



# MCHS News

November 2018

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 6 No. 6

**Historical Museum**  
715 N Main Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

**Hours:**

The museum is currently closed for renovation

**Archival Library**  
801 N Main Street

**Hours:**

Wed-Fri 9 am - 4 pm

Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm

Group Tours Available

**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.

## MADISON COUNTY IN THE FALL OF 1918

When people say they miss “the good old days” they are surely not speaking of life a century ago in Madison County. The last months of 1918 were a terrible time for area residents and, whether rich or poor, no one was exempt. That autumn, saw the most deadly fighting of WW I, but it also witnessed the end of the war. It was a time when the influenza epidemic was at its worst among Madison County residents. The war and the influenza epidemic changed daily life for everyone. Church services, schools, businesses and holidays were all put on a new schedule and food was strictly rationed to provide for our soldiers. Every aspect of civilian life was affected by the war.

### WORLD WAR I AT HOME

Officially, the United States entered World War I on Apr. 6, 1917, when the war in Europe was nearly three years old. Despite the official U. S. entry into the war, it would be nearly a year before U.S. troops made a significant contribution to the war effort. In 1917, the U.S. had only a small volunteer army and needed time to create and implement a draft, and then to train soldiers for battle. The country also needed to increase the production of munitions and other war materials, not only for our soldiers, but for U.S. allies as well.

### THE DRAFT & EMPLOYMENT

By autumn 1918, hundreds of men had already either volunteered or been drafted into the armed services. There were a number of industries in Madison County where employees were exempt from the draft including coal mining, railroads, steel mills, and the telephone company since all communications came under government management. Other firms also provided services and products that were vital to the war effort.

An exemption list printed in the *Alton Telegraph* on Nov. 1, 1918 gave a picture of who could expect an exemption from the draft. For example, Charles Leroy Beall, Christopher Eden, and Charles Marsh were rated 3-L, an industrial exemption, and excused from the draft. They worked for Illinois Glass Company and/or



*In World War I, Uncle Sam wanted more than just recruits. Every man, woman and child was expected to do their part in winning the war. (LOC)*

Western Cartridge. Bricklayers Charles Marsh and Harry Scott were rated 1-I when their exemption claims were denied. Fred Jinkinson was allowed a 2-C classification often given to farmers, although not all farmers were exempt. The claim of Otero Norman, a river pilot, was denied but another man in transportation, William Roach, a motorman for the the railroad, was given a 2-D classification.

Not all men eligible for exemption took advantage of it. Many volunteered for the military and this left employment shortages, especially at firms like Western Cartridge that had ramped up production for the war. For the first time, businesses turned to women to fill many jobs traditionally held by men, including manufacturing jobs, clerical positions, farming and more.

*continued page 4*

## ABOUT US

### MCHS BOARD

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LaVerne Bloemker  
Archival Research Asst.  
Carol Frisse  
Archival Research Asst.  
Jenn VanBibber  
Curator  
Mary Z. Rose  
Asst. 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 website, or at the Archival Library.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### MCHS NEWS

6 issues annually  
Cindy Reinhardt, Editor

## ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Westerhold

### VALUE IN OLD CALENDARS

Calendars may not seem like an item that would be kept by a research facility, but they can be a wealth of information. When an organization or company celebrates an anniversary, a celebratory calendar is often created showing historic photos and important dates. A recent addition to the collection is a calendar from the Bank of Edwardsville celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It contains historic photos from the communities they serve, along with a description of the photos. Another calendar that will be available soon is from the Wood River Museum. It is a fundraising calendar for the Museum and the 2019 calendar will contain photos from the 1949 Tornado, marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that tragedy. Other historic calendars in our collection are from Alhambra, Alton, Glen Carbon, Clover Leaf Savings and Loan, and the Illinois State Historical Society.

