



A CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN WOMEN 1888-1892

by Mary Z. Rose
Archives Librarian, MCHS

Sometimes a collection grabs my imagination and won't let go.

This is an occupational hazard. I began working at Madison County Historical Society's Archival Library as a volunteer nine years ago, was hired a year later, and became the Archives Librarian in 2021. I'm surrounded by historical documents of all kinds that tell the stories of past lives. We have engraved student awards with gold foil seals and lithographs of nineteenth-century country estates. Our picture file includes photographs of public buildings and private homes, soldiers and children, and even one of a lady equestrian. While the library isn't a repository for county records (just probate files), we have the odd calligraphic marriage license or baptismal certificate in German. And we have letters, lots of letters.

In 1987, the Society received a small group of letters along with an assortment of other items. The donation was documented, and the items were cataloged and filed. The box of letters was described as "Correspondence of Wade family, Alton" and stored on stack A, shelf 1 in the library archives. I ran

across the collection about four years ago working on another project. (We eventually digitized and transcribed them; you can read them all online in



the digital collection "Private and Real—A Collection of Correspondence Between Women" at <https://www.idaillinois.org/>.) The letters represent one side of a late-nineteenth century conversation between two women in their twenties. This type of correspondence is very rare; most surviving letters from the 1800s are records of "important" interactions between businessmen or politicians (men), or letters from soldiers (men) treasured and kept by the recipients.

In contrast, this collection gives us unmatched insight into what life was like 130-odd years ago for young Midwestern women of the white upper-middle class.

When I found and read the eleven letters, I couldn't get them out of my mind. I immersed myself in the lives of Nan and Hallie (the correspondents) and learned everything I could about them. It seems very appropriate that I get to introduce you to these young women in March—Women's History Month.

Cont. Page 4

Cabinet card photograph of Anna "Nan" Howell, author of the featured letter collection, by D.C. Pratt, circa mid-1880s. Source: Familysearch.org, posted September 13, 2013, by GlennaMarshall42.

WILD COLUMBINE COMING TO MADISON COUNTY

Thanks to grants from the Illinois Arts Council and the Illinois State Historical Society, MCHS is bringing the group "Wild Columbine" to Edwardsville on April 13 for the second of this year's Speaker Series events. With a focus on "In Lincoln's Time," this group will demonstrate the instruments and music that the Lincolns might have enjoyed. They are

experienced musicians, collectively representing more than 80 years of performance experience. The music is created using flutes, whistles, violin, guitars, harmonium, concertina, and bodhran. They are from Central Illinois, but have performed at venues throughout the State of Illinois. See times and location of the performance on Page 8.

Library Hours
Mon. - Fri., 9 a. m. - 4 p. m.
Sunday 1 p. m. - 4 p. m.
Call for Museum Hours

**Madison County History Museum
and Library**
801 N. Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Contact us:
Library: 618-656-7569
Society: 618-656-1294
Email: info@madcohistory.org

RECENT NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MCHS is in need of additional volunteers to serve as docents now that the museum is open. We also have many events featured on the calendar where we could use additional hands. Please contact Mary Rose at the library (618-656-7569) if you are interested in becoming an MCHS Volunteer.

CURRENT EXHIBITS EXTENDED

Since weather has made it difficult for some to get to the museum, the dates for the current exhibits, "Route 66 in Madison County" and "Buildings of a Bygone Era," have been extended to the end of March. We've noticed that children especially like the mastodon tusk on the second floor!

RENEWAL NOTICES MAILED

Reminder postcards were recently sent to those who have not renewed their membership yet. (We know there's always a lot coming in over the holidays.) We hope you will continue to support the Society where every membership dollar counts and is greatly appreciated.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE PROBATE PROJECT

Congratulations are due to MCHS staff and volunteers on the completion of three probate projects over the course of 12 years! Their dedication made it possible to take on this important program. Here's what was involved:

Probate records at MCHS contain legal documentation collected at the death of a Madison County resident (1900-1960). Content varies, but can include a last will and testament, lists of heirs, unpaid bills at the time of death, funeral receipts, description of real estate, lists of personal property, and more. There are also 400 guardianship files, which can be older, that show who was assigned as guardian for minor children or for adults deemed incompetent.

The first probate file project began in 2013 when Madison County agreed to give all the above described documents except the original will to MCHS. MCHS volunteers opened each file, copied the will, set the original aside to return to the county, and rewrapped the probate file with a copy of the will instead of the original.

