

Putnam Past Times

Vol. 46

Putnam County Historical Society

May 2020

No. 1

Adjusting to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In order to respond to the directives of the State of Illinois and protect the health of our Board, our volunteers, our members, and the public, the Putnam County Historical Society has closed our facilities and cancelled all in person events and activities that would normally have been held during the spring and summer. We hope that you and your loved ones are well and taking care. To be safe ourselves, the Board of Directors of the Society are holding our monthly meetings by email.

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Putnam County Historical Society has been cancelled. The business usually conducted at that meeting is being conducted through this newsletter and the information usually provided at that meeting is provided below.

2020 Annual Meeting

In Memoriam

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

Wilson 'Tony' Bent (Life)	Karen Holmstrom	Roger Pletsch
Charles Berry	Marie Jeffery	Ervin Lyle Redshaw (Life)
Donald Bouxsein	Albert Lenkaitis	Gretchen Rigazio (Life)
Evelyn Burrese	Pauline Marchiori	Steve Siemers
Gregg Carr	Howard McQuilkin	Stephen Vogler
Dorothy Cioni	Lila Mills (Life)	Hazel Weddell
Corinne Eckerd	Ruth Newburn	Catherine Whitaker (Life)
Burl F. George Jr.	Joe Panier	

New Endowment Members

Life: Grayce Haworth Mesner

Golden: Alice Edgerley Bohlen

Election of Board Members

The Board of Directors consists of twelve members. Four are elected for three-year terms each year at the Annual Meeting. This year, **Richard Ashdown**, **Lori Balensiefen**, **Will Duke**, and **Kevin Kunkel** are nominated for re-election. Voting this year will be done by a ballot on the back of the Membership Dues Request card enclosed with this newsletter. Vote by returning the card in the enclosed return envelope.

Putnam County Historical Society

P.O. Box 74 – Hennepin, IL 61327-0074

putnamcountyhistoricalsociety.org 1-815-303-5107 pchs61327@yahoo.com

Board of Directors 2019

(years indicate end of term)

2020

Richard Ashdown
Lori Balensiefen
Will Duke
Kevin Kunkel

2021

Karen Bailey
Gary Boggio
Darlene Cofoid
Sidney Whitaker

2022

Sue Bruch
Sue Campbell
Ben Day
Lonna Nauman

Officers 2019

President: Sidney Whitaker

Vice President: Karen Bailey

Secretary: Lonna Nauman

Treasurer: Will Duke

Membership Dues Request

Dear Friends:

Fifty-seven years ago, the Putnam County Historical Society was organized as a 501(c) non-profit charitable organization with 30 charter members on March 17, 1963 with the mission of keeping the history of Putnam County alive through education, restoration and genealogy.

We realize that these are trying times that are creating great personal and financial stress for everyone. But we hope that you will be able to help us carry on our mission by joining us or renewing your membership in the Society even if at only the most inexpensive level.

Memberships are the single largest source of funds for covering the annual cost of maintaining Pulsifer House, the Meeting House, and the Agricultural Museum. Without you, the Members, we could not keep Pulsifer House open and provide the services that we do – the genealogical research, the speakers at our programs, the tours for area schools, and the additional exhibits for the Ag Museum Open House.

Despite our rising costs, our membership rates remain the same:

Classes of Membership

Annual		Endowment	
Individual	\$ 15.00	(individual only)	
Couple	\$ 20.00	Life Member	\$ 100.00
Contributing	\$ 30.00	Golden Member	\$ 500.00
Student (18 or under)	\$ 5.00	Platinum Member	\$ 1,000.00
Family	\$ 45.00	Diamond Member	\$ 5,000.00
Business	\$ 50.00		

Make your check payable to **Putnam County Historical Society** and return it with the Membership Request Form in the enclosed envelope. Detach, sign and keep the Membership Card.

Thank you so much for your support.

