

Putnam Past Times

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Putnam County Historical Society

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No. 3

2019 Summer Quarterly Program Sunday June 23

The Putnam County Historical Society is marking the 150th anniversary of the John Wesley Powell Expedition down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in 1869 with a program Sunday June 23, at the Meeting House, 403 Old Hwy 26 in Hennepin, IL.

Local historian and author Ron Bluemer discusses the life of John Wesley Powell. Powell is best remembered for leading a team of ten men in four small wooden boats on a 95-day journey down the Green and Colorado Rivers in 1869, at a time when the Grand Canyon had not yet been traversed by American explorers; but his life is also a great inspirational story from American history.



In addition, Powell has a strong local connection. He was the principal of the Hennepin, Illinois schools in 1860 when the Civil War began.

The Meeting House is handicapped accessible.

Everyone welcome.

Annual Meeting and Dinner was Held May 24



In a talk entitled “How Corn Changed Itself and Then Changed Everything Else”, author Cynthia A. Clampitt discussed how, about 10,000 years ago, a weedy grass growing in Mexico was transformed into a larger and more useful grass—the cereal grass that we would come to know as maize and then corn.

Clampitt explained how and why corn transformed the Heartland and helped create today's world to an appreciative audience.

Putnam County Historical Society

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A Remembrance of John Wesley Powell *(Teacher, Soldier, Explorer, Civil Servant)*

John Wesley Powell was born in 1834 in Mount Morris NY. His father was an itinerant abolitionist preacher, who moved the family frequently. Powell developed a strong interest in natural history as a child under the influence of a neighbor. In 1846 the family moved to a farm in Wisconsin, but Powell left home at 17 to teach in one-room schools. During the next seven years he also attended Illinois College, Illinois Institute, Wheaton College and Oberlin College for short periods and spent his summers exploring the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio Rivers collecting mollusks.

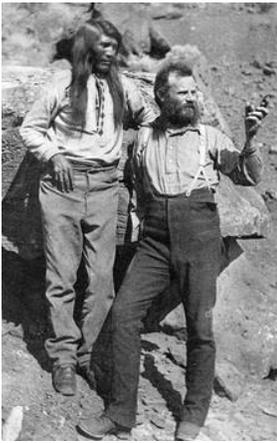
Powell came to Hennepin, Illinois (then a town of about 700) to teach in January 1858. He was hired at \$100 per month to teach the higher classes. While at Hennepin he became convinced that science should be included in the school curriculum and toured much of the state promoting this idea in 1860. During this tour he also realized war over slavery was inevitable and began to study military science and engineering. Powell was made principal of the Hennepin schools in the summer of 1860.



When Fort Sumter was fired upon, Powell sent for his brother Bram to come and replace him at the school in Hennepin. When Bram arrived in May, Powell enlisted as a private with the 20th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. By the end of the year he was Captain of Battery F of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery. He lost his right arm at Shiloh in April 1862, but continued to serve until January 1865 when he was discharged as a lieutenant colonel.

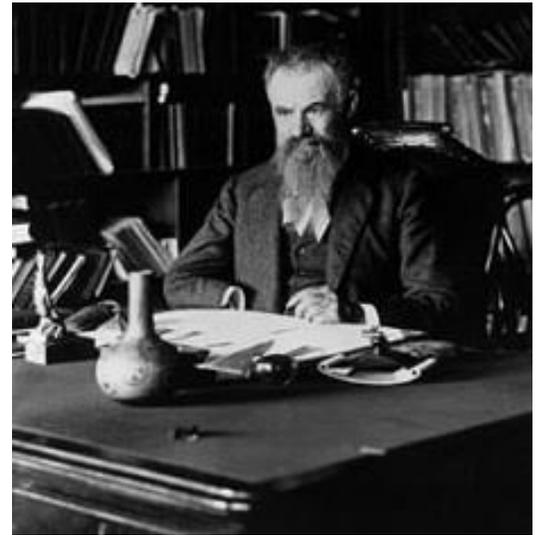
After the Civil War, Powell taught geology at Illinois Wesleyan University and lectured at Illinois State Normal University. While teaching, he led expeditions exploring the Rocky Mountains culminating with his two expeditions down the Colorado River in





1869 and 1872. The success of those expeditions made him famous and led to his final career as a civil servant in Washington D.C. Because of his work with the Native Americans in the West, he was appointed as the first director of the Bureau of Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution (1879-

1902). As a result of his western exploration and the publication of the report on the two Colorado River expeditions, he was appointed as the second director of the U.S. Geological Survey (1881-1894). He was also one of the 34 prominent men who founded the National Geographic Society in 1888.



