



# MCHS News

July 2015

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 3 No. 4

715 N Main Street  
Edwardsville, IL  
62025

**Hours:**  
Wed-Fri 9 am - 4 pm  
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm  
Group Tours Available

**Free Admission**

**Museum Phone:**  
618-656-7562

**Library Phone:**  
618-656-7569

**Web Address:**  
madcohistory.org

**E-mail:**  
info@madcohistory.org

#### About Us:

The MCHS museum complex, consisting of a modern archival library, a museum in the 1836 Weir House and the Helms Collection Center, is owned by the nonprofit Madison County Historical Society and operated jointly with Madison County.

The Madison County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

## A HISTORY OF TROY, ILLINOIS

by Mae Grapperhaus

The City of Troy, in Jarvis Township, was one of the earliest settlements in Madison County. The first settlers, Jacob Gregg and a Mr. Moore, arrived in the spring of 1803. The Greggs made improvements to their property which they sold to John Jarvis who erected a tavern and grist mill.

Records show that Jarvis sold ten acres of land, including his tavern and grist mill, to James Riffin and David Hendershott in 1819 for ten dollars per acre. Riffin and Hendershott had the land surveyed into lots and soon a store was added to the little community and homes built on some of the lots. Before being sold to the new owners, the settlement was known as Columbia, but Riffin chose the



*South Main Street in Troy looking south near Padon Street, across from City Cemetery in the early 1900s. Courtesy Troy Historical Society.*

name Troy for the newly platted town. This established the first of three settlements that would eventually make up the City of Troy.

By 1820 Troy Village had a total population of 120 persons living in 17 households according to the U. S. Federal Census.

Growth of the Village was slow, and the Village did not establish its first school until 1824 or a post office until 1833. In 1842 the Presbyterians became the first to organize a congregation in Troy.

The plat of the town of Troy, although drawn in 1819, was not recorded until circa 1839. The town was incorporated by a special action of the Illinois legislature in 1857 and the first president of the newly formed Troy Board of Trustees was John Padon.

About the year 1836, Josiah Caswell laid out the town of Mechanicsburg on the western edge of Troy at what is now the corner of West Market and Border Streets. A third settlement, Brookside, was established on the south side of Troy in 1873. By 1891 both Mechanicsburg and Brookside were annexed by Troy.

## SUMMER CALENDAR

*Special Saturday Schedule*  
**FAMILY HISTORY SATURDAYS**

July 11

August 1

September 5

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Madison County Archival Library

*Continuing Exhibit*  
**FIRST DO NO HARM**  
**MEDICINE AND MEDICAL PRACTICES**  
**BETWEEN 1830 AND 1955**  
Madison County Historical Museum

*Continued on page 5*

## ABOUT US

### MCHS BOARD

Gary Denué, Pres  
Russell Marti, Vice-Pres  
Arnold Meyer, Treas  
Jean Miller, Sec  
Norma Asadorian  
Miriam Burns  
Norma Glazebrook  
Mae Grapperhaus  
Murray Harbke  
Candace Ladd  
Jeff Pauk  
Cindy Reinhardt  
Sue Wolf

### STAFF

Suzanne Dietrich  
Director  
Mary Westerhold  
Archival Research Mgr.  
LaVerne Bloemker  
Archival Research Asst.  
Carol Frisse  
Archival Research Asst.  
Jenn Walta  
Curator

### VOLUNTEERS

There are abundant and varied opportunities for volunteers at either the museum or the archival library. Please call if interested.

### MEMBERSHIPS

Several membership levels are available to those interested in supporting the work of preserving Madison County history through an MCHS membership. Memberships run on the calendar year, Jan 1-Dec 31. Applications are available on our web site, at the MCHS Museum or at the Archival Library.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### MCHS NEWS

6 issues annually  
Cindy Reinhardt, Editor

#### WEB SITE

[madcohistory.org](http://madcohistory.org)

## ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Westerhold, Archival Research Manager

### THE HARRELL SCRAPBOOKS

*In this issue, Mary Westerhold has turned her column over to Archival Library Research Assistant Carol Frisse.*

I invite you to take a walk back in time as I explore one of 17 scrapbooks in the MCHS collection from Dallas Harrell who served as Madison County Sheriff from 1946-1950.

