

The Henry County Historian

The Newsletter of the Henry County Historical Society

The Henry County Historical Society – Bishop Hill, IL. 61419 ph: 309-927-3528

Museum Hours 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Daily May 1 to October 31

Summer 2015

IN MEMORY

Three Henry County Historical Society Volunteers Remembered For Their Service!

The Henry County Museum, in Bishop Hill, Illinois, is indebted to its volunteers. These are special individuals who realize that the contributions of the past shape and touch the present. Three such men deserve to be remembered for their giving of time and talent to preserving Henry County's evolution.

Our first Henry County Historical Society hero is John Sloan of Galva, who died Dec 9, 2014 after a courageous battle with cancer. John was a gifted individual who had a passion for music and journalism. He wrote spiritual songs and recorded albums. He also wrote feature stories and sports articles for the Galva News and Kewanee Star Courier. True to his talent, John Sloan was the originator of this Historical Society newsletter and founding member of the Galva Arts Council. It was his creativity, talent, and devotion to the past that we all enjoyed in our quarterly mailings. His legacy of service will be truly missed.

Our second hero is Orville Morey, 90, of Kewanee, IL. He died Dec. 11, 2014. Orville served in the Navy during WWII and was a machinist. He was known for his

steam engine and enjoyed displaying it at area car shows. The mural at the Henry County Museum, in Bishop Hill, Illinois, showcases him with his steam engine. Be sure, on your next visit, to check out the mural and remember Orville's contributions.

Hero number three is Raymond Carlson from Orion, Illinois. His obituary stated: "Above all were his love of music, faith, and family." He was vice president of First Midwest Bank in Moline, IL. where he worked for 47 years. Retirement offered him the luxury of spare time. One of his chosen activities was volunteering for the Henry County Museum in Bishop Hill. Our time is one of the most valuable assets we possess and Ray's willingness to serve was cherished by the historical society.

These three honored volunteers will long be remembered for their contributions to preserving the past. With gratitude we say "farewell" and in memory we celebrate their service.

"Our duty is to preserve what the past has had to say for itself, and to say for ourselves what shall be true for the future." John Ruskin

THE HENRY COUNTY MUSEUM PROUDLY DISPLAYS

THE VELIE BUGGY

Willard Lamb Velie was born in 1866 in Moline, Illinois. He was the middle child, third of five children. His mother was the daughter of John Deere and he grew to become an executive at Deere and Company.

In 1902 Velie founded his first company, The Velie Carriage Company of Moline. His company manufactured buggies, carriages, surreys, driving wagons, and spring wagons. In 1907 they produced 21,000 buggies and surreys. In 1911, following the trends of the times, he founded Velie Engineering Company which went on to produce gas, steam, and electric engines.

By 1920 the buggy business was phased out as the automobile became America's favorite mode of transportation. W. L. Velie died on October 10, 1928 and is buried in Moline, IL.

On display at the Henry County Museum in Bishop Hill, Illinois is one of the renowned Velie buggies. It is a favorite of both our young and old visitors. You are invited to come and enjoy seeing historic transportation displays. We hope to see you soon as you reflect on the transportation of a bygone era.



Velie Buggy on display at the Henry County Museum

EVENT NOTIFICATION

On Saturday, September 19, 2015, at Bridge Park (19030 E. 2120 Street) in Atkinson, Illinois THE VINTAGE FARM EQUIPMENT SHOW will take place. There will be displays: horse drawn equipment, hit-miss engines, farm tractors and equipment, lawn and garden tractors, vintage farm trucks, and blacksmithing demonstrations. At the displays you will be able to talk with the owners and hear their stories. There will also be activities: special announcements, drawings, and recognitions. An added plus is that food, drinks, and modern restrooms will be available.

The best part is that donations will be taken and given to a variety of Henry County Illinois Museums. The purpose of the event is to help preserve agricultural history. Of course, you guessed it, Henry County Historical Society will be one of the recipients of the collected donations!

We are excited about this event, as we are always eager to promote preserving the past, and hope you will attend and enjoy the show. Please mark your calendars, September 19th at Bridge Park, the farm will come to town!

Stroll the Enchanted Mile

When you next come to Bishop Hill please pick up a passport to the numerous museums, historic homes and shops. As you stroll around the village, please have your passport stamped and when you have 10 or more stamps, leave the passport at the Welcome Center. You may win a gift. Remember to have it stamped at the Henry County Museum.

Visit: www.historichenrycounty.com

150th Civil War Anniversary Encampment in Bishop Hill. May 8-9, 2015



A Union artillery commander training raw recruits.



Resting between battles swapping war stories.



A Union soldier demonstrating the use of a weapon.



We need help!!!



Union artillery firing at advancing rebels.



Jeanne Schulz Angel speaking at HC Museum

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

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