



MCHS News

March 2021

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 9 No. 2

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.

Early Firefighting in Madison County

by Cindy Reinhardt

Firefighting in 19th century Madison County was a dramatic and dangerous job, yet men (always men at that time) not only volunteered to protect their communities, but they also worked to raise the funds needed to purchase fire equipment.

In the days when towns consisted primarily of wooden structures, fire was an ever-constant threat. Fuel was a common cause of fires when people used oil and kerosene for stoves and lamps. Other causes were fireplaces, lighting, explosions, and arson, as well as terrifying prairie fires for those living in the countryside. Explosions were nearly a regular occurrence at flour mills where flour dust is very combustible.

The largest obstacle to the success of early firefighters was the availability of water, or lack thereof. Before communities had water

works, water had to be sourced from the nearest wells, cisterns, ponds, and rivers. At the first part of the 19th century, there were no pumpers or hoses to bring water to a fire. If water was available nearby, a bucket brigade could be organized, but if the fire had already taken hold, there was usually no chance of saving a building. Unfortunately, except for small fires, the bucket brigade was not very effective. Often the best they could do was use axes and other tools to clear away fences or other flammable materials from around a burning building to prevent the fire from spreading.

A bucket brigade was described in the book *Serving Together: 150 Years of Firefighting in*

Madison County by Betty Richardson and Dennis Henson, "...two human lines were formed between the burning structure and the nearest source of water. One line, made up of able-bodied men, passed full buckets to the person nearest the blaze. The other line, often made up of women and children, relayed empty buckets back for refilling. It is said the lines often worked back-to-back in an attempt to prevent flirtation and water fights."

Interestingly, the fire wagons came with a set of buckets made of leather (later of metal). Both had rounded bottoms so they would be of no use for household or farm chores. It was the only way to assure the buckets would be there when needed for a fire.

Volunteering for these early organizations involved a sense of duty and bravery. There was no protective clothing and the treatment for burns was primitive. Any injury, a cut or scratch or worse,

brought the risk of infection which could be deadly in the days before penicillin.

The first fire brigade in Madison County was chartered in Alton in 1835 by a group of volunteers. Volunteers remain a key component of many fire departments. Today, in Madison County, there are 34 fire departments and fire protection districts that include career, combination and all-volunteer companies. All of them began as volunteer brigades, with some communities organizing earlier than others.

The Alton or Engine Company No. 1 was chartered in 1835, and an Alton town ordinance regarding the fire department followed in 1838.



This firehouse at 314 State Street in Alton was built in 1896 and used by the Alton Fire Department until 1990. In 1973, it underwent a major renovation where the facade of the building was replaced to install high doors that could accommodate modern equipment. As a result, the building has not retained this historic architectural appearance. Today, with a nod to its original appearance, the building is a tavern called "The Firehouse." (Hayner Library)

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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

EFD Donates Records and Artifacts

In February, the Madison County Historical Society received a collection of items reflecting the history of the Edwardsville



EFD Fireman's Badge

Fire Department. Fire Chief James Whiteford donated the items on behalf of the department and Firefighter Doug Moody coordinated the donation. The collection comprises approximately seven cubic feet of record books, early photographs of firefighters (some used in this newsletter), equipment, and a variety of other artifacts. So far museum and library staff have catalogued sprinkler heads, fire badges, and ledgers dating back to the 1930s with descriptions of fire calls.

Archival Library is Open

Patrons are reminded that the Madison County Archival Library is open regular hours, but phone reservations are recommended for the foreseeable future.

Smithsonian Exhibit Coming

Museum Superintendent Jon Parkin, working with the Illinois Humanities Council, has made arrangements to bring a Smithsonian Exhibit to Madison County.

"Voices and Votes: Democracy in America" is tentatively scheduled for July 17 – Aug. 21 in the atrium at the Madison County Administration Building (depending on COVID). It is based on a major exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and will be enhanced with materials from our museum to provide a local component.

The exhibit takes a close look at how our democracy developed over the course of its history in a way that is both interesting and educational. This is one of numerous stops across the country for the exhibit.

Holiday Closure

The Archival Library will be closed April 2 and April 4 for the Easter holiday.

Civil War Records Received

The State of Illinois has delivered copies of the records MCHS donated to the State as promised. (See January newsletter).