The scrapbooks contain newspaper headlines, major and minor stories, greeting cards, letters from prisoners and/or families, references to entertainment, fine restaurants, and much more.

Exploring the books for 1949, we found that "horseracing" was an issue at Fairmont Park as well as in Chicago. It seems besides betting on the horses "punch cards" came into play.

We also saw hints that gambling and slot machines were in use in Madison County and that some of the taverns have been raided because of the "slotties." There were also cock fights and someone wanted to start dog racing.

Another article tells of the grand opening of a children's shop that was subject to a gambling raid for the drawing of coupons.

"Extra! Extra! Read All About It." The pyramid scheme involving automobile sales by Robert L. Knetzer and Arthur Kramer made news across the country, and here it is in print.

The mayoral elections in 1949 had six candidates and the political football in Edwardsville was water. Who will win?

As for entertainment, remember Musso's restaurant on Purcell Street? Wrestling at the Kiel? The Goldenrod Showboat or the Broadview Hotel in East Louis?

We are about to end our time travel, but there is one story with a unintended outcome. It's about a bear that was sighted in the "Gooseville" area (Fort Russell Township) where it killed some livestock. The bear's appearance had everyone on edge. One of the newspaper articles had a picture of two men replacing a roof, with shotguns at their side in case the bear appeared. Also pictured is a posse of over 100 men prepared for the great "Bear-Hunt." Several days later the newspaper headline reads, "Illinois Bear Hunt Nets Squirrel."

We'll never know what happened to the bear because news coverage then turned to reports of a local tornado.

*Continued on page 8*

## MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

By Jenn Walta, Curator

One of the best aspects of my job is seeing all of the interesting objects people bring to the museum. Earlier this year, Grace Hansen, a local resident, donated an interesting item. Although she couldn't provide much history about the item, she knew it had been passed down through her husband's family.

The old wood and metal cot was unusual. I had not previously seen one with cast iron hinges and a metal chain link insert. After

some internet research, I could only find one cot similar to the one recently donated. It was nearly identical to one listed for an online auction. The only difference was the presence of a name written on the side of the middle section. The signature linked the online item to a Civil War officer.

Until additional information can be found through research, this item will be listed in our collection as a "Civil War camp cot."

*Please note that in this photograph, the legs upon which the cot stands are not displayed and are folded under the cot.*





## RECENT NEWS

### DIETRICH RECEIVES RECOGNITION



In appreciation for her years of service for the Illinois State Historical Society's (ISHS), Madison County Historical Museum Director Suzanne Dietrich received an award from outgoing president Russell Lewis at the ISHS Annual Banquet. Dietrich recently retired from ISHS after eight years of service, including time on the Advisory Board, the Board of Directors, and two years as Secretary of the Executive Board.

On the same occasion, Cindy Reinhardt, of Edwardsville, was appointed to the ISHS Advisory Board for a one-year term. She also serves on the Madison County Historical Society's Board of Directors.

### FAMILY HISTORY SATURDAYS TO CONTINUE

After a successful trial run of four months, the MCHS Staff and volunteers have decided to continue to reserve one Saturday per month especially for area residents interested in beginning or expanding their family trees.

Dates for coming Family History Saturdays are July 11, August 1 and September 5. The Archival Library, which is normally closed on Saturday, will be open from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. on the above dates. Patrons will be given one-on-one assistance so they can arrive at any time during those hours.

### NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

May - June ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

#### Family \$50

Ted & Jeanne Elik

Donald & Peggy Magruder

#### Individual \$35

Dolores Bourisaw

Karen Meng

Janet Duthie Collins

Roger Wiebush

William Kaseberg

Susan M. Young

### LUNCH PLUS IN GODFREY

In June, staff and volunteers traveled to Godfrey, where they visited the Evergreen Monticello Museum and the architecturally beautiful Reid Hall on the campus of Lewis and Clark Community College. The Bethalto Historical Museum and log cabin were also on the agenda.