In addition, there are other calendars in our collection with a few dating back to the early 1900s. These do not have historic photos, but rather they are examples of advertising. These include, but are not limited to, Madison County Abstract & Title, First National Bank Edwardsville, and Rohrkaste Dairy.



*If you have copies of local calendars you no longer intend to keep, please consider donating them to the MCHS collection. (MCHS)*

## MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

By Jenn VanBibber

Gas masks in the MCHS collection represent more than a soldier's experience in the trenches on the battlefield during World War I. Never before had chemical warfare been seen on such a large scale. The noxious gases presented challenges for not just those on the battlefields, but also the civilians who manufactured the toxic materials. German factory workers frequently became victims of gas poisoning during the manufacturing process; at any time, nearly one-third of the workforce might be inflicted with a gas-related illness. Casualties occurred in British and French factories as well, especially when mustard gas production began. Workers clearing and cleaning blocked pipes faced the same types of injuries as the soldiers exposed in the trenches. Some historians argue that civilians who filled the artillery gas shells performed the most dangerous job on either side.

A gas mask currently on display at the Madison County Courthouse (shown here)

was donated to MCHS in 1974 by Milton and Lucille Lesemann. Two WW I exhibits, researched and designed by Historical Museum Assistant Curator Mary Rose, will be on display at the Madison County Courthouse and Administration Building until January 2019.



*World War I gas mask. (MCHS)*



## 2019 MCHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Next month you will receive an appeal asking you to renew your MCHS membership. With the work being done on the museum, your membership is more important than ever. We appreciate your past support and hope you will consider not only renewing your own membership, but also giving a gift membership to a family or friend this holiday season. Gift certificates are available on request. Call 618-656-1294 for information on gift memberships. MCHS now has on-line membership application where you can join from the website or print a membership application. Applications are also available at the Archival Library.

## MCHS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Capital Campaign materials have been completed and can be found on the Society's website. In addition to the windows project previously announced, there are many other ways to support the restoration of the Weir House and the creation of a new museum that will tell the stories of Madison County.

A Community Committee has been appointed for the campaign that will assist with fundraising by providing introductions and advice. The committee is comprised of prominent Madison County residents with fundraising experience. The Society is grateful that they have agreed to assist the Society in reaching its goal.

## A MUSEUM IN PROGRESS

Reconstruction and restoration continue for the museum building (Weir House). We are pleased to announce that the issues with the new roof have finally been identified and repaired!!

Final testing of the new HVAC system is being completed this month. It will be operational by the end of November, long before the coldest winter weather arrives.

Five windows were removed for renovation some time ago. After restoration of the windows and repairs to some of the surrounding bricks, the first batch of windows was recently reinstalled (see photo at right).

While the museum is closed, museum staff are providing rotating exhibits at the Madison County Courthouse and Administration Building. They continue to catalog artifacts and are working with an MCHS committee to plan creative interactive exhibits for the new museum gallery spaces.

## 2019 MINI-LESSONS IN HISTORY

MCHS provides dozens of mini-lessons in Madison County history throughout the year. The Events Committee has a great line-up of speakers for the 2019 MCHS Speaker's Series. A growing attendance for the series has made it necessary to move out of the Archival Library to the fellowship hall of Immanuel United Methodist Church, directly across the street. Speakers are scheduled for months when there is no newsletter.

The award-winning MCHS News is published six times annually. Topics for 2019 include historic buildings in St. Jacob, orphans, Glik's Department Store (the oldest retailer in the county), the Lovejoy piano, and a history of the village of Carpenter. If you have any information about these topics, please contact Cindy Reinhardt at 618-656-1294. We are particularly interested in learning the history of the dozens of children who came to Madison County on the Orphan Trains.

In addition, the Madison County Historical Society's facebook page posts interesting historic facts and news of history related events and programs from all over the county every few days. Call 618-656-1294 if you have an event related to Madison County history that you would like us to help promote.

