



Summer 2017
Newsletter #9

It's Been A Busy Summer!



The months of May, June and July were VERY busy for our volunteers at the Historical Society. We staff additional hours during community events in an effort to bring more visitors into the Museum.

Cruise Night *(sponsored by the Earlville Business Association)*

Although the threat of rain lessened the participation a bit this year, the crowds came out, and the streets of Earlville felt very much like they used to back in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

EHS Alumni Weekend

This is always one of our busiest time at the Museum, and we look forward to it each year. Many classes have started to make a visit to the Museum part of their pre-reunion festivities. Some have even used it as their "meeting place" prior to going to the school. We thank all of you who stopped in! Many made donations and several purchased annual or Life-time memberships which are always appreciated!

Lionsfest *(sponsored by the Earlville Lion's Club)*

A one-day celebration in Dodge Park with Pork Chop dinner and Draw Down.

Cemetery Walk *(sponsored by the EHS Excellence in Education Foundation)*

Our volunteers assisted with research and coordination of the St. Theresa Cemetery Walk. Transportation to the cemetery was by bus loading at the Museum. The event was extremely successful with tickets selling out early! Local residents or relatives portrayed notable persons from the community who were buried in the St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery—Fr. Henry Hahn, Fr. Joseph Wolvers, Leo McConville, Earl Frame, Joseph Maly, Eula Knutson, and Jack Myers. The EHS foundation provides supplies for the classrooms, scholarships and a trip for the students to attend a stage play in Chicago.

MUSEUM

136 S. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 683
Earlville, IL 60518

HOURS

Saturday 10am-2pm
Sunday 12pm-2pm
CLOSED JAN.-MAR.

Anytime by appointment
Call:
815-246-9778
815-246-9039
815-246-7076

www.earlvillehistory.org
earlville.history@yahoo.com

"Like" us on Facebook!



Meetings

Our meetings are currently being held at 9am on the first Saturday of every month. Next meeting will be Saturday, Sep. 2nd, at the Museum.

2017 Officers

Pres	Rich Goodbred
VP	Stan Meloy
Sec	Karen Wold
Treas	Carol Landers

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOUSE!



We are currently researching the history of many of the homes in Earlville. We'd love to hear from you—especially if you lived in one of the older homes in town. Please include the address of the home and any other information that you might have such as the year it was built, who built it, any notable persons (including you, of course) who lived there and any stories about the home. If you have any pictures of the house as it was when you lived there (or older pictures that you might have collected), we'd love to see those as well.

If you have any of this information to share, please email us at:

earlville.history@yahoo.com

COMING SOON!

Several of our volunteers have been working on a display highlighting the Harding/Freedom Township area! Check our Facebook page in September for more details.

Some Interesting Facts (or Lore) Uncovered During Research on Earlville Houses and Streets.....

- One of the oldest houses still standing in town is located just south of Dodge Park on Ottawa St. It was built in 1855 and was the home to S.T. Stilson, one of the early settlers who actually plotted out the downtown area.
- Did you ever wonder why Railroad St. is called "South Railroad" St. when it runs east and west? When the town was originally plotted it included the streets on either side of the railroad track. The street north of the tracks (now called Park St.) was called North Railroad and the street south of the tracks was, well you guessed it! - South Railroad St. Addresses on that street are still referenced as South Railroad St.
- The home located 2 doors north of the Presbyterian Church on Ottawa St. was built by Dr. Samuel Wiley in 1858. An older home was torn down on that property to make way for the newer home. During the demolition they found that many of the walls were filled with honey where bees had taken up residency.
- D.A. Town, a prominent resident in the late 1800s, lived in what was described as a "beautiful and elegant" home located on what is now, Dodge Park. We can find no pictures of this large home, but the museum has 2 ornate wall sconces that are documented as coming from that house.
- The large brick home on the SE corner of Ottawa and Church was built by R.A. Strong using the bricks recovered from the demolition of the Universalist Church which was located on that same property.
- George Hoadley built his new home at the east end of Church St. using the lumber from the demolition of the Catholic Church in Leland. That home is currently owned by Malley's.
- Susan Richardson (Women's Suffrage leader and cousin of Susan B. Anthony) is said to live on the east side of Dodge Park directly across from the Suffrage Marker.
- The Presbyterian parsonage was once located on the SE corner of Church and East Streets facing Church St. This is the current location of the Lutheran parsonage, however, the current home faces East St. See Page 5 for a picture of this home.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING!



