

Summer 2023
Newsletter #27



ICE CREAM SOCIAL



On Sunday, August 20th, kids and adults alike, joined us for our first-ever Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social in Dodge Park! Despite a perfectly HOT summer day with temps in the 90's, we succeeded in keeping the ice cream from becoming a "soft serve" event! We served around 110 people. Thanks to everyone who attended, and a SPECIAL thanks to all of our volunteers who helped with the event. It took a lot of manpower, and our people never fail to come through! We also want to acknowledge the Earlville Fresh Market and Mgr. Nicole, who were so helpful to us. Here are a few photos from the day!



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

815-252-9380

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

2023 Officers

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

Directors:	Ann Newell
	Sandi Engel
	Kent Sellers

SPRUCING UP THE EMPTY STOREFRONTS!

Back in May we met the owner of the old Kaleel building (120 S Ottawa St.) when he came into the Museum with some questions re: previous owners or businesses that occupied that space. He has been hoping to rent the building to a business, but in the meantime the storefront windows remain empty. We asked if he would consider allowing us to put some displays there until the point that he was able to rent the space. He agreed, and so we proceeded to put some items in the windows that represented previous businesses. In the south window the display includes items that you would find in a furniture store and a poster with the history of the building which was erected in 1873. The north window display represents the Kaleel Dept. Store with clothing and photos along with some advertisements for other businesses that were in that location over the years.



RADLEY BUILDING

120 S. Ottawa St.

1868 – The original building was destroyed by the fire of 1868

1873 – James S. Radley erected this building to house the furniture business of Barnard & Radley. The business remained in this location for 38 years.

1911 – Charles D. Hill purchased the furniture business and building from Barnard. Harold “Bud” Trevillion operated his electrical business in the back of the furniture store. Hill eventually moved the furniture store two doors to the south (currently Cantlin Law Office).

1931 – M.G. Wilson opened a bakery here for 2 years

1935 - Bert Schreengost relocated his Fox Head Tavern to this building for 4 years.

1939 - Nemer Kaleel, a merchandise peddler from Spring Valley, opened a clothing and department store in this location.

1953 – Kaleel combined this store with the next store to the south for a two-storefront business that remained in business until they closed in 1978.

1980 - Rose (Yarnell) Stockley opened “The Studio”

2024 Calendars on Now on Sale!!



After a year’s hiatus, we are back to selling calendars again! Our sales declined in 2022 so we thought that maybe it was time to take a year off. We certainly had many of you ask about them so we’re at it again! The 2024 calendar will be available for sale after Labor Day at the Museum, The Barber Shop, Sandy’s Shear Magic and First State Insurance (Earlville). **The price is the same as last year (\$15/calendar) but the postage has gone up. If you want them shipped it will be an additional \$3/calendar.** Checks and Orders can be sent to:

**Earlville Comm Historical Society
PO Bo 683
Earlville IL 60518**

*Please be sure to include a complete address for shipping and an *email address*

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH

A LOOKBACK AT PHYSICIANS WHO SERVED EARLVILLE

**Carolyn (Todd) Doughty recently completed extensive research on the physicians who practiced in Earlville dating back to 1837. There were a total of 59, some who came from other communities, some who stayed for a short period of time, and others who made their home here serving the community for years. We have chosen to highlight a few in this newsletter. Thanks to Carolyn for a great job!!*

Dr. Major D. Wallace was one of Earlville's earliest settlers. In 1837 he opened his physician office and was the only doctor in Earlville for 10 years. Early on his occupation was a carpenter and joiner. He was a veteran of the War of 1812. One of his sons, Charles Wallace, built and then rebuilt the Wallace House which had been badly burned in a fire in 1903. Major Wallace is buried in Precinct Cemetery next to his wife, Anna D. (Hubbard) Wallace.



