

TREMONT TALES and TRAILS

Tremont Museum and Historical Society

*Dedicated to the preservation of the history of
Tremont, Illinois*



Did you know...?

The Tremont Veterans Memorial Story, part 2

In the November newsletter, Tremont resident Rick Otey shared part one of the inspiring story of how Tremont came to have a fitting veteran's memorial, which celebrated its fifth anniversary on November 11, 2016.

Otey wrote of the overwhelming response to the project, which honors Tremont veterans from the Civil War through the current deployment. The Tremont Betterment Association funded the project, with Tremont Community Bank providing the flag pole and Tremont First National Bank providing lunch for the volunteer crews. People purchased 420 stones honoring individual veterans at one hundred dollars each. The project took just 73 days to complete. Over 624 volunteer hours were donated by over 35 people. Amazing!

Part 2 – By Rick Otey

In August of 2012, a group representing the veteran's memorial went to Springfield, Illinois to compete in Division II for the Governor's Hometown Award, which included towns of 1,501 to 5,000 in population. The memorial won the Governor's Hometown Award for Division II and a 3 X 5 foot sign is posted at the west entrance of town along State Route 9. The same group went back to Springfield in late September to vie for the Governor's Cup Award, which took in Illinois cities of every size. The memorial finished in third place behind East St. Louis and Chicago. The memorial was recognized in November with a buffet luncheon at the Governor's Mansion.

Rick Otey will be speaking about the project and other stories about Tremont Veterans

at our March 21st meeting. Please mark your calendar! In addition, Rick's paperback book is available for \$5.00 at the Tremont Village Hall, telling much more of the details that went in to the building of the monument.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, Jan 17, 2017

We encourage anyone who is interested in Tremont history to attend!

January Program:
Annual "Show and Tell"
dinner meeting...

Always a popular meeting!
See details on page 2.

6:00 p.m. at the
Tremont Community
Center
216 Sampson St.,
Tremont
January Hosts:
Faye Childress and Barbara
Wagenbach

**Historical Society Website: www.tremontil.com/organizations/historical_society
Please contact Rich Sauder (309)231-1123 if you have something to add to the website.**

Historical Society News

January Meeting Details

Dinner and "Show and Tell." Please bring an old item to tell about. Not sure what your item is? Bring it and maybe someone will know! This is always a popular program. There will be a potluck dinner with the main course, chicken, being provided through donations that evening. Please bring a covered dish. Plates, cutlery, and drinks will be provided.



Photo: *John Heider, presenting a slide show of his cemetery preservation experiences at the November meeting. Throughout*

his talk, he emphasized his respect for those who were buried in the cemeteries he worked on.

In the picture's foreground are copies of the Tremont Historical Society's Tremont Obituaries Books, compiled by Eunice McMullen and Don Nieu Kirk.

The books contain a wealth of information, and can be purchased in soft bound or hard bound versions at the historical museum.

Saving Pieces of History

Our November program speaker John Heider, a cemetery restoration specialist, presented a very informative program. John spoke of his passion – bringing neglected cemeteries back in order to pay tribute to those who are buried there. Heider explained the process of locating broken marker pieces as well as unmarked graves in fields and overgrown timber areas. Interestingly, if he is able to locate just one grave occupant he can then identify every burial site in the entire cemetery. He has methods, no machines involved, of repairing and restoring broken markers. He shared before and after photos of cemeteries he has worked on, and the differences are remarkable! But Heider doesn't stop there. He is fascinated by the stories the markers reveal. Often he will talk to the locals and do research to understand the lives and relationships of those who once lived, just like you and me.

By the end of the program, the crowd was hooked, and was interested to talk further with Mr. Heider. Because of him, the local cemeteries will hold a greater intrigue for all of us!

Museum Hours

We are happy to arrange a time for you.

The Tremont History Museum is located at the corners of Sampson and Madison. It is open the 2nd Sunday of the month from 2-4:00 PM. , except for January and February. We are happy to arrange tour times by appointment. Contact Floyd Hazelman at 309-925-5020

TREMONT/PEKIN POST CARD BOOKS ARE ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE! These popular and informative books by Don Nieu Kirk are available for \$20.00 at Eli's Coffee Shop and at the museum. They make great gifts!

