



## Weekly News

### Village Minutes

To view the most recent village board meeting minutes, please go to <http://www.tremontil.com/tremont-board-of-trustees.php>

### Did you know...?

#### The Mystery of Mary Fisk Kellogg, Tremont Benefactress

It was an eye-catching headline in a 1924 Peoria newspaper:

**“Mary Kellogg Leaves Estate worth \$112,000.”**

Doing a quick check of the comparable value for today, it appears \$112,000 would be worth about 1.8 million. \$1,000 would have been worth about \$16,000 today. Who was this Tremont woman and how did she become so wealthy?

The subject of last week's article was Mary's father, James Knowles Kellogg, one of Tremont's first schoolteachers.

Mary was born in 1845. She died from a ten-day illness of pneumonia in 1924 at the age of 79. Her 1924 obituary says:

“...Miss Kellogg was unusually well-educated, having received her early training in an academy here, conducted by her father, and having afterwards attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. For some time, she studied art in Italy and Paris and was an extensive traveler.”

Mary lived in her parents' house until her death. She never married. Her sister, Anne, died two years before, leaving Mary as the last living member of the Kellogg family. Mary had a severe stroke in 1921, resulting in paralysis. She had a beloved companion to care for her and she was able to continue being active in the Methodist-Episcopal Church.

According to the contents of her will published in the 1924 newspaper article, it appears Mary was a very devout Christian with a special concern for pastoral care. Some of her long list of bequests included:

American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions \$5,000  
Methodist Episcopal Church, Tremont \$5,000  
Permanent fund for the support of retired ministers of the Central Illinois Methodist Conference \$5,000  
Cemetery Association of Tremont \$4,000.  
Baptist Church, Tremont \$1,000  
Rev. F.A. McCarty of Bloomington, a former Tremont minister \$10,000  
Mrs. Emma McFall, treatment nurse and companion \$12,000

The list went on to include several smaller bequests, including Illinois Wesleyan University and many individuals. The article noted that two codicils to the will nearly doubled all of the amounts.

We know she donated her home (213 South Locust Street) to the Tremont Methodist-Episcopal Church and it was used as a parsonage, housing many pastoral families from 1924 until the 1960s or so, when the current parsonage was built on the north side of Tremont.

However, the article about the amount of her estate and some of the groups and individuals named raises questions. For one, how was Mary able to accumulate such a large amount in possessions and wealth? Was she a career artist? Her father was a teacher and a farmer, owning some farmland, so that may be the answer.

What was her connection to the Baptist Church in Tremont? To Illinois Wesleyan University? She had been a member of the Congregational Church in Tremont until it deeded its assets to the Methodist-Episcopal Church, then she became a member there. There is no mention of the Baptist Church otherwise. Another puzzling item was "...Mrs. Florence Peters, a sister, receives valuable personal effects." What sister? Her only sister was named Anne (or Ann). She had no sister-in-law; her only brother died at age 3.

Research so far has turned up nothing more about her life, which likely was an interesting one. So we are left with mysteries.

~Tremont Museum and Historical Society



*Miss Mary Kellogg and her companion, Miss Emma McFall. The picture taken August 24, 1919 in front of the Methodist Church in Tremont*



*Tremont Museum painting of the Methodist parsonage (the former Kellogg home)*

## **Sampson Street Update**

Tremont's front door re-opened in grand fashion with a parade down the Sampson Street corridor on Friday, October 1. Tremont Police led the Homecoming festivities organized by the High School Student Council. The number of spectators was impressive as the THS Marching band, royalty, and student floats meandered down the recently renovated street. A perfect fall afternoon celebrated both the long anticipated near completion of the first phase of this much-needed street revitalization and the most precious of resources – the youth of our community.

To complete this first phase, the switchover of power lines from old to new – along James and South Streets, is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 18. An evening will be selected and beginning around 6:00 PM, the 100 and 200 blocks of S. Sampson will have a power outage lasting 6-8 hours. After this time, power will be restored and the switchover will be complete. Businesses and residents will be notified soon once a hard date has been established.

Comcast has been contacted and notified they are in the clear to begin attaching their facilities to the new utility poles and reestablish their connections to the properties on this stretch of Sampson St. Existing utility poles will be removed once Comcast has finished their relocation work.

Installation of new lighting is contingent upon the removal of existing utility poles as well as supply chain issues. The updated status from the light pole supplier has an estimated shipping date at the end of this month.

The reconstruction of the 100 block to Route 9 is still expected to begin next year after the Turkey Festival.

