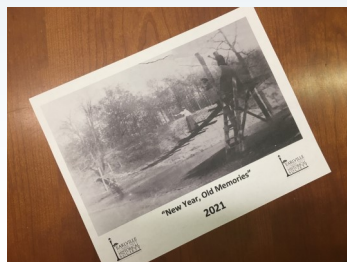


Fall/Winter 2020
Newsletter #19

2021 Calendar Sales!!

Our 2021 calendars are here with so many more vintage pictures of Earlville. This is our fourth year of publishing the calendar, and it continues to be a great fundraiser for us. This year's calendar will feature photos of local bridges, clubs, farmers, the Centennial celebration, Freedom Township, and, of course, our veterans, old homes, school and much more!



The cost will be the same as last year—\$15 each. If you want to have the calendar(s) mailed there is a \$2 per calendar shipping fee. They make great Christmas gifts. We have sold out in the past, so if you wish to order, don't wait until the last minute!

The calendars can be purchased in town at Sandy's Shear Magic, First state Insurance, and the Barber Shop. You can order by email (earlville.history@yahoo.com) as long as you follow-up with a check or money order sent to ECHS, PO Box 683, Earlville, IL 60518.

We appreciate your support even MORE this year since our major fundraiser was cancelled due to Covid.

It's Membership Renewal Time!!

If you hold an ANNUAL membership (renewable every year by January 1st) it's time to submit your \$15 for the 2021 calendar year. A Membership form is attached to the last page of this newsletter for your convenience. This only applies to ANNUAL memberships, not LIFETIME. We appreciate and NEED all of our members—Annual and Lifetime.

MUSEUM

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

HOURS

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

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE DUE TO COVID**

Anytime by appointment
Call:

815-246-9778
815-985-3763

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

"Like" us on Facebook!



Meetings

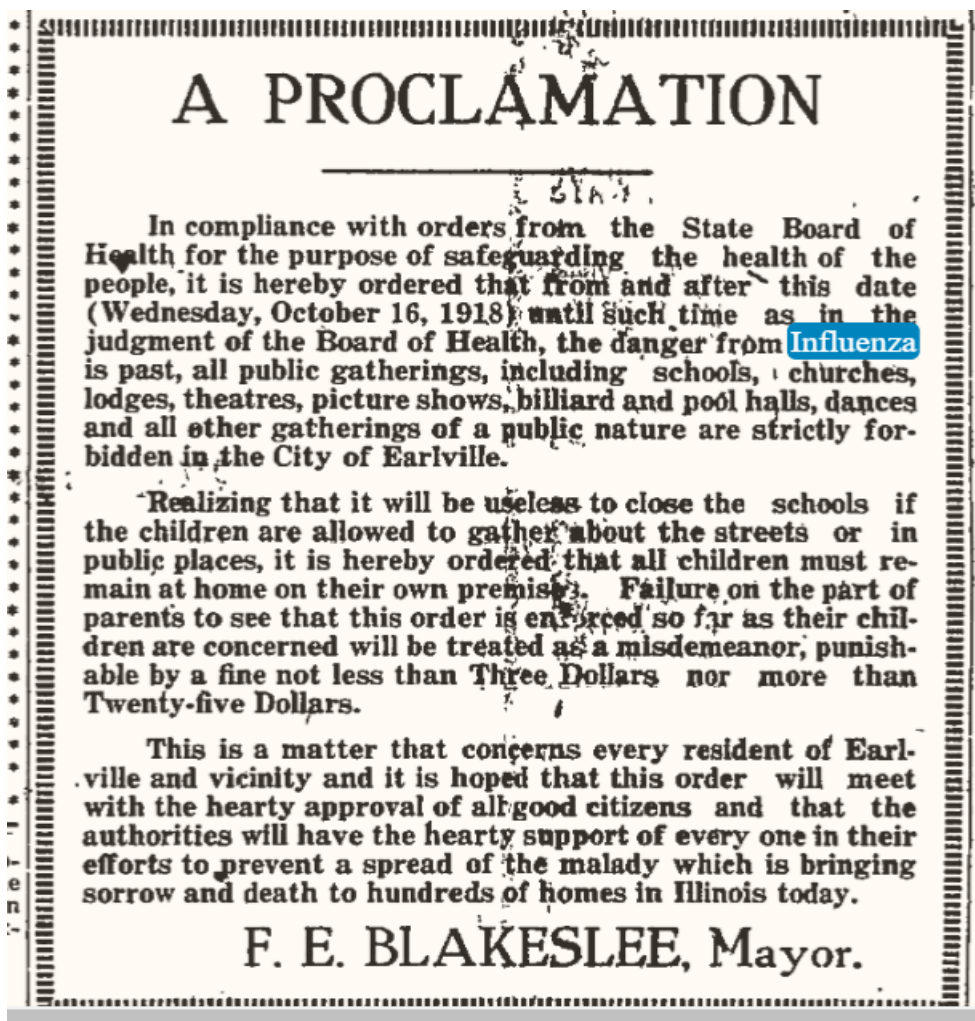
**BOARD MEETINGS ONLY
SCHEDULED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO
COVID**

