

Post-Pandemic (not quite!) Event

Thanks to everyone who attended our social event in June. At the time, we thought that we were on the “other side” of this Covid thing, but it turns out that we were wrong. It was a nice break while it lasted. We had a great time visiting with all of our members and guests and enjoyed showing off some of our new exhibits.

We are thrilled to report that we have several members who have offered to help staff the Museum on the weekends. Welcome to Kent & Kathy Sellers, Deb & Kurt Larson, Cindy Noel, Becky Mathesius, Jessica Mock, Bryan Wald, Sandy Cox, Jane Bauer, Cindy Cook, P.R. Hughes and Bev Malkey for helping us out. Stop in and see them on the weekend!

We plan to keep the Museum open unless the situation changes, however, we have cancelled our September membership meeting due to increased Covid cases in the area. We have some great speakers planned for our October, November and December meetings, so, hopefully, we will be able to restart those soon. Thanks again for your continued support of the Earlville Community Historical Society!!!



MUSEUM

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

HOURS

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

Anytime by appointment

Call:

815-246-9778

815-985-3763

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

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Monthly Meetings are on
the 1st Sat. of the month
(April through December)
9a.m. at the Museum

2021 Officers

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

Directors:	Bill Mitchell
	Larry Maly
	Sandi Engel

History of the Downtown Buildings

THE POOL BUILDING – 122 S Ottawa St.

The three-story building on the west side of Ottawa St. in the downtown area was built by J.J. Pool in 1868. It is significant in that it survived two of the major downtown fires. Pool (1839-1904) operated his drug store out of this location until 1901. The Masonic Lodge met on the 3rd floor until 1948. In the early 1900's Stephenson (and others) opened the Earl Meat Market in this building as did Harger & Horton Paints, Brock's Barber Shop and Louise Weidner tailoring. In 1921 Joe Cohn had a dry goods store here for 2 years. E.B. Tabor, owner of the Earlville Leader, purchased the building in 1922 to use as the Leader office. In 1953, Nemer Kaleel purchased the building to expand his clothing store which, at the time, was located one storefront to the north of this spot. Kaleel's closed in 1972, and several businesses (Earlville Video, Beth's Bumble Bee Boutique, Rose Stockley's dance studio, a thrift shop, etc.) have used that space since. There is no business in this location today.



Pool's Drug Store

THE RADLEY BUILDING – 120 S Ottawa St.

This two-story building is known to many of us as the north side of Kaleel's Department Store. We believe that it was built around 1870 by James Radley to house the Barnard & Radley Furniture business. They remained in that location until they closed around 1911. In the 1930's E. F. Trevilion moved his electrical business to this location, followed by Bert Schrecengost's tavern, the Fox Head. In 1939, Nemer Kaleel brought his dry goods business to Earlville (eventually growing into the Pool Building to the south). Several small businesses have been in and out of the building, including John Foster's Software Farm in the 1990s. The storefront has been vacant for several years.



(Downtown Buildings continued...)

WALLACE BLOCK

The Wallace Hotel at the SW corner of Ottawa and Railroad Streets was built in 1874 by Charles Wallace and rebuilt by his son following a devastating fire in 1903. There were as many as 4-6 storefronts under the hotel. Back in the day, they did not use addresses to identify the exact location of a business, but, instead, just indicated that the store was located “in the Wallace Block”. Because of that it is difficult to find the exact location of those businesses other than “on Ottawa St.” or “on Railroad St.”. Sometimes we can follow a certain location based on buying and selling information published in the newspapers or by old photographs. Also, many of the businesses changed locations in the downtown area on a fairly regular basis. The façade on the building today —especially on the Ottawa Street side—is much different, making it difficult to make out those old storefronts. Old maps like the enlarged Sanborn Maps that we have at the Museum help with this process.

Among the business on the Ottawa Street side of the Wallace Block in the early 1900’s were a couple of millinery stores owned by Daisy Tabor and Mrs. Barbour, bakeries owned by White and Franks, a longtime barber (Furbush & Barber), and the Earlville National Bank. In the mid-1900’s there were grocery stores owned by Pugh, “Pick” Richards and the A&P as well as the drug stores of Kaull and later, Alyea. There was a café that changed hands several times—McDades, Schammels and the Avalon. Fox & Coss opened in 1948 in the southern most store of that block. After Fox sold out to Coss in 1957 it became known as the Earlville Supermarket. In 1964 Coss bought the Lyric Theater location across the street and remained in business there until 1970.



