

## Potter's Field Monument

Last season ECHS took on the project of placing a monument in Precinct Cemetery to memorialize those 33 persons who were buried in the Potter's Field section. This section is where indigent or unidentified/unclaimed bodies were buried. There were cemetery records that listed the names (sometimes only by the first or last name, or merely by a description). Each name was researched, and several were found to have a headstone located elsewhere in the cemetery. These were, most likely, added to a family plot at a later date. The remainder of the names will be placed on the new monument located in the far northwest corner of the cemetery. No burials have taken place in this area for many years, and there will be none going forward. Our hope was to have the monument erected by Memorial Day, 2020, however, Covid-19 may prohibit that from occurring.. Our thanks to the Earl Township Cemetery Board and Mendota Monument for their assistance with this project.

### MUSEUM

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

### HOURS

Saturday 10am-2pm  
Sunday 12pm-2pm

**\*CLOSED DUE TO COVID  
UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE\***

Anytime by appointment  
Call:  
815-246-9778  
815-985-3763

[www.earlvillehistory.org](http://www.earlvillehistory.org)  
[earlville.history@yahoo.com](mailto:earlville.history@yahoo.com)

"Like" us on Facebook!



### Meetings

The next meeting will be Sat. Jun 6, 9am at the Museum (unless restricted by Covid-19 rules)

### 2020 Officers

Pres	Rich Goodbred
VP	Stan Meloy
Sec	Karen Wold
Treas	Kris Goodbred
Curator	Anna Svendsen

Directors:	Bill Mitchell
	Larry Maly
	Sandi Engel

## STAND UP FOR THE RED WHITE AND BLUE



EARLVILLE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PRESENTS

COOL 2 DUEL  
DUELING PIANOS  
TICKETS 15.00 each  
**OCTOBER 3, 2020 7-10P**  
EARLVILLE FIRE STATION



SNACKS PROVIDED—DRINKS AVAILABLE—50/50

TICKETS ON SALE AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PIONEER STATE BANK, SANDY'S SHEAR MAGIC,  
THE BARBER SHOP AND FIRST STATE INS

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS AGAIN!

Let's all hope  
that our re-  
vised date  
can happen!



Thank  
you!

**Thanks to our loyal members and donors. We always look forward to our April opening, and this year has kept us apart. We miss you all and hope that you are healthy and staying safe. We can't wait for the opportunity to get together again!**



.....are always needed and welcomed!

If interested in lending a hand and learning about Earlville please contact us at:

earlville.history@yahoo.com

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

There is no calendar published in this newsletter. The opening of the Museum as well as any gatherings of members, programs, etc. will all be in accordance with the Governor's directives based on the status of the spread of the Covid-19 virus in our area. We will attempt to keep our members informed when we will be able to restart our monthly meetings through postings on our Facebook page. Our usual monthly meeting for June should be on the 6th.

The pandemic has also caused the postponement of our major fundraiser for the year. We're hoping that Dueling Pianos can take place on the revised date in September, but, if not, that will impact our fund raising for the year. We do still plan to produce a photo calendar again in the fall. We know that lots of folks are hurting financially, but if you have not renewed your membership (or if you have thought about converting to a Lifetime membership) and are able to do so, we certainly appreciate your support.

**STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.**

Remember when.....?

### Earlville Pranksters Take Buses From School Parking Lot

*(Earlville Leader March 14, 1957)*

"A flurry of excitement was created early Sunday morning by the discovery that the school buses had been moved from the parking lot at the Earlville school.

A resident of Earlville noticed one of the buses parked in the front of her home and called Harold Wold to check on the unusual incident.

Upon investigation it was discovered that all but one bus had been taken from the grounds. Mr. Wold called the county jail at 1:53a.m. Sunday, to report the theft of the buses. Later he reported that all but one had been found parked at various places about the town. One was on the high school lawn, one in front and one behind a home.

The last bus was discovered Sunday morning parked in a soybean field two miles west of Earlville. Fortunately, the pranksters did no apparent damage to the buses in their midnight ride."

# EARLVILLE AMERICAN LEGION POST 549 CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

*(Taken from a history written by Evelyn Smith as well as information that Mike Roberson, current Commander, provided in recent articles he submitted to the Earlville Post)*



A century ago, 43 veterans of World War I gathered in Earlville to begin the process that would lead in November 1921 to the chartering of the James H. Hamill Post No. 549 of the American Legion. The first commander was Private First Class Edward Patrick "Ted" Baines. While a young man, Ted learned to be a barber and was hired on by the Redwood Billiard Parlor and Barber Shop on Railroad St. (later known as Marv's). He served in the cavalry from 1917-1919 when he moved to Earlville and returned to his job as barber. In 1919 the American Legion was seeking to enroll 1 million members by the first anniversary of the armistice. Ted spoke to 50-60 local veterans in an effort to establish the local chapter. A temporary post was formed on February 6, 1920. On November 25th, 1921, a charter was issued with 66 member names listed.

One of the most important duties performed by the post in its first year was to plan and coordinate the July 1921 funeral service for James H. Hamill. James was born in Scotland but moved to Earlville in 1905 to live and work on his Uncle James Cowell's farm. He also worked with Charles Howey who married his sister, Anna. He moved to town in 1910 and worked at Remick's and Mueller's. He was a member of the fire department, and it was largely due to his efforts that the electric fire alarm was installed, although he never got back to hear it. He married Laura Eisenbise in 1912, and they operated a boarding house in Earlville. James escaped the first draft by reason of his age but finally enlisted in 1918 and was assigned to France. Unfortunately, he came down with pneumonia while in France and succumbed to the illness on October 4, 1918. His body wasn't returned to the U.S. until July of 1921. Commander Baines was given special permission to go to Chicago and escort the body back to Earlville. The American Legion Post had been named for Hamill the previous summer.



