

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER May 2014

Spring is coming a lot slower than we would all like. While the calendar says it's officially arrived, there've been few days to convince us of it. I'm eager for the leaves to unfurl and the ground to warm...bringing that gorgeous shade of new green.

The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

John William Bauer	42	Feb 12
Roger K. Everson	84	Mar 9
Lowell A. Gazouski	74	Mar 10
Gordon Edward Bode	72	Apr 21
Roger D. Gorman	64	Apr 23
Leslie Lundberg	89	Apr 24
Donald G. Schumaker	78	Apr 26



While browsing the shelves at the museum, I came across a slender, plain covered little blue book and paused to open it. The following is taken from this autobiography, with all credit going to the author, as I found the book charming.

Events in the Life of Florence Poulton Haskin

Book donated by Sam Knighton

Forward

Sitting alone one day in the spring of 1955 just shy of my 89th birthday, the idea came to me that some of my hours might be employed in writing a synopsis, so to speak, of my life. That my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren might some day enjoy reading of those events.

April

'Tis the balmy month of April
And the rain will never cease,
So, for industrious, energetic mortals,
There is scarcely an hour of peace.

True we love the beautiful flowers
That without rain would not grow;
And the vegetables in the garden,
Which the busy farmers sow.

Then roll on ye mighty thunder,
And pour down ye April showers;

We will smile with sweet contentment
At the sublimity of thy power.

We, of course are sometimes frightened
When the cellars most o'erflow;
Or the lightning seems decided
At us next to aim it's blow.

But we always will be cheerful,
Through the path which we have trod
Seems so rough and full of showers.
Let us be thankful unto God.

Born April 12, 1866 in a large house on the hill overlooking Cherry Valley with the Kishwaukee River running between. From the back yard a path lined with apple and cherry trees led to the cemetery adjoining. (And the outhouse!)

We had butternuts, hickory nuts, and walnut trees, two orchards, currant, blackberry bushes and a large vineyard and garden. Much of the harvest was sold with plenty left for the family. Our drinking water came from a well behind the house, drawn with an old oak bucket.

Three siblings born before my parents relocated from Chicago to Cherry Valley in 1850, and six more added here. Thomas White Poulton and Sarah Elizabeth Patterson lived the rest of their lives there, and are buried in the adjoining cemetery. The family owned a shoe store in Cherry Valley and bought the cemetery when there were only 2 graves.

Attending CV School, I had to walk down the road to the old mill, then across the bridge, through the business section on to the east end of town where the school still stands. A group of girls from school organized a club called 'Merry Circle' which met for more than 70 years. The name was later changed to 'Good Will Circle' and still later to '1909 Club'. As a young woman, I entered Prof Selby's Academy in Rockford and became a secretary to a religious paper called 'The Golden Censor'. For a time living with Mrs. Holt on the west side of the river, where room and board cost me but three dollars a week.

I married Daniel Haskin at the home of my sister on Grove St, in the valley in 1891. In 1897 we purchased our home at 119 E. State St., Rockford. There we welcomed Charles Thomas, Marjorie Elizabeth, and Stanton Daniel. The home originally had 7 rooms, and was remodeled to 12 rooms and a bath. Living room, library, music room, dining room, kitchen, and children's playroom. On the second floor 5 bedrooms and a bath and over all a huge attic. We had a horse and surrey and in the summertime I often took the children for a ride, or to a creek near N. Second St, where I would hitch the horse to a fence post, and while the children played in the sand or water, would read a book.

My son Charles served in WW1 with Battery E Regiment Coast Artillery. Every Sunday we entertained men from Camp Grant for dinner. With our children grown and gone in the late 1920's we rented out the upstairs rooms. January 1, 1948 my husband passed away, and there is a feeling of loneliness that time cannot heal or memory ever dim. My hobbies have brought me a great deal of pleasure. The first scrapbook started when a young girl at home containing mostly poems. The other ...buttons...at present close to 5,000 mounted on squares of cardboard.

The generation in which I have lived has seen many changes. We have gone from kerosene lamps to electric lights, tub and washboard to automatic washing machines, scythe to lawn mover, mud and gravel to cement and blacktop, horse and buggy to automobile, ice boxes to refrigerators. New inventions like the airplane, radio and television make this truly a wonderful age in which to have lived. Who can visualize what the coming generation will see in achievement?

Happiness

If you would truly Happiness find, Be at peace with God And all mankind.	A church to attend On the Sabbath day To help you keep In the narrow way.
Have a tract of land From mortgage free With birds and flowers And many a tree.	An income on which You well can live And still can Unto others give.
A house that is not Too still and neat For lack of children's Dancing feet.	An easy chair, A book to read, All this brings, Happiness indeed.

(Written by Florence, and taken directly from her book.)



Florence Poulton and her brother William

Members of the 1909 Club:

Mmes W.H Robinson, Daniel Haskin, W.A.Storey,Jennie Callender,
Elizabeth Edwards, Emma Hubbard, and G.L. Nevius.



Poulton Family

3: Charles P., Franklin A. Truman W, Henry J, William H. 2: Mariah J, Poulton Foster,
Thomas W., Sarah Pattersno, Sarah Ellen 1: Mary Minerva Poulton Clark, Florence Rachael Poulton Haskin

In response to a note I sent requesting a photo to accompany the book excerpt, Marilyn Poulton sent me a lovely stuffed envelope filled with documents, family history and photos. Three are included in this newsletter. The Poulton family has a long and active history in the valley. Florence's brother, Will lived here until his death and was connected to the inter-urban. Hazel (daughter of Truman Poulton) manned the telephone exchange for awhile.

I am so grateful to Marilyn for the time spent to gather, photocopy, and write back! She sent more than could fit in this issue. There was also a copy of an article on the history of Cherry Valley that I hope to use in the future. I was so excited to receive it all!

Please dear readers, consider sharing a copy of an old photo, or a memory...preserving them forever, archived here, and at the library.



Museum Visitors

In April, teacher and Cherry Valley Historical Society member Julie Johnson arranged for all five 5th grade classes from Cherry Valley Grade School to visit the museum. Twelve students every half hour got to ask questions and check out the exhibits. The museum staff all turned out to narrate and highlight things chosen for extra appeal to our younger guests.

The jail is always the biggest hit with kids. Everyone wants go in and 'mug' a bit for their friends. They were also impressed with Oberg's Confections menu from the 1920's listing a steak dinner for \$.60! Early photos of the school and playground showed them how things have changed. The school outhouses can even be glimpsed in one. And while playground equipment is much safer these days, it can't equal the thrill of that massive swinging cone shaped merry-go-round or the tall metal slide. (With wide open sides and a surface that got hot enough to burn bare skin on a sunny day.)

The children asked questions about the military uniforms on display, early mail delivery, and "was there really a street car in Cherry Valley"?

It was a very busy day, with approximately 75 children going through the museum. Probably the most visitors we've ever had in a single day. We enjoyed having them visit, and they seemed to enjoy their trip to the museum and fire station.



Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their wonderful support and assistance.

And to CV Methodist Church Nurture and Need group for their sponsorship.

Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement in the newsletter, we appreciate them!

H h h h h h

Editor.... Pam Jeske (golfnsew@aol.com)

Please feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories either to my e-mail, the Historical Society's e-mail (cv.historical186@frontier.com)

Cherry Valley Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Or stop by, leave a note ...have a chat with a member!



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