

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER Oct 2014

Along with the crisp cool days and the changing colors of fall, we celebrate Veterans Day.

Veterans Day

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride.
We're proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each name,
We thank ALL veterans just the same.

by Cheryl Dyson viajbonzer.com



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Chuck Ferry		Oct 2013
Annette 'Net' Buck	87	Sept 10
Susan Kay Smith Gable	69	Sept 18

The Cherry Valley Library Scarecrow contest was a huge hit again this October. All of the entries are available to enjoy on their website. (<http://cherryvalley.lib.il.us/scarecrowphotos.html>)

What a fantastic way to decorate the town for the month!



First place: Roll Daycare Roll
from Cherry Valley Daycare Providers



Second Place: Do You Alpine? Harry Does!
from Alpine Bank



Third place: Jack Skellington
from Backyard Grill & Bar



Vincent Popham with his little dog, Maggie, who went everywhere with him

Cherry Valley Stockyard

By Sandra Baxter

The huge building/shed in the background was where all the farmers brought their animals in to be transported to the Chicago. Mainly a roof over holding pens, the building was open to the elements on the sides. It was next to the railroad tracks on North Cherry Street. (Also the area of the machine shed before it moved.)

The animals (cattle, chickens and pigs) were loaded on train cars to transport them to Chicago area slaughterhouses on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to be butchered. The school kids would occasionally go down for a tour of the building or to watch animals being loaded into the cars.

Vincent Popham lived across the street from Everson's Grocery Store, which is now Pauli's Pizza. He is standing in front of his 1927 Ford Model T. A talented custom furniture carver with his own business, he started in his garage and later expanded to a location near the old J. L. Clark building in Rockford.

Note the square block on the ground in the right hand foreground of the photo. It was used like a stepping stone to assist getting in and out of the vehicle!

The Mill Race above Cherry Valley

Much of this narrow strip of land and water borders my third generation family farm. My father played and fished in it as a boy, and it has been a part of my entire life. The Mill Race was at one time the power for a Grist Mill in Cherry Valley from 1835 to the mid 1930's. In the 30's diesel engines took over. When I was young, there was a dam on the Kishwaukee River and locks at the Race Head waters.

During the depression the small summer cottages on our land along the Race were turned into year round homes, which are still rented today. The present tenants have said they would 'rather die than move' so we will maintain them for as long as practical. When these houses are no longer occupied, I hope to take them down, and return the land to the wild. Hopefully by then I will find an organization brave enough to give me permanent easement to protect the entire area for all eternity!

As a small child I played on the hill above the Race, where my home is now located. My father would dig gravel from the base of the hill for our driveway. We raised sheep, cattle, and pigs in the fields and woods located in and along the Race. This kept out much of the invasive undergrowth during that time. My father had placed the land in a 'game preserve', but eventually removed it, when he was required to plant multi-flora rose. My father believed that the multi-flora rose would become a problem in the future, and he was right. When I was young, the beaver had a wonderful swimming hole behind the cemetery on Mill Road. There was also at that time a swimming area behind the dam on the Kishwaukee River. I saw mud turtles there when I was about 12 years old. In 1955, however, as I was graduating from high school, Construction on the Interstate 90 Toll Road divided our farm into 5 pieces. Rockford Blacktop was the company responsible for building the section of I-90 from the Kishwaukee River to the east. They removed the concrete from the dam on the Kishwaukee and dumped it into the locks and

headwaters of the Mill Race. This 'concrete plug' has since virtually destroyed the natural flow of the waterway. Over the years silt from as far away as East State has filled in many areas, creating more soil than stream. I am sure at this time there is little that can be done to change this situation, although full floods every few years or so help a little. Everything is then under water from the Knox' land on the Boone County side of the river to the cottage houses and my lower hill.

Soft shell turtles have moved out of the area, as have muskrats. Coyote and herds of deer are now occupying the Race. Non-native buckthorn, honeysuckle and multi-flora rose (the same that my father refused to plant) have now taken over, choking out all varieties of native plants. Flocks of pheasants have been replaced by the occasional wild turkey. Carolina Wrens, Brown Creepers, Red-Breasted Nut-Hatch, Titmice, Red-Headed and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers are all now residents of the Race. Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Osprey and several varieties of Hawk fly over this land today.

Restoring the native vegetation can only make this piece of land better for all concerned. Unfortunately what was once a meandering stream, now is a silt filled wetland except when occasional torrents of water wash more soil away. In 2013, I gave the land to the Winnebago Co. Forest Preserve. Hopefully the new owners can at least preserve what's there now.

Photo Postcard

William Heller,
Glen Crill,
John Larson,
Carter Harrison,
William Kersay,
Donald Upstone



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!



A Place for Space
815 874-7552 *Making Self Storage easy*


Rockford
5112 Linden Rd.
1619 Meridian Rd.
3722 Baxter Rd.
5315 Sandy Hollow Rd. aplaceforspace.com

Belvidere
1821 Chrysler Dr.

**24/7 Self Rental/Payment Station
at all Locations**

Rich Tomman
President

The Finest In Pre-Owned Vehicles



Wheels by R.T.
c 815.988.4545
e rich@wheelsbyrt.com

7261 Harrison Avenue • Rockford, Illinois 61112
p 815.332.2122 • f 815.332.2250 • wheelsbyrt.com

Infinite Velocity
"Specializing In Virus Disinfection"

The PC Doctor



Terry Dade
Owner

Custom Built PC's
Upgrades & Repairs

We're the IV for your PC
212 E. State Street • Cherry Valley, IL 61016
Phone/Fax: 815-580-8229
infinitevelocity@comcast.net
www.ivpcdoc.com

Fitzgerald
SINCE 1914
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD.

Melinda Hagerman
Funeral Director / Associate
Email: melindah@fitzgeraldfuneralhome.com

Riverside Chapel
3910 N. Rockton Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61103
(815) 654-2484
Fax (15) 654-7596

Mulford Chapel
1860 S. Mulford Road
Rockford, Illinois 61108
(815) 226-2273
Fax (815) 226-2274

www.fitzgeraldfh.com



Rawson
Custom Woodworks LLC

**Kitchens • Furniture • Cabinetry
Decks • Stairs • Trim • Hardwoods**

Brian & Rachel Rawson 815 332-9222
www.RawsonCustomWoodworks.com

**Countertops • Millwork • Repairs
Finishing • Custom Stains • Top Coats
Wood Signs • Gift Boxes • Custom Guitars**

Hours 10 am - 4 pm and By Appointment

Shop: **4337 South Perryville Rd, Suite 110
Cherry Valley, IL 61016**
1-1/2 miles south of Harrison Ave, south of CherryVale Mall
Near I-39 & I-90 Interchange - Rockford exit

Email: info@RawsonCustomWoodworks.com



815-332-2103
7295 Harrison Ave.
Rockford, IL 61112
www.peppercreek.com

"A natural for plants, gifts, and flowers!"



the cherry Bowl
815.332.9595

John Andersen
lander3806@aol.com

7171 Cherryvale Blvd.
Rockford, IL 61112
thecherrybowlonline.com

BOWLING
Resistance is Futile

BOWL FREE!
Compliments of
the Cherry Bowl





7171 CHERRYVALE BLVD. - ROCKFORD, IL. - 61112
815.332.9595 thecherrybowlonline.com

This card is good for one FREE game of Bowling - **FOR YOU & 3 FRIENDS.**

Not to be combined with any other specials, discounts or coupons