It may be deteriorated beyond usefulness and integrity, a duplicate, or we may be unable to preserve the object properly.

To “clean up” so to speak, the items the Museum has in its care, the Museum will be holding a Deaccession Sale for items to be removed from the collection that have received board approval. A date for the sale will be announced this spring, and the sale will be held at the Piatt County Museum Education Building.

Save the date- Annual Quilt Show is Set for Cisco!

The Piatt County Museum has announced the 2024 Quilt Festival for Saturday, August 17th, from 9am to 3pm. The 2024 event will be held at the Cisco Center, featuring the quilters and quilt collections from the Willow Branch and Cerro Gordo Townships. Not just focusing on quilting skills next year, this event will also be including needlework.



Above: Images from the 2023 Piatt County Museum Quilt Show, held in Monticello.

2023 Event Review

From Abraham Lincoln, to antique dolls, and a little celebration of the history of DeLand, the Piatt County Museum was involved in several events in 2023 catering to a variety of local history enthusiasts. In April, local Lincoln expert and enthusiast Christopher Bantz presented “A Celebration of Lincoln,” and Cyndy Skeels, avid doll collector and former doll doctor, shared the origins of some of the dolls from the past decades. The Annual Meeting in June brought Dr. John Schmale speaking on regimental Civil War flags. And in a joint partnership with the Piatt County Historical and Genealogical Society, Roger Wisegarver was the featured speaker and made available a compiled booklet on the history of DeLand.



A Celebration of Lincoln took place in April.



Cyndy Skeels presented on doll collections in April.



A flag donated by the Clodfelters is displayed.

Upcoming Events

Deaccessioning Sale - April
Annual Meeting - June
Annual Quilt Show - August
Cisco's 150th Birthday - September

Find us on 
[@piattcountymuseum](https://www.facebook.com/piattcountymuseum)

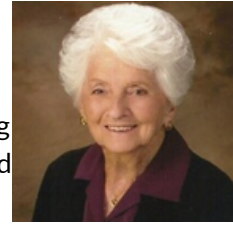
Piatt County Museum Board & Membership

2023-24 Museum Board

Lucia Wilkin, President
Jim Gortner, Vice President
Donna McClure, Treasurer
Callie McFarland, Secretary
GloAnn Walsh, Acquisitions
Jim Ayers, Board Member
Ginnie Reynolds, Board Member
Tari Bricker, Advisor
Blanche Stoller, Advisor

In Memoriam.

The Piatt County Museum lost a true friend with the passing of Twilia Mackey (1916 - 2023) at 106 years old. Twilia, along with her husband Stan, were supporters and volunteers of the Piatt County Museum for over 50 years. The Mackey's would showcase their different collections of farm tools at the annual barn tours. Twilia, along with her daughter Joyce, would also attend the board meetings when possible.



Get Involved!

We appreciate all the time, energy and efforts of our volunteers.



The Piatt County Museum is an all-volunteer organization that maintains its non-profit status. Your membership and any further donation you wish to give, allows for members to receive the benefits on their income tax status.

We invite you to consider the gift of membership for 2024, or an additional monetary donation 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!

Name: _____

(Circle One:)

Address: _____

\$25 Senior

City, State, Zip: _____

\$35 Individual

Telephone: _____

\$100 Business

Email: _____