

MUSEUM BUILDING PROJECT!

October marked the beginning of a building project that would include a handicapped accessible restroom as well as a small kitchenette attached to the west of the existing building. Currently, the only restroom is very small and located on the 2nd floor requiring stairs or stair chair access. Building out to the west of the Museum will allow us to include a small kitchenette which will be useful as our membership gatherings have become larger. It is our desire to bring more community members in with social and educational events. The building is nearly all closed in and will be ready for use when we open again in the spring of 2022. We have been overwhelmed at the generosity of our members and others who have donated services, labor, supplies and dollars to this project. We have had some very generous monetary donors, but we have also had so many folks who have contributed \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, \$500 and more which helps to offset the cost. To all of you, we say "thank you"! A special thanks goes out to Dave Michelsen who has been coordinating the project. When complete we hope to be able to recognize those who have made this possible. If you wish to contribute please send to ECHS, PO Box 683, Earlville IL 60518.

Bauer Family Donates \$14,000+ to ECHS!

Shirley Bauer was a longtime ECHS member and contributor, with monetary donations as well as with her vast knowledge of Earlville history. She passed away in September of this year and passed on her legacy of giving to her family. Between "directed" memorials and the proceeds from her household sale, the Bauer family donated in excess of \$4,200 to the historical society. In addition to that wonderful gift, they also presented ECHS with a check for \$10,000. We extend our sympathies to the Bauer family as well as our heartfelt thanks for their generous donation.



*Pictured Left to Right—
Larry Maly, ECHS Director
Stan Meloy, ECHS Vice Pres
Michael Bauer
Derek Bauer
Bruce Bauer*

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

"Like" us on Facebook!



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:

Larry Maly
Sandi Engel
Kent Sellers



Honoring Earlville Veterans



(The following article was written by Mrs. Boyd (Evelyn) Smith and submitted to the Historical Society probably sometime in the 1980s. It seemed appropriate to share it during November when we honor our veterans.)

Earlville Area War Veterans Serving Various Wars

MEXICAN WAR

E.W. Grant

WAR OF 1812

Jessie VanNamee

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

C.C. Peterman, A. J. Love, Charles Lehman, Dell Cox, Fred Bushell, Abel C. Doughty

CIVIL WAR:

109 veterans' names were listed as serving from the Earlville area. The last Civil War veteran from Earlville to die was Albert P. Wales, age 84 in 1933. He lived over 70 years in the Earlville area. He was 16 when he enlisted in 1865.

G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) - Illinois infantries consisted of volunteers from Earlville and vicinity. One infantry had as high as 75% Earlville volunteers. The McCullough Post 475 of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized August 21, 1884, in Earlville, and its first commander was Joel Carter of Earlville. It is assumed the McCullough G.A.R. Post 475 was named in honor of John McCullough. He was a member of the famous 104th Infantry. He was killed at the Battle of Plum Tree Creek. He left a wife, Jane McCullough, and a fair-sized family of rural LaSalle County (Jane's father was a honored pioneer settler of LaSalle County). John McCullough was from Ohio and came to LaSalle County where he met and married Jane.

The McCullough G.A.R. Post 475 had a large wooden emblem which hung on the south wall in the sanctuary of the Earlville Methodist Church for many, many years. Today, it hangs on the north wall in the American Legion Building.

Here is another interesting G.A.R. story involving Captain James E. Hudson who served in the 53rd Regiment of the G.A.R. He was given a U.S. flag made of silk dresses of various Earlville ladies. He carried this flag with him through the Civil War. At one time, he removed his outer clothing so as to keep the flag from being taken in battle. He was wounded in the arm and is supposed to have died on a boat on the Mississippi River returning home. Somehow, the flag and his sword found their way back to the Earlville Library and was on display for many, many years. Captain Hudson is buried in Precinct Cemetery and is the great-uncle of Mrs. H. Carl Pierce. This story of the flag was by M. Fannie Burlingame to Margaret Bullock-Johnson who passed the information to the Historical Committee.

Other information about Earlville Area War veterans was taken from the American Legion scrapbook, the Earlville Leader and History of LaSalle County by Kett.

WORLD WAR I:

World War I veterans listed from Earlville and vicinity were 169 in count. Limited space keeps from naming them individually. A Homecoming picture of 75 Earlville veterans was taken in October, 1918, in front of the Earlville Methodist Church and Parsonage. *(*This photo is on display at the Museum*)*. The last World War I veteran from Earlville to die was John Hill, age 95 in 1986. He lived his entire life in the Earlville vicinity.

(continued on Page 3)

WORLD WAR II

During World War II, 313 veterans from Earlville and surrounding area were listed as serving their country. Fourteen women were listed also as serving their country and were named among the 313.