NEW ARCHIVAL LIBRARY RESEARCH MANAGER

Mary Z. Rose, Alton, was recently appointed as the new Archival Library Research Manager. Rose is exceptionally qualified for the position. She began working at the Madison County Historical Museum five years ago as a volunteer, then four years ago accepted a part-time position as assistant curator at the museum.

Rose earned her Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2001. Prior to coming to the Madison County Historical Museum and Archival Library, she held three other library positions. After college, she found a job as the Assistant Director of the Tri-Township Public Library District in Troy, where her multiple duties included reference service, collection development, and cataloging. Following that job, she worked at the Bryan Cave law firm in downtown St. Louis as a cataloging librarian. In 2007, she was hired as Metadata Librarian at Lovejoy Library at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). At SIUE she created online collections and exhibits featuring the library's archival and special collections materials.

It was at SIUE that Rose discovered her love of archival collections. Rose calls her

new position as Archival Research Manager at the Madison County Archival Library her "dream job."

In her new role, she is responsible for providing access to the Madison County Historical Society's archival collections through research services, finding aids, outreach, exhibitions, and digitization. She also coordinates the "behind-the-scenes" work necessary for the library to function, like accessioning donations, arranging and describing collections, and preserving documents.

Over the past five years, Rose says she has "learned about the unique resources available at the Madison County Archival Library and is excited about finding new ways to make them available to researchers and anyone curious about history."



*Mary Z. Rose
(Jon Parkin photo)*

RECENT NEWS

Work of Volunteers

Three new volunteers are working with MCHS to create and improve Madison County history resources.

Steve Rensberry recently retired from the news business to focus full-time on his piano tuning business. Since he's down to just one job, he cheerfully volunteered to help keep our website up-to-date. Steve and webmaster Adam Celuch have made many improvements in the last month.

Connie Royston, a lifelong Madison County native, is working with us to create indexes of several books about Madison County that were published by Arcadia Publishing. She has finished two books and is working on a third. When completed the indexes will be placed on the website and in the library for researchers.

Bob Gill, of Alton, has been a videographer for more than 40 years and since retiring has agreed to record all of the MCHS Speaker Series programs. Bob skillfully weaves music and historically appropriate images throughout the programs.

Join the conversation and learn more at the
MCHS Facebook Page:
Madison County Historical Society

New on MCHS Website

There is a new tab at the top of the MCHS website called "Exploring History." Subjects under the new tab include online exhibits, newsletters and two new options, "Building Histories" and "Artifact Spotlight."

Artifacts will appear every month or so and Building Histories will be added regularly, with the first three already online for reading.

Cindy Reinhardt has written over 200 building histories over the years and will gradually review and edit these, adding them to the site.

Others who have written the history of a Madison County building are invited to submit their stories also. If you are interested in submitting a story, call 618-656-1294.

The website address is <https://madcohistory.org/>

Thank You for Donations!

MCHS is very grateful for all the recent donations to the Capital Campaign. Until we are able to get together to hold fundraisers, these donations will allow work on the museum to continue. Over \$47,000 came in during the last three months for renovation.

SIUE Projects

Work continues on two MCHS projects with work coordinated by SIUE students. The first is a Route 66 Driving Tour application being developed by a graduate student in history working with a team of computer science students. The second is a class project attaching QR codes to history towers that will be distributed to locations throughout Madison County.

Speaker Series Moves Online

The MCHS Speaker Series for the foreseeable future will be on the Society's website. Each program includes a Q & A session with the presenter on the date advertised. The program is posted in advance to allow time for viewers to watch the video.

The program on historical elections in Madison County given last September by Stephen Hansen and the recent program by J. Eric Robinson on researching Black families from Pin Oak Township are on the website now.

The next program will feature Peter Stehman's program on "The Lynching of Robert Prager." Questions and Answers (Q & A) on Facebook will be at 2 p.m. on April 11 with the program posted two weeks in advance.

2021 NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

(2021 Membership Year)

January-February ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

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2021 DONORS FOR MUSEUM RENOVATION

January-February ♦ Thank you for your generosity!

