

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2007

Around thanksgiving our 2008 calendars will be for sale at \$7.00 each. They will have a different set of pictures from our past. They will make great Christmas gifts. On November 18th we are going to attend a concert at Memorial Hall in Rockford. The music & instruments are from the Civil War period. We would enjoy having you join us.

Anne (Davis) & Norm Meyer's daughter Carrie has written a book "Days on the Family Farm". This is based on the diaries and farming accounts of May Lyford Davis. May was married to Elmo Davis (a cousin to Fred Davis). This book is now available in all major booksellers.

Please remember Roberta Horn and Dick Sheldon in your prayers. They are both suffering from cancer. On July 22 we held an ice cream social. Many enjoyed cherry pie, cake, and ice cream. We made a tidy profit of \$120.50.

The following folks have passed away since our last newsletter:

George "Tom" Burke	73	July 12
Ross L. Clifford	63	August 15
Richard "Josh" D. Burton	61	August 24

Peggy Scimone wrote us that her mother, Jane Doig, turned 91 on July 22. She would love to hear from old friends. Her address is 2000 N. Rampart, Apartment #221, Las Vegas, NV 89128.

This is part of a true story written by John Larson. The remainder can be read in our museum. "IL Central train Wreck 1901 -- On a twenty below zero mid-Dec. night, about midnight passenger train #4, known as the Omaha Special, headed for Chicago and a heavy freight #15 in route from Chicago to Freeport collided head on at the curve east of River Road.

Due to the cold weather the passenger train was three hours late and running fast to make up time. The freight was supposed to 'take the siding' at Irene to let the special pass. There was a night operator at Irene and when he saw the freight pass through without stopping he telegraphed Rockford to hold the passenger, as there was no night operator at Perryville, but the passenger train was already out of Rockford.

Neither train sounded a whistle. The conductor of the passenger was riding in the smoker and reported that without warning the rear of the car went up in the air and the seats were ripped from the floor and slid to the front trapping, the passengers beneath them. The cars piled up upon each other, and the boiler of the freight engine exploded. The wooden cars took fire which quickly spread and cut off all avenues of escape. The engines collided with such force as to turn themselves around 180 degrees. Eleven, possibly twelve people were killed, and there were some injuries. The monetary loss of the wreck was estimated at \$200,000."

Your newsletter reporter, Beverly (Oberg) Scholz