



2015 OFFICERS

President Rich Goodbred
Vice Pres Stan Meloy
Secretary Karen Wold
Treasurer Carol Landers/Anna Svendsen
Directors Bruce Carter, Tracy Smith,
Doug Corrigan



MUSEUM HOURS

Spring Hours -
Saturdays 10a-2p
(Summer Hours will begin in June)
Or anytime by appointment call
815-246-7076
or
815-246-9778

If you are in town for a special get-together with friends, reunion or family gathering, please give us a call! We'd be happy to open up the Museum for you!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

The Earlville Community Historical Society meets on a monthly basis at the Museum on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30p. Please consider joining us!



Thanks to the families who have recently directed funeral memorials to the Earlville Community Historical Society:

- The family of Robert Strong**
- The family of Dorothy Wright**
- The family of Dottie Cox**

We at the Historical Society share in your loss as all three of these individuals played an important part, not only in the community, but also in the early development of the Historical Society and/or the recent development of the Museum. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The Earlville Historical Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization making any donations tax-deductible.

WE HAVE NEEDS FOR...

Mannequins or dress forms in order to display uniforms, dresses, etc. which have been donated. If you have access to any of these items and would be willing to donate them, please call **Anna Svendsen at 815-246-9039**.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT
ITEMS INTO THE MUSEUM!!**

If you have been one of the generous souls who have contributed to the items on display at the Museum, we need to ask your help. We are required to identify which of the items are "DONATED" (owned by the Museum) and which are "LOANED" (owned by the lender). If you have not already been contacted, please stop in at the Museum to sign the appropriate paperwork. If you are from out-of-town and can't stop in, please contact Anna Svendsen at 815-246-9039.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are in need of member volunteers to help sort through, catalog and identify the numerous pictures that have been donated. We could also use some assistance in cleaning the 2nd floor of the museum in an effort to further expand our displays. If interested in helping, contact:

Anna Svendsen @ 815-246-9039.

We also need member volunteers to help staff the "open hours" of the museum. You would be assigned with another volunteer and the shifts are only 2 or 4 hour slots. If interested, stop in at the Museum on a Saturday and let us know.



"You know you're getting old when you don't remember when your wild oats turned to shredded wheat!"



MERGING

THE OLD AND THE NEW!

Whoever said that "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" obviously doesn't know our organization! We are embracing the new technology of social media and website design to get our message out about the wonderful historic information and artifacts in our Museum. Technology is being used to categorize and document our inventory.

We have had our Facebook page up and running for 7 months now where pictures of Museum displays and other information is posted weekly. We have reached nearly 700 people through Facebook. Now, thanks to Chet Wold, our organization has a new website: www.earlvillehistory.org We're hoping to link the videotaped recordings, newsletter and membership information along with pictures of displays. It's still under construction, but please visit it (and our Facebook page - Earlville Community Historical Society) and watch us grow!



Looking for some help with...

GRANT FUNDING! If you have any resources or knowledge to share please contact **Marcia Farley at 815-246-9877.**

Our **CHRISTMAS HOUSE WALK** was a monumental success! Many guests visited the beautifully decorated homes, and our profit was \$1850!! Thanks to LaVerle Carter, her committee and the numerous volunteers who helped in any way that day. And, a special thank you to those who opened up their homes to help benefit our organization.

Bob and Paula Goodbred
Tom and Maureen King
Bill and Sandi Lynd
Bruce and Jane Bauer
John and Dena Corrigan



MUSEUM UPDATES

Our "worker bees" have been busy this winter making improvements to the Museum.

1. Upstairs windows have been rebuilt and sealed
2. Plaster walls are being repaired and readied for painting
3. Inventory of items, pictures, etc. continues.
4. Signage on front windows of Museum is ordered
5. Receiving bids for tuck-pointing of main building.
6. Tarring the roof of the small building (to south of the Museum). This will commence after the tuck-pointing is completed.