Did you know.....?

- That there were underground passageways (doorways) between many of the businesses in the downtown district?
- That most of the stores had openings (shoots) in the front alongside their entrances where coal was delivered to their basements?
- That there were 4 major downtown fires between 1867 and 1903 each one destroying many of the original buildings on both Ottawa and Railroad Sts. The Pool building, however, survived both of the fires that took most businesses on the west side of Ottawa Street in 1867 and 1868.

The Small Pox Epidemic

(from the Earl Township committee regarding Small Pox ~1915)

The committee resolved that it is necessary to have a Pest House for the accommodation of transient persons and those that are not prepared to care for themselves and their families should they come down with Small Pox. Signs shall be put on the road leading to and from the said Pest House at a distance of ten rods from the house on each way and the same injunction is laid on every family in Earl Township. The signs are to be boards with the words "SMALL POX" printed thereon in legible characters. When the highway or traveled road nears ten rods of any house where the Small Pox are, the owners of the premises shall cause a suitable passage to be opened at the distance of ten rods or more from such house. No person shall be allowed to go more than 10 rods near the Pest House or any other house when such signs are except the attending physician and nurses. No person acting as such in the case of Small Pox shall be allowed to go into any family or any more than 10 rods of any person that has not had the Small Pox. When any person dies of Small Pox the corpse or remains of such deceased shall not be buried in the public burying ground nor carried more than 20 rods of any dwelling house and that the same shall be buried in between the setting and rising of the sun. Any person violating such resolutions shall be liable to a penalty of \$10 for each and every offense.

Earlville's Women's Clubs

There have been a number of Women's clubs who have contributed to the community over the years dating back to late 1800s. The **Womens Suffrage Society** was formed in 1855 to support the efforts leading to passage of the 19th Amendment. Earlville was the first such society in the state of Illinois.

The **Women's Mutual Improvement Club** (WMI) was formed in 1887 by a few members from the Methodist Church. The purpose of their group was "to secure the intellectual and moral advancement of its members". Their membership quickly grew with other women from the community. This club was in existence for more than 55 years before dissolving in 1942. Among their many accomplishments was initiating a petition for the new library building and funding the Womens Suffrage marker in Dodge Park.

The **Domestic Science Association** was formed in 1900 as part of the National Domestic Science project which resulted in the beginning of Home-Economics classes in schools. The purpose of this club was to teach domestic activities such as cooking through demonstrations at each of their meetings. They also had guest speakers to teach other skills including "How to Cure the Common Cold". The club also presented a scholarship each year to a graduating student.

More recently, in 1977 the **Jaycettes** club formed as the sister organization to the Jaycees. When the Supreme Court allowed women to join the Jaycee organization in 1985, the Jaycettes were dissolved. This group of women then formed the **Junior Women's Club** (part of another national organization) which continued in to the early 1990's. Some of their contributions included the Dodge Park Beautification project, Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program in the schools, and funding field trips for the students. They raised funds by sponsoring community dances at the old fire station, the Mother's Little Darling contest, the Annual Christmas Boutique and Singing Valentines.



From the Earlville Leader June, 1946

Nick & Vick's Good Food!

We love the way that the newspapers used to write old obituaries, describe weddings, and welcome new businesses in their articles. This was the very detailed description of Nick & Vick's prior to opening.

New Ideas Seen In Restaurant to Open Here

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Atalla have accomplished something unique for Earlville in their new restaurant quarters on South Railroad street in the Gregg building, which they hope to open about June 20. From the front door to the almost noiseless exhaust fan on the back wall, everything shines in rose shades on the walls and the Terazza floors fading to a cream on the ceiling. Last minute work is being rushed, fixtures installed, refrigeration moved in and food stores delivered. Ms. Atalla, Victoria to her friends, has grown up in the restaurant business. Her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Trahd, have lived in Granville the past 43 years, and all that time, Mr. Trahd has been in the fruit and ice cream parlor business. Mrs. Atalla's brothers, George in Granville and Freddie at Spring Valley, are in the restaurant business and Mrs. Atalla in former years was associated with them. Incidentally she had four brothers in the service, one in the Navy and three in the Army—all safely returned home..