The county had indexed the files, but the guardianship files were sometimes filed under the guardian and sometimes under the minor child or person in need of a guardian. After the first work was completed, volunteers returned to the files to index guardianship papers.

Just when our hearty volunteers thought they had seen the last of the probate files in 2022, MCHS was approached by FamilySearch who was interested in scanning every document in each probate file...that's literally millions of scans. Volunteers were needed to open each tri-folded probate folder and flatten the documents in preparation for scanning. FamilySearch provided the equipment for scanning and the personnel to do the scanning.

The original estimate was that it would be a ten-year project. However, soon after starting the project, FamilySearch decided a second scanner was needed which meant that if the volunteers could keep up, the project could be completed in five years.

With the hard work of dozens of volunteers, the work was completed in less than three years! FamilySearch has been putting the records online almost as fast as they could scan them so historians and genealogists worldwide can access these valuable records. (Note: FamilySearch, for privacy reasons, only scanned documents up to 1940.)

As an added value with this project, MCHS developed a relationship with FamilySearch and is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library giving patrons access to more FamilySearch online records when searching from the Madison County Archival Library.



Marty Lane (left) and Betty Byrd, long-time library volunteers, work on the Probate Project in 2022. (Reinhardt)

MCHS BOARD

Fred Faust, Pres.
Robert Clouse, V-Pres.
Arnold Meyer, Treas.
Candace Ladd, Sec.
Norma Asadorian
Leslie Bednar
Donna Caban Bisset
Tallin Curran
Bob Daiber
Wilbert Glasper
Stephen Hansen
Carol Manning
Stephen Mudge
Jeff Pauk
Cindy Reinhardt
Jeff Skoblow

STAFF

Robert Clouse
Operations Director
Mary Z. Rose
Archives Librarian
Jenn VanBibber
Museum Curator

Sunday Staff

Robert Clouse
Stephen Mudge
Cindy Reinhardt
Jeff Pauk

PUBLICATIONS

MCHS NEWS

Cindy Reinhardt, Editor
cindy.reinhardt@madcohistory.org

VOLUNTEERS

There are abundant and varied opportunities for volunteers at either the Museum or the 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 a MCHS membership. Memberships run on the calendar year, Jan 1-Dec 31. Applications are available on the MCHS website, or at the Library.

The Madison County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

BUILDING NEWS

Installation of solar panels on the roof of the library was completed recently. The power company will activate the connection soon, and the expected savings will be realized within 30 days.



There were multiple heating issues in the last month. One of the furnaces in the Collection Center had to be replaced. Fortunately, Bob Schuh did the work for us at an affordable price. Heat was also an issue in the Weir House (museum building). A part of the heating system failed, leaving the first floor of the building without heat. The part needed was covered by warranty, but took approximately two weeks to arrive. Since the second floor units were still functioning, space heaters made first floor temperature tolerable. The museum remained open to the public the entire time.

Volunteers installed a new garage door opener in the garage behind the library. Other exterior work will be completed when the weather is warmer.

2025 NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Newsletter sponsors help pay publishing and postage expenses for the newsletter. The cost for a memorial ad in honor of someone special in your life is \$500. An annual corporate sponsorship is \$1,000. Please contact editor Cindy Reinhardt if you are interested in sponsoring the *MCHS News*: 618-656-1294.

FUN AT JANUARY RECEPTION



WHY HAVE AN ANNUAL APPEAL?

This year's Annual Appeal will be mailed in April. It sometimes causes confusion since members wonder why they are being asked for additional funds when they have already paid for membership. The fact is, without government funding, even if our membership was double what it is now, we would still need an Annual Appeal to meet our budget.



Our very tight annual budget of over \$150,000 pays for maintenance and utilities of four buildings, two salaries (librarian and curator), plus insurance, preservation supplies, publications, exhibits, and much more. The goal is to eventually raise about half the budget through the Annual Appeal which is sent to many people who are not on our membership list. The other half of the budget is realized through membership fees and fundraisers throughout the year.

If you are able, we would be very grateful to receive a donation during the Annual Appeal. If not, then we also appreciate your support through membership and encourage you to reach out to others to encourage membership in MCHS.

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

Making a Difference.
One Relationship at a Time.