Thanks to those members who have donated their time, talents (and wallets) to make this possible!



IMPORTANT DATES

2015

May 14 Hist. Soc. Mtg (6:30p)
May 16 EBA Car Show
(museum will be open)



Congratulations to Marie (Schrecengost) Carberry who won the Earlville Community Historical Society Logo Contest. Thank you for sharing your talent and creativity with us! Your design captured the essence of our organization and mission. The logo will be part of new signage on the Museum as well as in our communications and correspondence (Facebook, website, newsletter, letterhead, envelopes, etc). Marie received a \$50 Visa card and honorary lifetime membership to the Historical Society.





DID YOU KNOW...

The Museum has a library of resident interviews that have been recorded over the years. Recently, Member Jerry Englehart has been setting up more interviews to add to that collection. We currently have recordings of:

Nemer Kaleel	Dr. Otto Fischer
Jim Rowe	Chuck Dyas
Bob Cox	George Gould
Bob Strong	Herb Cook
T.O. Zimmerman	
Margaret Bullock Johnson	

YOUR FAMILY'S GENEALOGY

Are your roots in Earlville? Have you completed a Family Tree? Do you have pictures of your ancestors? Have you ever written down stories (funny, serious or otherwise) that tell about events that happened years back? We would love to have copies of any documentation that might help to provide information on some of the early families or events which were such an important part of the fabric of our community. If you have something to share, please contact **Anna Svendsen at 815-246-9039.**



"At my age I don't want to eat health foods. I need all the preservatives I can get!"

THE ORPHAN TRAIN

Have you ever heard of or read about the "Orphan Train Movement"? This was a welfare program that transported orphaned or homeless children from eastern U.S. cities to foster homes in the rural Midwest between 1853-1929. Some 250,000 children were relocated during that time by two charitable organizations - the Childrens' Aid Society and the New York Foundling Hospital. If any of your ancestors were part of this movement we would love to hear about any Earlville connection. Call **Kris Goodbred 815-246-9380.**

MEMORIAL DAY

With Memorial Day right around the corner, we at the Earlville Community Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for your service and to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep us free. Please take the time to attend the Memorial Day program sponsored by the Earlville American Legion Post at the High School gymnasium on that morning. Take your family with you. It's a great lesson in patriotism!



LUAU PARTY



DUELING PIANOS FUNDRAISER!

On Saturday, April 18th, the Earlville Fire Station was transformed into a Hawaiian Luau as a theme for our Dueling Pianos night! This is a major fundraiser for the Historical Society with the proceeds amounting to nearly \$5000!!

There are so many people who made this night possible -

- The Earlville Fire Protection Board for allowing us to use the Fire Station and the many Firemen who were there to help
- Rose Stockley and Cindy Cook and their committee for the fabulous decorations and their husbands, Gary and Tim, for building the stage. And, not to forget Rose's granddaughters, Willa and Gressa, who painted the backdrop that put us all in a tropical mood!
- Everyone who showed up to help move tables and chairs - especially the EHS students! Many (strong, youthful) hands make for light work!!

- The Pioneer State Bank and Earlville High School for the use of their tables/chairs.
- First State Insurance for printing the tickets
- Those individuals and businesses who donated door prizes
- Carol Goodbred, winner of the 50/50 drawing, who donated the *entire* amount (\$388!) back to the event in memory of her parents, Carl and Pat Finkle, long-time Earlville residents.
- All of our supporters who bought tickets, sang, laughed, danced, and embarrassed themselves on stage (both willingly and coerced), in order to make the night a success!

This night was dedicated in memory of Dottie Cox, our fellow member and friend, who passed away earlier this month. Dottie was instrumental in helping to put together the 150th Celebration as well in developing the Museum downtown. She shared her dedication and creativity in setting up many of the displays and actively participating in all of our events. Dottie was ALWAYS about having FUN, so it only seemed right that we should honor her on this night. We could all feel her smiling down on us that night ☺



"Growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional."