During the past 15 years Mrs. Atalla has been connected with restaurant work in New York City, but she considers her best experience was had in Granville, her home town, cooking for people of the town and surrounding farm community. She says she's not a fancy cook but a good one, and her menu will be more and more varied as foods are more plentiful.

Capacity for 60 will be provided by the "L" shaped counter and tables with linen finished tops and stainless steel trim in mahogany finish. Chairs and stools to be of red leather and steel. A 50 cu ft Frigidaire will be used, copper sinks, steel and enameled gas range, and fluorescent lighting all in the latest available designs.

Toilet facilities for customers as well as bathroom for the living quarter in the rear have been installed by the Gregg estate. Directly back of the restaurant is a food storage room, and back of that, on each side, the living rooms which Mr. and Mrs. Atalla will occupy. Theses are done in rose with cretonnes carrying out the theme, ivory enameled wood paneling furnishing a neat background.



In addition to general meals, the restaurant will be available for parties and special service, Mrs. Atalla stated and went on to say that she will make every effort to please the public and will always be ready to receive suggestions. "Cleanliness is our motto, Mrs. Atalla said.

Nick and Vick's restaurant was in business from 1946 through 1963 and was located just west of what is now known as the chiropractor's office on Railroad Street. The building was razed around 1980 to make room for the new bank parking lot.

Recent Events!

With some of the Covid restrictions lessening during the spring and early summer we were happy to be able to welcome visitors back to the Museum. The Earlville Business Association's Annual Cruise Night went on in May, and although the weather wasn't the best, many of the cars and much of the crowd came out to enjoy the outdoors after months of being cooped up at home.

In June, the EHS Alumni Association was unable to gather for their annual meeting due to restrictions at the school, however, several classes continued to celebrate their reunions (some a year late!). Thanks to the EHS Classes of 1960, 1971 and 1981 for including the Museum as part of your visit. We appreciated your feedback, your memberships, and your generous donations.



Gerald Cook (pictured) and Ken Tillman recently donated this Grain Grader in memory of Elza & Amanda Cook and Lewis & Marjorie Cook. It was used on their family's farm west of town in the early 1900's. It is in perfect condition and made a wonderful addition to our Agriculture display in the shed next to the Museum. Thanks so much for thinking of us!

Looking for a way to “give back” to the community? Why not volunteer to help out at the Museum a couple hours a month? We’re just waiting for you to call or email us! See Page 1 for contact info!

Museum Happenings!

- We were able to bring back our Member Meetings in July and August. Anna Svendsen and Karen Wold gave a presentation on the history of Shabbona Park in July. The August meeting focused on some of our donated items including a toy car (Dave Michelsen), an organ donated by the Meloy family (Stan Meloy), and items from the Cook and Tillman families (Gerald Cook, Ken Tillman, Karen Wold).
- With the recent increase in Covid cases in the community we are suspending our September meeting, but hope to reconvene in October. We have some very interesting presenters who have offered to help fill out our season, so you won't want to miss it!
- Keegan Bottom, our high school volunteer, was with us again this summer and has recently gone back to school entering his senior year. We have so appreciated his help over the past 3 years. He has developed a spreadsheet listing all of the military veterans from Earlville. We have photos from many and are working on a display that includes a short history of the conflict followed by photos of those who served. We just completed the Civil War display. If you have photos (preferably in uniform) of a serviceman from Earlville in your family, please scan (or mail) and send them to us or drop them off at the Museum. We can scan them and return the original.
- We are investigating the costs associated with building a handicapped accessible bathroom on the first floor of the museum. We also have the need for replacing the plumbing in the small kitchenette area as it is pretty much unusable. This need was discussed back in 2014 when the building was purchased. Our only restroom is on the second floor back in the office area which causes a problem for many of our visitors, members and volunteers who are unable to navigate the steps. Stay tuned for more details in November.

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