



MCHS News

July 2021

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 9 No. 4

Historical Museum
715 N Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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
(Reservations recommended)

Library Phone:
618-656-7569

MCHS Connections:

Website:
madcohistory.org
E-mail:
info@madcohistory.org
Phone:
618-656-1294

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.

MCHS Mourns Passing of Suzanne Dietrich and Mae Grapperhaus

MCHS was saddened to hear of the death of two women with close ties to the work of the museum and society, Suzanne Dietrich, Edwardsville, passed away on June 10 and Mae Grapperhaus, Troy, died on June 5.

Dietrich, who retired in 2016, served 17 years as director of the Madison County Historical Museum and Archival Library.

The daughter of Charles and Evelyn (Waters) Dietrich, Suzanne was born in Granite City on April 9, 1937. Her father's work took the family to Pennsylvania when she was younger, but the family returned to Madison County in time for Suzanne to attend



Suzanne Dietrich

Edwardsville High School where she graduated in 1954. Dietrich earned an undergraduate degree in Radio, Television and Film from Northwestern University, Chicago, as well as a master's degree in Public Communications from Boston University. After graduating, she obtained a position with the public television station in Springfield, Illinois, but returned to Edwardsville to care for her parents.

Dietrich became reacquainted with the Madison County Historical

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Picture This

William A. "Bill" Shaffer, 71, grew up in Troy, Illinois, the only child of George Allen and Millie (Collins) Shaffer. Fortunately, Bill's mother, Millie (1923-2010),



Photographer William A Shaffer, never without a camera. (W Shaffer)

was a photographer, as well as an artist, who gave her son a camera at a young age. He loved it. Together, mother and son amassed a historically valuable collection of photographs as they documented local events, people and places, many no longer here. With skill and artistry, they captured a picture of ordinary life.

In addition to the photographs they took themselves, Bill and Millie also collected photographs with some images stretching back to the late 19th century. This newsletter

will provide a very small representation of the Shaffer photography collections. Most were taken by Bill or Millie, and some are from their collections. We are grateful to Bill for sharing them here.

The Shaffer family came to Madison County before 1850 and various branches of the family married into some very familiar Madison County families including the Blakemans of Marine and the Montgomery, Jarvis and Kinder families of Mont Station.

Bill's maternal relatives included the Morriss, Collins and Hampton families of Troy, with some of those families also arriving in Madison County well in advance of the Civil War.



Millie (Collins) Shaffer, photographer and artist with one of her award-winning pastels (W Shaffer)

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ABOUT US

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VOLUNTEERS

There are abundant and varied opportunities for volunteers at either the Museum or the Archival Library. If interested, please call 618-656-7569.

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.

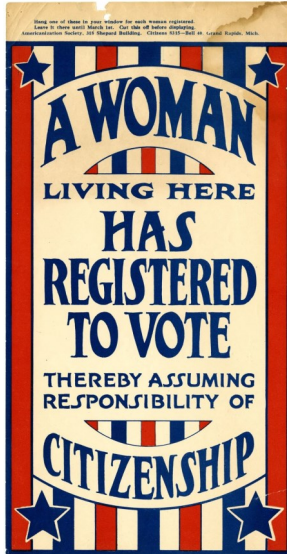
PUBLICATIONS

MCHS NEWS

6 issues annually
Cindy Reinhardt, Editor
618-656-1294

MUSEUM & ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

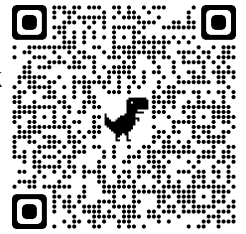
Regular tasks at the Museum and Archival Library have continued as usual despite all the extra work involved with the Smithsonian Exhibition coming this month



Arranging for delivery and installation of the exhibit itself is a challenge, but in addition to that, museum staff are preparing a second exhibit, *The History of Women's Suffrage in Madison County*, to compliment the Smithsonian exhibition. Both will be on display in the lobby of the Madison County Administration Building beginning July 19 and running for five weeks before the traveling exhibit moves to the next of only six host cities in Illinois.