With Memorial Day approaching, we thought that you might enjoy this article from 1958 written by Mrs. Boyd (Evelyn) Smith. Some of these "kids" might look familiar....

THE AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR AUXILIARY

The Earlville American Legion Junior Auxiliary was organized February 8, 1955, under the direction of Jr. Advisor Mrs. Boyd K. Smith. All members consisted of daughters of Legionnaires of the Earlville Post 549. There were nine Charter members listed, but a high membership at one time reached a total of twenty-four daughters of Legionnaires.

First Junior Chairman of the group was Patty Ann Sturgeon, daughter of Orrin and Evelyn Sturgeon. Nine other members served as Chairman over the years. The organization was very active over a ten year period. Several Juniors belonged until they reached eighteen years of age and transferred to the adult American Legion auxiliary Unit 549.

The three members to keep continuous membership in the Jr. Auxiliary and graduated were Virginia, Barbara and Joyce Smith, all three daughters of Boyd and Evelyn Smith. Joyce was a "Tiny Tot" member; thus she was the only member to have continuous eighteen-year membership. Barbara Smith was the youngest charter member at the time of organizing.

Activities of the Jr. Auxiliary members consisted of making 25 monthly tray favors for hospitalized veterans. They studied about Americanism and presented patriotic programs; assisted in selling 75 home flag sets in the community and helped Unit 549 in distributing the veteran-made poppies on Poppy Day. Several members took part in the Earlville Centennial Historical Program in the year 1963.

One of the most impressive ceremonies ever given by the Jr. Auxiliary members was when the entire group wore uniforms consisting of navy blue skirts, white blouses, navy bows and navy Legionnaire type caps. The caps were styled and made by Mrs. Jessie Sturgeon and Evelyn Smith from three Navy uniforms of an Earlville boy, Kenneth R. Sturgeon, son of Lloyd and Jessie Sturgeon, who lost his life at sea April 29, 1945. Their caps were dedicated during a very impressive Memorial Day service on May 30, 1958. During the service, each Junior came forward and placed a live poppy before the War memorial monument in memory of Kenneth Russell Sturgeon. Their caps will serve as a reminder of his sacrifice to our country.

Kristen E. Krienert, infant daughter of Kenneth and Virginia Krienert, was presented a "Tiny Tot" membership in the Junior Auxiliary Organization in 1988 by her grandfather, Legionnaire Boyd K. Smith. Daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters of a Legionnaire may join the American Legion junior Auxiliary as a member, even though the group is no longer active at the present time.



Jr. Auxiliary members in uniform taken May 30, 1958

Front row: Barbara Smith; Becky Montooth; Martha Montooth; Mary Ann Miller.

Middle row: Dorothy Montooth; Ramona Maly; Sharon Masterson; Colleen Malley; Becky Bauer.

Back row: Linda Myers; Carolyn Strouss; Patty Ann Sturgeon; Laura Myers; Marsha Harbison; (Unknown*); and Virginia Smith.

**(if anyone can identify the "unknown" girl, please email the name to gdbrd@mchsi.com)*



Earlville Community Historical Society

A Not-For-Profit 501(c)3 Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member

Renewal

Membership Type/Dues (after initial payment, dues are collected each November)

Individual (\$10.00 annually)

Business/Institution (\$25.00 annually)

Family (\$20.00 annually)

Lifetime (\$100 one-time payment; no annual dues)

Member(s) Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Do you have a Facebook Account? Yes/No

If yes, please "like" our Facebook page by searching for:

Earlville Community Historical Society

***In order to save on postage we would like to send newsletters to your email account. We will also post them on our Facebook page.**

Send this form and your dues to the following address:

Earlville Community Historical Society

Attn: Membership

136 S Ottawa St.

PO Box 683

Earlville IL 60518