The Earlville PTA and the Earlville Business Association are sponsoring a Circus on Wednesday, September 27th! ECHS volunteers will be assisting with this project. Stay tuned for details on tickets, etc. Bring the kids out and enjoy some old fashion fun at the Big Top!

And, here's a little teaser for you—the EBA is also making plans for a fun Christmas event that will take you back in time! Keep informed on all of these dates by “liking” our Facebook page: Earlville Community Historical Society

Color Us Thankful!



Over the past few months the Historical Society has been the recipient of monetary donations in memory of the following:

Terry Wolff

Berniece Harris

Willard Landers

Thanks to those who think of us in their time of grief.

We also continue to receive donations of pictures and other Earlville memorabilia which contributes to the success and interest at the Museum. If you are sorting through items following the death of a loved one, please consider contacting us before throwing any of those items out. If the item has an “Earlville Connection” - and, if we don't have duplicates—we may be interested. We have stopped taking items “on loan” unless we are doing a specific short-term exhibit, however, donations (gifts) are always welcome.

Thanks to some generous personal donations we have recently received a large printer, a couple of used display cases, and money toward the purchase of software and installation of internet service.

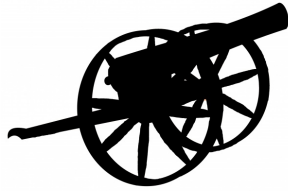
YOUR ANNUAL (2018) DUES WILL BE DUE SOON!

The Earlville Community Historical Society and the Museum stay alive through memberships, donations and fundraising activities. We are a not-for-profit organization, and we do not receive funding from any other source. It is only through your generosity that we can continue to make improvements to the Museum and preserve the history of our great little community.

Dues for 2018 will be collected starting in November, so if you are an ANNUAL member (paying dues each year), it's time to renew! If you are already a Lifetime Member, this does not apply to you. We are grateful for all memberships and all donations, big and small!

Attached to this newsletter is a Membership Form. Please note that (after many years of no change) the dues have been increased this year. Please include the form with your check so that we can make sure that we have your information correct. If you have an email address, please be sure to include so that we can send you our newsletters electronically.

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING CANNON



For nearly 120 years stories have floated through the community related to the Civil War cannon that was once part of the community. References about the firing of the cannon—usually on holidays or after political elections—go back as far as 1868. Research tells us that there was a Civil War cannon located in “Railroad Park” near the depot. This cannon disappeared sometime in the 1890s . There are many stories and presumptions about it’s disappearance which have been well-documented in the Earlville newspapers . The suspected perpetrators of the crime were the Dupee brothers who owned a large general store on the SE corner of Railroad and Main streets. Over the years there have been suspicions that the cannon ended up in a well, a basement of the Dupee store, or in Indian Creek. In 1969, the descendants of the Dupee family, wrote this letter to the Editor of the Earlville Leader.:

“The members of our family feel it is, perhaps, time for us to reveal what we know about the legend of the Earlville cannon which disappeared from Railroad Park just before the turn of the last century. I am writing you regarding this on behalf of the sons and daughters of Walter, Frank and John Dupee. We have agreed among us that it would be too bad to allow the details of the disappearance of the cannon to be lost from the history of Earlville.

This has been, more or less, a family secret since the night the cannon disappeared. We thought our fathers would one day reveal the story, but they just never got around to do it. We have had some hesitancy about telling it because it raises a question about the legality of what was done. We have agreed to bear whatever criticism of our ancestors might arise because we think it will be seen that the cannon was removed from the park for good reasons. As far as we know there is no living person who was involved.

There are some differences in the details of the story as each of us remember them. However, the main facts are clear in our memories.

The cannon was a relic of the Civil War and was placed in Railroad Park sometime after the war. It was customary on election nights for some wanting to celebrate a victory, to shoot off the cannon. Each time this was done many plate glass windows in the business district were broken by the impact. Our grandfather and uncle, Ralph O. Dupee and Jacob A. Dupee, were in business in the three-front building at the west end of the stores on Main St. Since it was close to where the cannon was fired, damage to their windows was quite extensive. We presume that efforts were made to stop this nonsense, before these men finally took the situation into their own hands.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are in need of volunteers to come forward to help staff the Museum during open hours. The shifts are only 2 hours long, and you would always be assigned with another person. Our open hours are currently Saturday, (10am-2pm), and Sunday (12pm-2pm), but we will need to decrease those days/times if we can not find more volunteers.

If you are considering it, but not sure if it's for you—give us a call and we'll show you around before you decide. If you could give just one shift a month it would help a bunch. A lot of work and donations have gone into keeping Earlville's history alive.