Our 2017 Board:

President: Richard Sauder
Vice President: Rachel Berchtold
Secretary/Newsletter: Lori Fuoss
Treasurer: Faye Childress
Curator: Barbara Wagenbach
Directors: Floyd Hazelman
Elmon Koch, Jan Lee

Schedule of Meetings and Programs- Mark your calendar and invite a friend or two!

Jan. 17, 2017 Traditional "Show and Tell" dinner meeting
March 21, 2017 Rick Otey: "Honoring Tremont's Veterans"

May 16, 2017 Maurie Schaefer: The Tremont Blacksmith Shop

Historical Society News



Getting Company Ready!

Getting the museum “company ready” for the Dec. 3 Tremont Holiday Home Tour was a full-out, exciting effort. Tremont Commerce Association, in

cooperation with the Tremont Historical Society, sponsored the first Christmas Home Tour in 18 years in Tremont. Because the museum was scheduled to be the last stop on the tour, it was excellent motivation to do some reorganizing, and to create many new displays. The newly formed curator committee, comprised of Barbara Wagenbach (curator), Rachel Berchtold, Linda Robison and Lori Fuoss, worked for nearly five weeks to transform the museum in order to “tell the story” of Tremont’s rich history.

Additionally, Mike Fuoss, Craig Robison, and Weston Berchtold provided invaluable help with moving and hanging items. New members Dorothy and Jim Theobald worked on identifying and organizing our early school photos for display. Larry Childress freshened up our flagpole, installed solar lighting, and procured a new flag. Tremont High School art teacher Nichole Roller and her (duel credit with ICC) Art 110 class designed our Tremont Artists and Writers display, and sculptor Connie Andrews visited to provide insight into tour valued Viola Norman sculpture collection. New member Helen Tull provided some research and has been cross-referencing files. Miss Tremont, Emily Gasser, greeted people as they visited the museum the night of the event, as did several other Society members.

It was a group effort and the response was fantastic: We anticipated 40-80 people; in actuality, 161 people toured the museum during the event! Thank you to all who helped in any way!

*“From the Past” news items will be back in the next newsletter!
Due to lack of space it could not be included this time.*

We Welcome Our Newest Members:

*Katie Vandenberg, Jim and Dorothy Theobald,
Frank and Jennifer Hendrickson,
Jeff and Jennifer Hinman, Scott Sternberg,
Sheila Barnette, Melvin Kaiser*

Donations

With the flurry of activity at the museum came some thoughtful donations. A grateful thank you to the following people:

*Scott Sternberg, Scott’s Fine Art (Tremont) - Fine art photo of Tremont Co-op Grain Elevator, and large museum signage (5 signs)
Jim Sommer - various items related to Sommer Bros. Seed, The Tremont News and The Tremont News and Prairie Chronicle.*

R.A. Cullinan - R.A. Cullinan coat worn by three generations, and early company photos.

Margaret Koch - WWII Air Force Master Sergeant uniform, two hats, and war years scrapbooks belonging to her uncle, Elmore Koch.

Mary Ann Vance - Tremont Items including Gipps Bottle, Post Office scale, and framed sesquicentennial photos.

Northfield Christian Fellowship (Tim Miller) - items for church display.

Steve Schmidgall - fabric cutting table from Colter and McGinnis General Store.

Richard Sauder - FFA jacket

Joyce Harness - lace doilies and vintage children’s clothing.

Lori Fuoss - Vietnam War P.O.W. bracelet and bumper sticker.

Monetary donations from:

Robert Schurter, Loraine Frederick, Tremont Commerce Association, Carol Stuber, Ruth Koch, Nick Roller, and Carroll Imig

Tremont Museum and Historical Society

P.O. Box 738

Tremont, IL 61568

“History is who we are and why we are the way we are.”

~ David McCullough

Please join us to preserve our rich heritage and to help educate future generations!

Enclosed is \$_____ for membership in the Tremont Museum and Historical Society

Check one: Individual \$10.00 Family \$15.00 Lifetime \$150.00 Per Person

Name (Print) _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Check one below:

Yes, I would love to volunteer! (please list how, or your interests) _____

I would just like to become a member to support the Society and its goals.

Please send to: Tremont Museum and Historical Society,

P.O. Box 738

Tremont, IL 61568