As usual, in addition to a good lunch, the group had an entertaining and educational day.

## MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

Coal mining has been a part of Madison County for its entire history. The Illinois State Geological Survey has 15 pages of mines listed in its directory of coal mines in Madison County. This information (maps and data) for every coal mining county in Illinois is available free at <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/research/coal/maps/county>.

Another good (and free!) resource for coal mines and miners in Illinois is the website "Wayne's World of History & Genealogy" located at <http://www.gillespieil.com/ilcoalmines.html>. One section lists coal mines by county, which can include both the history of the mines in that county and also an alphabetical list of fatalities in the mines. A sample from Madison County is:

#### "ALBIE

March 26, 1912<sup>24</sup>, **Louis Albie**, of Collinsville, laborer, aged 70 years, married, employed in the Lumaghi Coal Co.'s No. 2 mine, Collinsville, Madison County, was killed by a fall of slate. He leaves a widow and four children.

<sup>24</sup> Thirty-First Annual Coal Report of Illinois, 1912; State Mining Board; Springfield, Illinois; Illinois State Journal Co.. State Printers, 1913"

So if there are coal miners in your family tree, be sure to check out this information. It is a great history lesson on how coal mining left its mark on many residents of Illinois.

## MERSINGER LOG CABIN

It's uncertain who actually built the original cabin known today as the Mersinger Log Cabin, but the builder certainly couldn't have imagined the journey their humble home would follow in the decades to come.

More than a century ago, the cabin was moved from a nearby hill to land one-eighth of a mile west of the Troy-O'Fallon Road, five miles south of Troy. James Watt bought the property from the federal government in 1828. Watt sold it to his son Samuel Watt who sold it to John Flory who sold it to John Adam Bugger who then sold it to Frederick Mersinger in 1859. Any of the above might have been the builder of the cabin that has become known as the Mersinger Cabin.

In 1880 the Mersinger family covered the cabin so that it resembled a frame house. When Frederick died he left the home to his wife, Anna and eight children. Eventually the property was purchased by the youngest son, Theodore "Ted" Mersinger, who built a new house next door.

In 1977, Ted and his family were tearing down the old house and found the cabin beneath the siding. It had only three sides because Frederick had removed a side when he built an addition to the house. The cabin was donated to the Madison County Historical Society who hoped to rebuild it; however, that never happened. It lay on the lot behind the Madison County Historical Museum for three years.

It was then donated to SIUE and reconstructed by students through a pioneering grant to the university. A fourth wall of logs from another cabin was donated to complete the Mersinger cabin.

In the fall of 1999, the Troy Historical Society learned that SIUE was no longer willing to pay the expenses associated with maintaining the cabin which was in deteriorating condition. After learning that the cabin was going to be destroyed, Troy Historical Society members Mae Grapperhaus and Marilyn Sulc contacted the Chancellor of SIUE and arranged to move it back to Troy. With the help of many volunteers and family members, the cabin was disassembled and brought back to Troy. The pieces were stored at Tri-Township Park where it laid for a year with no plans by the park board to keep it. So, the City of Troy, with the assistance of Mayor Tom Caraker, took the logs and stored them in the city garage.

The Troy Historical Society contacted Tom Cundiff, an expert in log cabins, to rebuild it; however, by that time the logs were deteriorating badly and Cundiff suggested building a replica. So it was done.

The land where it stands today on Route 162 is leased to the Troy Historical Society. The cabin is open on certain Sundays from April thru October and the grounds are occasionally used by the Historical Society for festivals.