Winning Communities continues to raise funds for the aesthetic portion of this project that includes landscaping and other amenities like benches, tables, and other decorative pieces to be added as funds allow. The support of Tremont Betterment (Turkey Festival), Village businesses, and several residents has been greatly appreciated. *Contributions are still needed* at P.O Box 76 or

<http://www.tremontil.com/donate>



## **Tremont Library**

### **Story Hour**

Thursdays: October 14th, October 28th, November 11th, December 9th, December 23rd

This fall, we'll be hosting Story Hour in the meeting room on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. No registration is required, so join us whichever days you'd like!

Story Hour is perfect for ages 3-6. Miss Maddie reads stories, sings songs and rhymes, and does activities that all encourage early literacy and improves socialization skills in the youngest of library patrons. We know a group setting is new for lots of kiddos this age, so wiggles are welcome! Make Story Hour a step you take in preparing your child for life-long learning.

Any questions? Call 925-5432, or email Miss Lizzi at [tremontlibrary.childrens@gmail.com](mailto:tremontlibrary.childrens@gmail.com)

### **Make-It Monday**

Make-It Mondays are back for another season, but this time we're inviting you to the library to create with us in person!

Children ages 7+ are invited to join Miss Nicole on the second Monday of each month after school to learn about and create a S.T.E.A.M. project. There is no registration, just drop in!

This Fall's projects:

- October: Hydraulics, Pneumatics, and Flying Rubberband Contraptions
- November: Solar System Models
- December: Animal Dioramas

### **Tween Book Club**

Kids ages 8-12 are invited to book club on the fourth Tuesdays of each month from 3:30-4:30PM. At each meeting we'll discuss the book we read, and then read the first chapter of the next month's book. If you like it, take home a copy and read the rest on your own. We'll have lots of copies available. Since we're just getting started, check out the detailed schedule below to see when you'd like to attend!

- **October 26th** - Discuss "Because of Winn-Dixie" and read the first chapter of "Real Friends" by Shannon Hale
- **November 23rd** - Discuss "Real Friends," pick out books for Spring 2022, and read the first chapter of "How to Train Your Dragon"
- **December 14th** - This is a special one on the second Tuesday! Discuss "How to Train Your Dragon" and then enjoy a pizza party while watching the movie "How to Train Your Dragon"

### **Hogwarts' Half-Bloods**

Teens ages 12-19 are invited to join us at the library on the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM to discuss a monthly book pick and enjoy a drink from Eli's. Copies of each month's book are available at the library for anyone interested!

If you'd like to keep up to date with Hogwarts' Half-Bloods, email Lizzi at [lizzi@tremontlibrary.com](mailto:lizzi@tremontlibrary.com) to be added to our Remind group.

### **Baby & Me Group**

New and experienced parents are invited to join Miss Nicole on Wednesday mornings for a parent/baby support group. Meet other parents in the area, make friends, enjoy new toys, lots of books, and a must: free coffee.

The focus of this group is parents and young children ages 0-3, but other siblings are always welcome! No registration required, drop in whenever works best for you.

### **D&D For Teens (12+)**

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Play a one session game of dungeons and dragons and learn the basics, led by Library Director and DM, Maria Ford. Registration required– call 309-925-5432 or e-mail [maria@tremontlibrary.com](mailto:maria@tremontlibrary.com)

*The adult session is full, but if you are an adult who wanted to play, call the library to get put on a list! If we have enough folks signed up we'll open up another session for adults.*

### **Try-It Illinois!**

For the entire month of October and November, you can have access to dozens of databases through the Illinois State Library "Try-It Illinois" program. From crafting to history to financial literacy, and much, much more-- there's a database for your interest!

Databases have access to ACCURATE and in-depth information that you cannot find simply by using an internet search engine.

Try-It! Illinois is located at [www.finditillinois.org/tryit/](http://www.finditillinois.org/tryit/)

E-mail [maria@tremontlibrary.com](mailto:maria@tremontlibrary.com) for the username and password!

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## **Monday**

CC at Amboy - 10:00AM

## **Tuesday**

MS GB at Broadmoor - 4:30PM

Girls Swimming at Pekin - 4:30PM

VB home vs Eureka - 5:00PM

Soccer at East Peoria - 5:00PM

## **Wednesday**

Soccer at East Peoria - 5:00PM

## **Thursday**

Girls Swimming at Pontiac - 4:30PM

VB at EPG - 5:00PM

MS GB home vs Dee-Mack - 5:30PM

## **Friday**

FB at EPG - 7:00PM

## **Saturday**

VB at Delavan - All day

CC at Eureka - All day

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### **Around Town**



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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.

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Thank you,

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