

Christian County, IL

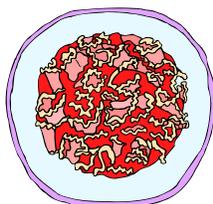
Historical Society & Museum



April, 2012

Taylorville, Illinois

1839 First Christian County Courthouse



Sunday March 25, 2012 Mosticholli Lunch served from 11:00am-1:00 pm-Annual Meeting – With a guest speaker beginning at 1:30 p.m. - JEROME KOWALSKI “Who’s LOVE FOR THE CIVIL WAR BEGAN IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND CONTINUES ON TO THE PRESENT. HE HAS BEEN RE-CREATING THE CHARACTER OF GENERL GEORGE H. THOMAS FOR TWENTY YEARS AND MAKES BETWEEN 35 AND 40 APPEARANCES A YEAR. IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS HAS

SPOKEN TO OVER 25,000 CHILDREN AND ADULTS ON CIVIL WAR.

Major General George Henry Thomas was born in Virginia, but during the Civil War, remained faithful to the oath that he took as a cadet at The United States Military Academy at West Point. There he pledged his allegiance to the Constitution of the U.S. (not the flag that our children pledge their allegiance to at school in the morning). He promised to defend and protect it against all foes foreign and domestic. When Virginia left the Union three days after the bombardment of Fort Sumter - George Henry Thomas remained faithful to that oath he took years before.



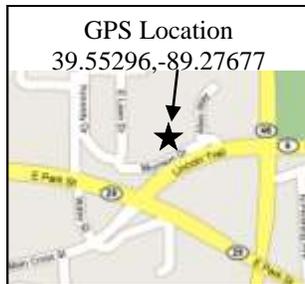
We hope this year will be great for the Christian County Historical Society and Museum. Jodi Heberling has been working hard to coordinate and bring the Museum up to today’s standard’s. But realizes she cannot do it all. It will take the whole county working to preserve this great resource Christian County has been blessed with!

Jane Long and Jodi Heberling have teamed up with ‘Acclaim Press’ to bring a ‘New’ Christian County History book spanning the years 1839-2013. (The first history book in 46 years.) They welcome anyone who would like to become involved to contact them! If this is to become a true County history we need your help . . . Write and submit an article about your family for inclusion in this publication. And include at least one photo. For more info see the brochure 16000 were mailed out in Christian County. They will also be available at the Clerk’s Office in the Courthouse. If you know some place that would like to have the brochures out for public display contact the Society.

Preserving the past . . . Looking to the future

2011 CCHS Board Members

Jodi Heberling - *President*
(217.820.8253)
Leslie DeVore - *Vice-Pres.*
Rebecca Steiner - *Secretary*
??? - *Treasurer*
Glenn Pusch
Chuck Klescewski
Yolanda Marucco
Nelvin Sloman
Eunice Decorcy



OPEN

Summer Hours (April 1st - December 1st)
Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Winter Hours (December 1st - April 1st)
Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visit our *BLOG* at:

<http://cchistoricalociety.blogspot.com/>

e-mail: cchs254@gmail.com



The CCHS would like to Thank:

Last summer a group of girls, headed by Rhonda Corbin-Plopper came out and cleaned the Morrison house. And clean they did!!! Things really did sparkle! There are count less opportunities for all ages to get involved with making this a successful museum! Your time of assisting with building setting, baking, gardening would be greatly appreciated.

Buckeye School house was scrapped and undercoated with a final coat of paint put on thru the graciousness of several generations of Harry Wilhour. Harry was instrumental in getting the school moved to the Historical Society to be preserved for future generations. This face lift bringing it up to how things were back then would make him proud!!



Seems that those Owaneco kids take ownership in this school, I think the Jack Kendle family also donated toward the paint.

Thanks to Ron Spears and the Bar Association for their continued support of the first courthouse of Christian County were A. Lincoln held court. *(by the way, this courthouse is the only wooden structured county courthouse remaining in Illinois.)* And thanks to

the Taylorville Park District for the labor that scrapped and undercoated with a final coat of paint. Things are really looking up!!!

We must not forget the countless hours put in by Pam Mathon / Chuck Dilly / Nina Wunderlick and several others in beautifying the grounds, and general maintenance of the Historical Society. Things are looking better out here take an afternoon and explore!

In closing we'd like to Thank All that have participated in volunteering / monetary giving to keep the Historical Society open. We invite your ideas for making this a vibrant place !

We have a lot of History at the Historical Society, some to still be discovered:



CHRISTIAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS HISTORY & FAMILIES

Sponsored by the Christian County Historical Society

AN INVITATION TO BE PART OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY HISTORY!

The Christian County Historical Society is sponsoring, compiling and publishing a new book, *Christian County, Illinois History & Families*. This book will include a detailed history of Christian County including family histories, communities, churches, schools, businesses, farms, memorials, tributes, clubs, organizations, and much more! We would like to include your family's rich history in our new book!

