



# MACOUPIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Macoupin County Historical Society  
Macoupin County Agricultural Antique Association  
and Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association

• 2007 •  
**Scheduled Events**

May 26-27  
**Spring Festival**

September 4  
**ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL SHOW**  
(NO JEWELRY, FIREARMS, OR LARGE FURNITURE)  
STARTING AT 4:00 P.M.

September 15-16  
**Fall Festival**

November 3 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**IVBA Hammer-In**

December 7-8-9  
**Christmas Show**

## CHRISTMAS SHOW 2007

*by Jim Frank*

The Historical Society Christmas Show and Open House will be held December 7, 8, and 9. The hours are: **Friday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The Christmas Show will be held in conjunction with the Carlinville Christmas Market held each year the first weekend in December and will be on one of the stops of the Christmas Market free trolley. Last year the Show and Open House had to be cancelled at the last minute because of the heavy ice storm and power outages that ruined the weekend. This year hopefully we will have great weather.

The theme of this year's Show is "**A Destination Christmas**". Each room will be decorated with the choice of a destination being decided by the volunteer person decorating their selected room. Kendra and Calley Mize of Bunker Hill are the coordinators and chairpersons of the Christmas Show and Open House. As in the past, individuals have volunteered to decorate different rooms in the Mansion. As all rooms have not been taken, volunteers are still needed to help with the decorating. If you are willing and would like to decorate any of these rooms please call Kendra Mize at 618-585-3952.

Food will be offered in the Barn dining room each day during the same hours as the Christmas Show is taking place. Food being offered will be home made beef stew, chili, barbecue, hot dogs, polish sausage, cranberry salad, slaw, home made pie and drinks.

Again, volunteers are needed to host the different rooms in the Mansion. If you can possibly donate a little time as a room sitter, please call Barb McCormick at (217) 854-3099 and offer to help.

## Christmas Show and Open House

**Friday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The Historical Society will be holding a **Bake Sale** in the **kitchen of the Mansion** during the three days of the Show. **Donations of baked goods are needed and members and friends are asked to bring and donate these items.**

Items may be brought to the kitchen on Friday or anytime during the Open House.

Please package these items ready for sale. Thank you for your help!!



## JOHN ALEXANDER

### TO PRESENT PROGRAM TO MACOUPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*by Jim Frank*

Historian, John Alexander of Virden, will be the **guest speaker at the November 6** meeting of the Macoupin County Historical Society. His presentation is entitled; "The Life of Stephen A. Douglas, Former State's Attorney of Macoupin County". The Historical Society meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Historical Society grounds in Carlinville. **Note, this meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, November 6 instead of the usual Monday evening due to a conflict of our speaker.**

Mr. Alexander will give an overview of Stephen Douglas life, especially as it connects with Abraham Lincoln. Few people now know or realize that Douglas in his early political career included a term as state's attorney of Macoupin County. Both Douglas and Lincoln ran in competition as candidates in the election for President of the United States and that Douglas was extremely important to the outcome of the Civil War, although he died right at the outset of the War. Although they were political rivals they both were friends. This will be an interesting and informative meeting.

John Alexander is a native of Virden, Illinois and graduated with the Virden class of 1960. He is a graduate of Monmouth College, including three years of graduate work at the University of Illinois. He was a representative of this county at the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention; a member of founding faculty at Lincoln Land Community College; Also taught at Western Illinois University and Sangamon State University/University of Illinois at Springfield; President of Macoupin County Civil War Round Table; and co-owner with wife Jeanie of Books on the Square in Virden.

You do not have to be a member of the Historical Society to attend and enjoy this educational program. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend any of the Historical Society monthly meetings. Refreshment will be served following the meeting.

## Macoupin County Historical Society FALL FESTIVAL

*by Jim Frank*

Beautiful, moderate weather and what a multitude attended the Fall Festival this year! At times parking was a premium with parking spaces hard to find and how the people did come! It appeared that a good time was experienced by all!

Macoupin County Historical Society, Macoupin Agriculture Antique Association and the Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association held their annual Fall Festival the weekend of September 15 and 16 at the Macoupin County Historical Society grounds in Carlinville, Illinois. Free parking, free admission to the grounds, free entertainment, good food and lots to see, as always is an inducement to bring people out.