BANK of MADISON COUNTY
— A Division of Bank of Belleville —

Smaller Bank • Bigger Service • Stronger Community

119 S. Main St.—Edwardsville, Illinois

BANK of MADISON COUNTY
— A Division of Bank of Belleville —
Smaller Bank • Bigger Service • Stronger Community

bankofmadisoncounty.com

618-656-2882

Member FDIC and Our Community

ANNA “NAN” HOWELL (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

The recipient of the letters, Hannah Wallace “Hallie” Wade, was born in her parents’ house at 1014 Henry St. in Alton on Feb. 4, 1870. Her father Edward “E.P.” Wade worked at the Alton National Bank at the corner of Third and Belle streets, where his father Samuel was the bank president. E.P.’s wife Mary Elizabeth was the daughter of physician George T. Allen. Hallie’s older sister Mary Eunice was eight years old when Hallie was born.

Hallie’s parents were among Alton’s elite society. Her father eventually became president of Alton National Bank. He held various positions on the Monticello Seminary board of trustees, including a long stint as chairman. He was president of the association that erected the Lovejoy monument in Alton City Cemetery. Hallie’s mother was active in the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association. The family employed a live-in domestic servant.

Hallie enrolled at Monticello Female Seminary in 1888. (Despite its name, it was not a theological institution: the word ‘seminary’ just meant ‘secondary school’ at this time in American history.) The campus in Godfrey, Illinois, is now home to Lewis and Clark Community College (LCCC). The girls’ school was established in 1838 at a time when the nation was awakening to the idea that women deserved an education. From the beginning, students learned grammar and rhetoric, history, geography, philosophy, and various branches of mathematics and science as well as the more traditional subjects of voice and music. By 1867, Monticello had become a college-prep school that attracted students from across the United States. Hallie’s sister had attended Monticello, as had the girls’ mother and three of their aunts.

The letters in the collection were written by Anna Lois “Nan” Howell. Nan was born in November 1868 in the city of Aurora (about forty miles west of Chicago) in Kane County, Illinois. She was the youngest of at least six siblings. Her New York-born father Isaac M. Howell was a well-to-do lumber dealer; his wife Cornelia (nee Ruggles) was born in Ohio. Nan’s father died in 1881 in a gruesome freak accident: a train ran over him as he was attempting to disembark in Chicago.

I haven’t been able to determine how Nan ended up at Monticello Female Seminary in Godfrey, but as I said, it was a well-known girls’ prep school. It doesn’t appear that any of her family members had previously attended Monticello. Nan was a student in 1887 and left in 1888 without graduating. Hallie graduated in June 1889. It is almost certain that this is where Nan and Hallie met.

Letters 1: September 1888

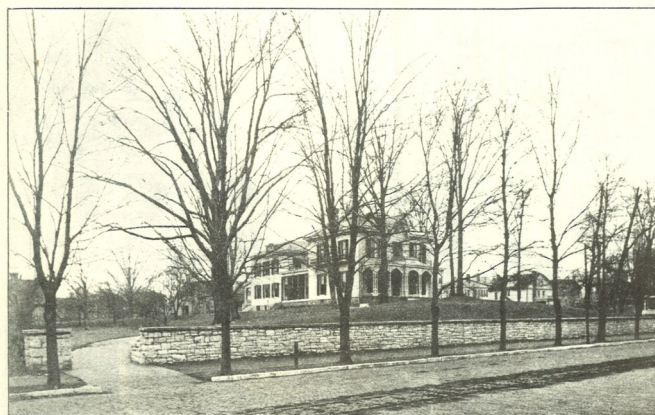
The first letter in the collection is dated September 11, 1888. Right away we get a sense of Nan’s personality. Nan, who is living with her mother, tells Hallie that she received a surprise visit from John Duncan. It is apparent that John is smitten with Hallie, but Hallie is acting cool without completely discouraging his interest. Nan scolds her friend saying John is “lovely” and Hallie is “simply foolish to treat him like a dog.” She then switches gears to write about a visit from mutual friend and classmate Nora “Dell”

Hatheway. Nan describes the kinds of things young people did for fun at the end of the nineteenth century. She and Dell met up with other friends for carriage rides and picnics with lamb chops broiled over an open fire. Nan and John and Nan’s boyfriend Harry Reeves attended a YPSCE (Young People’s Society of Christian Endeavor) meeting and saw a play starring Lotta Crabtree.