Dr. Samuel A. Wiley started his medical career (1845) in Munsontown (Freedom Township) training under Dr. Darwin Hinckley. He married Clarinda Darrow in 1847, and a year later, moved to Earl Township in a house which stood on the north side of the road east of the McGary corner (Ottawa St. and Rt. 34). The Post Office was kept in his house as he was also appointed Postmaster. In 1850, Dr. and Mrs. Wiley moved into Earlville and built the first frame house in town located just south of Ona Tillman's (in the 800 block of S. Ottawa St). In 1858 he built a single-story brick home two doors north of the United Presbyterian Church. He served as Supervisor of the town after the resignation of W.R. Haight. Dr. Wiley is considered to be the town's first "resident physician". He was the first town clerk and held many local offices in the town and on the school board. Clarinda

Wiley was an early worker for the Temperance cause and much is owed to her for her persistence in pushing for funding a new library. In 1868 he built the 2-story building in the downtown district on the NW corner of Railroad and Ottawa St. (Union Block 1) and maintained his office upstairs. Dr. and Mrs. Wiley were the parents of four sons—Edgar L., Willis E., Louis H. and Frank A. Wiley. Frank followed in his father's footsteps and became a physician. Dr. Samuel A Wiley served the community for 34 years. He died in 1884 and is buried in Precinct Cemetery.



Dr. David M. Vosburgh located in Earl in 1853 having traveled 600 miles on horseback and arriving with less than \$5 in his pocket. When Earlville was incorporated in 1863, Dr. Vosburgh was one of five citizens who were elected as trustees. He partnered with Dr. Samuel Wiley for a short period of time before setting up his own practice. He also owned his own drug store (Railroad St., north side) and had his office above the store. Dr. Vosburgh was elected mayor three different times and served the community as a physician for 34 years. He died in 1905 and is buried in the East Paw Paw Cemetery.

Dr. George W. Norton moved to Earl in 1853 with his wife, Filone, daughter Fidelia, and sons, Warren H. and Andrew J. Norton. Like Dr. Wiley, he also was appointed as Postmaster. His first wife died in 1858, and he subsequently married Barbara Dorrington. The Civil War had just begun, and both sons enlisted. Dr. and Barbara Norton were the parents of three children, George W., Douglas Norton, and a child who died young. Dr. Norton was elected a trustee and then President of the City, as well as serving on the school board. He was a physician in Earlville for 27 years, and died in 1880. He is buried in Carter Cemetery east of Earlville.

Dr. Warren F. Dodge, a Civil War Veteran and Homeopathic Physician, came to Earlville in 1867. He and his wife, Rebecca, became the parents of four children—Anna, Ralph T, Bessie and Adele. Dr. Dodge served the community for 17 years and died in 1884. He is buried in the Precinct Cemetery in Earlville. His son, Ralph T. Dodge, sold 3 parcels of land that he owned in Chicago, and, when he died, bequeathed the money to the City of Earlville for the purposes of building a park.

(Continued on page 5)

Presentations Continue to Draw Crowds!

We are so thankful for the continued community support of our programs! Our crowds have been running 25-30 in attendance!! In June our presentation was about the history of theater in Earlville dating back to the late 1800's and, of course, ending with the Lyric Theater and the Drive-In. We also highlighted those individuals from Earlville who have made careers in the film industry.

At our July meeting Dale Stockley gave a history of the birth of Earlville which included those individuals who settled the town of Earl in the mid 1800s. Several of our members who are descendants of those settlers spoke to that relationship (Stan Meloy, Carol Stockley Landers, LaVerle Lee Carter).

Most of us are not polished public speakers, and we are still tweaking our audio-video skills :) but the real value to our programs is the research and the sharing from the audience. We appreciate your participation!!

Our presentations are available for viewing on our YouTube Channel.

Just search for Earlville Community Historical Society!



Family Histories



We have been receiving more and more visits and email requests for family histories from people doing genealogy searches. We continue to add photos, obituaries and articles to our family files with information that we come across during research. Others have given us copies of their family

trees and photos that are added to those files. We were able to assist his lady from out-of-state who spent a lot of time at the museum recently adding to her family genealogy. If you have done a family history, please consider giving us a copy!!