*"Don't be left out of this
once-in-a-lifetime publication!"*

Christian County, Illinois History & Families will contain material from 1839-2013, with approximately 200 to 300 pages. This hardback, library quality, Smyth-sewn 8-1/2 x 11-inch book will be beautifully bound in dark green, swirl-grained leatherette cover with a gold stamped seal depicting the first Christian County courthouse on the front cover, and gold on the spine. What an heirloom to give your children and grandchildren!

IDEAS FOR WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY: Everyone has a family history, and even if you recently moved to the county, *we want yours!* Give the date your family came to Christian County; indicate from what state or country your family originated and vocation before settling here. Tell about any interesting stories from childhood, include marriages, children, job, military, education, organizations participated in, etc. Write your stories in third person (use he, she, they). The family history must be written in 500 words or less; there will be a charge of 15¢ per word for all over 500. Please submit your story typed on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, double spaced if possible. Sign your name to your history.

PLEASE SEND ONE PHOTOGRAPH (current or historic) to be used with your family story; an extra photograph can be included for only \$15.00. Because the photograph will be handled many times, send a professional copy (no Xeroxes please) of any valuable or irreplaceable photograph. Write in pencil your name and address on the back of all pictures. **Indicate the names of people, date and caption for the picture.** Your photograph will be returned when the book is completed. Please feel free to send any rare, historic photos you wish to be printed. We will print as many as we can.

This historic book is **AVAILABLE ON A PRESALE BASIS ONLY** and is priced at only \$54.95. Your check

should be made out to Christian County History Book.

It will be necessary to collect orders in advance of publication, since **we are going to print only a limited number of books.** All money will be held in escrow at a local bank for payment to the publishing company later. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to be recorded in Christian County's newest family history book.

As a non-profit society, our purpose in publishing a history of our families is to preserve historical records for the enjoyment and education of future generations. **ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW!**

There is **NO CHARGE** for having your history and photo published in this book. Your history, picture(s), and book order(s) should be sent in no later than April 30, 2012. Send your material to:

Christian County, IL History & Families Book
P.O. Box 254 • 325 Abe's Way
Taylorville, IL 62568

*Family histories and book orders may also be dropped off at
the society office, 325 Abe's Way in Taylorville on
Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

Complete the attached form to order your copies of **CHRISTIAN COUNTY, IL HISTORY & FAMILIES**, and send in your family history and photograph today!

Sincerely,

Jodi Heberling, Book Committee Chairman
(217) 824-6922 / (217) 820-8253
cchs254@gmail.com / heberlin@illinois.edu



Bradley's Market in 1944 - James Bradley, owner; Al Kurnes and Kale Allen are also shown in picture.

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2012

When Rhonda and her team were cleaning the Morrison house tucked away in the back of a closet they found a small suitcase containing 'papers' of a man named Simpson. Chuck C. has spent 4 plus months unfolding / de-molding / and scanning some of these documents to further analyze and preserve the find.

Come to find out this man named Simpson was a Lawyer / Judge / and Captain Andrew Simpson of Christian County. He formed Co. 'H' Infantry of Christian County.

Was married to Almeda Simpson, and had several children. Several Historical Civil War documents were in this find and are in process of being preserved for future generations to observe.

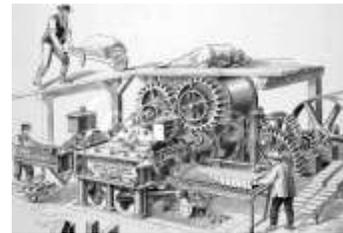
Another that I've found interesting and of Historical value is I've always heard that the 'bricks' for the James Cnty Morrison house was made on the property. I've now found a letter in which it states

"we have been told that in the 1850's, the contractors that built the State House in Springfield, came to Taylorville and brought their brick making machines, made the brick on the place where the house was to built"

We're still in the process of researching this information and will post our results as we know more.

Editor's Note:

Several years ago I watched the show "The Last Brick Maker in America" starring Sidney Poitier on the Hallmark channel and was amazed at the hard work that went into mixing the Clay for the brick and drying / firing of the brick. I thought that WOW, James Morrison really had his work cut out for him to have made those bricks that way . . . Then I ran across this letter and researched this 'brick-making machine' on the internet and thought this was really a neat piece of our past to include for others to enjoy and learn from.



One style of a brick making machine

Two book signings coming this Fall:

We will Host two Civil War book signings - one is entitled "The Prairie Boys go to War: The Fifth Illinois Cavalry, 1861-1865" which has mention and photo of local Civil War soldier William A. Skiles.

The Historical Society published a book of 'letters' that William sent to his parents while serving in the Calvary entitled "Letter's to Home" and is available for sale at the Society.

More information will follow about the other book signing as it is made available.



The Christian County genealogical Society will be hosting a speaker on April the 15th at 1:30 p.m –His topic will be the Civil War –more details to come



The Historical Society will be hosting a Chicken & Noodle luncheon on that day form 11:00-12:30.

It is time to renew your annual membership with the Society!

It costs a lot to keep the Christian County Historical Museum open. The insurance / heating/cooling bills just seem to get higher & higher. Maintenance costs also play a part of our expenses too.

