

Putnam Past Times

Vol. XLI

Putnam County Historical Society

January 2015

No. 1

2015 Winter Quarterly Program Sunday February 22

The Winter Quarterly Program of the Putnam County Historical Society will be held 1:30 p.m. Sunday February 22, 2015 at the Agricultural Museum, 501 Old Hwy 26 in Hennepin.

Lonna Nauman of Magnolia will share with us her research on the Potawatomi, the last of the native people that lived in Putnam County before European and American settlement. Artifacts from the collections of Lonna and the Society will also be on display.



Everyone is invited and admission is free. The Agricultural Museum is handicapped accessible.

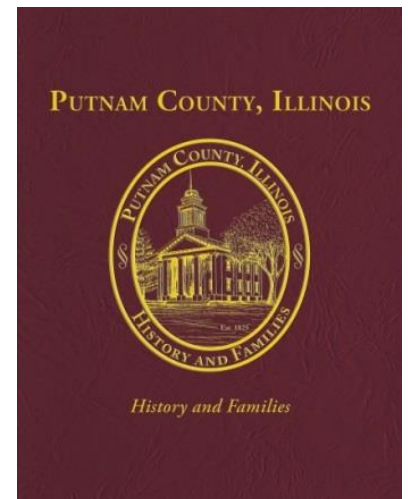
Pulsifer House Closed for Winter

Pulsifer House is closed for the winter until Wednesday March 18, 2015 when the normal hours of Wednesdays and Fridays between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm will resume.

Putnam County History & Families

The Putnam County history book arrived at the end of November. Copies of the book are now available from the Putnam County Historical Society. Prepared in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Putnam County Historical Society in 2013, this is the first update of the history of Putnam County and its communities and families in over 100 years.

The book summarizes the history of the County from the 1800s through today and includes short family histories submitted by hundreds of county families as well as many never-before-published photographs of families, businesses, homes, churches, schools and daily life.



Orders at \$55.00 for pick-up or \$61.50 for mail delivery can be submitted by mail to:
Putnam County Historical Society, P.O. Box 74, Hennepin, IL 61327.

Questions should be sent by email to: shwhitaker@starband.net or phone to: 815-303-5104.

Putnam County Historical Society

P.O. Box 74 • Hennepin, IL 61327

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilpchs 1-815-925-7560

pchs61327@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of the following Putnam County Historical Society members and friends. Over the years all have supported the Society's goals and programs. All will be sadly missed.

Ruth Boers	Linn Goldsmith (Life)	Gladys Moews (Platinum)
Eric Ciucci	LaDonna Harrison	Sadi Sherland (Life)
Peter Fassino	June Hiltabrand	Donald Troglio
Irene Gensini	Stanley Kays	

Memorials & Tributes

The following Memorials honor the lives of members and friends of the Society:

Jennie Balestri – Sharon Clausen.

Ruth Boers – Sidney Whitaker.

Irene Gensini – Edward Cheeseman, Gene & Vicki Gensini, Timothy & Patricia Godsil, Cynthia Hanna, Gary & Peggy Miller, Glenn & Evelyn Potter.

Lynn Goldsmith – Lois Boyle, Nancy & Phil Hopkins.

Stanley Kays – Richard Ashdown.

Gladys Moews – Jeanne & Darrell Alleman, Richard Ashdown, Bruch Farms, Sharon Clausen, Thomas Dore, Mary Jane Kidd, Lillian Kwas, Nancy Maze, Sidney Whitaker.

Sadi Sherland – Sharon Clausen.

Year-end Fund Drive

The Putnam County Historical Society thanks all those who have given so far during the year-end Fund Drive. We depend on the generosity of our members and friends during fund drives to cover the annual cost of maintaining Pulsifer House and the Agricultural Museum and carrying on our mission of keeping the history of Putnam County alive through education, restoration and genealogy.