Earlville

"EPIE"
FLOWER SHOP

Jim & Helen Kirby

FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

"We Specialize In Weddings & Funerals"

- SPECIAL OCCASIONS
- POTTERY
- FLORAL DESIGNS

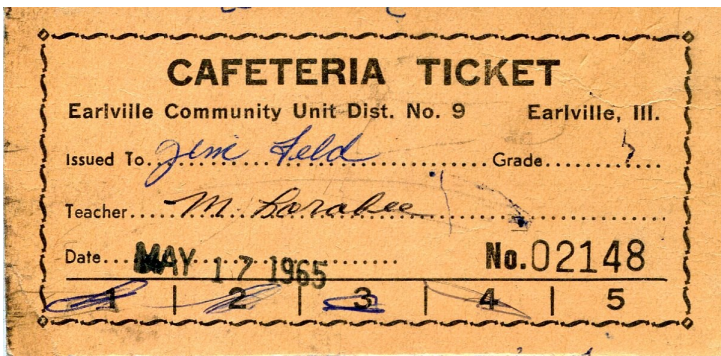
"DELIVERY SERVICE"

WE WIRE FLOWERS ANYWHERE

Call 7541 EARLVILLE

Ottawa St.

"WHAT WE CREATE, IS JUST FOR YOU"

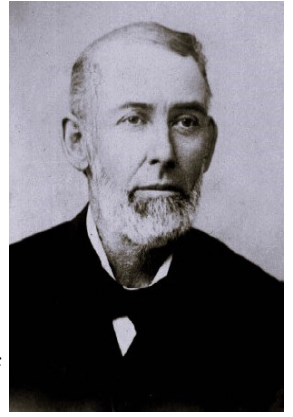


CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sat. Oct 1 **NO MEMBERSHIP MTG!**
- Sat. Nov 4 Membership Mtg.
Program—History of the Ambulance Service
- Sat. Dec. 2 **NO MEMBERSHIP MTG**
- Sun. Dec. 3 **EBA Christmas Fest**

(continued from Page 3)

Dr. Ezra T. Goble established residence in Earlville in 1874 and was in practice here for 61 years! His practice covered parts of Lee, DeKalb and LaSalle counties in addition to being resident physician in Earlville. Automobiles were unknown then so he used a span of horses and buggy. If the roads were too bad for the buggy, he rode horseback, and when it was impossible for a horse to negotiate the big open spaces, he went on foot. In 1875 his office was with Dr. Wiley in No. 1 Union Block on the NW corner of Railroad and Ottawa Sts. He was elected Mayor of Earlville three different times, and was President of the Earlville Township Public Library. In 1907, he had the foresight to purchase the Gammon property on the corner of Winthrop and Stilson with the idea of securing it for the future site of the library, offering to sell it to the library board at a price covering its cost to him. He and his wife, Anna, were parents of three children—Katherine, a teacher in Earlville for over 25 years, Alfred S. Goble, and Adele. Dr. Goble died in 1938 and is buried in the S. Paw Paw Cemetery.



Dr. Frank A. Wiley, youngest son of Dr. Samuel and Clarinda Wiley, was born in Earlville in 1866. Shortly after graduating from medical school in 1888, he bought out the practice of Dr. Charles Fogg in Harding. In 1889, he married Isabella A. Williamson and the couple settled in to the Wiley family home at 604 S Ottawa Street. Dr Wiley maintained offices in the downtown business district for many years after which he continued to see patients in an office in his home. He served with the Red Cross covering both WWI and WW2. Like other physicians before him, he served on the school board, was involved in City government and was also a charter member of the Earlville County Club. Dr. Wiley and his wife were parents of two sons, Robert A. and Frank C. He died in 1952, after serving the community for nearly 58 years, and is buried in the Precinct Cemetery.

Dr. Frederick E. Pierce was born in 1860 near Leland and lost his parents at an early age. He came to Earlville after graduating in 1897. He and his wife, Cora, had one daughter, Nellie, and also raised a nephew, Irving Reynolds. Dr. Pierce practiced in Earlville for 40 years and died in 1946. He is buried in the Victor Cemetery in Leland.

Dr. Lawrence P Crawford came to Earlville in 1905 and practiced with Dr. Frank A. Wiley for three years. Although he was only here a short time, it's interesting to note that he built the first concrete block residence in town which was constructed on East Church St. That house still stands on the north side of East Street (just west of the current Malley residence). Many who have bought or rented that home over the years and have found interesting items when remodeling such as remnants of an operating suite within the house.