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EARLY FIREFIGHTING IN MADISON COUNTY (CONT FROM PAGE 1)



Edwardsville Fire Company #1's award-winning running team posed for this photo on June 17, 1900, at the Illinois State Fireman's Competition. Shown are (notice numbers on photo): 1. Pede Rump, 2. Cape Burger, 3. Jim Burns, 4. Ben Bernius, 5. George Hanser, 6. Clarence Tyndall, 7. Fred Ziegler, 8. Jule Schulze, 9. Ben Wood, 10. Charles Sommerlad, 11. Edwin Morefield, 12. Sam Woods, 13. Charles Rau, 14. Simon Kellerman, 15. Henry "Red" Faust, and 16. Harvey Stone. (Mike Pichioldi) The medal shown here was from the Sixth Annual State Fireman's Tournament in 1896. This was won by the Edwardsville Department, but other Madison County departments also did well in the competitions. (Edwardsville Fire Department)



There were roughly a half dozen companies organized in Alton before the Civil War.

According to a 1993 history of the Alton Fire Department by Capt. Don Johann, "The volunteer companies were made up of men and older boys who usually had something in common other than the fact that they were concerned for the safety of their community. Some were of the same ethnic background, members of the same fraternal clubs, same political parties, relatives, same church or religion, or members of the same neighborhoods."

The men trained together, which led to great camaraderie among the firefighters in a company. Early on they began holding competitions between fire companies in the region, state, or even in the same city to test the skills they learned in training to fight fires. There were timed competitions in hauling hose, climbing ladders, pumping water, etc. The competitions involved physical strength and the ability to best use various firefighting apparatus.

This physical prowess was needed since many of the men lived a distance from the firehouse. When the alarm was sounded, they had to first run to the fire house for equipment, then haul equipment (by hand or with horses) to the scene of the fire, before actually beginning the task of firefighting. If not in good shape, the men could be exhausted before the actual firefighting began.

In the early days, firefighters were called to a fire with church/fire bells, whistles or sirens. Because of the very public alarm, everyone in town knew when there was a fire. By the late 1800s, when the volunteer firemen showed up for a fire, many of their departments began paying a small

stipend, perhaps a dollar per man. This caused a competition in some towns where there was more than one company since often only the first one there was paid. At least one town had a policy for a time where if a minimum number of men didn't show up for a fire, then none were paid. Peer pressure usually won out. The funds for paying the firemen often came as a portion of the insurance payment.

Alton obtained a hand pumper in the 1830s, the first professional fire equipment in the county. The pumper had to be hauled by hand or with horses to the location of the fire, no small task on the hills of that city. Once on site, hoses were attached, one to draw water from its source and another to throw the water onto the fire. For a mercifully short time, because the pumper sucked up water from a source, an Alton paper referred to the firefighters as the "Sucker Boys."

The first hook and ladder company was formed in Alton in 1857, but they didn't obtain a ladder truck until 1858 when one was purchased from St. Louis. Alton's City Council agreed to form a paid (career) fire department in 1881, and that marked the end of the volunteer companies in Alton, although there may have been some volunteers for a number of years following the change.

Highland was the next community to organize a fire department. According to the *Centennial History of Highland*, a team of firefighters came out of the Highland Gymnastic Society in the late 1850s. Organizing the available fire equipment and volunteers was one of the first orders of business when Highland's town government was formed in 1865.



This photo shows the first fire station at Highland. It was erected in 1884 by contractor J. H. Miller at a cost of \$2,320 in just 2.5 months. In addition to serving as a firehouse, the building also housed a jail, city offices and meeting rooms. (Jeff Menz)

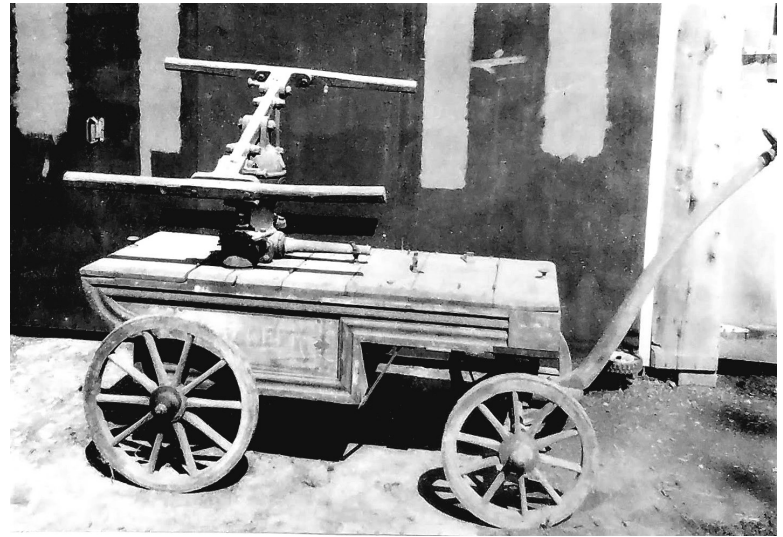
Many Madison County fire companies were founded in the 1870s and 1880s after two particularly devastating fires. In 1871, the Great Chicago Fire and an even more deadly fire at Peshtigo, Wisconsin were widely reported (with great dramatization) in newspapers throughout the country. Reports of these fires, combined with instances of local fires, heralded the need for organized, trained firefighters.