John Duncan and Dell Hatheway are both part of documented Alton history. John Duncan’s father Gilbert was born in Scotland; his mother Sarah (nee McNeil) was born in Ireland. Gilbert Duncan partnered with Brutus Bruner to establish the Bruner & Duncan iron works in Alton in 1874. By

1912, John’s three brothers had bought out Bruner and were running the Duncan Bros. Foundry and Machine Shop as well as two other Alton factories. John, however, did not join the family business.

Hallie’s first cousin Dell Hatheway eventually married Elmer Whitney, and their daughter Ann married local ammunition manufacturing magnate Spencer T. Olin. The Hatheway Cultural Center at LCCC was originally donated by Spencer and Ann Olin to Monticello College in memory of Ann’s mother.



RESIDENCE OF EDWARD P. WADE,
1014 Henry Street, Alton, Illinois.

Above: Photograph of the Wade residence at 1014 Henry St. in Alton. The house still stands; the lot on the west side of Henry Street extends all the way from Tenth Street to Eleventh Street. Source: Alton Illinois. St. Louis: James Allan Reid, 1912. MCHS item 1982-063-0001.

Below: Photograph of Monticello Female Seminary circa 1860–1888. Source: Echo (Monticello College Alumnae Magazine). Series 125, no. 7 (October 1970): p. 7.



HANNAH WALLACE “HALLIE” WADE

Letter 2: October 1888

Just a little over a month later, Nan writes a response to an intervening letter from Hallie. This time Nan writes to Hallie in confidence about a private matter. Her boyfriend Harry is recovering from an operation to correct a sexual problem. Nan isn't specific about the exact nature of the problem, probably because she doesn't know. Harry has only hinted at the issue; it is his mother who told Nan that it was a sexual matter. Based on the kinds of sexual surgeries available to men in the late nineteenth century, it is possible that Harry was suffering from priapism (prolonged erection of the penis unrelated to sexual stimulation). Nan also discloses that she and Harry have finally told their families that they are engaged to be married (we later find out that they have been secretly engaged for three years).

Nan also confesses that she has “a prodigiously big attack of the blues” that she's been dealing with for quite some time. She describes classic symptoms of depression: feeling that she can't do anything right and that life takes a great deal of effort (“almost more than it's worth”).

Letter 3: May 1889

Nan's next letter to Hallie is dated May 19 of the following year. In the interval, the seminary building at Monticello had been destroyed by fire. Hallie was at the school when disaster struck the night of November 4-5, 1888 (even though her family home was in nearby Alton, she lived at the school with the rest of the students).

Fortunately, the Monticello staff and all 130 students escaped without injury. Principal Harriet Haskell organized temporary provisions to reopen the school the following January. Hallie was still on track to graduate in June.

Nan writes that she has just returned from a visit to her oldest brother William (who was about 24 years older than Nan). She says she met some nice people who weren't

fashionable “sassiety” (a snarky version of ‘society’) types. Being big on nicknames, Nan now calls Hallie's boyfriend “Jack” instead of Mr. Duncan or even John. Apparently both Jack and Nan's boyfriend Harry are both suffering from ill health. The latter prompts Nan to go in a tailspin imagining what she would do if anything happened to him, writing: “I think I should feel as though everything I have to live for was gone.”

Letter 4: June 1889

The friends are dealing with mutual hurt feelings when Nan writes a few weeks later (June 4) that she's not going to attend Hallie's graduation from Monticello:

“I am as near being very much vexed with you as I ever get. ‘You know I could go down to Commencement if I only wanted to’—Indeed! Then you know a great deal more than I do. In the first place you know very well that I am as anxious to go as you can possibly be to have me, but it is simply impossible. I've tried every way to arrange it, but I can't so there is no good in fretting. And then for you to say you don't know whether you can come up here this summer,—after having promised it for a year and a half,—and then calmly saying you will be a good deal more apt to be able to come if I go down to Commencement. Why, Hal, I'm ashamed of you.”

The commencement ceremonies on June 11, 1889, coincided with the cornerstone ceremony for the new seminary building. Hallie had a big role. A box containing a Bible, newspaper issues, copies of significant seminary documents, images of Monticello and key personnel, poetry by teacher Emily Alden and graduate Lucy Larcom, and other memorabilia was placed in the cornerstone. Hallie presented the box's silver key to the Monticello trustees. She also received her diploma, along with Dell Hatheway and a handful of other graduates. She obviously wanted to share the day with Nan, but Nan couldn't (or wouldn't) come.