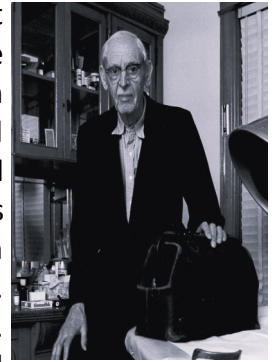
Dr. Edwin H Rayson, a physician and surgeon set up practice in Earlville in 1922. Dr. Rayson was a WWI veteran and also in WW2 serving 26 months in India as a physician. Dr. Rayson left Earlville in 1934 but returned after WW2 and went into partnership with Dr. Fischer. He and his wife, Lillian, were parents of three children—Edwin H. Jr, Barbara, and John B. Rayson. They made their home on Grant St. (known to many as the Yabsley house). Barbara died tragically in a fire when she was six years old. Dr. Rayson loved sports (golf, baseball) and could be found every Thursday on the golf course. He even offered up some of the land below his house (by the creek) to the golf course as they were laying out the first 9 holes. His first office was in the business district on Railroad St, but when he returned to town he, Dr. Otto H. Fischer and Dr. Nichols (dentist) shared an office in a home on the SE corner of Ottawa and Church Sts. along with their nurse, Margaret Major. Dr. Rayson retired from practice in 1964 after serving the community for 42 years. He died in 1977 and is buried in Precinct Cemetery in Earlville.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 5)

Otto H. Fischer purchased Dr. E.T Goble’s practice and moved to Earlville in 1934. His first office was above D.J. Nunemacher’s store (SE corner of Ottawa and Railroad), then above House & Boyd’s grocery store on Railroad St. He eventually shared an office with Dr. Rayson and Dr. Nichols (Dentist) at a house on the SE corner of Ottawa and Church Sts.(see below). Dr.Fischer was 6’8” tall and was described as soft-spoken with a big heart. During the time of “house calls” his patients recall that he had to duck his head when passing from room to room. Dr. Fischer married a local girl, Dorothy Davisson, in 1941. They built a 3 bedroom, brick Cape Cod house at 517 S. East St. Dr. Fischer was on the staff at both Sandwich Community Hospital and Mendota Community Hospital and was an active member of the Lion’s Club. He retired in 1986 after practicing here for 52 years. Dr. Fischer died in 1991, and he and Dorothy are buried in Elmhurst, IL, near other family members.

(We will continue to highlight more recent physicians in future newsletters)



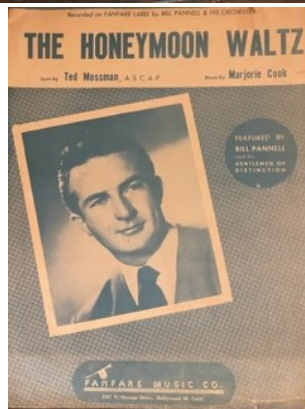
MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

We recently received a couple of interesting donations from Jerry (Cook) Grey. The drum set is from the 1920s and belonged to Jack and Mary (Deming) Atherton—Jerry’s grandparents on her mother’s side. The couple used to play for square dances with the Deming Orchestra at schools, churches and other venues in the area. The entire family was very musical.



Jerry’s mom, Marge (Atherton) Cook wrote music, including “The Honey-moon Waltz” which was known to be a favorite song of some of the US Presidents.

Thanks to Jerry for thinking of us!



Earlville Leader, Aug. 1913

A City Council committee published an open letter to Earlville drivers, asking for their cooperation in several areas.



The requests were prompted because of as many as 70 cars in the business district on Saturday nights. Drivers were asked to park at a 45 degree angle on downtown streets. They were reminded that the speed limit in town was six miles per hours and asked to be especially careful to observe it when rounding corners. They asked “that mufflers and cut-outs not be left open anywhere within the city limits” because of the “disagreeable sound and unnecessary noise.” And they asked that automobiles not be turned around anywhere except the end of the block.

PAVING ROUTE 34

Earlville Leader Nov 1953

A new two-lane concrete pavement on U.S. 34, extending 10.6 miles from west of Earlville to four miles east of Leland was opened to traffic Monday morning. Built at a cost of \$1,650,000 the new pavement replaces the old 18 foot pavement. The highway was relocated to bypass Leland and Earlville on the south and to eliminate a number of sharp curves. Three new bridges also were constructed. Traffic on U.S. 34, amounting to 2,500 per day, was detoured over to U.S. Route 52 and State Route 23 while the construction operations were under way.

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