19TH CENTURY FIRE EQUIPMENT

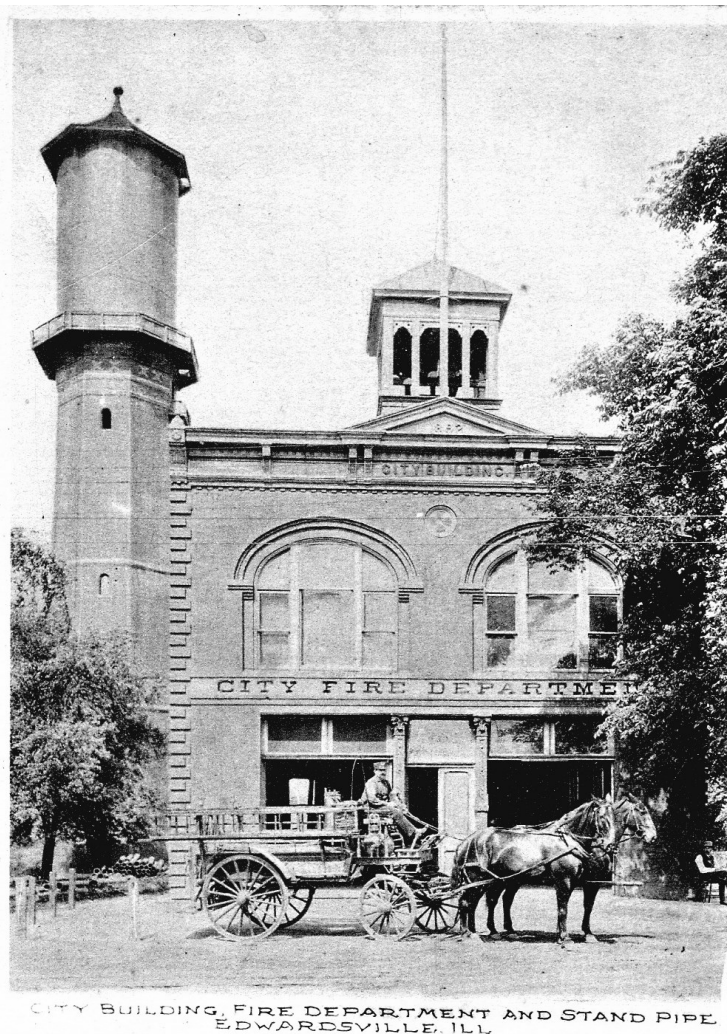
The most valuable piece of early equipment was a pumper that gave firefighters a method of pumping water onto a fire. The earliest ones were hand pumps that were later replaced by pumpers with steam engines. Alton purchased their first steam engine in 1870. The hand pumps needed a crew to work them. There were 4-man to 10-man pumps that required teams of men working at a fast pace to keep the water coming. The old hand pumps were hand drawn at first, but later horse models became available. Early equipment also included ladder trucks with buckets, leather hoses and hose carts. The men carried axes and other hand tools used to clear away combustible materials to limit the scope of a fire. Equipment was often kept at someone's house or barn in the early days before firehouses were built.

Madison County departments often bought equipment second hand from St. Louis or from other more advanced departments in the county. Money was always an issue in those days since few municipalities provided funds for the volunteer departments.

