

Putnam Past Times

Vol. 45

Putnam County Historical Society

February 2019

No. 1

2018 Winter Quarterly Program Sunday February 24

The Winter Program of the Putnam County Historical Society will be held 1:30 p.m. Sunday February 24, 2019 at the Meeting House, 403 Old Hwy 26 in Hennepin, IL (in between the Ag Museum and Pulsifer House). Sidney Whitaker, President of the Historical Society, will discuss the Society's collection of Civil War memorabilia. He will show a variety of items from the collection and discuss the donors and some of the stories behind the items.



Everyone is invited to this free presentation. The Meeting House is handicapped accessible.

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.

Rhonda Downey

Harold Steele

Betty Ann Wolf (Life)

John M. C. Peterson (Life)

Loren Wintersheid (Platinum)

Carl Sauter (Life)

Muriel Wintersheid

Memorials & Tributes

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

Gail Carr – Beth Ann Acuncius, Richard Ashdown, Karen & Paul Bailey, Bill & Brenda Bickerman, Henry & Ida Boyle-Bruch, Lauri Brester, Peter & Patsy Cahill, Susan McGhiey Campbell, Brett Carr, Cyndy Carr, Gregg & Linda Carr, Sharon Clausen, Darlene & Michael Fleming, Paul & Sheila Hawks, Terry & Barbara Judd, James & Gladys King, James & Janalee Langer, Gene & Linda Litherland, Jeffrey & Linda Lutes, Gene & Darlene Mekley, Lonna Nauman, Bobby & Rhonda Parker, Sharon & Mike Taylor, Virginia Terando, Randy & Lori Toepper.

Karl Erb – Bruch Farms, Sharon Clausen, Virginia Terando.

Eleanor Litherland – Marilyn Brown, Bruch Farms, Sharon Clausen, James & Marie Etter, Virginia Terando.

Carl Sauter – Sharon Clausen, First State Bank, Keith & Rita Gehm, Luke & Megan Holly, Lynn & Jennifer Stickel, Faye P. Whitaker, Sidney Whitaker.

Julia Weiss – Merry Bassi.

Putnam County Historical Society

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Yuhas Family Donations

Over the past few years the Historical Society has been very fortunate to receive multiple donations by Theodora (Montville) Yuhas of memorabilia, photographs, and papers from the Bannas, Montville, Miller, Reddick, and Washington families. The three generations of these families represented in Theodora's donations exemplify American family diversity.

Catherine Shevokas (1876-1955) was born in Lithuania. She came to America and married Mr. Petrauskis in Spring Valley in 1899. They had a daughter Helen (1901-1981) before he died. Catherine then married Frank Bannas (1881-1954) in 1907. Frank farmed north of Mark, made baskets out of wood stripped from local trees, and built small benches and stools. Catherine baked, cooked, canned, churned, took care of farmyard animals, and did beautiful cross-stitch embroidery and crochet lace. Helen Petrauskis married Charles Montville (1901-1979) in Spring Valley in 1921. They had a son Theodore (1923-1972) and lived just up the road from the Bannas home. Charles worked at Libby-Owens Ford. Helen was an accomplished seamstress, baker and cook. She also carried on her mother's skill in creating Lithuanian style decorated eggs.



Ted Montville

Ted Montville fought in Europe in World War 2 and was a truck driver and hunter on his return.

Frank Bannas Baskets



Verne Lytle Miller (1883-1939) was born in Kansas to a full-blood Cherokee mother. He came to Putnam County and married Pauline Lank (1894-1969) about 1910. Verne and Pauline Miller had nine children, one of whom was a daughter Juanita (1932-2003). Verne was a farmer. He and Pauline loved music and often hosted dances in their home.

Juanita (Nita) Beverley Miller was a factory worker, restaurant cook, and worked as dispatcher for five consecutive Putnam County Sheriffs. She was one of the founding members of the Putnam County Ambulance Service, was EMT on the first crew, and an EMT for over 10 years. She was also the crew scheduler and site manager.



