

# TREMONT TALES and TRAILS

## Tremont Museum and Historical Society

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



*Tremont Veterans  
Memorial*

### ***Did you know...?***

### ***The Tremont Veterans Memorial Story***

*The Tremont Veterans Memorial will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 11, 2016. It all began as an idea to display a flagpole in the park for those travelling on Route 9.*

The idea soon began to take on a life of its own as work began on August 31, 2011 with grading of the 48 foot circle which would accept 44 yards of concrete, a 40 foot flag pole, an actual ship's anchor, two granite benches, a 6 foot granite monument and two huge boulders. A 12 by 20 foot area was formed at the base of the flag pole to accept 360 8 inch by 8 inch granite stones that were offered for purchase at \$100 per stone. Each stone would include a veteran's name, branch of service and years served. By July, 2012, a 5 by 12 foot section of concrete was removed to accept 60 more stones.

A website at [www.tremontveteransmemorial.com](http://www.tremontveteransmemorial.com) was developed listing each veteran alphabetically by name, and the opportunity for a biography to be placed on the site that allows individuals visiting the memorial an opportunity to read a veterans story. The granite stones range from the Civil War to current deployment.

The value of donated material/services was \$47,430 and private funds totaling \$41,005. The Tremont Betterment Association funded the project with the Tremont Community Bank providing the flag pole and Tremont First National Bank providing lunch for the hungry crews. The project took only 73 days to complete. It was definitely a labor of love as over 35 people volunteered and 624 volunteer hours were donated.

(Part 2 to be continued in the January newsletter.)

*~ Contributed by Rick Otey*

*A 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, November 15,  
2016***

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

**Program:**

### ***"Saving Pieces of History"***

By John C. Heider, a professional cemetery conservator specialist  
*See page 2 for more information about our speaker and this program.*

7:00 p.m. at the  
Tremont Community Center  
216 Sampson St., Tremont  
November Hosts:  
Carol and Rich Sauder

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

November 15, 2016 "Saving Pieces of History" John Heider, speaker  
March 21, 2017 TBA

Jan. 17, 2017 Traditional "Show and Tell" night  
May 16, 2017 TBA

# Historical Society News

## **Save the Date!**

### **A Holiday Home Tour**

*Saturday, December 3, 2016*

*4-7 PM*

Sponsored by

**The Tremont Commerce Association**

in cooperation with

**The Tremont Historical Society**

*The Historical Museum also will be open for refreshments and tours during the event.*

***We NEED YOU** to help work one shift that evening at the museum. Please call Lori Fuoss at 840-0094 or Barbara Wagenbach at 925-3827 to volunteer!*

***-A great way to get involved!***

## **Our NOVEMBER Program:**

### **Saving Pieces of History**

**John C. Heider, a professional cemetery conservator specialist**, will share his experiences preserving historical rural cemeteries and answer questions on gravestone maintenance or repair. John, a retired educator, travels throughout the Midwest teaching cemetery preservation, is a recipient of national and state awards, is featured in a university documentary, and his work presented on RFD America. In the past ten years, he repaired over 3,000 grave markers. John also teaches cemetery restoration at local community colleges. During the program, he will describe an art of finding unmarked grave sites. John encourages the audience to ask questions on how to preserve our historical gravestones and cemeteries.

*~ The November meeting is on Tuesday the 15th*

## **“We Are Your Museum”**

**Tazewell County Museum founder and president Christal Dagit** spoke at our September 20 meeting. The former Tazewell County Museum was located in the basement of the Pekin Courthouse, but since the 1950's, it had been a defunct organization. Then in 1997, a group from around the county cooperated to restart the museum in order to preserve the history and to work with the state and other societies in the county to continue this mission. One project was to work with the state to set up a system of care for deterioration of cemeteries.

Christal also spoke about the universal challenges that museums face. Perhaps the biggest challenge is for the older generation to involve the younger generation, specifically children, in historical societies because they are the key to future understanding and preserving of history. This can be accomplished by providing special programs, inviting scouts, 4-H groups, church groups, and school children in to the museum.

As far as challenges to their specific society, Christal spoke of the need for a new and bigger space for the TCM, which currently is located at 15 S. Capitol Street in Pekin, and planning for the commemoration of Illinois' statehood in 2018.

Christal shared insights into being a successful society, including fundraising. She invited the members for a group tour of the museum, reminded us that Tremont Historical Society is a reciprocal member and, “We are your museum.”

**Did you know...?** Each fall, third grade students at Tremont Grade School tour the Historical Society Museum as part of their unit of study on community. Our thanks to member Barbara Wagenbach and third grade teachers Miss Julie Byrd, Mrs. Cindy Chounard, and Mrs. Lindsey Aberle for assisting in this year's tour.

**Historical Society Website: [www.tremontil.com/organizations/historicalsociety](http://www.tremontil.com/organizations/historicalsociety)**

**Please contact Rich Sauder (309)231-1123 if you have something to add to the website.**

**Contact Lori Fuoss (309)840-0094 with information in early December for the January newsletter**

# Historical Society News

*Fall 2016 Wiener Roast  
at the Community Center*



*Hosts Linda and Craig Robison*

## **Membership Dues are DUE!!**

September 1 each year starts our new fiscal year. Therefore, our annual dues are due now. Dues are \$10 for a single membership, \$15 for a family membership and \$150 for a life membership. A membership list is published in the January newsletter so please renew your membership prior to December 15. Please mail a check and the form on the back of the newsletter. Our membership is open to anyone interested in Tremont history.

## **From the Past – January, 1910**

***Items for this column are obtained from “The Tremont News”***

*Note: This edition was found on microfilm. Comings and goings were of great interest, as is evidenced by the “Local Notes” column:*

Dave Koch received a serious as well as painful wound last week. While scuffling with a brother, a pair of scissors being thrown at him penetrated the hip, causing a severe wound.

John Sauder will soon move into the Greeley property on the west side which he recently purchased. Andrew Springer, Jr. and family will move into the house vacated by Mr. Sauder, having purchased it.

William Gearien, who was recently operated on at the St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, has returned home much improved, which will be good news to his numerous friends.

### ***Our 2016 Board:***

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

### **Tremont Christmas Gifts**

Historic Christmas ornaments depicting the Tremont Schools and the Barefoot Boy statue are available at the Historical Society. They make great gifts for current or former residents!

## **Museum Hours**

The Tremont History Museum is located at the corners of Sampson and Madison. It is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month from 2-4:00. Tours can be arranged at other times by appointment. Contact Floyd Hazelman at 309-925-5020.

Our museum store has a number of items for sale, such as books on local history, notecards, etc. All of these items may also be purchased at the Tremont Gallery.

*We Welcome Our Newest Member: Connie Boyle –Single Membership*

*Thank you for your generous donations! Robert and Alta Myers, Joyce Shonkwiler, William Hodgson – in honor of our volunteers, and Dave and Janis Lee - Memorial for Al Kelley*

Tremont Museum and Historical Society

P.O. Box 738

Tremont, IL 61568

## ***It's time to renew your membership!***

When you become a member, you help make it possible for the rich heritage of our area to be preserved for 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to: Tremont Museum and Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 738  
Tremont, IL 61568