Prisoners of World War II included:

Pvt. Ezra Kern—Prisoner in France, liberated August 17, 1944

Pvt. Joseph Maly—Prisoner by Germans in Italy, escaped March 23, 1943

Pvt. Donald Meads—Prisoner by Germans in Belgium, liberated December 21, 1944

S/Sgt. Alfred Nicholson—Captured at Fall of Corregidor and taken to Luzon, liberated at Nagasaki, Japan

Pvt. George M Tuttle—taken as prisoner February, 1943 in North Africa, liberated in a German camp

World War II Gold Star Veterans:

These Earlville veterans died while serving their country

Daniel L. Humm, Norman Fosse, Arthur Anderson, Paul Duffy, Roy Marshall, Thomas L Martin, Richard Miller, Ralph Rockabrand, Louis L. Richards, Kenneth R. Sturgeon, Dale Thomson, Barto Thompson, Delbert Swayze

KOREAN CONFLICT (1950-1955)

We know there were many more veterans from Earlville and vicinity who served their country during the Korean Conflict. We regret we cannot give a more complete record. Those who notified us of their service were Paul Hughes, William Budach, Gene Wolf, Ronald Beale, LaVerne Gast and Joseph Krienert.

VIETNAM WAR (1961-1975)

Many sources were searched in the hopes of obtaining the complete list of Earlville boys who served during the Vietnam War. Records are on file at the Veterans Administration Office of LaSalle County, but due to a different filing system, it was impossible for us to get the information we needed for the Earlville vicinity without the individuals name. Thus, we regret an incomplete report: Steven Botts, David Mann, Michael Fultz, J. Dilbeck and Melvin Peterson.

Killed in Action:

Michael Fultz—The first casualty from Earlville was Michael Fultz, son of Robert and Mable Fultz of Earlville. He was killed at Tam Kyon, May 14th 1969, in Vietnam during the tie of the Battle of Hamburger Hill. At the time, he was a gunner on a tank. He enlisted April, 1968. The family had no information of how or where Mike was killed until his sergeant, who is now living in Pennsylvania, sent them a letter in 1985 telling them of the details. In 1987, the sergeant visited the family in person giving them great comfort knowing the full details of how their son lost his life while serving his country. Michael was the 16th casualty in LaSalle County.

David R. Mann—Another Earlville Vietnam soldier who lost his life just two weeks later on May 28, 1969, was David R. Mann, 21 years old, son of Oren and Maxine Mann of Mendota and husband of Phyllis Skaggs, daughter of Otis and Margaret Skaggs of Earlville. David was married to Phyllis Skaggs on October 21, 1967, left for service in March of 1968. David was killed at Dak To, South of DaNag in Vietnam on May 28, 1969. Two hundred forty soldiers lost their lives that same week David was killed. Approximately two months after David's death, a baby boy, David was born on August 7, 1969. The last letter written by David and received by the family after his death, stated he would like the baby to be named after him.

Summary: Thus concludes what knowledge we have obtained on the veterans of various wars. We regret we were unable to name individually all those who served their country. It is with hope the family histories of these brave men and women will contain an individual personal history about their service to our country. If not, we have gathered what we could from the sources that were available e to us.

Too Many Barbers in Town!

(From the Earlville Leader 2/18/1932)

Earlville has three barber shops which give employment to six people, this including employer and employee. The population of Earlville is 1059, which means that each 176 people in this city is thus provided with a barber. This ratio is larger than in most small cities, operators of local shops declare.

"We have too many shops," frankly stated a well know local barber in discussing the subject a day or two ago. "In this period of depression when so many have become self barbers," he continued, "our city has a surplus of barbers. We are all just getting by; some of us are hardly doing that if we did not work like beavers and keep on the job every day. Our days are long and the work we perform in standing on the floor through long hours makes the business hard even under normal business conditions.

"You do not see apprentice local barbers any more. Boys and young men with a flare to learn the trade have cooled and most of our help comes from barber colleges where the art of the trade is taught."

**The 3 Barber Shops in 1932 were owned by Steinke, Dolder and Hyde*



Did you know?

...that the "gazebo" that sits in the north-west corner of Dodge Park was built some 20 years before Ralph Dodge donated the land for a park?

In 1916 Jacob A. Dupee, a prominent businessman, donated the \$1,200 necessary to construct the "bandstand". The site was selected carefully by DuPee, making sure that it would be situated at the south end of Main Street so that train passengers would be able to see it as they passed by. Unfortunately, he never saw the finished product as he died in December before it was completed. Dupee was also responsible for building and installing a drinking fountain and horse trough across the street from his business on Railroad St.



Jacob Dupee and his 2 Brothers built the 3-storefront building that was the last building to the west on the south side of the Railroad business district (currently bank parking lot). The clothing store was in business from 1867-1925. The business eventually went bankrupt. Lee's Feed Store moved into the far west location in 1936. This building was razed in 1980 when the National Bank of Earlville built in their new location.



Clear View Airport Launches!

Following World War II, many veterans returned to town with their new skill as airmen. This led to the opening of the Clear View airport. In 1946, Dr. R.M. Nichols, Howard and Harold Gast combined to build the airport on the Herb Gast farm 3 miles east of Earlville. Howard had recently been discharged from the Army



Air Corps and Dr. Nichols service with the Medical Corps. It was to have two sod runways 1800 feet long and 900 feet wide. They purchased 2 of the hemp mill barracks to serve as a hangar and office space. Two new planes (Piper Cubs) would be in operation every day of the week. Meetings, dances and other social events took place at the hangar. Flying instructors over the years included William Mosey, Robert Woodin, and John Hatz. Hatz' plane is shown in the photo at Clear View airport.