Your membership dollars allow us to keep the doors open. But your time is priceless to us also. Volunteers are needed in so many areas . . for cleaning, tours, baking, hostess of a buildings, etc. We know your time is valuable but just a couple hours a week can and will make a difference.

Please call 217.824.6922 to volunteer.

We are also in the process of digitally preserving and inventorying items at the museum. If you have computer experience, and/or a laptop and would like to 'be involved' in this ground floor endeavor, please contact Chuck C. at the above number. This might even be a great way to get comfortable on your new computer!!

____ I have been a past supporter of the museum and wish to continue

____ I would like to become a new member / sponsor

Name: _____ Phone No.: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Tax Deductible yearly membership

Individual: \$15 Family: \$25 Business \$60

Additional Contributions: _____ Total: _____

If you can help in other ways please indicate below

- ____ I am sorry that I cannot volunteer at this time
- ____ Yes, I Will indicate below the way(s) I can help
 - ____ Set-up / clean-up for events
 - ____ Serve food
 - ____ Bake / prepare food items for events

Who would know?

Some years ago there was a 'Handbag' party or someone that came and showed/talked about ladies purse's / handbags.

There are quite a few laying in a display case and I've found a sheet of paper with numerous types / styles listed on it. . . But unfortunately none were 'tagged' as to what they are.

If you would know would you come by and help me identify these for future generations to know about, Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Are you handy with a saw / hammer / paint scraper / paint brush ???

If you'd like to volunteer your time to the up-keep at the Museum the following items need addressed:

- 1.) basement stairs stringers in the Morrison house have rotted out near the bottom.
- 2.) The front porch / columns of the Morrison House need to be scrapped and painted.
- 3.) Light's in the basement of the Woodall building.
- 4.) The 'runner's' the school desks are mounted on needs looked at.
- 5.) The cyclone fence surrounding the Museum property, especially the southside could use a coat of paint.
- 6.) Bushes trimmed and a bush in front of the First Courthouse need to be transplanted to another location.

There is always gardening to be done.

Fund raising ideas to be explored

Call the Society at 217.824.6922 and talk to Chuck C. He will also come out anytime that accommodates you and willing to help all he can to get these items fixed.

***Are you getting a theme to this newsletter?
We can not do this alone we need your help, ideas and enthusiasm!!!***

Thursday April 5th we will begin our Summer Hours

Thursday, Friday, Saturday's we will be open 10am to 3pm each day.

The Christian Co., IL. Genealogical Society provides wireless internet service during the Summer hours and does have Ancestry.com available.

They will also be very helpful in helping you to research your Christian Co. genealogy.

From your president: Jodi Heberling

I saw on the news the other evening, I believe it was Logan County **that was losing it's State funding for it's historical sites. My first** thought was I wish we had state funding to loose! Reality check! Our County has a museum that has been around for over 50 years. Our County came together and made it happen in the **1960's. There is no reason why we cannot maintain the museum,** grounds and contents for future generations. I know that I can not do this on my own. Nor can the board of directors of our museum. We need new blood, ideas and volunteers or we will not have a museum.

Economically hard times is no excuse. Time can be priceless. If you cannot afford a membership then make sure to spend some time at our museum and society helping out. I think about \$25 for a family membership, would not even take a family out to eat. We operated last year on a \$15000 budget. Utilities and insurance make up over half of those expenses. Is there not a thousand families in Christian County that can by choice support our museum and provide the funding or volunteer hours to make it available more hours in the week and the funding to make repairs and general maintenance on the buildings?

I saddens me when I hear people comment that they did not even know we had such a place! Stop at the local gas station and they have no idea where the Christian County Historical Society is. So I guess I am pleading for your support and assistance to keep this wonderful opportunity a viable part of our community. I may not be the most qualified person to be the president, but I am doing the best I can. Life happens to everyone and I have had a few curves thrown at me. We are focusing on moving forward and not drowning in the past. I invite you to join us on the 2nd Monday of the Month for our monthly board meeting. Or Call me at 217-820-8253. We are trying a 5:15 meeting time for March and April.

Thanks For all those who have and will continue to support the Christian County Historical Society. Jodi

Christian County Historical Society
P.O. Box 254
Taylorville, IL 62568
217.824.6922

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CHRISTIAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 254, Taylorville, IL. 62568
e-mail: cchs254@gmail.com

Blog:
<http://cchistoricalociety.blogspot.com/>

2012 Membership form

I have been a past supporter of the museum and wish to continue

I would like to become a new member / sponsor

Name: _____ Phone No.: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Tax Deductible yearly membership

Individual: \$15

Family: \$25

Business \$60

Additional Contributions: _____

Total: _____

If you can help in other ways please indicate below

I am sorry that I cannot volunteer at this time

Yes, I Will indicate below the way(s) I can help

Set-up / clean-up for events

Serve food

Bake / prepare food items for events

Buildings / grounds projects

Serve as a guide for events /
school tours

Serve on the Board of Directors