There were about one-hundred-eighty Arts and Craft and flea market booths set up about the grounds. The display theme in the Museum this fall was "The Roaring Twenties" flaunting clothing popular of the flapper area. The Macoupin Agricultural Antique Association featured a display of over one-hundred older and restored Case and IH tractors along with the usual display of other antique tractors, antique cars, antique farming machinery, steam engines and small engines. The tractor exhibit drew exceptional interest along with other demonstrations such as wheat threshing, straw baling, grain milling, cornhusker/shredder, lumber sawing at the new saw mill, vertical plane shingle mill and other agricultural interest. A substantial antique tractor parade took place each afternoon. Vintage household demonstrations also took place about the grounds.

Also open for display was the restored old time one room school house, the restored country church, the old fashion general store and also open was the village blacksmith shop with the blacksmiths giving blacksmithing demonstrations. Printing was demonstrated in the new printing shop housing an old working hand set off-set linotype printing press. Much other old time must see memorabilia was displayed in the two large red show buildings. One building displayed old household memorabilia and old domestic family items used in past years while

the other larger building housed old antique farm machinery.

There was continuous musical entertainment starting at 11:30 each day. Saturday's entertainment was "Peg and Rhythm Southern Bay" and "Old Country Classic". Sunday's entertainment was Gospel, "For All His Glory", followed by, "Sam, Linda and Nate, Folk Singers". Hymnal singing was led at 1:30 p.m. in the Country Church during the afternoon of each day. Wanda Denny was in charge of the singing on Saturday and Ben Strode led the singing on Sunday. A church service was conducted by Bill Carriker in the Country Church on Sunday morning. Prairie Land Garden Tractor Pullers held a well attended garden tractor pull contest on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. near the blacksmith shop

Food, including old fashion ham and beans, chicken and noodles, grilled pork chops, pork burgers, barbecue, hot dogs, polish sausage, slaw, rhubarb and apple sauce, home made pie and drinks were served to a record attending crowd. The Historical Society also served breakfast consisting of biscuits and sausage gravy, fresh baked sweet rolls, coffee, milk and orange juice starting at 7:00 a.m. each day. It is unbelievable the amount of food that was consumed at this years festival. We appreciate all that came out to patronize our foodstuff. Our large assortment of home made pie was a surprisingly big seller.

This was the 34<sup>th</sup> year the Historical Society has sponsored a Fall Festival with the last 32 years held on our grounds and each year this Festival has become probably the largest event in Carlinville drawing thousand of people that attend this well-known and popular affair during the two-day Festival weekend.

It takes a lot of volunteers to operate this festival and we "Thank" all the nice volunteers that were willing and able to help during the two days of the Festival. With out this help the Festival couldn't operate. A very special "Thank You" needs to go to the usual handful of dedicated members that work days and days and weeks prior to put this enjoyable Festival together.

Other events taking place at the Macoupin County Historical Society grounds later this year will be the Illinois Valley Blacksmith Association's Hammer

In, to be held November 3, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., the November monthly meeting to be held Tuesday evening November 6 with John Alexander of Virden presenting a program about Stephen A. Douglas, Presidential candidate against Abraham Lincoln and Douglas connection with Macoupin County, and the Christmas Show held December, 7-8-9. The public is invited to attend all of these events. Remember the Historical society will be serving food during the Hammer In and the Christmas Show. Our famous beef stew will be served at these two events.

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## MAAA NEWS

Thank you every one for a very successful Fall Show. Our Case-IH tractor collectors helped us show off one-hundred-eight farm tractors of which twenty-seven were Case tractors and sixty-six were IHC tractors. Our garden tractor pullers also had over a dozen IHC cub cadet lawn tractors. Due to this we will feature lawn tractors at the Spring Show (Allis-Chalmers and Simplicity) along with all other brands of farm tractors.



Our food sales were fantastic with our net income about \$1500. better than any show.

Bill Lange, Dan Dauter, and Lane Austwick have been busy in the new machine barn getting it better arranged, and I hope to soon get the shelf brackets done to provide more room and make things easier to see.

Barney tells me the steam engine only has a leaking pipe plug so it will be ready, weather permitting, for the Spring Show.

Till next time....

Veryl Reiher

## From Your President

Well another Fall Festival is gone. It was a great success this year. I thank everyone who helped to make it a great show. The weather was great. It will be hard to top this one.

Now we look forward to the Christmas Show. Maybe this will be a good one also. We still need help in the rooms getting them decorated for Christmas.

We got a lot of things done this year but still have a lot to do for next year. We are working on the house repairs. We have worked on the porches and the windows.

Please don't forget the Annual Meeting held at Gillespie every year. Read the news letter for date and time.