2021 Officers

Pres	Rich Goodbred
VP	Stan Meloy
Sec	Karen Wold
Treas	Kris Goodbred
Curator	Anna Svendsen
Directors:	Bill Mitchell
	Larry Maly
	Sandi Engel

“SPANISH FLU” EPIDEMIC (1918)

The Spanish Flu (H1N1 influenza) claimed ~675,000 deaths in the U.S. and ~23,500 in Illinois. The first cases were reported in February 1918 with the peak occurring in October of that same year. Because we were in the midst of WWI, the military bases were the hardest hit. The first case of the Spanish Flu in Illinois occurred at the Great Lakes Naval Base, and, like other camps, the virus spread quickly. Soldiers from our town were called to Camp Grant in Waco, TX, to assist with the numerous cases and more than 1,000 deaths which had occurred there. Grocery stores and markets were the only businesses allowed to stay open. Churches, schools, clubs, halls and even golf courses were converted into temporary hospitals all over the U.S. There were printed directions in many of the newspapers instructing how to make a facemask. Among the deaths were many children. A walk through our local cemeteries tell the story with gravestones of small children dying in 1918. A few notations from our own local papers during this time include—“Holiday trade was greatly interfered with by bad roads and influenza epidemic, but our merchants were not complaining. It does no good.” On October 17th, 1918, Earlville’s Mayor F.E. Blakeslee put out the following proclamation:



Giving an update later that year, the Mayor stated, “The people of Earlville are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have observed the mayor’s proclamation against public gatherings during the ‘flu’ epidemic and the way in which the youngsters have been kept at home. It has been noticeable and no doubt has helped check the disease.”

The current pandemic has certainly changed our lives and will be a major chapter in our history. Many have suffered the illness and some have been lost to the disease. Others have suffered financial losses. Stay safe out there. Wear your mask. Social Distance. Wash your hands.

2021 ECHS Election of Officers

Since we have been unable to have any membership meetings due to the pandemic, the current officers agreed to be on the ballot for another year. No directors were due to leave the board this year.



Thanks to all of you who have answered our call for memberships and donations during this difficult time when major fundraisers have been cancelled. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and appreciate your interest and support of the museum. We are hopeful for successful calendar sales. We have been trying to make the most of the time we've been closed by updating and adding to our displays. We hope that there will be a time in the not-too-distant future where we will be open again and be able to show off some of our hard work.

Our biggest project has been the addition of display space in the shed next door. Jack Anderson worked hard to install pegboard so that we could convert it into our new agricultural section.



The David A Town House

The home of D.A. Town is frequently referred to as the most elegant house in Earlville. D.A. Town was a banker and businessman. The home, built in 1884, was located on Ottawa St. in the center of the property now known as Dodge Park. Unfortunately, Mr. Town found himself in bankruptcy, and the bank took possession in 1928. An auction was held and every last household item was sold. When past resident, Ralph Dodge, died (1936) he left money to the city stating that the money be used to "beautify the city." The city purchased the Town property and created a park naming it after Mr. Dodge. Stone slabs from the home were used to make benches at the NE and SE corners of the park, and the old hitching posts were used to hold the net of the newly constructed tennis courts. We are fortunate to have a couple of wall sconces from the home on display at the museum. And, thanks to Stan Meloy, we finally have a photo of the house.



.....are always needed and welcomed!