Sandra Aeschliman	Thomas E Dore	Kathryn Irvin	John Read
Jeanne & Darrell Alleman	Irene Downey	Terry & Barb Judd	Robert Rehn
Jay & Linda Allen	Will & Carol Duke	Jay & Judith Kalman	Tony & Gretchen Rigazio
Paul & Karen Bailey	Gilda Dysart	Gladys & James King	Charles Robinson Jr.
Robert & Janet Bakewell	Janice Edgerley	Marion & Irene Kuhne	Raymond Michael Schaab
Roger Beck	Karl Erb	Aloysius & Rita Kunkel	Robert & Janice Schuster
Frances & John Benson	John & Norma Gehm	Eugene & Joan Kunkel	Carol Serrine
Keith Boggio	Laurie Glenn	Lillian Kwas	John & Lynn Shimkus
Margaret Bonucchi	Georgia Grant	Beverley Lapuh	Scott & Adriane Shore
Rita & Gary Borri	Granville National Bank	Charles & Eleanore Loebach	Spring Valley City Bank
Lois Boyle	Barbara Griffith	Nancy Maze	Bruce Steele
Marilyn Brown	D. K. Griffith	Carol McGee	Harold Steele
Jean Burger	Richard & Candace Haar	Harold McKay	Gil & Diane Tonozzi
Patricia Clark	Jean Hamill	Jovanna Mear	Louis & Carol Vaessen
Sharon Clausen	Robert & Mary Helander	N.L. & Margaret Morine	Alda & Kent Walton
Louise Colby-Dean	Nancy Hopkins	Norma Moroni	Charles Wheeler
David Day	Matt Hostetter	North Central Bank	Kenneth & Diana Williamson
Dorothy Donaldson	Wayne Hundley	John Oien	Diane Wilson

Recent Donations

The Putnam County Historical Society thanks the following donors for gifts to the Society in recent months:

Maxine Bassi – Photo of old Coffee Creek Bridge during flood stage.

Gary Boggio – Harry Wood's World War 1 Army Uniform with hat and 2 pairs of pants, 20 advertising cards, 20 issues of Daily Crank (February 1887).

Amanda Condit – Map of Granville, Hennepin and Magnolia Townships circa 1905, showing land owners.

Linda Dutcher – John Deere tray and Period style dress made by Sandra Schlueter for display at the Pulsifer House.

Nancy Hopkins – Certificates on various happenings of the Farmers State Bank in McNabb and John Swaney School, 2 ladies 1920-30 flapper dresses.

Mary Hufnagel – Monier Seed Corn seed sack.

Nancy Maze – 2 local telephone books, one from 1946.

Jack Morgan – Large Lions Club Banner from the Hennepin Lodge.

Dennis Morrison – Original copy of Olden Times owned by Pearl and Wally Drennan. The 1854 Travelers guide, 6 dozen egg shipping crate, bottle capper, metal picnic basket.

Randi Naumann – Flyer for Ray and Nelda Naumann estate auction, Hullinger School dental distinguished effort certificate dated Feb. 1940 and State Diploma for school condition dated Nov. 1916, Fairview School District record book from 1859-1959.

Emma O'Conner – Newspapers, old Putnam County Records, J.E. Taylor's Farm Bureau membership sign, 4 farm books, 7 Prairie Farmer magazines, 2 wagon wheel jacks, wooden churn.

Terando Family – Montgomery Ward 1886 sewing machine and parts that belonged to Doris (Johnson) Terando.

David Ward – Copies of Prairie Farmer from 1917-1918, copy of Orange Judd Farmer from Feb. 1920.



Left: Harry Woods during World War I and his uniform on display in Ag Museum.

Right: Period dress made by Sandra Schlueter on display in Pulsifer House.