Your President,  
*Wes Loveless*

### Museum Repairs

*By Lloyd Strohbeck*

Once again the carpenters have been working at the Museum. Last year they worked on the bay window on the south end of the music room. This year it was the bay window on the east end of the parlor. They used cypress boards for the horizontal



**Repairing the bay window on east end of the parlor** moldings and sills with the hope that that type of wood will last longer. They also had to jack up the south east corner of the porch to replace a sill that had rotted after termites got into it some years ago before it was treated. With all of the weight on one corner of the brick pillar it had split and had to be redone. The next project is to replace some window sills in the attic. When all of the repairs are

completed the Museum is due for a good paint job. It was last painted in 1989 and the painter did a very good job.



**Lyle Walters & Vernon Smith repairing attic window sills**



**Repairing bathroom in the museum**



**Museum needing repair & paint**



**Roof repairs**

## Bits and Pieces

By Lloyd Strohecke

For the first time our booth at the County Fair did not make enough money to pay for the booth space. While it is a good place to advertise and answer questions it is not convenient for folks to buy books and carry them around for the rest of the fair.



**Society booth at the County Fair**

Debbie Wiles has done a great job setting up the booth and decorating it and she needs to be thanked for her hard work. We may have to think about not going back next year.

Just before the heating season ended last spring the boiler return pipe developed a leak. Thankfully it was just a couple of short pipes right where the feed water and the return from the registers entered at the bottom of the boiler. Once again John Raffety was called upon to help fix it. With the help of some long (36") pipe wrenches the union came apart and the new pieces could be installed. The boiler was inspected by a state inspector last winter and he passed it without any recommendations for any repairs.



**New replacement for pipe in boiler return line**

Just before the Fall Fest a power door opener was installed on the large door in the east end of Bldg. #4. The door was so heavy that one person could hardly open it. The company had tightened the

helper spring last winter as much as was safe but it was still too heavy for we senior citizens. About the same time Zane Austwick and several helpers spent a couple of long days moving items around in the building so it would look better for the show. Things ended up in rows and we need to applaud them for a job well done.

Wade Ambrose had the print shop open for the show and had the linotype machine headed up. Wade spent long hours with the machine plus I am sure used some of his own money to get it going. I understand he also got checked by the local police when his car was there one night.

With excellent weather for the Fall Festival we had large crowds both days. If the trash collected and the toilet paper used in the porta-potties is any indication we had a record crowd. Most of the vendors were happy although some of them always would like to sell more. I know it took part of three days to get all of the trash barrels emptied. That was besides four pickup loads of cardboard to the recycle center. We need to thank Jon and Sue Dagget for their help on Wednesday taking down tents and putting stuff away. They came in to get their trailer from Bldg. #3 that was there for an entertainment stage in case of rain. Instead they helped out all morning. This in spite of Jon having a compound fracture of his right wrist.

The pie making crew had to make more pies for the upcoming events because of the large amount sold at the festival. Hope the next two events turn out alright and we don't have another ice storm for the Christmas Show.

### Recent Acquisitions

Wooden holder with glass jar for tobacco in center and holes to hold pipes around the outside, donors – Frank & Elizabeth Pressler

Old cane seat wheelchair, donor – Kenny Qualls

Old cane seat wheelchair that belonged to Dr. Rutherford, donor – Dr. Villegas

White plate with green lettering and oval sketch of Macoupin plant. Reads "1829-1979 Macoupin Co Sesquicentennial".

**Blacksmith Shop**

By Augie Schmidt

**The Battle of the Roses**

Carlinville area IVBA members hosted the October MCHS member program. The evening started out with a wiener roast, and then Daryll Allen and Mike Lanham took up the battle of the roses.



Daryll demonstrated his traditional way of making a rose by cutting out pieces from light gauge metal and assembling all into a very realistic looking and smelling rose. Meanwhile, Mike got his “big” hammer out and started pounding the daylight out of a chunk of steel to make a one piece forged rose. It went pedal to pedal for a while but Daryll came out ahead by a thorn in the end. Barb McCormick was the lucky winner of Daryll’s rose.

The MCHS blacksmith shop will be open Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for Carlinville’s Christmas market. IVBA members are welcome to come out and play in the fire. As usual, we will have plenty of hot coffee and sweets for the weekend.

**Sad Note From Carlinville**

Jerry Mottershaw a member of MCHS and the IVBA passed away on September 28<sup>th</sup> after a brief battle with cancer. Jerry was born in 1945, attended schools in the Macoupin county area, and received a Bachelor Degree in history from McKendree College. Jerry retired from his state job in 2000 and became a regular Wednesday work day helper. Jerry’s interest was Military history and donated the large amount of World War II memorabilia. It included many unusual items and is in three glass cases in the military room. Jerry also became interested in blacksmithing after retirement. He took the

training and the Rose classes and was eager to learn new skills at blacksmithing. Jerry helped with the beginners class this spring. Jerry will be missed at Carlinville.