MONTIGELLO SEMINARY.

REPORT *1st & 2nd Half Year*
June 11 1889

STANDARD OF SCHOLARSHIP,	10.
EXCELLENT RECITATIONS,	9.5 to 9.9
GOOD RECITATIONS,	9 to 9.5
INDIFFERENT RECITATIONS,	8 to 9
BAD RECITATIONS,	Below 8

Hannah Wade
— CLASS GRADES.

<i>Literature</i>	<i>9.8</i>
<i>Mental Philosophy</i>	<i>9.8</i>
<i>English, French History</i>	<i>9.9</i>
<i>French</i>	<i>9.9</i>

AVERAGE IN SCHOLARSHIP, *9.8+*
MUSIC, *9.9+*
PAINTING OR DRAWING,
DEPORTMENT, *10*

Harriet N. Haskell,
Principal.

Hallie's last report card from Monticello Seminary. MCHS item 1987-060-0040.



Monticello Seminary graduating class of 1889. The women are not identified, but one of them is Hallie Wade. Source: *Monticello: The Biography of a College*, by Griffith A. Hamlin. Fulton: William Woods College, 1976: p. 71. MCHS item 1976-028-0001.

Letters 5 and 6: September 1889

The friends got through the rough patch. Hallie came up for a visit after all. In a partially extant letter from the following September, Nan—in her inimitable way— seems to be describing Jack Duncan's hilarious botched attempt to profess his love to Hallie.

Nan's tone is diametrically different only a week later when she writes that she has had "a severe attack of the blues." Typical of depression sufferers, she can't really explain why she is feeling so down. She describes feeling completely "unworthy" of Harry and undeserving of his devotion. She stops just short of claiming she doesn't deserve God's love either. She and Harry have been engaged for four years. She feels guilty for the way she has treated him. Nan also reassures Hallie that her marriage won't jeopardize their friendship.

We don't know if Nan recognized her depression for what it was and sought help. The medical term "depression" was introduced in the nineteenth century for

feelings of profound sadness. Available treatments ranged from opium or arsenic to baths and massage to the infamous "rest cure." The latter involved staying in bed for six weeks and doing absolutely nothing, which would seem to be a prescription for depression itself rather than a remedy for it.

Letter 7: October 1889

A month later, Nan sends a chatty letter describing a wedding she attended in Chicago and mutual friends she saw there. She is planning to visit Hallie in Alton after Christmas. She is busy and excited about plans for her upcoming wedding in April.

Letter 8: January 1890

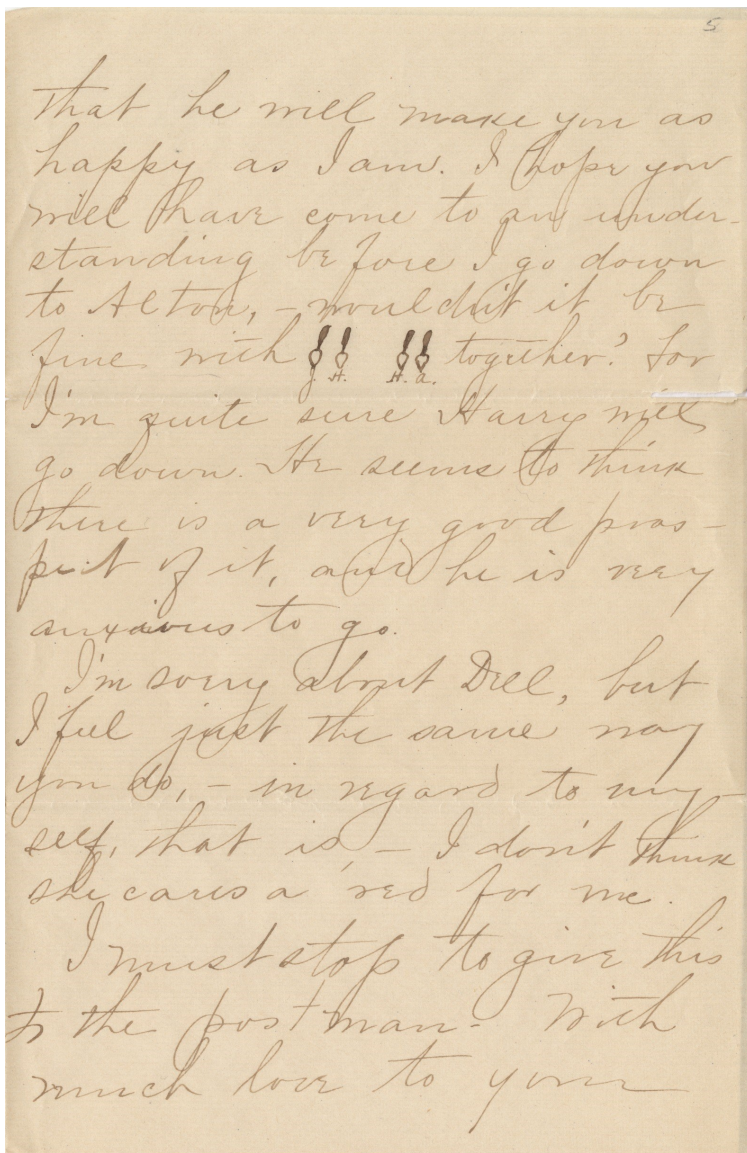
In her letter of Jan. 12, 1890, Nan drops a bomb: she has had a lumpectomy. At this point she is twenty years old. She first noticed a lump in her breast a year ago and spoke to her sister Lydia about it (Lydia was about 20 years older than Nan). Lydia reassured her at the time that it was a shallow bump. When it suddenly became painful, an examination discovered that the tumor was "quite large." Nan reports that the surgery required a three-day hospital stay and that the incision will take another couple of weeks to heal. Her trip to Alton is canceled. She changes the subject to Christmas. She jokes that she is anxious for Jack to hurry up and propose to Hallie, and that Hallie should tell him so.