## DINING IN HISTORY

The 2018 Dining in History and Annual Meeting was held at St. Boniface Catholic Church which will celebrate its sesquicentennial in January. We are grateful to Mary Westerhold for providing an excellent program and a brochure for self-guided art and architecture tours of the building.

At the annual meeting, Robert Clouse of Troy and Lynn Engelman of Wood River were welcomed as new members of the MCHS Board of Directors.



*At left is one of the newly re-stored windows at the Weir House. Trim colors on the building will be black to match paint found during the restoration process. As can be seen, a few bricks needed to be repaired or replaced around the frame of the window. These were left unpainted since all paint will eventually be removed from the building.*

## 2019 NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Sept-Oct 2018 ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

### **\$250 Benefactor**

Mike and Cindy Reinhardt

Linden Appel &  
Rosemary Crock  
Leslie Bednar  
Tom Daniel  
Alvin Deibert

Nancy & Bruce Hoffman  
David & Anita Hylla  
Jean & Joseph Jacober  
Lacy McDonald

### **\$35 Individual**

Lisa Engelke

### **\$50 Family**

Kurt & Gretchen Ackerman

Store owners were exempt from the draft, but their employees were not. This caused staffing shortages for stores that previously were open seven days a week and for long hours daily. Businesses struggled, but it would have caused a drop in store loyalty if they cut their hours and other businesses didn't do the same. A new government regulation that took effect on Oct. 6 was designed to ease that burden. All grocery and butcher shops were required to close on Sundays. It was thought that it would encourage the conservation of food and provide labor relief for store owners. Later regulations required that they limit business hours and change delivery options. Previously a housewife could call anytime during regular business hours and have grocery items delivered immediately. Government regulations changed deliveries to twice a day so that the business owner could get by with a smaller staff.

Women were called to work outside the home, but as the following *Alton Telegraph* article from Dec. 30, 1918, will show, they also took over farm work when their husbands were drafted:

### **SOLDIER HAD REAL HELPMATE.**

#### **WHILE HE WAS IN THE ARMY HIS WIFE KEPT FARM WORK GOING.**

Last September, Wm. H. Rohrkaste, a young farmer living between here and Edwardsville, was called to the colors, and he departed leaving a bride of a couple of months, and his farm work all undone.

He returned Friday from Camp Forrest, Ga., where he had been located for some time, with an honorable

**BE PATRIOTIC**

**DO YOUR BIT—HELP WIN THE WAR**

Your assistance and co-operation in this mighty struggle for democracy and freedom is your duty and being demanded daily of our glorious country and the boys at the front sacrificing their blood and lives for us and generations to come

**SPECIAL NOTICE** ON AND AFTER WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16 we will discontinue our usual delivery service owing to extreme shortage of reliable help, we are compelled to ask our many friends and patrons to come to our store and select their Groceries, Meats and Vegetables from the most complete market in Collinsville, our meats are the best that money can buy and our prices are as reasonable as what you pay for inferior grades. Let us help you reduce the high cost of living. Food is Ammunition. Lets help the boys over there

Soliciting your co-operation and patronage with an absolute assurance of satisfaction. Send the children to our store they can shop as economical as the experienced housewife. **Our Motto,** The most of the best for the least. Money's worth or money back at

**Chas. Gindler's Grocery**

**East Main Street, Collinsville, Illinois**

*The above advertisement was published in the Collinsville Herald on October 11, 1918.*

discharge, and from his neighbors it is learned that a more surprised and delighted soldier never returned to any home.

His bride had not been loafing on the job during his absence. She too had been helping in the war and he found that she had sowed about forty acres to wheat, had the corn cut and shocked and had husked a good deal of the shocked corn herself.

In fact, he found all the farm work in "apple-pie" order and as far advanced as if he had been on the job himself. Mrs. Rohrkaste, it is said, did most of the work herself, but she hired the corn cut.

