

## *Annual Dinner Meeting and Program Saturday April 1*

The Annual Dinner Meeting and Program will be Saturday April 1 at the new Meeting House, 403 Old Hwy 26, in Hennepin. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by a brief meeting and the program.



Victor Gensini, Associate Professor of Earth Sciences at the College of DuPage, will share his knowledge of tornados and the current research on storm prediction. Victor was born and raised in Putnam County and was a student at Putnam County High School when the tornado hit Granville on April 20, 2004. This event inspired his interest in studying



severe weather events. As a meteorologist he has been involved in improving our understanding of the conditions that produce tornados and our ability to provide advance warning.

Come join us – everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from any Board Member (Dick Ashdown, Karen Bailey, Gary Boggio, Sue Bruch, Sue Campbell, Teresa Clausen, Darlene Cofoid, Will Duke, Sheila Haage, Kevin Kunkel, Lonna Nauman, Sid Whitaker), at any of the banks in the county, or phone 815-303-5104.

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## *Winter Quarterly Program a Great Success*

The Winter Quarterly Program of the Putnam County Historical Society was Sunday February 12. Randy Keller of McNabb entertained an enthusiastic audience of 55 with his wide ranging collection of Lincoln memorabilia.



This was the first event held in our new Meeting House.

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## *Pulsifer House Spring Opening*

Pulsifer House reopened at 10:00 am Wednesday March 15, 2017 when the regular hours of Wednesdays and Fridays between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm resumed.

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**Putnam County Historical Society**

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## *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.

Janet Biagi

Adele Dixon

John Stipp (Life)

Joe Bogner

Carol Sauter

Edwin Twardowski

Dona Morine Burwell (Life)

John Seibert

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## *Memorials & Tributes*

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

**Dona Morine Burwell** – Lee & Bernice Bricker, Marilyn Brown, Sharon Clausen, Francelle Lambertson, Armando & Patricia Molina, John & Patricia Morine, K. & L.L. Morine, Larry & Linda Morine, Mark & Rose Morine, Maxine Morine, N.L. & Margaret Morine, John & Lyla Striet.

**Marjorie Haws** – Sharon Clausen.

**Ray & Nelda Naumann** – Nola Smith.

**Carol Sauter** – Sharon Clausen, Keith & Rita Gehm, Carl Sauter, Sidney Whitaker.

**John Stipp** – Sharon Clausen, Jonathan & Rhonda Downey, Martha Jane Downey, James & Denise Johnson, Kenneth & Diana Williamson, Leonard Wright.

**Edwin Twardowski** – John & Norma Gehm, Keith & Rita Gehm, Sidney Whitaker.

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## *Recent Donations*

The Putnam County Historical Society thanks the following donors for gifts to the Society since the last newsletter:

**Gary Boggio** – advertising for Durley store.

**Year-end Fund Drive** – Eleanor Litherland, Margaret Van Ness.

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## *Memberships*

Memberships are the life-blood of the Society. We treasure our members and are pleased to welcome the following renewals and new members:

**Renewals: Individual** - Allen County Library, Norma Miller, Howard Schrowang; **Couple** - George & Margy Mattern.

**New: Golden** - Bruch Farms; **Life** - Bob Jensen.

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## *Herb Guild Volunteers No Longer Able to Maintain Plantings*

Volunteers from the Illinois Valley Herb Guild have for many years taken care of the flowers and plantings that border Pulsifer House and the Ag Museum. However, age and ill health has forced those volunteers to give up this wonderful work. Their help has been greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

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## ***Pulsifer House Volunteer Coordinator Retires***

After many years of service Loretta Schrowang has retired as the coordinator of our volunteers for Pulsifer House. Every Wednesday and Friday from mid March to mid December there is a Society Board member and a volunteer helper at Pulsifer House to greet visitors and to do various kinds of work (filing, data entry, editing, cleaning, etc.). Loretta has scheduled the volunteers and been their contact. Many times she has filled in herself when neither a volunteer nor a substitute was available. We greatly appreciate the time and effort she has given to the Society and are thankful that she has agreed to be a volunteer herself. Thanks so much Loretta.



