



MACOUPIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From your president,

Welcome to 2025! Let's look forward to Spring!

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 17 at the Elks Club in Carlinville. Happy St. Patrick's Day! The meal, which begins at 6:00 pm, will offer a choice of pork chop or fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad, bread, and carrot cake for dessert. Drinks

Our annual meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm Monday, March 17 at the Elks Club in Carlinville.

offered will be lemonade, iced tea and coffee. The cost is \$20. a plate. The Elks do a really good job of cooking, so come enjoy a great meal. We will need reservations, so please let me know if you're attending by March 7. I can be reached at 217-710-8056, by text, or by e-mail at dhauter45@gmail.com. Those attending may pay \$20. in advance or at the door. Payment in advance may be mailed to Dan Hauter at MCHS, P.O. Box 432, Carlinville, IL 62626. The program will be "An Interview with General Ulysses Grant." This should be very entertaining.

Please remember, though, that reservations are required and appreciated, even if you choose to pay at the door. We need a head count of 50 to 60 to make this a go.

Dinner reservations are required.

In the short business portion of our annual meeting, we'll be selecting four board members to fill both existing vacancies and the full three year terms. If you're interested in serving, please contact me, (text or email is best.) Other topics for discussion include how to make the historical society thrive in the future. The Spring and Fall Festivals are not generating as much money as they used to, so we need ideas for increasing attendance and increasing revenue. Utilities and insurance are getting more

and more expensive. The cost of maintenance and repairs continues to increase.

The lack of able-bodied volunteers is a serious problem. We really need more help in the Red Barn Kitchen. Teenage helpers from several local school-based organizations saved the Fall Festival. They were essential in the house, and I don't think we could have operated the Red Barn without them. The Red Barn used to be our main source of revenue, but that has fallen off in recent years. Volunteers are needed everywhere on the grounds including the John C. Anderson House, the church and school, Buildings II and III, the Treasures Market, organizing the vendors, publicity, mowing, trimming and general maintenance. People with carpentry, plumbing, and electrical skills would be valuable.

We used to be able to use inmates at the county jail for festival set up and tear down but the inmates are no longer available to us. Let's not forget the blacksmith shop or the tractor club! They need more help, too. So please join us on St. Patrick's Day, and be prepared to engage in some problem solving!

Dan Hauter, President



Take a Turn...

**Driving or monitoring
the "People Hauler!"
Contact Rodney Eichen (page 7)**

Let Us Hear Your Song: Songwriter Workshop Series

Carlinville Winning Communities and MCHS, through a grant by Illinois Humanities, will offer a songwriting workshop at the Ruyle Building on the Macoupin County Historical Society grounds. The workshop will span three days: April 16, April 30 and May 7, beginning at 6:30 pm each of the three days.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Beginners, aged twelve and up, are welcome. While you may bring an acoustic instrument if you have one, there is no need to play an instrument. You *can* write and learn to tell your story with a melody. Attendees will write a song or two in this three-session, low key, Songwriter series presented by Nick Davio, Professional singer and writer. Special Guest performances will include local Songwriter professionals.



Learn how to write a song about what's on your mind in a casual setting through conversations, instructions and demonstrations, and have a lot of fun! Reservations are not mandatory, but those who reserve a space in advance will have first priority seating.

Questions? Contact Mary @ 217 825-9699, Carlinville Winning Communities

RSVP to reserve your "musical chair" marytinder1@gmail.com

Goin' for a Ride



The people shuttle/hauler will again be on the move at the MCHS Spring Festival. If you want to see the grounds without walking far over uneven ground, we have you covered.

The planned route is from the blacksmith shop down the main grounds road to Breckenridge street, down Breckenridge street to the parking lot driveway and down to the corn crib by the old farm house. From the corn crib, the shuttle goes to the church, then to the general store, print shop and the Hayes building. From the Hayes building, the shuttle turns towards the sawmill, crosses the creek behind the sawmill and heads towards building #3. It then returns to the blacksmith shop to start over again.

There will be designated stops along the route so you can get on and off as you please. Watch for the "Shuttle Stop" signs throughout the grounds. The shuttle will have a free will donation box in the back.

ENJOY THE RIDE AND SEE THE FULL FALL FESTIVAL!

Don't forget to check the Treasures Market at Spring Festival!

Be the Difference

- Food Barn
- School
- Church
- Monitor Museum

Quilts on Display



Christmas Market Shuffled

The 2024 Christmas Market saw some changes at MCHS. The music room in the museum, for instance, sported an unpainted board fastened to the ceiling. Some creative individuals wanted to sketch Waldo, of “where’s Waldo fame,” on the board just to see how many would notice it. The board was designed to be a temporary solution to the ceiling hole that appeared as the house was being decorated for Christmas.