### EAST MARKET STREET

*Truck mired in mud on East Market Street, circa late 1920s or early 1930s. Courtesy of Troy Historical Society.*



### MOTHER'S WAY BAKERY

*Pictured above is the Mother's Way Bakery bread truck and storefront at 110 West Main Street in Troy. The business was owned by Edward Levo. Courtesy of Troy Historical Society.*



### TROY STAGE STOP LOCATION

*The Troy stop on the old stage coach route (the National Road) between St. Louis and Terre Haute, circa 1920, at the convergence of Center Street and Collinsville Road. Courtesy of Troy Historical Society.*



# HISTORY OF TROY (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

The combined population of Troy, Mechanicsberg and Brookside qualified the town for a city form of government established on April 12, 1892. Jacob F. Clepper was elected as the first mayor of the new City of Troy whose population by 1900 had grown to over 1,080 persons living within the city limits.

Although Brookside was annexed by Troy in 1891, many old-timers still use the name when referring to that area. Anything south of the creek by the city cemetery on South Main Street is "Brookside."

Congress authorized the extension of the National Road to St. Louis in 1820, and fortunately Troy was on the route. Frontier Troy became the first stagecoach stop east of St. Louis along the National Road. St. Louis travelers heading east arrived in early afternoon and had a meal at the tavern. While they ate, local blacksmiths took care of the horses which were often changed at Troy. Those traveling from the east, usually from Terre Haute, IN, arrived at nightfall so they spent the night at Troy hotels and rooming houses. The arrivals and departures of the stage were a great attraction and were always greeted by a throng of people.

Later when the east and west were connected by rail service, the stage line went out of existence. But a hack line, a horse-drawn taxi service, was established between Highland and St. Louis for the accommodation of travelers and to carry the mail. The hack serviced Troy area residents until the completion of the Vandalia Railroad from St. Louis to Highland in 1866.

The population of Troy by 1850 had increased to 250 people. Of these 35 were foreign-born, 30 from the British Isles, and 105 were Illinois natives.

Still a small city in the twentieth century, Troy continued its slow growth with small businesses and industry related to the farming industry. In the early years, mining and farming were the primary sources of employment with the railroad also providing opportunities. As time passed the mines closed, but farming continued.

In 1910, population figures for all of Jarvis Township, including the City of Troy, were 2,828. The population in the City dwindled to 1,250 by 1950 but rebounded in the 1960s as the Interstate Highways System (I-55/70/270) was completed. The population began to steadily increase, so that today's population is approaching 10,000 in the city and a total of 13,000 for Jarvis Township.

In recent years, the City has become somewhat of a bedroom community where employment in the greater St. Louis area is easily accessed. Troy's central location and its proximity to the interstates, the large metropolitan area to the west and Scott Air Force Base to the south, make it an appealing location.

No longer a half-day's journey from St. Louis, Troy still serves the traveling public. Truck stops and motels have replaced the stagecoach relay station. Troy is now as it was in the 1800s, a stepping-stone to the "Gateway to the West," the best kept secret in Metro-East.



## THE CENTRAL HOTEL

*The Central Hotel faced Market Street on the north side, just west of Main Street. It was torn down in 1946 by Oscar Gindler to provide parking for his Studebaker Dealership which is today the site of the Time-Out Sports Bar. The Meiners family sold the Central Hotel to the Dillingham family in 1916 for \$5,000. The Dillinghams ran the hotel until 1934. The location of the hotel is now a parking lot. Courtesy of the Troy Historical Society*



## THE EMBROIDERY FACTORY

*The Embroidery Factory building was later used as a shoe factory and a linen laundry. The building was destroyed by fire in the early 1980s. Courtesy of Troy Historical Society.*



## WW II MEMORIAL BOARD

*This Honor Roll sign listed all WW II Troy service men and women. Those killed in action included Earl Kucker, Philip Kunkel, Neal Rood, Arthur Sprick and Elmer Levo. Unfortunately, after falling into disrepair, the sign was destroyed. Courtesy of Troy Historical Society.*



## U. S. SENATOR PAUL SIMON

In 1948, a 19-year-old Paul Simon left Dana College in Nebraska, he came to Troy where he purchased the local newspaper that had been out of production for nearly a year. He was able to buy the newspaper because of a loan underwritten by the Troy Lions Club who wanted to resurrect the town paper. The young writer would call his newspaper *The Troy Tribune*, and it was said he was the youngest editor-publisher in the nation.