*(The Rohrkaste farm was located on property later purchased to build the SIUE campus. Mrs. Rohrkaste was the former Florence Hamilton, daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Pitman) Hamilton, who had a farm near Carpenter, Illinois.)*

## THE MEDICAL CRISIS IN THE FALL OF 1918

The medical profession was an occupation that was vital to the war effort but also necessary on the home front. Many of Madison County's finest doctors were called for service leaving many older men with less progressive training left to cover at home.

Some Madison County women took Red Cross training to become nurses both at home and at military hospitals in the United States and Europe. These nurses were invaluable when "The Great Influenza" came to Madison County in September. As recounted in the January 2015 edition of the MCHS News, approximately 500 people died of influenza/pneumonia in Madison County in just three months during October-December of 1918. This number does not include Madison County soldiers who died of the flu while

away in service. (It is estimated that 60% of soldiers deaths in WW I were from influenza.) The Red Cross nurses were invaluable during this time when the number of house calls overwhelmed the resources of available doctors.

Because of the flu epidemic, public gatherings were banned during much of October-December, 1918. The "flu ban" as it was called would be on for four weeks or more, then off, only to be put back on when there was a surge of cases. Doctors were pressured by patients to not diagnose the flu because the entire house was then quarantined and the father unable to earn a living. Eventually the doctors were threatened with arrest if they didn't report cases of influenza.



## SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT

Although the United States was late coming into the war, support once they were in was considered a patriotic duty. Those that didn't "get with the program," as we say today, were called "slackers."

Slackers might obviously try to avoid the draft, but there were many other ways a person could be labeled a slacker, or worse, if of German descent, they might be considered disloyal or a spy for the Germans.

The war effort made many demands on citizenry. Regardless of income, residents were expected to purchase Liberty Bonds to fund the war effort. There were two Liberty Bond drives during the fall of 1918, and a total of four during the war. Employers were proud to put up signs saying 100 percent of their employees contributed, so there was pressure both from the community and from employers. When people donated, they were given a placard to place in their front windows so everyone would know who was participating, and, more importantly, who was not.

With bonds, you could expect to get your money back some day. But there were also fund drives for the Red Cross, the YMCA and other organizations that contributed services for the war effort. In late 1918 these were combined as the United War Work Campaign and again, your patriotism might be suspect if you didn't donate. As with the Liberty Bond program, you were given a placard or pin to wear to prove your loyalty.



*World War I posters (Library of Congress)*

Fund drives for Liberty Bonds and the United War Work were front page news with Madison County communities exercising bragging rights as to who was doing the most outstanding work.

Volunteers were also needed by the Red Cross who organized work rooms where ladies made surgical dressings and later cloth masks that were thought would protect soldiers from the flu (they didn't). The Red Cross also had hundreds of women knitting socks for soldiers. This was work they could do from home in their spare hours.

School children were expected to help with the war effort in a number of ways. They collected hickory nuts, walnuts, prune seeds, peach pits and cherry seeds for the government. The seeds and shells were sent to Washington where they were burned to a charcoal and put into gas masks for soldiers.

They were also asked to assist with the United War

Work fund drive. By collecting at least \$5, they could become a Victory Girl or Victory Boy. When this program was first announced, organizers said, "The spirit of children is what is wanted, more than the money, which is most necessary."

And, of course, children were also expected to assist their families with Victory Gardens in order to do their part to "win the war."

## NOTHING BUT BAD NEWS

The local newspapers were full of bad news, often covering nearly the entire front page. Madison County soldiers were reported seriously ill or dead from the flu at camps in the United States or France. Reports also began to come in of soldiers missing in action, injured, gassed or killed in action. The reports were usually three to four weeks after an incident occurred and sometimes turned out to be mistaken.

Illnesses and deaths from influenza as well as reports on what was being done to combat it were also front page news. "Society News" nearly disappeared since no one could gather for parties, church, school or other gatherings.