On Monday, July 19, 1921, the funeral procession headed by the West Brooklyn band started from the Hamill home on the north side of town. The flag-draped casket was borne on a horse-drawn caisson. More than 100 men in uniform including the pall bearers and firing squad accompanied the casket. The procession made its way to the Earlville Methodist Church where the funeral was held, and then the slow march to Precinct Cemetery commenced.



## American Legion Anniversary (continued)



While Ted Baines was the first commander representing World War I, the following are commanders representing future conflicts:

<b>World War II</b>	Harland D. Warren (1947)
<b>Korean War</b>	Laverne Gast (1958)
<b>Vietnam</b>	Steve Botts (1971) *no information after this date
<b>Global War on Terror</b>	Randy Collins (2014)

In the early days the Legion meetings were held at various places such as the Barber shop, Pool Hall and even the Butcher shop. In later years the meetings were held in the second floor of their current location above Mrs. Giles shop and, later, the Epie Florist. In 1946 the Legion purchased the building from the owner of the florist shop (Kirby's). Members secured "shares" in order to finance the building. In 1969 Commander James Seaton led a major remodeling of the first floor, and, in 1970, they made the move from the second floor. The front of the building was remodeled in 1971.

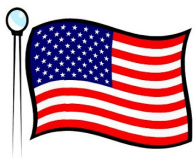
The Legion members conduct services for Memorial Day each year after marking the gravestones of all war veterans buried locally. Due to Covid-19 this will be one of the only years that the service won't happen. They honor all veterans with military rites at local funerals. In 1954 a war memorial monument built by Tage Nielsen was dedicated in Dodge Park (see photos on next page). The Legion held a Flag Day distribution sale in 1957 where they sold and delivered 75 home flag sets and 25 large flag sets to businesses. More recently, in 1918, the Legion took on the project of cleaning and repairing the World War I monument that sits in the center of the military burials in Precinct Cemetery.

*(continued on Page 5)*

## American Legion Anniversary (continued)



During the first year of the post's existence an auxiliary was formed to assist in fundraising to help with the expenses of the building as well as provide support to veterans in the area. The first meeting was held in August of 1920, and from that point forward, the group raised money through baked sales, dances, dinners, bazaars, concerts, and card parties. They are probably most well-known for being the "poppy girls" selling poppies prior to Memorial day. The auxiliary sponsors high school girls as delegates to Girls State. In February of 1955 Mrs. Boyd Smith formed the Junior Legion Auxiliary made up of children and grandchildren of veterans. They, too, raised money and provided items like tray favors to the veterans homes. The Junior auxiliary continued until 1965.



We at the Earlville Community Historical Society honor all of the members of the Earlville American Legion Post. 549, past and present, during this anniversary year and, most importantly, thank you all for your service.

## 2020 EHS Alumni Cancelled

Another victim of the Covid-19 pandemic is the Annual EHS Alumni Association meeting scheduled for June 13th. It was announced that this year's meeting will be cancelled due to the virus. The classes that were to be celebrated during 2020 will be honored at the 2021 Alumni meeting along with celebrants for that year.

Next year marks the 130th year since the formation of the Earlville Alumni Association. The first meeting was on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1891, and it has been meeting annually since that date. In the early 1900s the meeting included a banquet and a dance, usually held at one of the downtown halls (Robinson or Gregg) or in a church. During the 1930s the event was moved to the school. The dance eventually stopped and various churches took turns providing the dinner. The Presbyterian Mariners took over serving the banquet in the 1960s. Each year the celebrated classes (10<sup>th</sup> year classes) arrange their reunions around this date in June following graduation. Following the dinner each celebrated class provides a short review of their class activities since graduation.



## EHS Class of 2020—The“Covid” Kids

As you read through these newsletters and reminisce about the past, we are reminded of those great memories of our days in high school —especially of our senior year. The Class of 2020 has been robbed of some of those precious memories, including class trips, proms, and even graduation ceremonies due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They all know that, in the big picture, the saving of lives trumps those events, but it doesn't make it any less important in their books. We want to take this opportunity to congratulate ALL of the EHS Class of 2020 on their accomplishments and for weathering the distant learning storm for the last third of their senior year. We wish them well and remind them that they will have some great stories to document and relate to some reporter from the Historical Society in years to come!!



Congrats



### CORRECTION!

#### Football Article from last newsletter....

In our last newsletter we had stated that Earlville's first football season (since the early 1900s) was in the fall of 1950. One of our readers offered a correction. While it is true that the first conference schedule started in 1950, a team was organized in the fall of 1949 and played 2 scrimmage games. The Earlville Leader lists the opponents as Sandwich and Streator, however, our reader also recalls playing at Marquette and Plano. A few of the players mentioned were Bob Harmon, Ron Beale, Dave Leach and Howard Pratt..

We also, incorrectly, posted the record for the 61-62 team as 4-4, but it should have been 6-2.

It makes us happy to know that you are enjoying the articles, and we appreciate any corrections that are offered!

## Earth Day 50th Anniversary

*(Earlville Leader April 23, 1070)*

*"EHS students were among thousands throughout the nation who observed 'Earth Day' yesterday. Eight 12-member teams spent part of the afternoon picking up litter in the city and the immediate surrounding area and picked up a unbelievable amount of debris."*

Senator Gaylord Nelson (WI) had long been concerned about the deterioration of the environment especially after a series of oil spills in California. He recruited Dennis Hayes, a young activist, to organize a movement on college campuses. April 22nd, a week day between spring break and the start of final exams, was chosen as the date of the first Earth Day in order to maximize participation. By the end of 1970, Earth Day led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Clean Air Act.

In 1990, Earth Day became recognized as a global event.

# 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***

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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