

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 2016

OLD GUN DISPOSAL AND APPRAISAL EVENT

Guns, in today's society, have become a point of contention and controversy. Historically though, they are an intricate part of our nation's beginning and continuing freedoms. Gun enthusiasts exercise their passion by using guns for sport, guns for collecting, guns for display and guns for protection.

Many families have inherited guns that are now just lying around the house or in storage. They don't know what they are, what they are worth, or if they really want to keep them.

The good news is that your Henry County Historical Society is here for you! They will be hosting a gun appraisal and disposal event!

The purpose of the event is to raise funds for the museum, provide people, who may have old guns in their house with a way to learn what they are, what they are worth, and if they do not want them, to offer a safe, legal, tax deductible, means of disposal by donating them for the benefit of the of the museum. They will have two consultants, with a vast knowledge of old firearms and their values, on hand. They will examine each gun, identify the make and model, provide a little history about it, and determine a value range. Then the owner may, but will be under no obligation, donate said gun to the museum. The Henry County Historical Society will then determine whether, or not, it suits the museum's display purposes and either put it on display, or transport it to the Rock Island Auction Company for sale with the proceeds going to benefit the museum.

PARTICULARS

When – Saturday September 10, 2016 – 10:00am to 4:00 pm.

Where – Henry County Museum – Meeting Room – 202 S Park St. – Bishop Hill, IL 61419 – Enter through the south door.

Questions – Dick Edwards - 309-441-8811 – redwards@theinter.com

There will be a \$10.00 charge for each gun submitted for appraisal. All proceeds will go to support the maintenance and operation of the Henry County Museum. Spectators are welcome.

Important – No live ammunition will be permitted on the premises!

Please read the following information regarding the legal transportation of firearms in the state of Illinois:

- **Anyone in possession of a firearm in Illinois must have a FOID (Firearm Owner Identification Card). Those who do not have a FOID card should ask a friend or relative, who does have one, to assist with transportation.**
- **Firearms must be unloaded, in an appropriate case, or wrapped up and tied in a sheet, drop cloth, or blanket, and placed out of the reach of the driver, preferably in the trunk or cargo area of the vehicle**

This is a winning event for the gun owner! Target September 10, 2016 and resolve to visit the Henry County Museum!

"I think that, as life is action and passion, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived." Oliver Wendell Holmes

THE TUPPER ESTATE COLLECTION

Ready, aim, and enjoy the Walter L. Tupper Gun Collection which is housed at the Henry County Museum. It was always Walter Tupper's desire that the public would have access to his gun collection. The family generously donated Walter's guns, and now, when you are here for the "Appraisal and Disposal Event," you can take a look at this important collection.

Some of the guns that can be viewed are: COLT 1878, "FRONTIER" D.A. REVOLVER, COLT 1849 POCKET REVOLVER, REMINGTON NEW ARMY REVOLVER, ETHAN ALLEN 36 CAL. PEPPERBOX, RICHARDS – LONDON 50 CAL. "DERINGER" FLINTLOCK, BRITISH FLINTLOCK PISTOL – LIGHT DRAGOON, ARIBIAN FLINTLOCK PISTOL, AND COLT SAA.

There is much to see and enjoy, so aim your sites high and visit **the TUPPER ESTATE COLLECTION** at the Henry County Museum!



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.



TURKEY IN THE BOX - - - FIRE AWAY!

By today's standards, our forefathers would seem insensitive, even barbaric. You must know, though, that Henry County's history is littered with guns! Our forefathers were dependent on them for food and protection. Guns were a way of life - - - even providing entertainment and sport. One such event took place just before Christmas. Here is a quote from *The History of Henry County*:

"Shooting matches with the rifle were rife among the men. These were usually dated to the days preceding Christmas. Our forefathers did wonders with the old flintlock rifles. The turkey was usually put into a box, with his head protruding from a hole in the cover. The shooters took turns shooting at the jerking, wobbly head. They paid ten cents a shot, the man who hit the turkey's head being the winner, and taking the bird. They shot at a distance of one hundred yards. The old flintlock came down in response to the pull on the trigger, making a smashing sound, like throwing a jackknife into a saucer. From three to seven sparks of fire ensued, and if the gunner's luck was good, and the wind was right, maybe the powder in the pan would ignite. If it did, it would set fire to the train of powder exuding from the touchhole, and, thereby, reach the charge behind the bullet. Now, the gunner who shifted his weight from the initial leg, or turned to spit, or blow his nose, was sure to miss, for the time was ripe for the gun to go off. This it did with a 'p-e-e-o-w-w' and a wail as long as the wind. Those who stood steadfast, even though the pangs of hunger assailed, and didn't romp around any, stood a show of hitting the turkey's head, and having him for dinner on Christmas,"



NEW SIGNAGE ENHANCES HENRY COUNTY MUSEUM

When the hand cut, plywood letters, which announced that the old Bishop Hill grade school had been converted to a museum, became weather beaten and diminished, two local companies and a host of volunteers committed to make the needed improvements. Their efforts proved successful!

Now glistening steel letters beckon and welcome all Henry County Museum visitors. The stately letters are easily seen and a tribute to the heritage for which the museum stands.



Those who participated in the signage upgrade are as follows: **DICK EDWARDS, ROGER ANDERSON, ROLLIE KRAUSE, ERNIE JACKSON, ELDON MENKEN, DALE LANGEL AND DOUG JOHNSON FROM JOHNSON CONTRACTING COMPANY IN EAST MOLINE, AND MIKE TANK FROM MRT COLLISION AND REPAIR IN GALVA.** All of you deserve accolades and a sincere "THANK YOU." Definitely, this was a job well done!

ROLLE BOLLE – A HENRY COUNTY FAVORITE

With the passing of Atkinson's Rev. Fr. Gerard Verhoye, we are reminded of that great Belgian sport, "rolle bolle!" He was such an enthusiast! He once said that the greatest day ever was when he won the Western League Championship. He wasn't the only Belgian with a rolle bolle addiction. Following is an excerpt from "Henry County Historical Society Tour of Northern Henry County."

"Many nationalities immigrated here, but Atkinson and Annawan were predominately settled by Belgians and Hollanders, and with them they brought their culture and customs. Rolle Bolle is a Belgian game played on a court about 42 feet long with a stake at either end. The Bolle is made of hard wood or molded rubber, slightly beveled so as to turn toward the stake. Opposing team's bolle to see who can get the most bolles nearest the stake. After much arguing, measuring, and spittin, it gets down to a "rub off" and eventual winners. A good time is had by all!"

Rolle Bolle came with those who immigrated here, captured the Henry County hearts, and is still played to this day. Rolle Bolle – yesterday, today, and as long as there are Belgians in Henry County!



HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
202 Park St.
P.O. Box 48
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

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. Memberships are due starting March 1 of each year. **Remember to Visit: www.historichenrycounty.com**

SINGLE: \$20

FAMILY: \$25

SPONSOR: \$50

PATRON: \$100

Please provide the following information and send with your payment.

NAME _____

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