Good news for local residents included letters home from soldiers, especially when they could report that they had seen another local boy. Every newspaper carried them on the front page as well as inside under a column called

"Camp News" or something similar. Letters written in October and early November were more general in content as the soldiers had to censor the news by not giving away their exact location.

After the Armistice, long letters began to appear telling uncensored versions of soldier experiences that they were unable to relate before the war ended. Many letters were brought to the newspaper by family members, but some were sent directly to the editor.

Receiving a copy of a local newspaper was a valuable commodity to soldiers serving on the front. Many newspapers offered special rates for soldiers. The *Collinsville Herald* provided them at no cost for quite some time until the number of men in service made the cost prohibitive. They then offered it at half price for soldiers.

## RATIONING

The United States Food Administration's campaign encouraging thrift with food was in full swing by the fall of 1918. The best of foods were to be reserved for soldier consumption. Residents planted Victory Gardens to grow their own food and were encouraged to can reserves for the winter. Classes in gardening were offered in schools for those who had not previously learned to grow their own food.

The sale of wheat flour was limited. If customers bought five pounds of wheat flour, then they were required to also purchase five pounds of a substitute. The substitutes included flour made from rice, barley and potatoes. At first consumers didn't know how to cook the substitutes and would take them to a baker who knew how to work with them, but they eventually learned. After the Armistice was signed in November, rationing was soon lifted leaving wholesalers with a large quantity of substitutes but few customers with an interest.

In the fall of 1918 breweries were also beginning to close. As the war continued, the government decided it



could not spare the wheat required to brew beer. All breweries were scheduled to close by the end of the year and many states had already passed prohibition laws.

Sugar was also rationed. One newspaper article touted the value of having a baby. Besides the obvious joy of a new child, the baby qualified the family for an extra two pound allotment of sugar per month. Two pounds may sound generous today, but at a time when most foods were made from scratch, sugar was much in demand especially for baking.

Coal and gasoline were also rationed. Driving was forbidden on Sundays and the hours for electric lighting were limited to save coal. In Madison County, many farmers opened their own small coal mines to provide for their families.

Building materials were rationed during the war too, but even if they had been available, there was not enough manpower to support the construction industry. An exception was in Alton where housing was desperately needed for workers at the defense plants.

## THE 1918 ELECTION

Nov. 5, 1918, was the date of a midterm election in Madison County. Illinois had voted to give women the right to vote, but the federal government had not, so women could only vote on issues not related to the constitution. So there were two ballots, a little ballot for the women and a larger ballot for men. Women were only allowed to vote on university trustees and on a referendum to fund construction of a tuberculosis sanitarium. However, "the fairer sex" as they were called, also worked the polling stations encouraging men to also vote for the TB sanitarium. Some also promoted a state initiative to fund a "hard roads" initiative. Illinois had a reputation for having very rough

roads, and now that automobiles were becoming prevalent, improved roads and streets were needed. Both referendums passed. It would be two years before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed giving women the right to vote in federal elections.

Some companies made it easier for their employees to vote in 1918. At Western Cartridge, there were so many workers that they ran special trains, morning and night, to bring workers to the plant. On election day, the train was delayed by an hour to provide time for employees to vote. At Illinois Glass, the plant was closed at 3:30 for the same reason.

## CELEBRATING THE ILLINOIS CENTENNIAL

Illinois counties held celebrations throughout the year 1918 to commemorate the anniversary of Illinois Statehood on Dec. 3, 1818. A county Centennial Committee was organized and Alton made a bid to represent Madison County with a celebration on Sep. 26-28. The event was called the Centennial Pageant and it told the story of Illinois as depicted by nearly 500 actors under the direction of J. A. Darnaby of Chicago. The one-and-a-half hour program featured local costumed actors and props that included a fort. Expenses were paid from ticket sales and from the sale of special Centennial half dollars.