If interested in lending a hand and learning about Earlville please contact us at:
earlville.history@yahoo.com





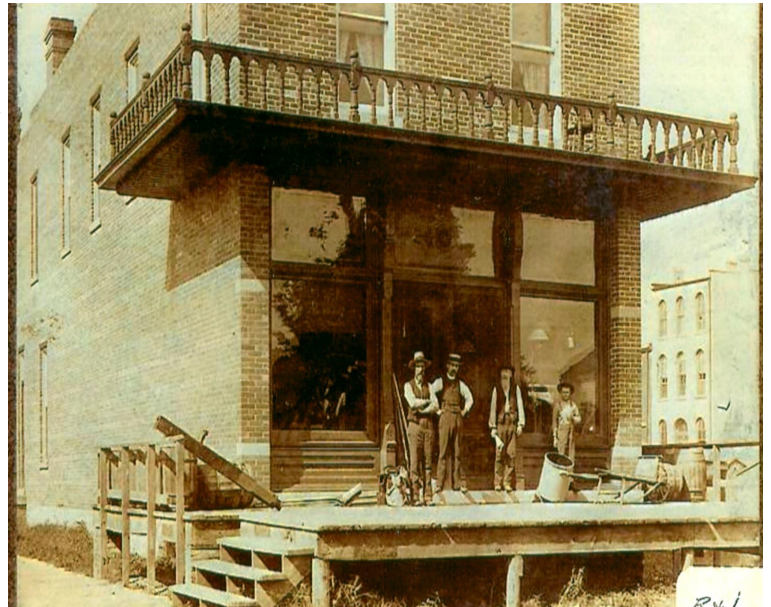
DOWNTOWN BUILDING HISTORY



Many of the buildings in Earlville's downtown area date back to the mid-1800s and were built by some of Earlville's first businessmen. Most of these buildings are still standing (exception – Greiner Building). There were 3-4 major fires that destroyed or partially destroyed much of the original business district between 1867-1903. It should also be noted that in the early days many of these buildings had as many as 3-4 businesses utilizing the basements and second/third floors as well as the storefront, and it was not uncommon for a business to change locations more than once. This is a look at the origin and history of a five of the Ottawa Street buildings gleaned from photographs, article and other references from the local newspaper. It is difficult in some cases to determine the *exact* location of a certain business, so if you have knowledge that contradicts any of the information, please send us an email so we can double-check and get our facts straight.

Arnold Building – 142 S Ottawa St.

There are two separate buildings that are referred to as the “Arnold” building and both were built by George Arnold. The “newer” Arnold building, known to most of us as a tavern, is located on the NW corner of Ottawa and Winthrop Streets. George Arnold purchased this empty lot in 1887 and moved his grocery and crockery store into the new building. A grocery store remained at this location – Gettemy's and then Pratt & Son's – until 1931. In 1933 Schammel's opened a tavern, and it remained a tavern through 1981 when it closed. It no longer operates as a business storefront. Many of our readers will remember more than one of the bar owners during that period – Hanois' Tavern, Whitey's Bar, Joe's Bar, Duke's Tap, B&L Bar, and Patty's Pub.



Gettemy's Grocery Store



The George Binder Building – 136 S Ottawa St.

In 1901, George Binder purchased the vacant lots and constructed a two-storefront building with his hardware business operating out of the south store. This building is unique in that, until 2008, it has always been home to a hardware store with only a few owners. Binder sold his business in 1916 to Frank Hughes who was in business for 30 years before selling to Wayne Large and Roy Johnson. Eventually, Large took over the business and operated until 1987 when he sold to Keith and Myra Flickinger. Flick's Hardware sold to Hatland's in 2003 and, shortly after, Rick Barrow ran the business until it closed in 2008. The building remained vacant after that time. During the town's 150th celebration, the Event Committee opened their headquarters here. Following the celebration, the Earlville Community Historical Society purchased the building and transformed it into a museum featuring history and artifacts of Earlville.

The Sucher Building – 103 S. Ottawa St.

The two-story building on the SE corner of Ottawa and Railroad Streets (currently the American Legion) was built by G.B. Sucher around 1895. George Boltz (Sucher's son-in-law) moved his hardware store to this location that same year. From 1906-1912 Davis & O'Meara operated their plumbing and heating business here. C.R. Huckins & Co. opened a grocery and hardware business until 1919 when they sold their grocery business to N.L. Connett. The American Legion took over the second floor of the building in 1921, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Guiles moved their gift shop here for the next 29 years. In 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kirby purchased the building and started the Epie Florist Shop before eventually moving the business to their residence. The American Legion purchased the building in 1970 and moved to the first floor where they still reside.