Please consider giving back in the way of community service. We know you will find it rewarding!

If interested, please call:

Kris 815-252-9380

Anna 815-985-3763

Or email:

earlvillehistory@yahoo.com

BUB AND HIS BOYS



**Wed., September 20th,
7 p.m. Earl Township Building**

If you were a young adult during the late 50s and early 60s, chances are you attended "Bub Dances" on Thursday nights during the summer at the Sandwich Fair Grounds. Bub Goodwick had a band called Bub and His Boys, and they played gigs in the northern Illinois region as well as into Iowa. A member of the band for 42 out of their 44 years was Ernie Basler of Leland. He only missed those 2 years during his service to our country. His instrument was the six-string Spanish guitar. Ernie will be sharing his memories as well as some of that great "Bub" music with us during a program on Sep. 20th, 7p.m., at the Earl Township building on Rt. 34 east of town. Come and join us for a fun evening and trip down memory lane. No charge. Donations only.

Presbyterian Parsonage

(early 1900s)

SE Corner Church and East Streets



Calendar of Events



Sep	2	ECHS Meeting
Sep	20	Bub/Boys Program
Sep	27	EBA Circus
Oct	7	ECHS Meeting
Nov	4	ECHS Meeting
Dec	2	ECHS Meeting

(Continued from Page 4)

One dark night our grandfather and uncle, together with some of the employees at the store, loaded the cannon onto the delivery wagon used at the store and hauled it to the store where it was kept in a secluded place for many years. There exists among us a difference as to where we remember we were told that place was. One version is that it was kept in the back of the grocery department under a platform on which sacked flour was stored. Another version is that it was kept in the basement for some time, after both our grandfather and uncle had died and Walter, Frank and John Dupee were operating the store it became desirable to remove the cannon to permit some remodeling.

On another dark night, they, with some of their store employees, loaded the cannon onto the delivery wagon and hauled it up to the railroad bridge east of town. There were at that time three bridges in the area – the one main road going east out of town, the high railroad bridge and a wooden bridge north of that. We feel quite sure that the cannon was lugged up the embankment to the railroad trestle over Big Indian Creek and then dropped into the creek. As far as we know it is still there. It could have been removed, but it seems that there would have been some publicity about the discovery if that had happened.

Kenneth Dupee, who as a boy knew much about the land and streams around Earlville, remembers that there was supposed to be a bottomless hole in the creek near the bridge. He has a theory that it might have been caused by the presence of an artesian well in the creek at that point. If that were true, the cannon could have sunk beyond recovery. There used to be several artesian wells around Earlville.

In addition to Walter, Frank and John Dupee we know that at least two other men helped them. One was named Grover Cleveland and the other was a Mr. Smith.

This information may be used in any way you choose.

Yours truly,

The descendants of R.O. Dupee and John A. Dupee”

More Cannon Stuff!!

But wait! Did you know that there were actually 2-3 OTHER cannons located in the community over the years? Some of our residents remember a cannon being located on the grade school lot next to the school. Others recall a cannon being located in Dodge Park. Here’s a little insight into that!

L.B. Mann, Superintendent of Earlville Schools from 1914 to 1924, was responsible for the purchase of the cannons. One cannon that Mr. Mann purchased is described as “a small cannon with iron barrel and wooden mountings, which was made by Chas. D. Hill’s father when Hill was a lad. “ When asked what he was going to do with this cannon, he responded, “Oh, this belongs to Uncle Charlie Hill, and is the second cannon I have brought to Earlville. Don’t you remember that just after the war, I got the government to send second cannon and it has since stood on the grade school grounds?”

Mann’s brother, Captain H.E. Mann, assisted with bringing two howitzer cannons to Earlville in the early 1920’s. Both were from the Rock Island arsenal. One of those ended up at the old grade school. Not sure about the other one. In 1938, as Dodge Park was being developed, it was suggested that the cannon be moved from the school to the park. There is reference to the two Howitzer cannons being “loaned” so, perhaps, these were reclaimed by the Mann family or the Arsenal. If not, well, we have another mystery!

And, so there you have it!

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 Nov/Dec for following year)

Individual (\$15.00 *per person* - annually)

Business/Institution (\$50.00 annually)

Family (\$30.00 annually)

Individual Lifetime (\$150 *per person* - one-time payment; no annual dues)

Business/Institution Lifetime (\$300 – one-time payment; no annual dues)

Member Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address* _____

**To avoid postage costs we would like to send newsletters to your email account.*

Do you have a Facebook Account? Yes/No

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

Earlville Community Historical Society

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

Eff. 11/11/2016