There is also a concert, panel discussions, lectures and more. Check the schedule on page 8, follow the Madison County

Historical Society Facebook page or scan the QR code here to check for additional details. Information will also be sent to local newspapers.



The programs on July 19 and August 11 are live events, but the July 26 program on Woman's Suffrage will be online only. All three events will be available virtually via smart phone or computer at the following link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/535801845>. There is also a phone dial-in option: (312) 757-3121. (Access code: 535-801-845)

More News

The last batch of yearbooks to be digitized has been sent out to the vendor. When completed, local yearbooks will be available online through archive.org.

The first of the journal/diaries in the Bertha Love Collection (1917) has been transcribed.

The *PastPerfect* inventory system has completed migration to the Cloudbase.

SUZANNE DIETRICH AND MAE GRAPPERHAUS (CONT FROM PAGE 1)

Museum and Library in 1990 when she began researching the sesquicentennial history of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Edwardsville. A few years later she served on the committee researching and gathering materials for a local book, *Edwardsville: An Illustrated History* (1997). The following year she was invited to serve on the MCHS Board.

After only a short time on the Board, Anna Symanski, director of the museum, resigned unexpectedly. Knowing Dietrich's qualifications, Symanski asked if she would consider serving as interim director until a replacement could be found. In March 1999, Dietrich agreed to do the job for six months. And the rest, as they say, is history.

During Dietrich's tenure, the MCHS property grew from a single museum building to a complex that also includes a library, a collections center and a fourth building that will one day allow for expansion of the library. Dietrich, with the MCHS Board, obtained the grants and raised funds to build the Madison County Archival Library, which opened in 2002.

Over the years, Dietrich received numerous awards for her dedication to her job and

community. She received the Athena Award from the Chamber of Commerce for the "highest level of professional accomplishment," a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS), and a Preservation Award from the Goshen Preservation Alliance. She was also named as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club. In addition to her work in Madison County, she also served on the Illinois State Historical Society Board.

When Dietrich took the position of museum director, she came with memories of childhood visits to the museum when it was located in the Madison County Courthouse. During her childhood, her grandfather, William L. Waters, of Godfrey, served on the MCHS Board, including several terms as president. MCHS was an organization that she felt a connection to her entire life, something that has been a great advantage to the Society and for the preservation of Madison County history.

MCHS is grateful to Dietrich's family, her brother Chuck Dietrich and her nephew Charles Dietrich, who designated MCHS as one of the organizations for memorials in her honor.

Cont. on page 3

RECENT NEWS

MAE GRAPPERHAUS

(Continued from page 2)

Mary "Mae" Olivia (Mersinger) Grapperhaus, 82, of rural Troy, passed away on June 5, in Troy, Illinois. Mae was born on June 30, 1938, the daughter of Oscar and Louise (nee Levo) Mersinger in Highland, Illinois, and was a life-long resident of Troy, Illinois. She married James Grapperhaus on June 10, 1961.

Mae was a 1956 graduate of Troy's McCray Dewey High School. She later studied journalism at Southwestern Illinois College and SIU Edwardsville, followed by work as both editor and reporter of the *Troy Times Tribune*. After retiring, she continued to write a history column for the newspaper.

She was active in many organizations in Troy including work as a founder and past president of the Troy Historical Society and the Troy Genealogical Society, making her the "go to" person for anyone seeking information on the history of Troy. She received many awards for her participation in community activities including the Illinois Women of Achievement Award in 2000 and the Troy Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award in 2002.

Her work with the Madison County Historical Society (2006-2020) was greatly appreciated and the Society extends condolences to her six children, their spouses and her many grandchildren.

ITALIAN IMMIGRATION SUBJECT OF AUGUST SPEAKER SERIES

The August program for the MCHS Speaker Series will be a discussion of "Italian Immigration to Madison County" by Joann Condellone.