On Dec. 19, 1946, the Earlville Leader reported the following: "Santa Claus has been in touch with the Business Men's Association and has promised to fly to Earlville Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Earlville is filled with excitement over seeing the jolly little gentleman, who is busy night and day at his North Pole headquarters, but still finds time to fly to Earlville. Bob Woodin will pick Santa up at a secret meeting place and will circle Earlville with an escort of Clearview airport planes. He'll be waving to the boys and girls from the plane so keep your eyes on the skies, kids, just before 2 o'clock Saturday. Bob will land his plane at the airport and Fire Chief Tom Smith will be there with the fire truck to bring Santa into town in grand style. The fire truck will pull up at the Lyric Theatre and Santa will pop in there to see the boys and girls who will be out to go to a FREE SHOW. He'll have a treat for every boy and girl and will be in the business district ready to shake hands with kids who want to renew their acquaintance with he grand old man of Christmas."

**The only remnant of the airport today is a small pile of what appears to be foundational concrete at the site.*

It's Annual Membership Renewal Time AGAIN!

If you hold an **ANNUAL** Membership to ECHS, it's that time of year to renew! The Membership fee remains the same. These are all renewable at the beginning of every calendar year (January).

LIFETIME Memberships are also available and do not need to be renewed.

A Membership form is attached to this newsletter.

Why not encourage a friend to join? Or, better yet, give a membership as a Christmas gift just to spark their interest!

Dues can be dropped off at the Museum during business hours or sent in by mail to:

Earlville Community Historical Society
PO Box 683
Earlville IL 60518

Please include all the information on the form—especially your email address so that we can save postage when sending out our newsletter. THANKS!

Correction

It's pretty obvious that an English major is not in charge of writing this newsletter. As with most "volunteer" jobs, they'll let any willing soul help out. We're no different here. I always cringe when I need to send this out to my former English teacher, Sally Stewart (LOL!). She's probably gone through several of those red pencils by now.

That being said, we DID notice that in our last newsletter we stated that Kaleel's Dept. Store closed in 1972. That should have read 1978.

Earlville Gazette 4/2/1880

Geo Sprague, patentee of the Little Joker Churn, will churn in public at the Earl Hotel tomorrow at 2 o'clock. The churning, washing and salting of the butter are all conveniently done in the churn, before taking it out. The public are invited to call witness its scientific working. Some live agents wanted to take hold of the business.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

With harvest on everyone's mind right now, we thought you might want to see how the friends and neighbors helped out a farmer back in the early 1900's. These farmers all showed up to help out Alfred Lee (LaVerle Carter's dad) when he was unable to harvest his crops due to a health issue.



"Thanks" and "Welcome"!

ECHS wishes to thank outgoing Director, Bill Mitchell, for his years of service on our Board of Directors. We look forward to his continued support of the organization!

New to our Board is Kent Sellers who takes over as one of the three Directors alongside Larry Maly and Sandi Engel. Kent and his wife, Kathy, are both Lifetime members and active volunteers at the Museum. We welcome him and thank him for saying "yes" to the position. Lots of new and exciting things are happening, and we're hap-



We're Always in Search of....

- Military photos and service history of Earlville veterans
- Copies of Family Trees, genealogical studies, obituaries, etc.
- Photos and Histories of businesses that you or your family owned In Earlville
- Unique stories, accomplishments, or brushes with fame within your family
- Histories and photos of homes in Earlville
- Memorabilia from schools, churches, businesses
- Ideas and suggestions on displays or programs for our member meetings
- VOLUNTEERS!!!

If you haven't been in to the Museum lately, stop in and take a look at the Resource Binders that we've started. See what we have (or don't have) in our Family binders related to your family. Check out the Business binders. Did your family own a business? Have we got it listed? Is the information correct?

You might be surprised at what you find! We'll be closed for the season after Dec. 19th but are always happy to set up appointments anytime!

Some Christmas Festivities Return in 2021

The Earlville Business Association is making some "adjustments" but will, again, sponsor the EBA Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 5th from 3p-6p. The Museum will host Santa in the shed next to the main building where Zink Photography will be taking photos. We will NOT be having our annual Christmas get-together that evening. We still feel that the number of Covid cases is too high—especially with many of our members and volunteers being in a high risk category. Because of that we have down-sized our decorating within the Museum, however, will still be dressing up the windows to reflect the season. A number of years ago, the Historical Society sponsored an event where they asked community members to make decorations for a large Christmas tree. We got those out this year and used them on our little tree in the window. A few of the first ornaments we pulled out of the box had some familiar names from the past—Maureen Corrigan, Dottie Cox, Esther Gast, Charlotte Cole....

Merry Christmas from All of Us at ECHS!
Wishing You All a Happy and Healthy 2022!



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