Surgery was the only treatment available for breast cancer in 1890. It would be four more years before William Halsted performed the first radical mastectomy, and another year after that before Wilhelm Röntgen discovered x-rays, leading to radiation therapy. Chemotherapy wouldn't be invented for decades.

Letter 9: March 1890

This is a very short letter. Nan is distraught. Hallie has written to say that she isn't coming to the wedding. A week before the big day, Nan writes:

"[Y]ou have now [no] idea how disappointed I was. I felt that I would have gone a thousand miles to your wedding and couldn't see why you couldn't run up here, but I am sure you had some very good reason. But I haven't given up all hope yet. Can't you possibly manage to come. I am positively wild to see you and talk to you. I've been as blue as indigo ever since I got your last letter. Please do come, dearest, I want you so awfully. You surely can manage it some way can't you?"



This is page 5 of the letter dated September 30, 1889 (letter 6) in which Nan has incorporated a doodle featuring the couples' initials: "J. H." for Jack and Hallie, and "H. A." for Harry and Anna (Nan). MCHS item 1987-060-0043.



This is the envelope corresponding to letter 9. It is postmarked March 27, 1890; Nan and Harry were married on April 3. MCHS item 1987-060-0032.

A FRIENDSHIP

Letter 10: September 1890

The next letter in the collection is much longer. Nan, now Mrs. Charles Henry "Harry" Reeves, Jr., is about six months married and over five months pregnant. The letter is written on letterhead paper from Aurora Smelting and Refining Company, where Harry works as a bookkeeper.

Hallie's boyfriend Jack is planning to visit the Reeveses, but Nan asks Hallie to dissuade him: she isn't up for being a hostess at this stage in her pregnancy. She answers a question from Hallie about whether a woman can get pregnant without having sex with a man (the answer is no). She says that at Hallie's age (twenty) she needs to know about these sorts of things and speculates that Hallie's mother is too "reserved" to tell her the facts of life. Being the baby of a large family, Nan got information from her older sisters, including a book that Lydia gave her. She says the book was helpful but some things were left out, like strategies that might have prevented her from getting pregnant so quickly after her marriage. She closes by encouraging Hallie to ask her anything she wants to on the subject.

Letter 11: July 1892

The last letter in the collection is very brief, actually just a note asking Hallie to pass along Nan's address to Jack. The Reeveses have moved from Aurora, Illinois, to Grand Haven, Michigan (north and on the other side of Lake Michigan). Nan includes a few sentences asking Hallie to visit and promises to write a full letter soon.

