

OGLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

» GAZETTE «

Only printing
that

Year Volume 1 Number 1 Spring 1988

MUSEUM ANNEX HAS TOP PRIORITY

Since 1961 the Ruby Nash home has been a showcase for Ogle County history.

Over the years the house has evolved an "at home" feeling as opposed to the austere atmosphere of a traditional museum.

The Ogle County Historical Society, founded in 1954 by Mrs. Harold Walker (Byron) as a project of the Ogle County Federation of Women's clubs, has been the quiet custodian of the county's history.

Approximately 25 years ago the members built a garage to help house artifacts.

Today the time has come to expand the exhibit space to accommodate the ever increasing donated items.

The addition to the 1878 Nash home would be separate in order not to endanger the existing building's historic status.

The structure will be connected by a walkway, and is planned to be similar in design to the main museum.

The Society has architectural renderings of the proposed addition which will include three rooms for changing exhibits plus an upper floor for much needed storage.

To accomplish this goal the Society is launching its first major fund drive.

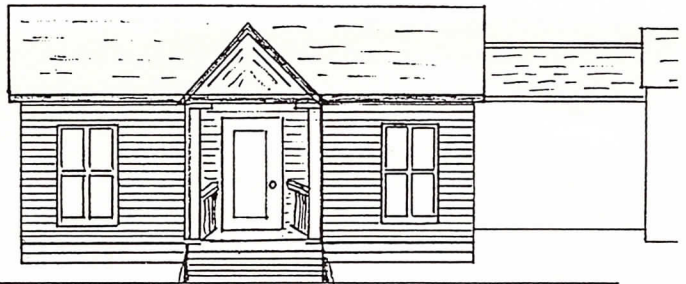
The target amount for a complete project is \$65,000 - all hoped to be raised privately.

"We have never accepted state or national funding," said Carol Moore, museum curator, "and we feel that a county as caring as Ogle can take care of its own."

Preserving and protecting our local history is becoming much more difficult in this day of transient families, computers and easily disposable materials.

For those who believe in the permanence of Ogle County's past, please support the building of the annex by sending a donation to: Building Fund, P.O. Box 183, Oregon, IL 61061.

The Building Committee is - Margaret Knight, president; Helen Auker, Shirley Clayton, Ruth Eyre, Ethel Horn, Clyde James, Edwina McDonald, Nancy Miller, Carol Moore, George Noone, Warren Shetter, Elizabeth Wiles and Leonard Wood.



ARTIST'S SKETCH OF PROPOSED NORTH FACADE

NAMING THE "GAZETTE"

Though the year was only 1851, Oregon boasted a weekly newspaper - the "Ogle County Gazette," founded by R. C. Burchell.

After only a few months the name was changed to the "Ogle County Reporter." Burchell continued as publisher until the newspaper was sold in 1853.

Because of its position as the first Oregon newspaper, the Ogle County Historical Society has chosen the "Gazette" as the name of its newsletter.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES

Spring has arrived, and the Ogle County Historical Society is planning many activities for 1988.

- FROM THE PRESIDENT -

Now that 1988 is off to a good start I would like to highlight our May 23 field trip to the Flagg Museum in Rochelle.

The museum is located in what was once the old city hall and jail on 6th Street and 4th Avenue in downtown Rochelle.

Two floors and a basement in the museum are full of local historical artifacts.

We will follow the tours with a business meeting and refreshments in the basement meeting room of the Rochelle Municipal Utility Building one block east of the museum at 333 Lincoln Highway.

Though there is a lift at the municipal building, there is none at the museum.

Guides will be on hand at the Flagg Museum beginning at 6 p.m., so make up your carloads and come!

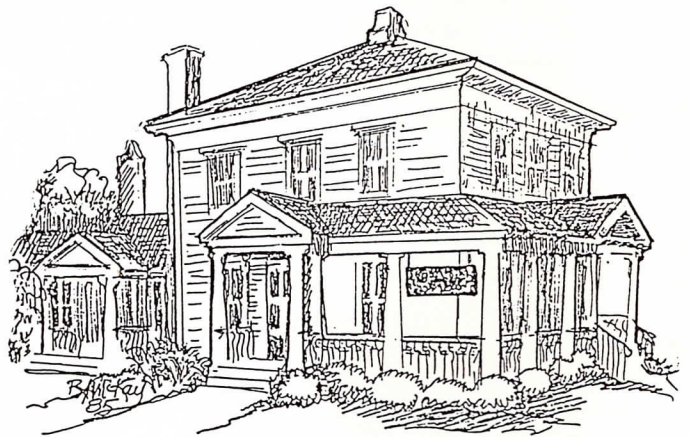
For additional information, phone me at 393-4273.