Beginning with exploration in the 1400s, followed by immigration to this continent, Italians were early participants in the development of the United States.

Italians fought in the Revolutionary War and made contributions to the Constitution. They also fought in the Civil War, developed the first opera house in America, and became mayors, legislators, labor organizers, teachers, dress factory workers and coal miners.

The largest Italian immigration to Madison County occurred during the first major wave of Italian immigration that occurred between the 1880s and 1924. Italians also came to Madison County during the second wave, after World War II, and continue to immigrate today. They were welcomed as intelligent, hard workers, but were also stereotyped as political radicals.

This online program will explore contributions of Italian individuals and families to Madison County's history and current culture.

The MCHS Speaker Series will continue to be online for 2021. The Italian Immigration program will be posted to the website in mid-August.

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 11!



CHAUTAUQUA IS BACK!

Living History Days returns to Edwardsville's City Park on Saturday, September 11 from 3-6 p.m. The festival invites visitors to experience a vivid slice of history through visits from President Teddy Roosevelt and friends at an event modeled after an early 20th century Chautauqua.

Events like this one demonstrate the entertainment enjoyed by area residents a century ago with lively and controversial speakers, music, food and other activities.

Participation is free to everyone, although food vendors will expect payment for their goods...just like 100 years ago! Some things never change.

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP OFFER

Do you know someone who might be interested in joining the Madison County Historical Society? Since all memberships in the Society expire on December 31, MCHS offers new memberships during summer months for just \$15. It's a terrific gift for those that love history!

2021 NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

(2021 Membership Year)

May - June ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

\$250+ Benefactor

William & Elizabeth Krause
Jeff and Melinda Pauk
Rowena McClinton

\$100 Patron/Corporate

David Hanser
Madison County Regional
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\$50 Family

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Don Reaka
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Rachel Tompkins

\$35 Individual

Janet Foehrkolb
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Julie Ann Worthen

2021 ADDITIONAL DONORS

May - June ♦ Thank you for your generosity!

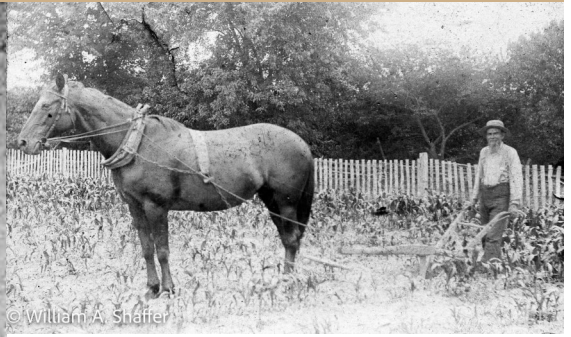
(Includes Memorial Donations for Suzanne Dietrich)

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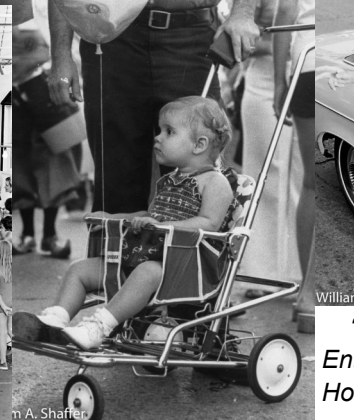
COLLECTED PHOTOS OF EARLY TROY



A sampling of the older photographs collected by Bill and Millie Shaffer include (clockwise from top left) Julius Morris Collins with his aunt, Viola Marie (Morris) Edwards circa 1914; Squire Frank Hampton (1832-1898) was a Troy harness maker who also served as Justice of the Peace; Fred S. Edwards is plowing with his horse, "Old Bill," on July 4, 1898; Viola Morris Edwards riding into Troy (date unknown); Cora Auwarter Edwards (1879-1899) was the daughter of Martin Auwarter who was a Troy merchant for over 60 years; an interior view of the David Sims Grocery Store in 1902. This collected picture was from Dan Woolley; Sisters Viola Morris (1900-1982) and Gladys Morris (1904-2004) with a bicycle circa 1910; Robert Shaffer, Bill's uncle, circa 1930. Bill commented that the family was poor so it was unusual that they found money for this charming portrait. Robert was born in 1927; Keith Leroy Edwards (1899-1939) looks debonair in this portrait with his automobile. Unfortunately he died of illness at the age of 39. Many of these photographs came from a photo album belonging to Viola Morris Edwards, a Troy school teacher.



