

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January

Newsletter

2004

GREETINGS FROM YOUR HOMETOWN FRIENDS

Enclosed, a list of CVHS's current membership. As our membership continues to grow we wish to thank the out-of-town folks who have joined in support of our efforts to preserve the history of the Village of Cherry Valley. Cherry Valley is no longer a village with a population of 600 as it was when many of us were youngsters. However, in spite of its expanded borders, the village retains its small town atmosphere and sense of community. When Joseph Griggs came upon the valley in 1835 he called the area "a veritable garden of Eden." Deciding to settle in this place of "peaceful quietness" Griggs saw no reason to continue his journey.

IN THE BEGINNING.....

In 1996 Village Clerk Nancy Belt wondered if there would be enough local interest to form a historical society. She hosted a "welcome meeting" which was attended by Ed Nelson, Dagmar Nelson, Sam Knighton, John Larson, Lyle Wilt, Frank Horn, Roberta Horn, Donna Riha, Delores Moore and Steve Appell. The idea was well received and the Cherry Valley Historical Society was incorporated in 1997 as a non-for-profit organization. Nancy served as CVHS's first president, followed by Donna Riha and Ron Hollembeak. Sadly, members John Robbins, Jack Peacock, Virginia (Walker) Rice, Ron Carroll and Jack Anger have passed away.

In the beginning CVHS meetings were held at the village hall, the original home of the interurban sub-station at 202 E. State street. When the village moved into its new facility at 806 Elgin street in 2001, CVHS meetings were held there. It was the dream of Ron "PeeWee" Hollembeak and others to have the original village hall, owned by the village, as a home for the CVHS museum; the building had housed a gift shop but was soon to be vacant. Constructed in 1899, the building served as the village hall until 1990. Some members believed it would be an appropriate place for a CVHS museum. President Hollembeak presented a proposal to the village trustees with a request to rent the building. After deliberation the trustees voted in April, 2002, to rent the building to the Cherry Valley Historical Society for one dollar a year. Possession of the CVHS museum took place August 2002. (For additional information, see the enclosed article from the May 12, 2002 issue of the Rockford Register Star). Meetings are held at 6:30 PM the first Sunday of each month unless it falls on a holiday weekend. The museum is open to the public on the second and fourth Saturdays, 10 AM until Noon.

The election of officers for CVHS was held at our December 2003 meeting. President Ron "PeeWee" Hollembeak and Secretary Delores Moore were each re-elected for another two-year term. Nancy Belt was elected vice-president and Steve Appell, treasurer. We are grateful to Patty Campbell (vice-president) and Bev Scholz (treasurer) for their dedication and service during the past four years.