Governor Frank Lowden attended one day of the festivities which was also considered a celebration of Alton's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Elijah Lovejoy was also recognized during the celebration with installation of his printing press at the Sparks Milling Company Offices and Alton's founder, Rufus Easton was remembered with a marker dedication.

In Madison County, Illinois Centennial Day, Dec. 3, 1918, found most of the population still under a flu ban, so although the day was marked by articles in all the local newspapers, there were no celebrations on the actual day. How fortunate that they had decided to celebrate in September.

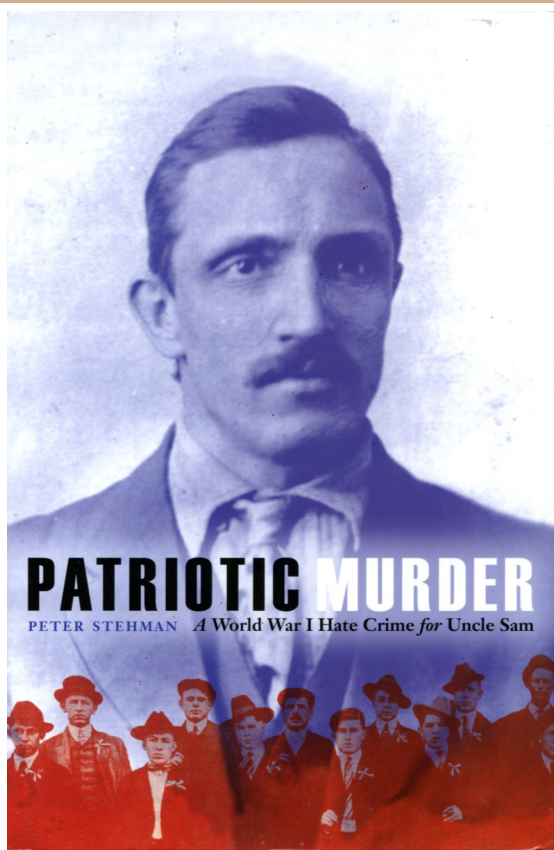


## GERMAN HYSTERIA AND PATRIOTIC FEVER

The degree of hysteria against persons of German descent cannot be overstated. The newspapers all printed government propaganda with large ads advising that the USA "kill the Huns" or that German spies might be hiding anywhere. An ad in the *Collinsville Advertiser* said, "Every German or Austrian in the United States, unless known by years of association to be absolutely loyal, should be treated as a potential spy." Soldiers were told not to share their locations and parents were warned that telling details of the war that might be overheard by a German could kill their sons. The message was clear: Germans were not to be trusted.

In Alton, on Oct. 14, "enemy aliens" had to register so they could be issued a card permitting them to travel in what was called the "barred" areas of the county. Many of these were women who were brought here as children or had lived in America for decades. There were some men, but the group registering was primarily women. Most men who came to America eventually applied for naturalization so they could become voting citizens. Women couldn't vote so there was no reason to be naturalized.

Many German traditions were suppressed during WW I. Before the war, there were one or more German congregations in every town in Madison County where services were held only in German. During the war, most German church services were discontinued. German was no longer taught in schools. In some cases German families changed their



*A new book, "Patriotic Murder: A World War I Hate Crime for Uncle Sam," by Peter Stehman tells the story of Robert Prager in great detail, relating all of the factors that led to this horrific crime. Stehman is a gifted storyteller with a firm grasp of his subject. The Prager story is also included in a current exhibit at the Collinsville Historical Museum.*

names to sound less Germanic because of feared reprisals.

On a national level many German terms were replaced. For example, sauerkraut became liberty cabbage and hamburger became known as salisbury steak or liberty sandwiches during the war.