Margaret Knight
President

CALENDAR

CLEANUP.....MUSEUM.....APRIL 28
MAY TEA.....MUSEUM.....MAY 1
MEMBERS.....FLAGG MUSEUM.....MAY 23
BOARD.....MUSEUM.....JULY 25
MEMBERS.....PICNIC.....AUGUST 28
(to be announced)
AUTUMN.....MUSEUM.....October 1 & 2
ON
PARADE
BOARD.....MUSEUM.....SEPTEMBER 24
MEMBERS.....ANNUAL.....NOVEMBER 28

Ogle County Historical Society



Even though the Thursday volunteers keep the Ogle County Museum in Oregon in top shape, there are always jobs that need to be done.

The Society can always use volunteers. For example there is the next annual "fix-up" day, Thursday, April 28.

Join us if you have some spare time between your own spring chores.

Time? 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for "fix-up," and 9 a.m. to noon every Thursday, May to November.

Because of the dry winter the leather has suffered, and is in need of someone to rub neat's foot oil into cracked articles.

Many quilts need repair so, if you can quilt, please help preserve the treasured antique quilts.

Landscaping also adds to the beauty of the museum. The Society has tried to display plants of a period to match the architecture of the house.

No matter how small or large the job, your skills are needed.

See you on Thursdays!

"Every evening as these shadows turn blue we walk here on the bluff....As we stand here we involuntarily fold our arms and the pose is that of my Indian - restful, reverent.

Lorado Taft
"Black Hawk" dedication, October 20, 1911

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership in the Ogle County Historical Society gives individuals a gift of the past.

For anyone who lives in Ogle County, this membership offers a sense of belonging to the land and its history.

The growth of the Society to include out-of-country and out-of-state members is a continuing goal.

This expansion clearly shows that even those who live far away have a special feeling for the Rock River Valley.

Our history is part of us; let us preserve and protect it for future generations through our donations, volunteer work and overall participation.

Help us grow, and contribute to the history of the future.

- OFFICERS -

President....Margaret Knight, Lindenwood
Vice President.....Vada Wood, Oregon
Treasurer.....Mary Colson, Oregon
Recording Secretary.....Ruth Eyre,
Leaf River
Corresponding Secretary.....
Armour Van Briesen, Stillman Valley
Business Agent.....George Noone, Oregon

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Those wishing to contribute stories, quotes, bits of history, or your opinions, please send them to:

Nancy J. Miller

P.O. Box 215

Oregon, Ill. 61061

With your help, members can look forward to unknown Ogle County facts, poetry, artwork and photographs.

JOIN US....

OGLE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please put my name on your membership list. I am enclosing:

_____ \$5 for one person for one year.

_____ \$8 for our family for one year (man and wife).

_____ \$2 for one student for one year.

NAME _____

STREET, ROAD or ROUTE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to: The Ogle County Historical Society
P.O. Box 183
Oregon, Illinois 61061

Individuals over the age of 85 are dues-free honorary members

DONATIONS

RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Gertrude Cann - small pewter nut dish which was once a gift from Miss Nash to Miss Cann. According to its owner, it is now "back home where it belongs."

Irvin Van Raden - five lettered grain sacks.

Violet Lorenz - white opera-length kid gloves. The pair was originally owned by Mae Redfern Eyster; born 1879.

Marge Crim - handmade black cape trimmed with lace and black beading; circa 1850.

Margaret Sauer - gilt framed campaign poster of Benjamin Harrison and Levi P. Morton, G.O.P. presidential and vice presidential candidates in 1889.

DONATION FOR ANNEX FUND

Wayne Light, Light's Jewelry Store, Conover Square, Oregon - a lady's Swiss

Acutron watch to be raffled, with the proceeds to go into the Building Fund.

Mrs. Carl Selmer - two afghans also to be raffled with proceeds going to the Building Fund.

DON'T FORGET!

The Historical Society's Open House Tea will be held next Sunday, May 1, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oregon museum (the former Ruby Nash home) located at 113 north Sixth Street.

Volunteers are needed for serving punch, cookies and other tasty items.

If you are interested in spending an enjoyable Sunday afternoon, and helping out the Society, phone Vada Wood at 732-6876.

Volunteers are asked to serve in two-hour shifts.

Ogle County Historical Society
Post Office Box 183
Oregon, Illinois 61061

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