Another change involved the Train Man, Paul Spickerman. He was excited by his relocation to the Ruyle Genealogy building. Since he no longer had to cart his super large train display up the 542 steps (just kidding) in the John C Anderson building, he decided to bring his super duper extra large train display to the one-story Ruyle Genealogy building. In fact, he was able to set up several train displays, including a very popular one just for visitors to operate.

The Ruyle building itself underwent a bold transformation. Instead of the numerous craft items for sale, the focus was on visitor relaxation and entertainment.

The ever popular bake sale still drew a crowd, and the free snacks and drinks encouraged sitting and chatting a while as the children entertained themselves with the train display, the live Santa Claus and the craft demonstrations going on. Many even managed to climb aboard the vintage sleigh for photo ops.

Fall Festival introduced the People Hauler, a popular ride around the property. In addition, MCHS and the Macoupin Agricultural Antique Association arranged for horse drawn carriage rides during Fall Festival. That’s right,

for just \$5 per person, **A Day to Remember Carriage Rides**, from Worden, IL, provided fun rides.

Two tipis graced the grounds during Fall Festival. Mike Kohr used his large tipi to draw the people in as he presented “Stories from the Plains.” He provided a look inside the early lives and culture of Native Americans. Another tipi was drawing customers to the site of Don Neighbors’ vendor spot. Don, a merchant *and*

sponsor, specializes in black powder, guns, knives and other items from frontier days.



Spring Festival to Feature Vintage and Antique Quilts

Jim Frank Passed

Jim Frank of Shipman passed away Friday, November 15, 2024, at Jersey Community Hospital. He was 91.

He was a life-long farmer and was also well known for his flowers along the Shipman Road. One of Jim’s most important contributions to the community in the 1990s and early 2000s was the development of the Central Macoupin County Rural Water District (RWD) to ensure all local citizens have access to clean water.

Jim was a proud veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Korean War. He was a member of the Macoupin County Historical Society, the Shipman Elevator Board, Carlinville American Legion and was published in several Illinois agricultural publications. Jim served as a director for the Shipman Bank Board and held several directorial positions after the bank was acquired by Carlinville National Bank.

He was born on March 14, 1933, in Carlinville, IL, the son of the late Walter and Ada (Sweet) Frank. He married Vada Cohee in Shipman, IL on August 18, 1962. Jim is survived by his wife, his three daughters; Lena Frank (Greg Porter) of Sussex, NJ, Amy Frank of Greenville, NC, and Kay Zinngrabe of Woodlands, TX and numerous other family members.

Burial was at Shipman Cemetery in Shipman, IL. Memorials were suggested to Macoupin County Historical Society.



**Blacksmith Shop Is Open
Wednesdays 10:00-2:30
Every 4th Saturday**

From the Vendor Coordinator Desk:

Putting a Plan Together

Putting together a festival at the Historical Society takes many, many people. Organizing and coordinating the vendors that show up every year is one of those jobs that continues year-round. We mail out contracts for both fall and spring festival together in January to approximately 120 previous vendors.

The vendor coordination team consists of Nancy Mihalek, Eileen Nichols, Mike Vance and our new member Patty Ambrose. The three groundskeepers mark off the spaces every year for us.

We all start praying right away that there will be no rain, tornadoes, blizzards, snow storms, wind storms, dust storms or any weather fiasco as we've had in recent years. We all want a weekend that will be lovely, nice and cool with sunshine.

We need help Thursday morning, (May 22,) all day Friday (23) and Saturday (24) starting at 6:00 am. If you would like to help, please call Nancy Mihalek at 217-556-4853 and specify the days and hours you are available. We desperately need able bodied helpers.

Prayers for good weather are also **appreciated**.

Jim Moffet Passed

Jim Moffet passed away October 5, 2024 at the age of 95, leaving behind wife Phyllis, son Craig, many family and friends and cherished memories.

Jim was a life-long farmer in the Modesto, Palmyra area. He was a faithful member of the Macoupin County Historical Society and was a dedicated "Seagoing Cowboy." In the years following World War II, more than 7,000 men and women accompanied shipments of cattle, pigs, goats and other livestock across land, sea and air to deliver them to families in Europe devastated by the recent war. The Heifer Organization is still active in parts of the United States and throughout the world.

Memorial contributions may be made in Jim's memory to Heifer International Project online at <http://www.heifer.org>.

Please Support Our Sponsors

The donations made by our sponsors enable us to produce this newsletter, print and ship publications, make improvements on our buildings and train volunteers.

We value our sponsors' contributions and ask that you support them in your shopping needs. We print their names in every issue of our newsletter and periodically on our Facebook page.