Sidney Whitaker, President

New Telephone Number

The Historical Society relies on Board members and volunteers to staff Pulsifer House on Wednesdays and Fridays between mid-March and mid-December. This has meant that for the majority of the days of the year there has been no one to respond to telephone calls, which have gone to an answering machine. This has been an unsatisfactory solution that has been even worse during the pandemic.

In an attempt to remedy this situation, we have changed to a cell phone so that in most cases there will be a person answering the telephone to address your questions or concerns. The new telephone number to use is: **1-815-303-5107**.

What Is Next?

In the short term, we will remain closed. The Village of Hennepin has cancelled the annual 4th of July celebrations and we will certainly be closed through July. The State of Illinois is slowly beginning to allow some activities, but not large crowds (notwithstanding the large crowds associated with protests against racism). Both confirmed cases of COVID-19 and deaths associated with it in Illinois have been declining recently, but the consequences of the large crowds associated with protests will not be known before July.

Nationally, cases appear to have stabilized at about 20,000 per day for the past month and deaths at about 1,000 per day. However, several states that are reopening earlier than Illinois are already seeing increases in both cases and deaths. If this trend continues, the so-called second wave may appear earlier than expected by the experts. In the case of the 1918 pandemic, the virus mutated between the first wave in the spring and the second wave in the fall becoming much more deadly. Hopefully that will not be the case with COVID-19.

We do not yet know if it will be possible or advisable to hold our annual Agricultural Museum Open House in August. We certainly would not be able to arrange for any special program as we usually do and it is unclear if we would be able to provide food.

In planning, the concern for health is paramount in our minds, particularly given how little is known so far about COVID-19. Particularly worrisome are recent indications that infants may be susceptible to secondary conditions like rashes and that there may be long term effects on lungs and other organs even after recovery from the virus.

There will be an update in late July.



2019 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	Gaye Holtz	David Piccioli
Jay & Linda Allen	Carol Hood	Mary Jane Pratt
Dick Ashdown	Phil & Nancy Hopkins	Mark Read
Margaret Barnes	Cindy Huchel	Robert & Ona Rehn
Alice Edgerley Bohlen	Wayne Hundley	Katherine & Colin Richmond
Donald & Nancy Brandstatter	Robert Judd	Charles Robinson Jr
Marilyn Brown	Terry & Barb Judd	Alex & Carole Rolando
Henry & Ida Bruch	Randell & Lane Keller	Mike Schaab
Louise Colby-Dean	Joyce Ann Kemp	Robert & Janice Schuster
Nancy Dauber	Dennis & Debra Kimme	John & Lynn Shimkus
Dorothy Dippel	James & Gladys King	Tracy Smith
Judith K Doe	Ronald Kinkade	Jerry Spolar
Stephen & Diane Donini	Eugene & Joan Kunkel	Robert & Cynthia Steele
Thomas E Dore	Norm & Jane Langill	John & Lyla Striet
Dysart-Cofoid Funeral Chapel	Beverley Lapuh	Dave & Nancy Thompson
Philip & Mary Edgerley Jr	Edwin D Magnuson	Joe Tonelli
John & Vickie Ehrhardt	Marquis Inc	Marge Van Ness
William & Alba Ellena	George & Margy Mattern	Elinor Schrowang Vaughn
Dorothy Emory	Nancy Maze	Ken & Karen Verda
Charlene Fassino	Carol McGee	Village of Granville
Roy & Mary Fearman	Jovanna Mear	Village of Hennepin
Bernice Forney	Neil & Grayce Haworth Mesner	James & Rose Wall
William & Joy Gage	Michael Miglio	Faye P Whitaker
James Gleason	Ron & Marlene Migiorini	Sidney H Whitaker
Donald & Betty Glenn	Matt Miller	Joe & Kathryn Whitely
Georgianne Grant	Norma Miller	Diane Wilson
Granville National Bank	Robert & Linda Morrison	Reed & Sydney Wilson
John & Cheryl Grasser	North Central Bank	Eleanor Wimbiscus
Doris Haub	Joe & Jean Panier	
Janice Haws	Nancy Parmenter	

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