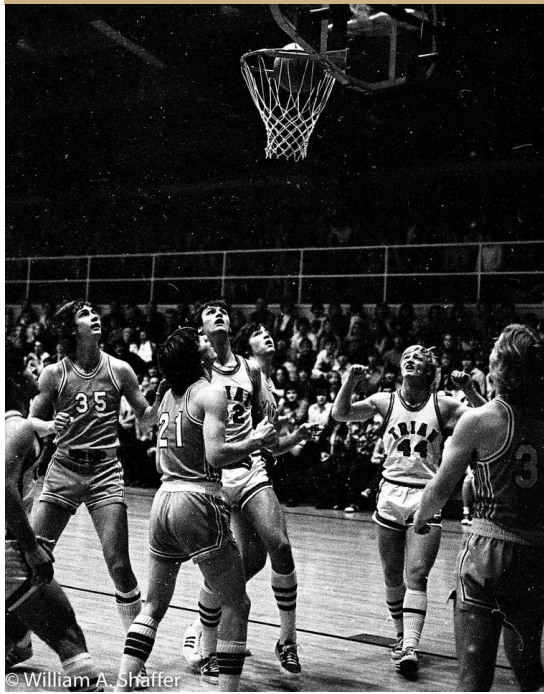
TROY HOMECOMING



"All Roads Lead to Troy for Fun and Entertainment" was the slogan for the Troy Homecoming, a midsummer event held for nearly 90 years that attracted visitors from all over the region. It varied over the decades from one night to three, but there was always music, dancing, concessions, and, by the 1950s, a parade and carnival rides.

Beginning in 1927, Troy Homecoming was an event sponsored by the Troy Volunteer Fire Department to raise funds for equipment. In 1941, the event was co-sponsored by the Troy Lions Club who took it over in 1942, calling it the "Annual Victory Picnic" during the war. The picnic continued until 1950 when they returned to the name "Homecoming" The Lions Club, called it their 8th annual event that year. Homecoming continued through 2017 when the Lions Club announced that the event was ending, not because it was no longer successful...everyone loved Homecoming...but because membership in the Lions Club, like many volunteer organizations, had aged and dwindled from over 100 members to just 24. The incredible contributions of that organization and the memories they created will not be forgotten, partly because of the photography of Bill and Millie Shaffer.

TROJAN ATHLETICS



© William A. Shaffer



Bill doesn't consider himself a sports photographer, but he does a fine job of capturing the

action of these Troy Trojans as well as the "hurry up and wait," aspects of baseball. He catches the anticipation as a basketball drops into the hoop, a player in mid-air and a baseball just before it glides into the catcher's mitt.



© William A. Shaffer

FOR THE LOVE OF RAILROADS



© William A. Shaffer



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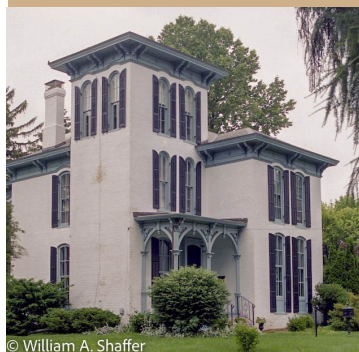


Bill found his career on the railroad where he took thousands of photographs of trains, engineers, and all

things railroad, including the places they took him. Here are some local sites. Clockwise beginning at top left is the infamous one-way railroad bridge at Mont Station; The Wabash Canonball leaving Edwardsville's Wabash Station; The Spirit of St. Louis at St. Jacob; An Illinois Terminal inspection train on a stop near Edwardsville in 1981; The Litchfield and Madison Railway Company shop in Edwardsville. Bottom right is a closer view of the Edwardsville Wabash Station.