The Hennepin Cannon

The Hennepin cannon is a 30-pound Parrott Rifle used during the Civil War. The Parrott Rifle is a cannon with a rifled barrel developed by Captain Robert Parker Parrott, Superintendent of the West Point Foundry, in 1860. It was widely used as a siege or garrison cannon in the Civil War in a variety of versions from a 2.9 inch bore 10-pounder up to a 10 inch bore 300-pounder. The smaller siege versions were usually mounted on a wooden gun carriage for mobility. The Parrott has a cast iron barrel with a wrought iron sleeve around the breech to increase the strength. The Hennepin cannon has Parrott's initials (RPP) stamped on one trunnion, the date of manufacture (1861) on the other. The serial number (13) and bore (4.2") are stamped on the muzzle.



In May of 1900, Jefferson Durley proposed that the Hennepin Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post #231 order a cannon for a soldiers' memorial. The Federal Government was providing obsolete surplus cannons to G.A.R. posts at little more than the cost for transportation. George Young, the Post Commander, wrote to Joseph V. Graff, the Chairman of the Committee on Claims of the U.S. House of Representatives (and a Representative from Illinois), who responded May 24, 1900 "I have filed your request for Parrott gun with the War department today, and added an additional request for cannon balls. You will receive advise from the War Department as to question of transportation etc, concerning the gun. Any further information I receive I will transmit to you ...".

The Putnam Record reported on June 13 - "An effort is being made by Hennepin Post to secure a cannon to be set up in the park as a soldiers' monument. The gun is procured from the government at a small cost, and will be quite an ornament to the park. As we understand the gun is what is called a Parrott gun, and is in as good condition as when new, but these guns are now simply out of date and in order to get them out of the way the government is selling them to the different Posts at a very low price. A subscription paper has been circulated and there is no doubt but the money will be raised in a short time and the gun ordered."

Donations were sought from the public and the Village of Hennepin gave \$25.00. The Village also gave the Post permission to place the cannon in the park. This cannon was at Fort Pulaski, GA and was shipped from Savannah at a cost of \$102.28, arriving at Tonica on October 9, 1900.

The *Tonica News* reported on October 12 - "Hennepin is to have a big gun – a cannon – the real thing. It came up on the train last Tuesday billed direct from New Orleans to Tonica. Its weight was put down at 4400 pounds. There was no carriage. Now, after it is hauled overland to its destination, we shall expect Hennepin to be heard from."

Five members of the Hennepin Post (George Young, Isaac Reichmin, John Forscht, P.P. Dahl, J.B. Albert and Joseph Yeager) hauled the cannon from Tonica to Hennepin with a four horse team provided by J.B. Bush and L.H. Durley on October 13, 1900.

The Putnam Record reported on October 24 – "By an oversight the arrival of the long-looked-for big gun in Hennepin was not mentioned last week. The gun was hauled over from Tonica Saturday, the 13th, and dumped off the wagon Monday morning following, in the park, where it now lies, looking innocent as a big black log. But there is little danger of anyone carrying it off, because it weighs 4200 pounds, and eight or ten pounds of powder behind a 30-lb shot would make it a dangerous piece. It is to be mounted on a stone or mortar pedestal or something of the kind, merely as an ornament. It may be fired some time with a light charge, but it is not intended for general use. It is what is called a 30-lb Parrott, has a bore of about 4 inches, and is 11 feet long, overall."

The members of the Post decided at their meeting on November 3 to have a wooden gun carriage built for the cannon and it was mounted on November 24, 1900.

The last reference to the cannon that we have found in the minutes of G.A.R. Post #231 was from the meeting on December 1, 1900 – "W H Lucas Chairman of committee relating to mounting our canon now reported that it had been mounted and also tested the strength of carriage by firing several charges from 2 to 6 lbs of powder and that the committee were willing to pay for carriage – and it was so agreed, and by motion of Jeff Durley that we accept and it was so ordered that QMaster pay for same out of cannon fund."

The Village of Hennepin is currently considering plans to remount the cannon.

Memberships

Memberships are the life-blood of the Society. We are pleased to welcome a new Golden Member: Lonna Nauman.

Thanks to North Central Bank for their recent donation to the Putnam County Historical Society.



Mary Jane Gunderson, Will Duke, Sid Whitaker, Dave Ward