Nita Miller

Americus Reddick (1840-1912) was born a slave in North Carolina. He joined the Union Army in 1861. He was sent to Chicago with a group of sick soldiers in 1863 and didn't recover until after the Civil War ended. He settled in Putnam County and married Anna (Mary) Pfeiffer (1852-1932) in 1873. Anna was born in Bavaria. Americus and Mary Reddick had nine children, one of whom was a daughter Mary (Lena) (1890-1974). Lena Reddick married John Washington and they had a son named John Lewis Washington (1923-2003).



John Lewis Washington served in the South Pacific in World War 2 and was a truck driver on his return to Hennepin. He worked at the Hennepin steel mill as soon as it was built and was credited by J&L with nicknaming the mill “Big Blue”. John was active in the American Legion and the community. He was also a hunter, singer, and Putnam County Deputy Sheriff. (Photos of John Washington from men&steel December 1968)



Ted Montville married Juanita Miller in 1948. They had a daughter Theodora (1949-). Ted and Juanita divorced in 1956. Juanita married John Washington in 1974.

Juanita Miller and her two husbands, Ted Montville and John Washington, had respectively a Native American grandmother, Lithuanian immigrant grandparents, and a slave grandfather and Bavarian immigrant grandmother. This is Theodora Yuhas’ heritage that she has so generously shared with us. Many if not most of us have a more diverse heritage than we realize, but few as diverse as this.

Agricultural Museum Open Days 2019

Now that the display area in the Ag Museum has been expanded with the addition of the lean-to and the materials that were previously in storage in the Ag Museum have been moved to the Annex, the Historical Society Board decided to increase the scheduled opportunities for the public to visit the Agricultural Museum.

This year the Agricultural Museum will be open the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following days:

March 9	May 11	July 13	September 14	November 9
April 13	June 8	August 10	October 12	

The Museum will still be available by appointment for tours.

The annual Ag Museum Open House will be held Sunday August 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



New display areas are being prepared this winter, including an office display and Native American artifacts display. Bas reliefs from the Hopkins High School museum are also being mounted on the balcony.



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, the Agricultural Museum, the Meeting House and carrying on our mission of keeping the history of Putnam County alive through education, restoration and genealogy.

Sandra Aeschliman	Janice Haws	Thomas Pomatto
Jay & Linda Allen	Karl Helmer	Mary Jane Pratt
Paul & Karen Bailey	Carol Hood	Robert & Ona Rehn
Lisa Boughton	Phil & Nancy Hopkins	Katherine & Colin Richmond
Marilyn Brown	Sally V Houston	Charles Robinson Jr
James & Jean Burger	Margaret Hundertmark	Alex & Carole Rolando
Bobby & Darlene Cofoid	Wayne Hundley	Larry & Sandra Rombout
Louise Colby-Dean	Imperial Crane	Edward & Nancy Schrowang
Nancy Dauber	Robert Jacobsen	John & Lynn Shimkus
Elaine Day	Robert Judd	Bruce Steele
Day Works LLC	Terry & Barb Judd	Viola Strout
Thomas E Dore	Lillian Forcht Kwas	Judy Kays Terando
Kay Drake	Nancy Maze	Angeline Troglia
William & Carol Duke	Carol McGee	Marge Van Ness
Dysart-Cofoid Funeral Chapel	Jovanna Mear	Village of Granville
Charlene Fassino	Michael Miglio	Sidney H Whitaker
Roy & Mary Fearman	Norma Miller	Joe & Kathryn Whitely
First State Bank	Nevin & Margaret Morine	Kenneth & Diana Williamson
Georgianne Grant	Robert & Linda Morrison	Diane Wilson
Granville National Bank	Robert Naumann	Reed & Sydney Wilson
Kendall Griffith	North Central Bank	Sandra Woest
Richard & Candace Haar	Robert & Janet Ossola	Janene Stansell Yokoyama
Ed Hartwig Trucking & Excavating	Jerry & Carol Patterson	
Doris Haub	Patricia Pomatto	

The Putnam County Historical Society thanks all those who have given so far during the year-end Fund Drive.