

Putnam Past Times

Vol. 47

Putnam County Historical Society

April 2021

No. 1

Light at the End of the Tunnel

As more and more people get vaccinated, the Putnam County Historical Society is beginning to plan for reopening our facilities. The Board of Directors of the Society held its first face to face monthly meeting April 20th. At that meeting the Board decided to reopen Pulsifer House by appointment and to reopen the Agricultural Museum the first Saturday of every month. Unfortunately we still cannot hold large gatherings like our annual meeting, so we will repeat the process we used successfully last year and conduct the business of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Putnam County Historical Society through this newsletter. The information usually provided at the Annual Meeting is provided below.

2021 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.

Iner Anderson

Marilyn Fiedler

John Petersen Jr.

Mary Balestri

Gary Harrison (Life)

Thomas Roesch (Life)

Roger Beck

Clark Irvn

William Smart

C. Robert Belden (Life)

Robert Judd (Life)

Kathy Spratt

Irma Besola

Bart Kassabaum

Viola Immel Strout (Life)

Eleanor Bruch (Life)

Craig Kassabaum

Dorothy Tonarelli

Kevin Campbell

Ann Kettman

Roy Waldschmidt

Fayrene Dickson

John Luebbe

Ann Wink

Charles Doyle

Bill Miller

Harold Faletti (Life)

Nevin L. Morine

New Endowment Members

Life: Carol Hood, Robert Hopkins, Kenneth & Diana Williamson, Theodora Yuhas.

Golden: Dysart Cofoid Funeral Home, Scott Madson, Lloyd & Loretta Schrowang.

Platinum: Karen Bailey, Darlene Cofoid, Nancy Maze, Diane Wilson.

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, **Karen Bailey, Gary Boggio, Darlene Cofoid,** and **Sidney Whitaker** are nominated for re-election. Voting this year will be done again 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

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Board of Directors 2020

(years indicate end of term)

2021
Karen Bailey
Gary Boggio
Darlene Cofoid
Sidney Whitaker

2022
Sue Bruch
Sue Campbell
Ben Day
Lonna Nauman

2023
Richard Ashdown
Lori Balensiefen
Will Duke
Kevin Kunkel

Officers 2020

President: Sidney Whitaker
Vice President: Karen Bailey
Secretary: Lonna Nauman
Treasurer: Will Duke

Membership Dues Request

Dear Friends:

Fifty-eight 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.

Although the country is beginning to recover as more people are vaccinated, we realize that everyone is still under personal and financial stress. Never the less, we do 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 will once more be providing as the pandemic winds down – 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.

Pulsifer House Reopens by Appointment Only



Because Pulsifer House is a residential setting with smaller rooms, we are not yet able to accept large groups or unscheduled visits. We are open to individuals and small groups by appointment. Wednesdays and Fridays are preferred, because those are the days when a Board member is working at Pulsifer House. For the time being, masks are required.

Agricultural Museum Open 1st Saturday of Every Month

Because the Ag Museum has large open spaces, it is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month. We hope that we will be able to hold our annual Agricultural Museum Open House in August, although we would not be serving food.



Ameren Replacing Gas Pipeline In Front of Ag Museum

Ameren has been replacing the gas pipeline that goes past the Ag Museum during May. Although this has required excavation and the presence of equipment and materials, it has not prevented access to the Museum.

We hope that work will be complete and the site will be back to normal before August.



Emmaus Lutheran Church to Celebrate 125 Years



Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church of McNabb will celebrate its 125th Anniversary on July 11th. The church was organized in 1895 and the congregation planned to celebrate in 2020, but the pandemic forced postponement for a year.

The original congregation was composed primarily of Danish settlers from the island of Bornholm, Denmark, who had come to the area in the 1880s and 1890s. The congregation met in the Clear Creek Friends Meeting House until they built a church in the new Village of

McNabb in 1901. The first church burned in January 1916 and was replaced in September of that year with the current church.

In 1965 a relationship was established with the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Granville, a congregation created by mostly Swedish settlers in 1902. This relationship continued until the First Evangelical Lutheran Church disbanded and sold its church building to the Putnam County Community Church. Most of the congregation from Granville joined the Emmaus congregation.



The Historical Society has Danish items (some from Bornholm) on loan from Sharon Clausen on display in the Meeting House in conjunction with the Emmaus 125th Anniversary. The Meeting House will be open July 3 – 4 and July 10 – 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m. so that anyone who wishes to view these items may do so.

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, the 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). Some Pulsifer House volunteers cannot commit to every month but are available as substitutes when a regular Pulsifer House volunteer is sick or has another commitment. Pulsifer House volunteers may assist the Board Member with cleaning, filing or data entry or with caring for the flowers and plantings that border Pulsifer House (although a volunteer with a green thumb would not need to be Pulsifer House volunteer to help care for the flowers and plantings).

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: Karen Bailey, Gary Boggio, Sue Bruch, Sue Campbell, Ben Day, Will Duke, Sid Whitaker, or Luke Holly (Ag Museum Chairman), or one of our other Board Members (Dick Ashdown, Lori Balensiefen, Darlene Cofoid, Kevin Kunkel, Lonna Nauman).