Simon covered all the usual stories in his weekly hometown paper, but he also went on a crusade against syndicate gambling interests, writing articles to expose violations of state gambling laws. Unable to get action from local authorities, Simon paid a visit to Governor Adlai Stevenson who sent the state police to shut down several of the offending establishments. Simon was later called as a key witness to testify before the U. S. Senate's Crime Investigation Committee in 1951.

He eventually built a chain of weekly newspapers in Illinois. At one point, a partner in the newspaper business was Alan Dixon, later to become a U. S. Senator for Illinois.

Simon enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1951 and was soon assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps. After returning from service, he declared his candidacy for the Illinois House in 1953 and won the 1954 general election as well as those in 1956, 1958, and 1960. He ran successfully for the Illinois Senate in 1962 and was reelected in 1966.

In 1968, Simon became the first and only lieutenant governor of Illinois elected with a governor of another political party. In 1972, he entered the Illinois Democratic Primary for governor against Dan Walker, but lost.

While teaching history and government at Sangamon State University in 1973, Simon helped launch a Public Affairs Reporting Program. This program was designed for journalists interested in covering government.

He was elected to the 24<sup>th</sup> District of the Illinois House of Representatives in 1974 and re-elected four times. In 1982, he was elected to the U. S. Senate where he served until 1987. In 1988 he unsuccessfully ran for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States, but dropped out after the Iowa Caucus campaign.

After retiring from public office, Simon became a professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and was instrumental in establishing its Public Policy Institute. Over the years Simon authored 20 books and numerous articles on a wide variety of subjects. Simon died on December 1, 2002, at the age of 73, from complications while undergoing heart surgery.

In 2003, the U. S. Senator Paul Simon Museum was established in his memory in Troy. He was also memorialized by Governor Pat Quinn who declared Route 162, the National Road through Troy, as the Simon Parkway. Quinn was also the sponsor of three larger signs along I-55/70 designating certain sections near Troy as the Paul Simon Freeway.

The Simon Museum is currently closed, however, the Troy Historical Society has the artifacts in storage until a new museum site can be located. Until then, a display in the front office of Simon's former newspaper, now the *Times-Tribune*, includes Simon's desk, typewriter, camera and other newspaper memorabilia.



## The McCray-Dewey Academy



When Angeline McCray-Dewey died in 1880, she left her home and \$3,000 to be used for an academy. If the funds were insufficient, and they were, she instructed her executors to invest the money until sufficient funds were accrued to complete the work. They allowed the money to accumulate until 1886, then opened the new academy in the refurbished building shown at left.

The curriculum was roughly equivalent to that of a modern high school. But attendance was free to Troy residents under the age of 26, and in just four years, they were out of money. The Academy reopened several times, but always closed after a few years due to lack of funds. In 1929 the building was torn down and a new publicly funded high school built on the ten-acre tract of land that had been the McCray farm.



# “BULLET BOB” TURLEY

Robert Lee “Bob” Turley was born in Troy, IL, on September 19, 1930, the son of Henrietta (nee Maden) and Delbert Turley. At a young age, he moved to East St. Louis, but he had relatives in Troy and spent several weeks each summer in Troy where he liked to fish and hunt with family and friends.

Always a good athlete, Turley appeared on the major league baseball roster for the first time on September 29, 1951. He was a pitcher for the old St. Louis Browns,



Bob Turley with Cy Young Award in 1958. Courtesy of Troy Historical Society.

and went with the Browns when the team became the Baltimore Orioles. He went on to make his mark with the most legendary team of all time, the New York Yankees. He finished his playing career with the Los Angeles Angels and Boston Red Sox, both in the 1963 season. He then

accepted a position as pitching coach for the Red Sox in 1964.