1912-1919
Current Location - American Legion Building

The Waechter Building – 107 and 117 S Ottawa St.

Henry Waechter built this 2-story, 2 storefront building between the current Legion and the barber shop in 1885. A stairway to Dr. Goble's office separated the two stores. Waechter had a grocery business in the **north storefront** until 1902 when he sold to F.M. Edgett. In 1908 D.J. Nunemacher opened a dry goods store and remained in business until 1952. Len Streed moved his Rexall drug store from Railroad St. to this location until 1974. This storefront remained a drug store (Ron Maronde, Mike Schmidt) until 1978. A remote pharmacy opened here for a short time, but there has been no business in the building for years.

In the **south storefront** of the Waechter building (next to barber shop) there were several businesses located on both the 1st and 2nd floor. Adam Weis operated a harness shop here from 1880 until 1918. Other businesses during the late 1800s include John Recknor (butcher) and Haman's saloon. In 1907 Haman sold to Mueller who opened a restaurant and parlor followed by Joe Mahassal's restaurant and then Richard's restaurant. In 1959, Audrey Harbison and Marilyn Hanley opened the Charm Shoppe. Don Norton, attorney, occupied this building until becoming a judge in 1981. At that time, Jack Cantlin's Law firm opened an Earlville location before moving their practice across the street. The building has been vacant since that time.



Waechter's Grocery

The Greiner Building- 123 S Ottawa St.

Fred Greiner (1824-1901) built this two-story building on the east side of Ottawa St. (current location of Malley Plumbing and Heating) somewhere around 1850. There were two separate storefronts. It is not clear the type of business that Mr. Greiner had, but we know that he tore down the back side of this building to construct a barn in 1878. From 1891-1901 Harvey Schrecengost operated his blacksmith shop out of this location before moving around the corner on Winthrop St. Sam Lynn had a coal office with a scale that protruded out into the street in front. J.W. Langley had a shoe shop in this location for 9 years. Frenchy and French Mary's saloon was here sometime before 1908. In 1908 the building was heavily damaged from a fire and was cut down to just one story as a result. Bert Meads blacksmith shop and Hargers paint shop were located there when the fire broke out. In 1911 Haas & Son plumbing took over the building along with Houseman Shoe Repair. The building was sold to E.W. Malley in 1919. The building housed a second-hand store, a newsstand and Frank Shoemaker's, Shoe Repair. Shorty Strouss even opened a lunch stand here in 1929, and Gottlieb Maly took over the shoe repair. Malley eventually converted the building into one-story with brick front, and moved his plumbing and heating business there in 1933. He also had the International Harvester dealership at the time and used the front as a showroom for the equipment. The plumbing and heating business, one of the oldest in Earlville, still stands in this location today.



Bert Mead's Blacksmith Shop

(Earlville Leader Aug. 14, 1913)


Robert Giles at Lyric Theater

"Tomorrow night at the Lyric theatre, Earlville people will be given a rare treat. In addition to the regular program of pictures, Robert Giles, the whistler and mimic, will give several selections. His part of the program will be worth the price of admission which for this occasion has been placed at the low figure of 15 cents.


Robert Giles has appeared a few times briefly in Earlville and has delighted his audiences. Last winter he made an extensive circuit in Michigan and Canada, winning the most flattering notices from the press and applause of crowded houses wherever he appeared. He has been at home several weeks resting and practicing for a more extended tour to begin next month and Manager Edgett is to be commended for his enterprise and good fortune in securing him for one appearance here and one in Leland, so that his home friends may hear his wonderful work."

*Giles was a vaudeville performer and later operated a novelty shop and news stand with his mother, Nora, at the SE corner of Ottawa and Railroad Streets.

[We'll continue to highlight more old buildings in future newsletters](#)



In Memoriam



The Earlville Community Historical Society extends our deepest sympathies to the family of Joan (Harmon) Norton. Thank you for including us as a directed memorial. Your generous donation is greatly appreciated.



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