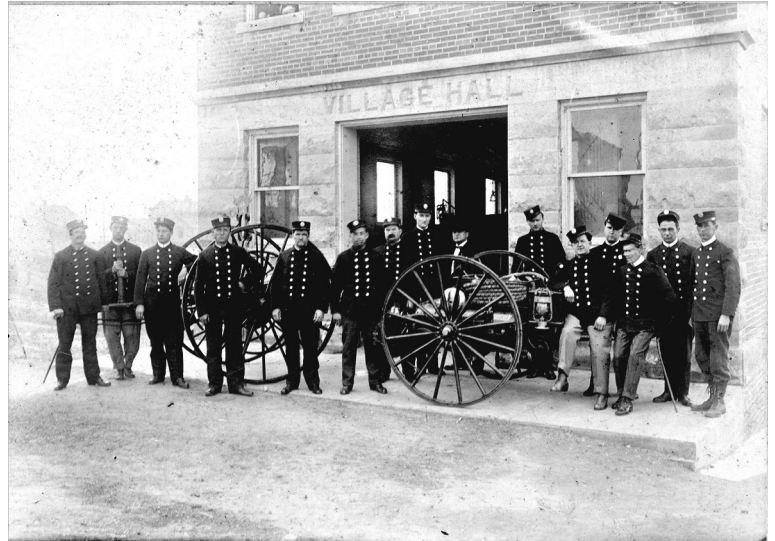
The exact date is unknown, but it is believed that Alton bought their first horses in 1871. Because of the need to



This two-four man hand pump was the first fire equipment used by the Alhambra Fire Department. As the pump gained speed, hand and arm injuries from the "flying" handles were not uncommon. After the purchase of a horse-drawn pump, it was no longer needed. It was sold to a museum in Kentucky. (Highland Home Museum)



This photo postcard, circa 1906, shows J. McCune and the Edwardsville Fire Department's new team of black horses. The horses had been part of the Fire Department at the 1904 World's Fair. Also shown is a nearly new combination hose, chemical wagon and ladder truck also purchased from the fair. (MCHS)



Glen Carbon Village firemen pose in front of their fire house with hose reel and cart. Circa 1910. (Glen Carbon Heritage Museum)

stable and care for the animals, most volunteer departments didn't have teams until closer to the turn of the century. Numerous departments purchased horses and new equipment at the St. Louis World's Fair. Horses, of course, were an improvement, but they also brought a new set of problems. As described in *Serving Together*, "Alton had two teams of horses drawing hose carts by 1882, although the horses had to be led up and down the city's steep hills. If the horses were rapidly driven up the hills, they would become exhausted, if run rapidly down, the driver risked losing all control of his vehicle."

Edwardsville bought its first team of horses at the World's Fair which resulted in the city's first two paid employees who were drivers.

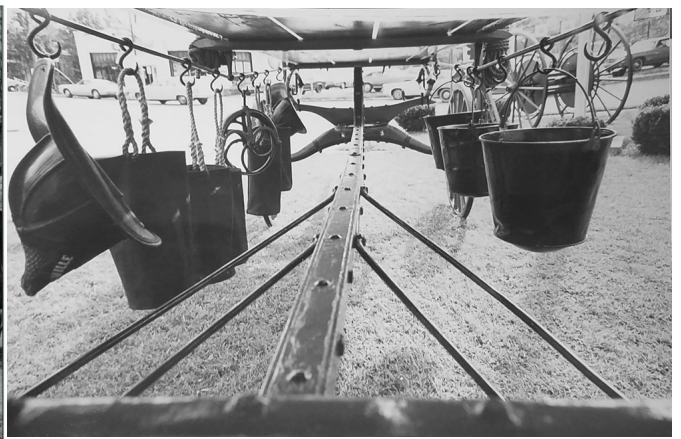
A tradition of fireman's picnics, balls, dances, homecomings and other fundraising events held to raise funds for equipment and uniforms was well established by the 1850s. The Grankfork and Maryville fire companies still host their

EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

annual homecoming celebrations to benefit the fire department in their communities.

Madison County firemen were also involved in state and local associations. They were some of the founding members of the Illinois State Fireman's Association and often hosted conventions. The conventions held state competitions where many departments brought in their equipment by train to participate. The conventions were also a place to make contacts with other departments that might have equipment for sale.

Alton was also first to purchase motorized vehicles when in 1911 they purchased a Webb truck built in St. Louis and a Johnson truck manufactured in Milwaukee. It's interesting to note though that it would be a decade before they sold off the last of the fire horses. Like other towns in Madison County, they had a combination of horses and motorized vehicles for a number of years. By the 1920s the larger Madison County communities had all purchased their first trucks.