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MacoupinCountyHistoricalSociety

Brooms on Breckenridge Offers Workshops

Brooms on Breckenridge continues to hold workshops this late winter and spring for everyone wanting to learn and practice making brooms.

Those attending February 9 will learn to attach a wooden handle to a cobweb broom. They will learn a small hearth broom on March 9. And April 13 they will learn kick winder basics on brooms with a handle. They will also have time to make a broom of their own choosing.

Supplies are furnished for a modest \$15 donation per 1-4 pm workshop.

Participants should be 16 years old or older, and the class size is limited to ten people.

Registration by text or phone (Rodney Eichen 217-370-3692) at least one week in advance is required so that enough supplies can be prepared. You may also register on the *Brooms on Breckenridge* Facebook page.

More workshops for making brooms will be offered in the fall.



Theme Announced

For Spring Festival 2025, the Anderson House will add vintage quilts to its décor. Included in the display will be a few of the delicate, totally handmade quilts left in the John C. Anderson home by its original occupants, John and Lucy Anderson and their eight children.

Other examples of note include a seat cushion made from a hand-made Civil War flag from the county and a very old star patterned quilt made by Mrs. Samuel Keplinger in the early 1800's.

While you are checking out the bargains at the Treasures Market in the Ruyle building, you may wish to examine part of our quilt collection on display there.

Our collection of quilts is so extensive, we cannot possibly display all of them, but we do try to rotate the displays. For upcoming Spring Festival, we will have the opportunity to accommodate a few quilters demonstrating their craft. If you have a small quilting frame, intended for use by one or two people, sometimes called a "lap frame," and you are interested in displaying it, send an email or text to Janell Ramey, page 7.

Must Be Cholera Morbus

Historians and genealogists sometimes recall names of illnesses and causes of death found in their research that raise more questions than answers. For example, a cause of death recorded in 1860 may have read **cholera morbus**. This illness was characterized by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and elevated temperature. Today's doctors would suspect appendicitis. Death certificates were not required by law in the year 1860; however, doctors often kept notes of illnesses and treatments in their journals. We have some of these doctor journals in the J. C. Anderson museum, and they are fascinating.

Thanks to the modern "baby shots," cases of whooping cough are not so common today. The old records might mention **tussis convulsiva**, **chin cough** or even **Kruchhusten**.

We still hear of **edema** once in a while. It refers to nephrosis, or swelling of tissues, sometimes called **dropsy**, especially if its suspected cause was kidney or heart disease. But **dropsy of the brain** would today be called encephalitis, while edema or **dropsy of the lungs** would today be congestive heart failure.

I remember hearing of **lockjaw** as a child. I did not remember that it is fatal in eight days if untreated. No wonder I've had so many tetanus shots. There are still some people around who suffered from and survived polio. Did you know polio was often referred to as **Infantile Paralysis**?

Barb McCormick Passed

Barb McCormick, 91, passed away Friday, December 13, 2024, at her home in Carlinville. Barb was born May 4, 1933, in Peoria, IL, a daughter of Wilson "Ace" and Marian Robertson Breigel. Barbara graduated from Carlinville High School with the class of 1951. She married Lawrence "Mac," in Carlinville, June 10, 1955. After graduating, Barb spent time as a member of the Springfield Muni Opera. She was a member of B.P.W. and the Macoupin County Historical Society, where she displayed many of her hand embroidered tea towels and pillowcases. Barb manned the office at the society and for many years conducted tours of the museum.



Barb was preceded in death by her parents and husband. Barb is survived by her daughter, Sharon (Jim) Kelmel of Morrisonville, son, Kenneth (Suzanne) McCormick of Virden, grandchildren; Rachel (Jeff) Bethard of Litchfield, Trent (Kendra) Quarton of Springfield, Blake McCormick of Virden, great grandchildren; Ashton, Logan and Clayton Bethard, Thea and Kara Quarton.

She lies in rest at Mayfield Memorial Park Cemetery, Mausoleum of Valor. Memorials may be made to Macoupin County Historical Society or Benld Adopt-A-Pet.

Museum Contacts:

Museum Office 217-854-2850

Genealogy 217-854-2850

Wednesdays 10:00—12:00

e-mail Mchs.museum@yahoo.com

Web page Mchssociety.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/MacoupinCountyHistoricalSociety

2024 Sponsors

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- Kravanya & Boente Family Dentistry
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Tangible Donations

- Don Smith Paint Store
- M & M Farm Service
- Mark Kaiser
- Pro Style Finishes

Please, Support Our Sponsors!

Lost & Found, etc.