Germans were often pulled from their homes by groups of individuals who doubted their loyalty. They would be forced to declare their allegiance and kiss the flag, if they were lucky. Two Germans from Staunton were tarred and feathered and Father Metzger, a German priest at St. Boniface Catholic Church was warned that he should leave immediately or he would meet the same fate. Father Metzler had refused to loan church dishes to a group hosting a dinner for soldiers. The church never loaned its dishes to anyone so he thought nothing of it, but some took his actions as being unpatriotic. He left town that night.

But the worst atrocity against a German happened in Collinsville on April 5, 1918. That night Robert Prager was hung because a mob determined he must be a German spy. He was innocent, but the leaders of the mob, who were tried a month later, were all found innocent

of the crime. By the fall of 1918 newspapers were reporting that Germany was using the incident to fuel propaganda against Americans.

## TWO ARMISTICES AND THE END OF THE WAR

On Nov. 8, 1918 cities across the United States, including communities in Madison County, were thrilled to hear the news that the war was over. It was front page news in special editions of area newspapers and caused jubilation among area residents. There was literally, "dancing in the street," as people spilled out of their houses. Local bands joined them and they paraded down Main Street in every community. Imagine the relief of parents who thought their sons would now be safe; the joy of wives and children who had husbands and fathers in service. And it was all made more celebratory because they really shouldn't have been there. Most towns were still under a flu ban prohibiting public gatherings, but the news was just too joyous. They couldn't help themselves.

By the next day, they learned that the news was premature. The war wasn't over and the fighting was at its fiercest. Three days later, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918, a real armistice was signed. And the people

celebrated again. A year later, on Nov. 11, 1919, President Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day. In 1954, the date was re-designated as Veterans Day to honor the veterans of both World War I and World War II. Today, Nov. 11 honors veterans of all U. S. wars.

War-time restrictions dropped quickly after the armistice. Pending drafts were cancelled. Rationed items became available again, although the country was still warned to be conservative with food. Most of Europe was in need of food supplies that had been depleted after years of war.

But due to the delays in receiving news from the front, this was a bittersweet time for many Madison County families. Some didn't receive news of their family members, good or bad, until well into December.

One can only imagine the relief of Madison County citizens as they rang in a new year on Jan. 1, 1919, and celebrated surviving the year 1918.



# Madison County Historical Society

*Opening Doors to Madison County History*

801 N. Main Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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## MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

### LOOK AT THE ENTIRE IMAGE

By Mary Westerhold

Recently I was working on a transcription of a handwritten marriage record from St. Louis. The records were written in a book and on this image there were 15 entries across two pages. The handwriting was fairly legible so I decided to transcribe the one record that I needed.

However, there were three names that I could not decipher. One of the names I found because he was the jus-

tice of the peace and I knew it was in St. Louis in 1869. A simple Google search found that name.

I finally realized that it was possible that the other two names could be on other entries on the page and perhaps be more legible. And they were. One of the "names" actually turned out to be a job title "recorder" which I verified with another google search. And the other name was quickly verified also by using familysearch.org and Ancestry.com. Both showed his correct surname and his employment within the St. Louis Court system.

## WITH SINCERE THANKS

Four MCHS members of the MCHS Board of Directors have retired during the past year. Sue Wolf first joined the Board in 2003 and has been one of the most active and involved members during her tenure. We'll miss Mae Grapperhaus's knowledge of Troy history. She joined in 2006. Murray Harbke was a retired school teacher who has chaired the Education Committee since joining the Board in 2012. Mary Bade's work schedule made it necessary for her to step-down after two years on the board, but she suggested a very able replacement, her husband, Robert Clouse. Both have excellent museum-related experience and we're glad to "keep it in the family." Sue, Mae, Murray and Mary were valued members of the MCHS Board of Directors, and we sincerely thank them for their service.

## MCHS CALENDAR

THE 2019 CALENDAR OF SPEAKERS AND OTHER EVENTS ARE BEING FINALIZED. CHECK YOUR JANUARY NEWSLETTER, THE MCHS WEBSITE AND THE MCHS FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

*Happy Holidays!*