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## ***Volunteers Needed***

The Putnam County Historical Society is a 501(c) non-profit charitable organization. We depend on memberships and donations to cover the annual cost of maintaining Pulsifer House, the Agricultural Museum, our new Meeting House and carrying on our mission of keeping the history of Putnam County alive through education, restoration and genealogy. We have no paid staff and depend on our (volunteer) Board Members and volunteers (both members and non-members) to fulfill our mission.

Volunteer assistance can take many forms and only one of the tasks requires a volunteer to commit to a specific time and place. A volunteer helper at Pulsifer House assists a Board Member between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on either Wednesday or Friday (typically one day a month). For example, we currently need a volunteer for the second Wednesday of the month. Of course we also need a replacement for Loretta Schrowang as coordinator of our Pulsifer House volunteers. Some volunteers cannot commit to every month but are available as substitutes when a regular Pulsifer House volunteer is sick or has another commitment.

Other tasks are scheduled as needed, such as the cleaning day before the Ag Museum Open House when several helping hands make the task go quickly.

Data entry into computers is always needed, as well as editing the data after it has been entered to catch typos. Currently we are indexing the names in the ledgers of the Pulsifer business so that people interested in family genealogy can search for ancestors that did business in Hennepin between 1838 and 1864. We would like to do the same for those records we have of small claims handled by local Justices of the Peace. We would also like to index the photographs we have of families and places so they would be searchable on computer. This kind of task can be done by volunteers as they have time available, sometimes in their own home.

Many of the items on display in the Ag Museum were cleaned up or restored by volunteers working at home in their own shop.

If you are interested in helping us with any of these kinds of tasks, please contact one of our Board Members: Dick Ashdown, Karen Bailey, Gary Boggio, Sue Bruch, Sue Campbell, Teresa Clausen, Darlene Cofoid, Will Duke, Sheila Haage, Kevin Kunkel, Lonna Nauman, and Sid Whitaker, or Sharon Clausen (Curator), or Luke Holly (Ag Museum Chairman).

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## *Meeting House Capital Campaign*

The Capital Campaign for the purchase of the new Meeting House is off to a wonderful start. We thank all those who have already given to support the Society in this new project. We have so far received or had pledged \$21,690 towards our goal of \$96,000.

Sandra Aeschliman	Betty Dzierzynski	Eugene & Joan Kunkel	Ilene Schrowang Shaw
Darrell Alleman	Margaret Eattoni	Norman & Jane Langill	Howard Schrowang
Jay & Linda Allen	Janice Edgerley	Eleanor Litherland	John & Lynn Shimkus
Paul & Karen Bailey	William & Alba Ellena	Marquis Energy	William & Kay Smart
Maxine Bassi	Helen Marie Engelbrecht	Nancy Maze	Robert E. Smith
Ron & Peggy Bluemer	Karl Erb	Carol McGee	Bruce R. Steele
Robert & Deborah Bogatitus	William Gage	Kathy Kays Mekley	Harold B. Steele
Francis A Boyle Trust	Norma Gehm	Marlene & Ronald Migliorini	Gil & Diane Tonozzi
Henry & Ida Bruch	Syd Glover	John & Patricia Morine (in memory of Dona Morine Burwell)	Charles Turner
Jim & Jean Burger	Georgia Grant	Joe & Jean Panier	Marge Van Ness
Susan McGhiey Campbell	Kendall Griffith	Jerry & Kay Petersen	Ken & Karen Serrine Verda
Patricia Clark	Mary Gualandi	Michael Pulliam	Sidney Whitaker
Doug & Betty Clinton	Richard & Candace Haar	Walter R. Reichen	Kenneth & Diana Williamson
Bob & Darlene Cofoid	Carol Capponi Hood	Sally Jo Richards	Leonard Wright (in memory of John Stipp)
David & Elaine Day	Wayne Hundley	Charles Robinson Jr	
Gilda Dysart	Kitty Nelson Irvin	Raymond Michael Schaab	
Dysart-Cofoid Funeral Chapel	Deb & Dennis Kimme		
	Carol Kirk		
	Chris & Sharon Kunkel		