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.

Burl F. George Jr

Gretchen Rigazio (Life)

Recent Donations

The Putnam County Historical Society thanks the following donor for recent gifts to the Society:

Amanda Borowski – 3 framed photos of Florid School classes ca. 1900-1905.

Memorials & Tributes

In Honor of Maxine Bassi – Terry Judd

Reminder - Agricultural Museum Open Days 2019

Saturday, May 11

Saturday, July 13

Saturday, September 14

Saturday, November 9

Saturday, June 8

Sunday, August 11

Saturday, October 12

Saturday, December 1

2019 Memberships

Memberships are the life-blood of the Society. We treasure our members. Listed below are renewing and new members so far for 2019.

Business Members

Day Works LLC
First State Bank
Granville National Bank
Hopkins Alumni Corporation
Carol McGee
Putnam County Public Library District
Ron & Alma Toedter
Village of Granville

Family Members

Louise Colby-Dean
Ben Day
Kitty Nelson Irvin
David Piccioli
Eric & Kim Swartz

Contributing Members

Sandra L Aeschliman
Margaret Barnes
Susan McGhiey Campbell
Janice & Kenji Farinelli
Alice Johnson
Charles & Sydney Morine
Nevin & Margaret Morine
Mike Schaab
Nancy Shevokas
Ron & Kathy Spratt
John & Lyla Striet
John & Cynthia
Teegarden
Elinor Vaughn
Ila Weddell
Joe & Kathryn Whitely

Couple Members

Karen & Paul Bailey
Wilson & Ruth Bent
Charles & Donna Berry
William & Brenda Bickerman
Ron & Peggy Bluemer

Robert & Deborah Bogatitus
Donald & Nancy Brandstatter
Rodger & Diana Brandstatter
Jean & Jim Burger
Doug & Betty Clinton
Miles & Mary Crook
Robert & Patricia Dawe
Stephen & Diane Donini
William & Alba Ellena
William & Ellen Entwistle
Richard & Cheri Glenn
Richard & Candace Haar
David & Thelma Holmbeck
Arch & Judy Hopkins
Phil & Nancy Hopkins
Tom & Jane Hopkins
Gene & Nancy Johnson
James & Gladys King
William & Carolyn Kraft
Dan & Lynn Kuhn
Chris & Sharon Kunkel
Norm & Jane Langill
Fred & Ferne Lippincott
Robert & Jackie Naumann
John & Ellen May
John & Jennifer Oien
Robert & Ona Rehn
Alex & Carole Rolando
Edward & Nancy Schrowang
Robert & Janice Schuster
William & Jean Shafer
Lynn & Jennifer Stickel
Dave & Nancy Thompson
Angeline Troglio
Louis & Carol Vaessen
Ken & Karen Verda
James & Rosemary Wall
Mark & Mary Walmsley
Brooks & Mary Rose Whitney

Kenneth & Diana Williamson

Individual Members

Beth Ann Acuncius
Allen County Library
Shirley Mae Barnes
Shirley Boggio
Roger K Bunting
Lois Chiado
Elaine Day
Dorothy Dippel
Marilyn Donoho
Betty Dzierzynski
Janice Edgerley
Joseph Engelhaupt
Charlene Fassino
Bernice Forney
Donna Forney
Ruth M Gehm
James Gleason
Georgianne Grant
Sheila Haage
Doris Haub
Janice Haws
Jeanne Holdcraft
Debra Holmes
Carol Hood
Matt Hostetter
Delores Jessen
James Johnson
Joyce Ann Kemp
Ronald Kinkade
Beverley Lapuh
Pauline Marchiori
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Lila Mills
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Barbara Paxson
Mary Jane Pratt
Michael Pulliam
Judi Roberts

Michael Schelter
Carol Serrine
Ilene Shaw
Stanley Shevokas
Nola Smith
Robert Smith
Marguerite Sons
Marcia Thompson
Marge Van Ness
Nicholas Weerts
Robert Wheeler

New Life Members

Carol Kirk

Towards Golden Member

Glenda Carlson
Nancy Dauber
Dysart-Cofoid Funeral Home
Vicki Gensini
Wayne Hundley
Carol Patterson
Jerry Patterson
Kenneth Toedter

New Golden Members

Alice Bohlen
Kendall Griffith

Towards Platinum Member

Darlene Cofoid
Laurie Glenn
Sydney Glover
Nancy Maze
Diane Wilson

Towards Diamond Member

William Gage