Jerry Mottershaw kneeling and Larry Pitman in 2006 placing brick in the sidewalk behind the blacksmith shop

**Carlinville Nov 3rd Hammer-in**

IVBA member, Vicki Schertz of Tiskilwa, IL. will be our featured demonstrator at the Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> IVBA hammer-in.



One of her specialties is custom design and fabrication of ornamental iron work and name signs Part of Vicki’s demonstration will be the use of benders in the forming of letters and numbers for these signs.

A Jim Frank beef stew lunch was served in the barn at noon. Then the auction of blacksmith made or related items took place at 1:00. IVBA member Corky Helms of Belleville was the auctioneer. Money from the auction goes to purchasing items for the shop. After the auction open forges were available for members to practice some of the mornings demonstrated procedures work on other projects.

<b>Macoupin County Historical Society Officers – 2007</b>				
<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
President	Wes Loveless	418 Plum Carlinville, IL. 62626	(217) 854-6021hm (217) 825-6269cp	
Vice President	Augie Schmidt	424 Crestview Drive Wood River, IL 62095-4053	(618) 254-9235	augie@peaknet.net
Secretary	Delores Snell	15252 Gibble Drive Girard, IL. 62640	(217) 494-3911	deesnell@royell.org
Treasurer	Ray Riffey	209 East Washington Carlinville, IL 62626	(217) 854-3088 (217) 370-2788 cp	lrriff@fbconnec.net
<b>Directors</b>				
Bd. Member	Jean Ball	23320 Farmersville Rd Girard, IL 62640	(217) 627-3094	b41053@royell.net
Bd. Member	Bill Egelhoff	9399 Breitweiser Lane Shipman, IL. 62685	(618) 729-3295	egel68@frontiernet.net
Bd. Member	Barb McCormick	228 East Second Carlinville, IL 62626	(217) 854-3099	
Bd. Member	Veryl Reiher	15253 Deerfield Dr. Carlinville, IL 62626	(217) 854-3360	
Bd. Member	Lloyd Strohbeck	15850 Townhall Lane, Carlinville, IL. 62626	(217) 854-3498	mlstroh@mailstation.com
<b>Committee Chairman</b>				
Newsletter	Velma Schmidt	424 Crestview Drive Wood River, IL 62095-4053	(618) 254-9235	beanie@peaknet.net
Genealogy	Mary & Dorothy Etter	355 West State Waverly, IL 62692	(217) 435-9056	
Food / Publicity	Jim Frank	12735 Shipman Rd, Plainview, IL. 62676	(618) 836-5890	frank10@frontiernet.net
House	Mary Schwab	21371 Barnett Road Raymond, IL 62560	(217) 854-8963	
<b>2007 Programs for Macoupin County Historical Society</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Remarks</b>		
Aug 6, 2007 @ 7:30pm	Bill Wilson Museum grounds	Forts of Illinois		
Sept 10, 2007 @ 7:30pm	Tom Carmody Museum grounds	An amateur's take on the Stock Market		
Oct 1, 2007 @ 7:00pm	Daryll Allen Blacksmith Shop	Annual wiener roast 6:00 pm Demo. Crafting metal flowers by Daryll Allen and others		
Nov 5, 2007 @ 7:00pm	John Alexander Museum grounds	"The Life of Stephen A. Douglas, Former State's Attorney of Macoupin County"		
Dec 3, 2007 @ 7:00pm	Christmas Tea Museum	Musical Program Mary Lou Remling		

Dave Jokisch is the Web Master for the Historical Society's new web site named [www.macsociety.org](http://www.macsociety.org) Shawn Farris, a Blackburn College student did the design work. The new website contains information such as history of the MCHS, list of officers and contact information, upcoming MCHS events and activity calendar, photos from previous MCHS events, newsletters, entry forms for special MCHS, MAAA, and IVBA events, and other pertinent information. The website is up and running.



Vernon Smith from V. H. Builders raises corner of front porch to replace sill that had deteriorated under the front edge



Vernon Smith & Lyn Boston install new beam under front edge of the front porch

Macoupin County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 432  
Carlinville, IL 62626



President Wes Loveless at our October wiener roast

Please check the number on the address label for your newsletter. It tells what year your dues are paid through. **If your label shows 2006 – then you are current** but if the label shows 2005 or before then your dues are not up-to-date. Dues are \$10.00 a year or \$150.00 for a lifetime membership.

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