As a player, Turley was known as “Bullet Bob” due to the speed of his fast ball. His most notable pitching performance came during 1958 when he pitched three games of the World Series to lead the Yankees to a World Series title. That year he was also the World Series MVP and became the first and only player ever to win both the Cy Young Award and the Hickock Award. During his 12-year MLB career, Turley was an All-Star three times and was on two World Series Championship teams.

In the early 1950s, while playing for the St. Louis Browns, Turley came to Troy and was honored with a “Bob Turley Day” sponsored by the Troy Lions Club and the City of Troy.

In 1974, Turley’s baseball career was over, but he had worked in the financial services business in the off season since 1957. In 1977, along with a former coach, Arthur Williams, and five others, he co-founded A. L. Williams & Associates, an insurance company that later became Primerica Financial Services. Like many professional athletes of his time, he earned far more in the financial services industry than he did playing baseball.

Bob Turley died March 30, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia.



## SCHOON’S DRUG STORE

Pictured above are Jim Hindmarch (left) and John Schoon at the Schoon’s Drug Store building at 112 South Main Street. They later moved to a storefront at the north end of their block. The building pictured no longer exists.



## DROY’S GARAGE

These two photos are of Droy’s Garage located at 200 Collinsville Road in Troy. The business was founded by Fred “Freddie” Droy as a Chevrolet dealership, but later sold Kaiser-Frazier and then Ford automobiles. It was also an official Illinois testing station for trucks. The above 1950s era photo includes Fred Droy in uniform near the pumps and his son, Bob, who later ran the business in the background. In the 1930 photograph below are Elmer Levo (left) and proprietor Fred Droy. Elmer was later killed in WW II. All photos courtesy of Troy Historical Society.







# Madison County Historical Society

*Opening Doors to Madison County History*

715 N. Main Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD  
Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit #9  
Edwardsville, IL  
62025

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Troy has two homes that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The John Carney House, built circa 1870 is of Italian Villa design and has been on the National Register since 1983. Paul Simon owned the house from 1959-1974 so many know the home at 306 East Market Street as the U.S. Sen. Paul Simon Home.

The second home on the National Register is the Jarvis home 317 East Center Street. This home, also of Italianate design, was built in 1863 for businessman and civic leader William Jarvis.

The Troy Historical Society has given numerous plaques to historically significant homes and buildings in Troy.

A new walking tour featuring historic homes of Troy was recently completed by Justin Loos as an Eagle Scout Project. Brochures are available at the Troy Public Library.

## LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

(CONT FROM PAGE 2)

I hope you have enjoyed the journey back to 1949. The Archival Library staff have already scanned two of the 17 Harrell scrapbooks and are working on indexing them to make research easier.

You are invited to stop by the Madison County Archival Library and create your own time-travel adventure through local history. On your journey, you may even find a piece of your own family's story.



The Troy Call baseball club in the summer of 1907. Pictured are Philip Barick, John Healey, William Schlichting, Arthur Gornet, Paul Gerfen (manager), William Ramshaw, J. Irvin Hindmarch, Russell P. Jarvis (mascot-two years old), Arthur Sprick, Ray Rawson and Duncan McCormick.

## PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF TROY

The first organizational meeting of the Troy Historical Society (THS) was held on February 18, 1993. The idea to form a historic preservation group in Troy was that of Mae Grapperhaus, the guest author for this edition of the MCHS News and the society's first and current president.

Since 1993, THS has produced a book and numerous pamphlets on the history of Troy and implemented a program where plaques are awarded to owners of buildings significant to the history of Troy. Members take every opportunity to speak to groups or provide displays that illustrate Troy's heritage. A walking tour guide and

additional information about Troy's history can be found on its website:  
[www.troyhistoricalsociety.org/index.php](http://www.troyhistoricalsociety.org/index.php)

so

Mae Grapperhaus has also been recording Troy's current history since 1985 as a reporter and past editor of the *Troy Times-Tribune*. She currently works part time for the weekly newspaper, producing a column called "Along the Country Roads" as well as the popular "It Happened Here" section highlighting Troy's history.

Grapperhaus has been a member of the MCHS Board of Directors since 2003.