Postscript

There isn't any easy way to say this: Nan died on Feb. 21, 1893, seven months after writing the last letter in this



Photograph of Nan's grave marker in Spring Lake Cemetery in Aurora, Illinois. Source: Findagrave.com, posted by My Labor of Love.

collection. She was 24 years old. A newspaper article about her death says she died of peritonitis. In 1900, her widowed husband Harry was living in Cicero in Cook County, Illinois. He had just married Nellie Snow (who is actually mentioned in the first letter of the collection as one of the friends that Nan and Dell broiled lamb chops with at a picnic). Nan's only child, son Donald (who she was pregnant with when she wrote the September 1890 letter) was born on January 2, 1891. He ended up getting married and having two children.

Hallie did finally marry traveling salesman John "Jack" Duncan in 1895 (two years after Nan's death). At first they lived with Hallie's parents at 1014 Henry St. By 1910, they had five children and had moved to Pittsburgh, where Jack was a sales agent for a steel company. He rose to the position of vice-president by 1920. The family had moved back to Alton and were living in the Wade home at 1014 Henry St. again by 1930 (Hallie's parents had both died by that time). Jack was president of a railroad. He died in 1940; Hannah died in 1955 at the age of 85. Both of her daughters attended Monticello.

Unfortunately, the paperwork that came with the donation doesn't indicate the relationship of the donor to Nan or Hallie. There may not have been any relationship; the donor may have obtained the letters from an estate sale or other similar venue. The fact that Hallie kept the letters rather than discarding them suggests that she may have especially treasured her relationship with Nan. Even with only Nan's side of the conversation, we can infer that Hallie was very upset when Nan didn't come to her graduation and was worried that Nan's marriage would interfere with their friendship. Whatever the motivation, we are grateful to Hallie for saving Nan's letters as they are rich with details about the real lives and private thoughts of women in the nineteenth century.

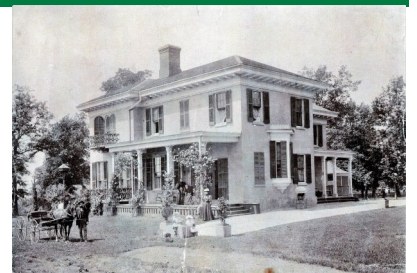


Photograph of Hannah "Hallie" (Wade) Duncan published with her obituary. Source: Alton Evening Telegraph, May 23, 1955.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A COUNTRY PICNIC ON JULY 19!

MCHS will hold a "Country Picnic" on July 19, 2025 at the same farm where we held the Centennial Picnic three years ago. The Mudge family has graciously invited MCHS to hold another event at their incredible family home near Grantfork. Oaklawn has been in the Mudge family since 1836. The house was built in 1850 after fire destroyed the original house.

Plans are being made for outdoor activities, food, live music, and baseball games played by YOU the old-fashioned way. The house will also be open for tours. Check the next newsletter for additional details!





801 N. Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Address Service Requested

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

Complimentary Copy

MCHS News

Please consider joining the Madison County Historical Society today!

<https://madcohistory.org/membership/>

SUMMER HISTORY CAMP TO EXPLORE ABE LINCOLN

The MCHS Summer History Camp for Children ages 9-12 will be held July 14-17. This year camp will explore Civil War history and Abraham Lincoln. It will include a day in Springfield and an exploration of Lincoln sites in Madison County. Registration for the MCHS Summer History Camp will open March 17. The camp is held in conjunction with the Madison County Regional Office of Education #41. Look to our website and Facebook page for additional information.

MCHS CALENDER

2025 MCHS SPEAKER SERIES



MADISON COUNTY
**Historical
Society**



Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m.

PARLOR MUSIC OF THE CIVIL WAR ERA

Presented by: Wild Columbine

Free Event - Open to the Public

Main Street Community Center, 1003 N. Main Street, Edwardsville, Illinois

Grant funding provided by Illinois Arts Council and Illinois State Historical Society

EXHIBITS CONTINUED

Buildings of a Bygone Era

Route 66 in Madison County

Wed. - Fri. Noon - 4 p.m.; Sun. 1 - 4 p.m.

Madison County History Museum

715 N. Main Street, Edwardsville

EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

April Speaker Series

Sunday, April 13 - 2 p.m.

Presenter: Wild Columbine

1003 N. Main Street, Edwardsville

Chicken Dinner Benefit for MCHS

Sunday, June 1, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Edwardsville Moose Lodge

7371 Marine Road (Rte 143)

June Speaker Series

Sunday, June 22 - 2 p.m.

Kathryn Harris as Harriet Tubman

1003 N. Main Street, Edwardsville