Pictured at left are men in the Granite City Fire Department in 1910. They are standing in front of their new chemical and hose wagon built by Moon Carriage Works in St. Louis. This one had been a display model at the 1904 World's Fair. (Larry Zotti) Chemicals were first used on fires in Madison County in the 1870s. At right is a view of the undercarriage of an Edwardsville ladder wagon still owned by the department (but no longer used, of course). Notice the rounded bottoms on the buckets. (Edwardsville Fire Department)

EARLY LEADERS

Early fire service leaders created an exemplary tradition of public service in their Madison County communities. Three are shown here, but there were many more.

The Simon Kellermanns - Edwardsville

Three generations of one family, all named Simon Kellermann, created a firefighters' legacy in Edwardsville. In 1922, a newspaper article related that Simon Kellermann Sr. was first elected president of the Edwardsville Fire Department in 1883 and served for many years. His son, Simon Jr. had a longtime interest and was at the time president of the Illinois Fireman's Association and Simon III was captain of the 1922 company running team. Simon III would later serve many years as the legal representative for the Illinois Fireman's Association.



Simon Kellermann Jr.'s contributions were recognized with a nine-foot granite memorial at Edwardsville's City Park. In addition to personal firefighting when he was younger, he served as secretary of Edwardsville Fire Company #1 for 58 years and held numerous positions during his 55 years of active service with the state organization.

Lucas Pfeifferberger - Alton

Many know the Pfeifferberger name, but usually in the context of his work as an architect and contractor. Many examples of his work can be seen today in Madison County. But Lucas Pfeifferberger should also be remembered for his contributions to the fire service. He came to Alton in 1857 for a temporary visit, but stayed and in 1866 was appointed head of the Alton Fire Department, a position he held until 1872 when he was elected Mayor of Alton. In 1881, under his direction, Alton established Madison County's first "paid" fire department (also known as a career fire department).

Fred Stegelmeyer - Granite City



Fred Stegelmeyer
(Patti Netemeyer)

In 1896, the year Granite City was founded, Fred Stegelmeyer organized a volunteer fire department in Granite City. In the beginning, the crew had only a high-wheel hose cart for equipment, but as industrialization grew, the need for the most up-to-date equipment was recognized. Stegelmeyer was the first fire chief, a position he would hold for 16 of his 25 years as a member of the department. In 1922 the department changed from volunteer to a career department.

EARLY MADISON COUNTY FIRES

Alton Church Destroyed by Fire

St. Matthew's Catholic Church, a stone church built on Third Street in Alton in 1843, was completely destroyed by fire in 1854. Several surrounding buildings were also total losses. The firemen worked to clear surrounding areas, but there was no water to put on the fire. Below is part of the newspaper's account of the fire:

"The church occupied one of the highest points in the city, and as the night had set in before it caught fire, it presented a magnificent but mournful spectacle. As the flames rapidly traversed its roof, and encircled its cupola with its fitful blaze, the vast assemblage of spectators were hushed to silence. Soon the gallery with its splendid organ fell to the main floor, and then the bell came down with a dud ringing noise. A glance through the burning windows revealed the highly ornamental altar a mass of fire, while the flames wreathed around the tall candlesticks which adorned it. All eyes were now turned to the cupola, which had now become one mass of fire. It was seen to sway for a moment in the air, and then came down with a heavy crash, carrying with it a portion of the burning roof in its descent. Many of those who had been regular attendants upon the service of the church could not restrain their tears. Thus was destroyed the finest public building in our city."

The Wann Disaster

On Jan. 21, 1893, at the Wann Station at Alton Junction (now East Alton) there was a horrific explosion and fire after a passenger train collided with 25 oil tank cars when a switch was mistakenly left open. Most of the passengers survived the crash initially. At the sound of the collision nearby businessmen and residents rushed to assist, but just as they arrived on scene there was an explosion and 7,000 gallons of burning oil created what was called a "rain of fire." Fourteen more boxcars caught fire and more of the tankers exploded, all in rapid succession. Nearby houses caught fire and burned to the ground. The cries of the burned and wounded were horrific. Three dozen died and twice that were burned or injured.

The story was covered in the newspapers for months as many trials resulted from the disaster, but few succeeded in their search for compensation. The courts ruled they were trespassing on railroad property when they were injured, so the railroad was not responsible. A historic marker marks the location today.

The Godfrey & Gillman Warehouse Fire

One of the most widely reported fires in Madison County in the early days was that of the Godfrey and Gillman warehouse in Alton. On Nov. 7, 1837, a pro-slavery mob attacked the warehouse intent on destroying the printing press of abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy. The press was destroyed and thrown in the river, Elijah Lovejoy was killed and the warehouse burned. No one was ever convicted of the murder and arson.