Welcome: Members and prospective members attending the MCHS Annual Meeting held March 17 at the Carlinville Elks building. Enjoy a fine meal, (call or text 217-710-8056 to reserve) and the most interesting presenters, Larry Werline and Judy Wagenblast. See article on page 1 for details.

Volunteers Needed to help in the food barn before, during or after Spring Festival.

Wanted: a person or team to repair plaster in the museum. Contact by text or voicemail: Janell Ramey (page 7)

Time to Reserve your booth for Spring Festival. Contact Nancy Mihalek, vendor coordinator, or download a contract from our Web page.

Wanted: A sketch artist to demonstrate and sell at Spring Festival. Contact Nancy Mihalek (page 7).

Wanted: Several volunteers to “adopt” a room to dust and vacuum once a month. Flexible schedule. Contact the curator and leave call back number.

Free: All the squirrels you can catch on the MCHS property. Not returnable.

Wanted: Team member to help keep membership records (Excel)

Reminders: The decorating theme for Spring Festival 2025 will be *vintage quilts*.. Check out the Anderson Museum.

Wanted: Volunteers to sit in a room of the museum during Spring Festival. 2 hour shifts. Contact Janell Ramey (page 7).



Quilts
On
Display,

Spring
Festival

Macoupin County Historical Society Officers – 2025

Title	Name	Phone	Cell Phone	E-mail
President	Dan Hauter	217-854-9725	217-710-8056	dhauter45@gmail.com
Vice-President	Audy Schmedecke		217-825-8888	schmedeke@gmail.com
Secretary	Libby Klocke	217-965-4563	217-965-4563	libby62690@gmail.com
Treasurer	Deb Wiles		217-710-1452	Dwiles@frontier.com

Board Members

Name	Phone	Cell Phone	E-mail
Roger Anderson		217-710-8867	Andersoncattle35@yahoo.com
Greg Brown		618-567-1512	gregb@fgmarchitects.com
Rodney Eichen		217-370-3692	
Libby Klocke		217-965-4563	libby62690@gmail.com
Paul Mihalek		217-556-2179	paul_mihalek@yahoo.com
Audy Schmedecke	217-854-8228	217-825-8888	schmedeke@gmail.com
Mary Tinder		217-825-9699	mtinder@gmail.com
Deb Wiles	217-854-3446	217-710-1452	Dwiles@frontier.com

Committee Chairmen/Contact persons

Committee	Chairman/contact	Phone	Cell Phone	email
Brooms	Rodney Eichen		217-825-4282	
Curator	Janell Ramey		217-710-5989	janelleramey@yahoo.com
Community Outreach	Deb Wiles	217-854-3446	217-710-1452	Dwiles@frontier.com
Food	Greg Brown		618-567-1512	gregb@fgmarchitects.com
Genealogy	Libby Knoche	217-965-4563	205-527-9636	libby62690@gmail.com
Gift Shop	Cheryl Gardner		217-825-9249	529gcgardner@gmail.com
Grounds	Jim Foster		217-851-5486	
House Maintenance	Paul Mihalek		217-556-2179	paul_mihalek@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Janell Ramey		217-710-5989	janelleramey@yahoo.com
Membership	Libby Knoche		205-527-9636	libby62690@gmail.com
Room Sitters	Janell Ramey		217-710-5989	janelleramey@yahoo.com
Sawmill	Paul Mihalek		217-556-2179	paul_mihalek@yahoo.com
Sponsors	Janell Ramey		217-710-5989	janelleramey@yahoo.com
Treasures Market	Mary Schmedecke		217-825-8887	mkschmedeke@gmail.com
Vendors	Nancy Mihalek		217-556-4853	Mchs.museum@yahoo.com
Xmas Decorating	Kendra Mize	618-402-6620		

Spring Festival
May 24, 25
2025

**Museum Office and
Genealogy
217-854-2850**

Spring Festival
Decorating Theme in
the museum is
Quilts

Macoupin County Historical Society
P. O. Box 432
Carlinville, IL 62626

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Return Service Requested



Macoupin County Historical Society

Membership Type \$25 Household \$300 Life Renew New

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____ e-mail _____

Amount Pd \$ _____ By Cash Check # _____ Date _____

Bring or mail to MCHS, PO Box 432, Carlinville IL 62626

Indicate areas where you would be interested in helping at the Society

- Food Service
- House Tours
- Newsletter
- House Decorating
- Demonstrate old time -methods. List _____
- Accounting
- Housekeeping
- Genealogy
- Publicity
- Christmas Show
- Building Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance
- Recruiting/Membership

What are the best times for you to help _____

What is your area of historical interest? _____

Vendors!

Spring Festival—May 24, 25

Contracts on website:

Mchsociety.org

Call Nancy Mihalek
218-556-4853