IMAGES OF MADISON COUNTY



© William A. Shaffer



© William A. Shaffer



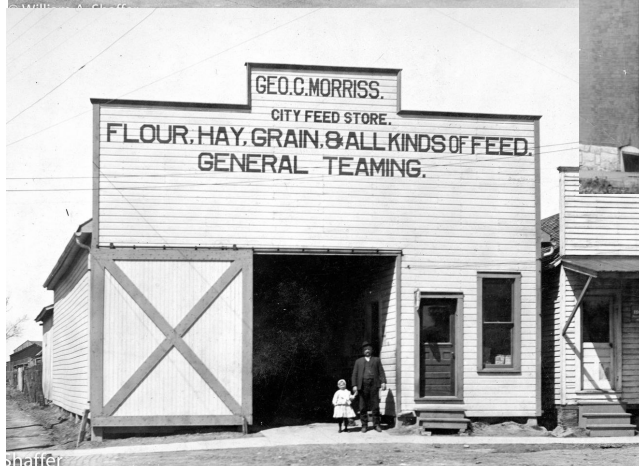
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Shaffer



Clockwise from top left: 306 E. Market Street in Troy is a historic home built for the John Carney family circa 1870. Senator Paul Simon owned the home from 1959-1974.; A Shaffer family reunion in celebration of the 50th anniversary of George D. and Mary (Blakeman) Shaffer in 1928; Pin Oak Town Hall; The Brooks Catsup water tower in Collinsville; A photograph of a pastel portrait of Rev. Dennis Price by Millie Shaffer; The Adams Store at 116 S. Main Street in Troy circa 1987 was a general merchandise store that also had an attached ice house. This photo was taken by photographer Charles Prizzia who had a studio on East Market Street in Troy; The George C. Morriss livery and feed story was located on Clay Street in Troy; Children are eager to begin their first day of school in 1975

at Troy's Grade School; Making applebutter in 1956; Center: The Troy Grain Company had recently closed when it was destroyed in a spectacular fire in 2018. The fire did not reach the century-old silo next to the building but it was taken down within a few weeks of the fire. (All photographs in this newsletter were taken by or from the collections of Bill or Millie Shaffer)

To join or renew MCHS membership, go to <https://madcohistory.org/membership/> or send a check to MCHS, P. O. Box 422, Edwardsville, IL 62025.; For additional information, call 618-656-1294.



Madison County Historical Society

Opening Doors to Madison County History

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Edwardsville, IL 62025

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COMING TO MADISON COUNTY FROM THE



A Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Exhibition
Celebrating the History of America's Democracy



July 19 - August 20, 2021
Hours: 9 a.m - 4 p.m.
Lobby of Madison County
Administration Building
157 N. Main Street, Edwardsville, IL

COMPLIMENTARY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Exhibit: *Women's Suffrage in Madison County*
Curated by staff of the Madison County Historical Museum
Madison County Administration Building Lobby (Same dates & times)
Program: *Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement*

Live music from Chris Vallillo
July 19, 1-3 p.m., Madison County Board Room #206
Zoom program: *Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage for Women in Illinois*
Presenter: Jeanne Schultz Angel
July 26, 2-3:30 p.m.

Panel discussion: *History of Women's Suffrage in Illinois*
SIUE professors Brian Jack and Erik Alexander
August 11, 1-3 p.m.; Madison County Board Room #206
Exhibition: *Illinois Freedom Project*
Engaging young people with African American History in Illinois
July 19-August 20; Wood River Museum and Visitor's Center

FOR INFORMATION, CALL: 618-656-7569

Voices and Votes is hosted by Madison County Government and the Madison County Historical Society in cooperation with Illinois Humanities.

