

# *The Henry County Historian*

*The Newsletter of the Henry County Historical Society*

*The Henry County Historical Society – Bishop Hill, IL 61419 – 309-927-3528*

*Fall 2014*

## **Mural Dedicated**



*From left to right: Roger Anderson, Mark Morey, Nancy Morey, Orville Morey, and Lauren Schroeder*

Orville Morey of Kewanee got a surprise recently when a mural in his honor was unveiled on the outside of the Henry County Historical Museum in Bishop Hill. "I can't get over this. It made tears run," he responded after Roger Anderson, HCHS Board Member and Past President, asked him if he recognized the guy with the suspenders and thanked Morey for all he'd done for the museum.

The 10 ft. by 7 ft. mural was painted by Lauren Schroeder, daughter of Dee Schroeder of Moline, and granddaughter of Marilyn and Wilbur Nelson of rural Cambridge. Lauren met Orville last fall and took photographs of his 1913 Case 50 horsepower traction steam engine.

She spent this past winter in her grandfather's Butler Building painting the mural featuring Morey and his 101 year old steam engine. She had to use the internet to look up dimensions and some details such as handles and chains to make the steam engine just right. Morey did not know that his picture was going to be on the mural.

Morey said when he found the rusty steam engine in 1965 it had been sitting in a timber near Osceola for 20 years. McNeil's Asphalt brought it to his home in Kewanee on a big long trailer. His wife, Nancy, said "It really got attention coming down Main Street!" Morey decided to do something on the machine every day, even if it was to just tighten a bolt. He stuck to that project plan, and in two years, it was ready to display.

He displayed the steam engine and did threshing demonstrations in the fall for many years until his health and costs forced him to stop. "We can't have the steam engine here in Bishop Hill anymore, so we have this mural instead," remarked Morey. "It sure don't look more than 100 years old," he grinned.

# Volunteers Sorely

## Missed

Ben and Trudy Johnson have been volunteers at the Henry County Museum for over 20 years. This summer on August 23<sup>rd</sup> Ben died. He was 90 years old and his life was a testament to service. He served in WW II with the U.S. Army Air Force Bomb Squad. In the Korean War he served in the Air Force as a fighter pilot and in the Illinois Air National Guard, where he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He also served as an insurance agent for 41 years before retiring again. In addition to his work at the museum, he participated in numerous associations over the years giving of his time and talents. He will be sorely missed at the Henry County Historical Society.

Other volunteers retiring this year include: Ray Carlson, Lillian McIntosh, Ruth Larson, and Dick Dahl. We thank them for their years of service and wish only the best.

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## Volunteers are needed!

While this year is winding down, we encourage you to consider being a volunteer for next year. We can always use the help. Many of our volunteers commit one day a month to cover the museum; however, if you can't commit that much time, we could use a few hours a month working on exhibits, etc. If interested, please contact Linda Owens at 309-932-2585.

# Group Visits?



Groups are always welcome at the museum during regular operating hours. If a group wants to visit after normal operating hours, special arrangements can be made by contacting Linda Owens at 309-932-2585.

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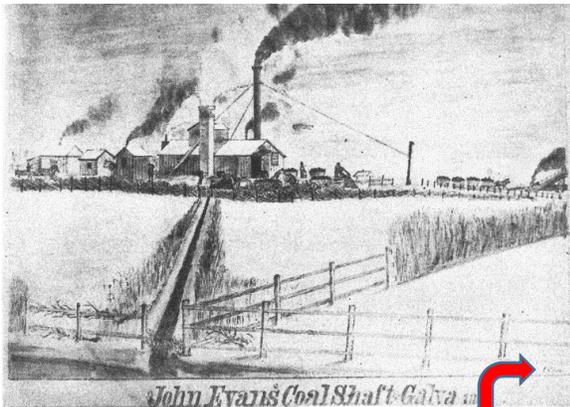
## Scenes from Ag Days



# Galva Mining

(From the book, *Painter Krans* by George Swank, contained in the archives of the Henry County Historical Society Museum)

Coal mines were numerous near Galva during the years that Olof Krans lived there. In addition to commercial signs for the mining companies, Krans did this scene a short distance east of town near the Rock Island railroad tracks. It is thought to be the Galva Coal Co.



Olof signed OKrans below the fence at the right, and while there is no date, it is believed to have been one of his earliest such works, probably in the 1870's.

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## [How do I know when my membership is due?](#)

Memberships are now due annually and, while they can be paid at any time during the calendar year, members are encouraged to renew their membership early in the year.

# Membership

The following are people who became new members or renewed their memberships during 2014:

Dennis & Karen Anderson, Lanny & Carolyn Anderson, Roger & Judy Anderson, Robert & Cinda Anderson, Mary Bjorling, David Carton, Richard & Dorothy Clark, Ila Cunningham, Steve & Lisa DeSpies, Jack & Kay Down, Richard & Kathy Edwards, Mrs. Casper Foote, Dale German, Cindy Glaser, Jim & Alice Golby, Bob & Madelyn Green, Robert & Norma Hepner, John & Janelle Holt, Jim Johnson, Lois Jean Johnson, Guy & Gretchen Jones, Lavonne Keim, Jack & Nancy Knobloch, Roland & Carol Krause, Ruth Larson, Virgil & Anne Lindgren, Lou Lourdeau & Janene Blodgett, Roy & Beth Magnuson, Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Martin, Mike & Vickie Massie, Lillian McIntosh, Margaret Mecum, Eldon & Deni Menken, Ed & Judy Middleton, Louie & Marion Nelson, Wade & Elaine Nystrom, Jeff & Gail Olson, Carolyn Ossian, Bill & Linda Owens, Leonard Palmer, Joan Pardieck, Sharon Peer, Martha Ray, Don & Marge Rogers, Jeannette Ross, Bill & Judy Schehl, Marlene Schwartz, Ruth Sharfe, John & Linda Simmons, Ann Smith, Bea Spivey, Travis Spivey, Tyler Spivey, Myron & Eleanor Stackhouse, Denny & Elin Stephan, Dean Talbott, Robert & Kay Telfer, Larry & Patty Varner, Terri Wigant, Greg & Debra Yarger, Mary Yarger, Bishop Hill Arts' Council, and Henry County Independent Insurance Agents.

**Henry County Historical Society**  
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***Be a part of history...***

## **Support the Henry County Historical Society**

The Henry County Historical Society and its museum exist solely through memberships, donations, and the support of its volunteers. We hope you'll join us in supporting our efforts to preserve and promote the history of Henry County.

**Single: \$20**

**Family: \$25**

**Sponsor: \$50**

**Patron: \$100**

**Please provide the following information and send with your payment.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

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