



Weekly News

Tremont Library Activities

Curbside Announcement

We are happy to announce we'll be starting curbside library service on Monday, June 1st!

Curbside hours are: 10-7PM Monday-Thursday and 10-4PM Fridays

Delivery service is not running so items are limited to what we have in the building.

- Park, call, pop your trunk, and a librarian will place your items in the trunk!
- No car? Self-serve walk-up is an option! We'll be opening the entryway for hold pick-ups. The rest of the building remains closed to public access for now.
- For now, limit of 10 items per family (This is a temporary limit which we plan to lift soon.)
- All items must be returned to our book-drop. Librarians will not accept items handed to them.

Place a hold:

- Online using our catalog (www.tremontlibrary.com)
- By calling us at 309-925-5432
- Fill out our online form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSez2claGODIY27SD3_WvIKjVrTI2D7N11eWtGETSte-Pi1zCA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Bookdrop Open

Our drops, located on the back of the building facing the alley, are open and ready for your returns.

Summer Reading Starts June 1st for everyone from birth to adults!

Please note that although we have gorgeous paper reading logs to hand out to everyone, once that paper is in your hand, you will not show it to a librarian this year. Instead, tell us what you, or your child, read either online or on our Summer Reading hotline.

Adult/Teen Summer Reading

No registration is required for adults and teens this year. Pick up a bingo card curbside or print it out yourself, complete a BINGO, report your BINGO online or over the phone, and get a \$5 Eli's gift card or another prize...that's it!

Everyone is a winner this year! One bingo/one prize per person.

Print your bingo sheet here: <http://tremontlibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Adult-and-Teen-Summer-Reading-2020.pdf>

Children's Summer Reading

Tremont District Library is excited to offer two Summer Reading Games for kids this year! Our classic Summer Reading Game, designed for 5-12 year olds, is a reading journey to track how much you read and earn prizes in return.

100 Books this Summer is our program for children from birth up to 5 years. 100 Books this Summer is exactly what it sounds like, read 100 books with your child this summer and earn goodies along the way.

Children's Registration:

To register for either game, call our Summer Reading Hotline, 925-5597, or fill out our online registration form. After you register, you can choose to collect your child's reading log through curbside pickup or receive it in the mail.

Register Online, 5-12 year olds:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MvRuEGbaJDhiNgOpvAT6M4NiwzP0lvze9QKUW28teNA/viewform?edit_requested=true

Register Online, Birth-5 Years Form (100 Books this Summer)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1crcz3LIP6n1ZJmnBzU-uyk2cE4cqHjTyy3kblaxRniY/viewform?edit_requested=true

Children's Prize Collection

Prize collection for both games will be done through our curbside services. When your child reaches a prize level, call the Summer Reading Hotline to chart it or fill out an online survey. We encourage you to stay up to date with curbside procedures to know the best way to pick up prizes throughout the summer.

Did you know...?

Tazewell County Sheriff's Deputy Henry Pratt and the Infamous Berry Gang

Have you ever noticed this large tombstone in Mount Hope Cemetery? Quite a story is behind the death of Henry Pratt, the man who was laid to rest there.



In the 1860s, Tazewell County residents were terrorized by the Berry Gang, a group of brothers and their accomplices. They were ruthless horse thieves, robbers, and murderers. This gang of brothers lived in Circleville, a long-forgotten community southeast of Pekin. All but one brother was involved in the gang.

On Friday, July 30, 1869, Tazewell County Sheriff Deputy Henry Pratt, who grew up in Tremont, led a posse of men to Circleville to serve warrants for the arrest of two of the gang members. Just before dusk, they saw the gang coming out of a saloon. They ordered the gang to halt, but instead they began running and shooting. Ike Berry knelt behind a split rail fence and shot Pratt at point blank range, killing him. Another deputy was shot and wounded as well. In trying to save him, the gang escaped.

Deputy Pratt's body was brought to Pekin, and the citizenry was outraged at the murder. A group of 500 men searched the county and brought five members of the gang (excluding Ike, who was arrested weeks later) into the jail before nightfall. William (Bill) Berry happened into town that day, and, though he knew nothing about the events of the night before, was arrested simply because he was the gang's leader.

Some time before this, Bill Berry had gruesomely killed a young man from Delavan named George Peppers. Berry was arrested but acquitted of the crime on the basis of self-defense. Peppers' friends were furious at the verdict and sought to avenge his killing.

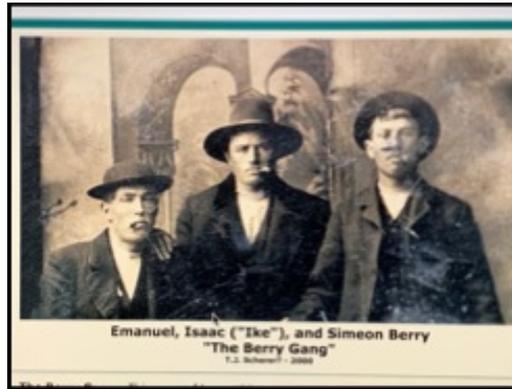
After the murder of the deputy, rumors flew that Peppers' friends, as well as a few of Pratt's friends from Tremont and the vicinity, planned to lynch Berry for the deaths of Peppers and Pratt that night. When the Tazewell County Sheriff's office heard the rumors, they quickly swore in and armed many special deputies in case there would be trouble.

It was quiet that night when, around 11:00, three men came out of a Pekin saloon near the courthouse, walked to the steps of the jail door, and clapped their hands three times. Immediately, 200-300 men who had been well-hidden in the shadows swarmed and surrounded the jail. The newly sworn-in deputies disappeared, as the mob broke the door down, as well as the door to Bill Berry's cell. Berry had a knife and deeply cut at someone holding a lantern. The lantern fell and extinguished, allowing Berry to wildly slash his way through the crowd. He was shot three times and, near death, hanged from a tree near the

courthouse. All of the gang members were convicted. The actual murderer, Ike Berry, was later found guilty and sentenced for life but received a pardon after 17 years

If you ever pass by his marker in Mount Hope Cemetery, you might want to pause and pay your respects to Sheriff's Deputy Henry Pratt, a Civil War hero who was a corporal with the 11th Illinois Regiment and a protector of Tazewell County.

~ Tremont Museum and Historical Society



This tintype is the only known picture of The Berry Gang. During remodeling, it was found in the ceiling joists of a home in Pekin that was owned by a distant cousin to the Berry Gang in the 1940s. (From the Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society)

* This section will continue to provide suggestions for 'at-home' activities.

Monday

Sign up for Summer Reading at the library.

Tuesday

How many words per minute can you type? See if you can get speedier.

Wednesday

Google yourself.

Thursday

If you haven't already, plan a summer vacation or stay-cation.

Friday

Play a game of kickball with your family.

Around Town



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Thank you,

Haas IT Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Tremont Winning Communities

Tremont Winning Communities | info@tremontil.com | <http://tremontil.com>