Illinois State Prison Fire

On Aug. 13, 1858, the state prison at Alton (later the Confederate penitentiary) had a major fire that greatly challenged firefighters. The prison consisted of numerous buildings. The main building was spared, but workshops, kitchens, dining hall, chapel, and others were destroyed. It was a long, very hot exhausting fire for the local firemen. Once they had it under control, the crew of a steamship at the dock in Alton was sent ashore to give the firemen a few hours respite before going back to the smoldering ruins to complete the job. The fire was mostly contained within the prison walls, but embers did jump the wall, landing on the roof of a nearby mill. Firemen were able to prevent the building from catching fire. Despite the pandemonium of the fire, no prisoners escaped.

Other Fires

In the early morning hours of Nov. 25, 1889, the commercial district of Edwardsville was in danger of being destroyed by fire. The fire started at

A Sunday Blaze.

The residence of Maj. Wm. R. Brink, on St. Louis street, was discovered on fire, Sunday, shortly after twelve o'clock. The alarm was given and the neighborhood aroused. The fire company responded promptly. The engine was placed at a well on Joseph Steis' premises, and after some work the flames were gotten under control. Difficulty was experienced in drawing water, and after a time, the supply was exhausted. The apparatus was then moved to a cistern of H. C. Barnsback. Fortunately, before the water here gave out, the fire was subdued. The fire company did effective work. Several bucket brigades rendered material assistance. The second story was completely burned out. The building is practically a complete loss. The furniture and household goods were mostly saved by the neighbors before the fire had made much headway. The cause of the fire is unknown. It may have burned some time before it was discovered. The loss was probably \$2,500 to \$3,000, which is fully covered by insurance. Mrs. Brink and children are staying at the residence of M. B. Sherman, temporarily. Mr. Brink was away.

The above Edwardsville fire in September, 1891, illustrates several points regarding early fires in Madison County. First, the difficulty in obtaining water. Next, notice that the residents of the home were able to save almost all of their furnishings because friends, neighbors and passers-by would typically all run INTO a burning building to save household goods. (Not a practice recommended today!) Although this fire was covered by insurance, often buildings and contents were under-insured or not insured at all. This house was a complete loss. The owner, W. R. Brink, built a new house on the same lot. Brink was the publisher of the 1882 Madison County history and an 1873 county atlas.

the Edwardsville Mill on Second Street and, for a time, residents feared that the fire would take all of Main Street. The first buildings to be consumed by the flames were the five-story mill, warehouse and elevator owned by the Kehlor Brothers. When the elevator fell, it quickly set fire to a two-story brick building on what is now the corner of College and North Main Street. Another half dozen buildings followed. Storefronts, warehouses and homes were destroyed in the fire.



Madison County Historical Society

Opening Doors to Madison County History

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APRIL ONLINE SPEAKER

We invite you to watch the video of this program on the MCHS website beginning April 1, then join us on Sunday, April 11 at 2 p.m. on the Madison County Historical Society Facebook page for a Q & A with author Peter Stehman. Stehman is the author of the book *Patriotic Murder: A World War I Hate Crime for Uncle Sam* which tells the story of the lynching of Robert Prager in Collinsville.

Madison County Historical Society
ONLINE SPEAKER SERIES
2021

The Lynching of Robert Prager:
A World War I Hate Crime for Uncle Sam

SUN 11 2 PM
Peter Stehman

LOCAL FIREHOUSE MUSEUMS

There are two century-old former firehouses that are now museums. The Granite City Fire Department's museum is run by Larry Zotti, who has restored many vintage firetrucks over the years. The former Maryville firehouse is now the home of the Maryville Heritage Museum which in addition to numerous items celebrating the community's history, there is a bay with a vintage fire engine. Both museums are currently open by appointment only due to COVID.



Maryville firehouse
circa 1940. (Picchioldi)

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

If there is a red dot on your mailing label, then you have not renewed your membership in MCHS for 2021 and, sadly, this will be your last newsletter. It breaks our heart, but to continue mailings when memberships have not been renewed, would break our bank! You can renew online at: <https://www.madcohistory.org/membership/>, in person at the Madison County Archival Library, or by mail to MCHS, P. O. Box 422, Edwardsville, IL, 62025, or for information, call 618-656-1294.

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.