

# Cherry Valley Historical Society Newsletter

## First Quarter – 2022



I believe history matters – not only to look back on but also to enrich our lives. Has anyone ever noticed the homage CherryVale Mall paid to the origins of the village? There is a street in the mall complex named Griggs Crossing (junction of Barnes Blvd and Griggs Crossing signpost).



The following people have passed away since the last newsletter:

Malcolm Charles Doig	68	Aug. 2021
Harry Buck Sr.	96	Nov. 2021
Jeff Schumaker	61	Nov. 2021
William Fisher	85	Jan. 2022
Betty (Jones) Schumaker	85	Mar. 2021



The Historical Society Members have been actively working on organizing and collecting new items. Our goal this year is to start having more open houses. We hope everyone will be interested to learn some historical facts, such as when the village was established and incorporated. This newsletter will provide insight on the original village hall buildings, plus the new interior of the Historical Society.

Sincerely, Nancy L. Belt, President



### The History of Cherry Valley's Village Halls



#### 101 East State Street

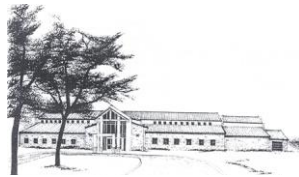
The three buildings that have housed village operations for over a century share some common links. They are all located along the former Route #5, which ran through the village and was also the route of the old interurban rail system. Visitors to the village hall will see pictures of the rail cars and other memorabilia throughout. Constructed in 1899, the original hall at 101 East State Street housed the council chambers, the government offices, the police and fire departments, and the jail. As the community expanded, the fire and police departments moved to other locations. In 1990, the council chambers and village administration moved to 202 East State Street in the old interurban depot.

Records indicate that a two-celled cage was purchased in 1899 to be used as a jail. Electric lights were installed in 1903. The bell added in 1965 was a gift from the Hyland family in memory of C.J. Hyland, the village president from 1927-1937. Older residents have fond memories of watching movies projected on the back of this building while they sat in the baseball field, known then as “the green.”



### 202 East State Street

The interurban ran from Rockford to Elgin from 1902 until 1930. You can still see evidence of the tracks along State Street where the bricks in the middle of the road are a different color. The front door was designed as a bay to see when the interurban car was coming. Ekedahl Tool later purchased the building to house their operations. Mac's barber shop was in the room in the front of the building to the right. Customers and visitors could rest on the bench in front of the building and greet passers-by. The locals affectionately referred to the bench as the "liars' bench," which now resides at our museum. Later the Cherry Valley Library District purchased the bench, which housed their expanding collection of books from 1980 to 1989. Evidence of the library remains in the symbols of books on the window box on the building front. The Village purchased this building in 1989 and remodeled it, using it as the council chambers and village administration until June 2001.



### 806 Elgin Street

The new village hall is located on 14 acres that was originally part of the Knox farm. The building currently houses the village council chambers, the administrative offices, and the police department in over 20,000 square feet, including garages and basement areas. The building was designed to accommodate operations for many years into the future. The police department has state-of-the-art features to help insure the safety of the community and staff. The building consists of evidence lockers, an armory, holding cells, interview rooms, a five-bay heated garage, and a sally port for the secure transfer of prisoners.

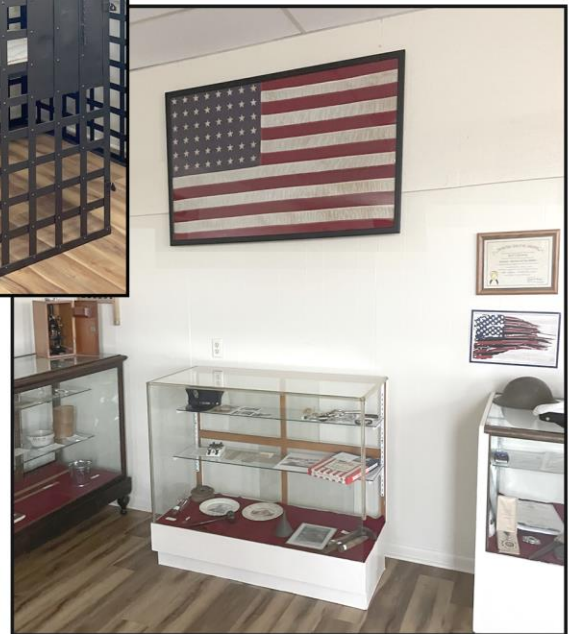
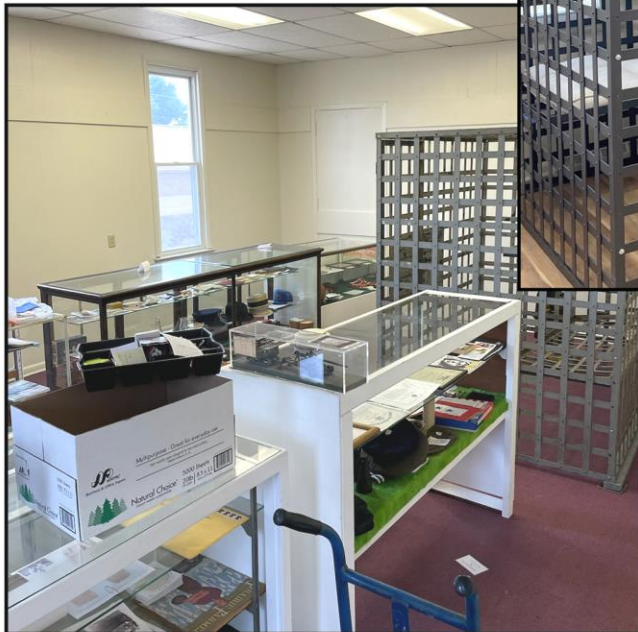
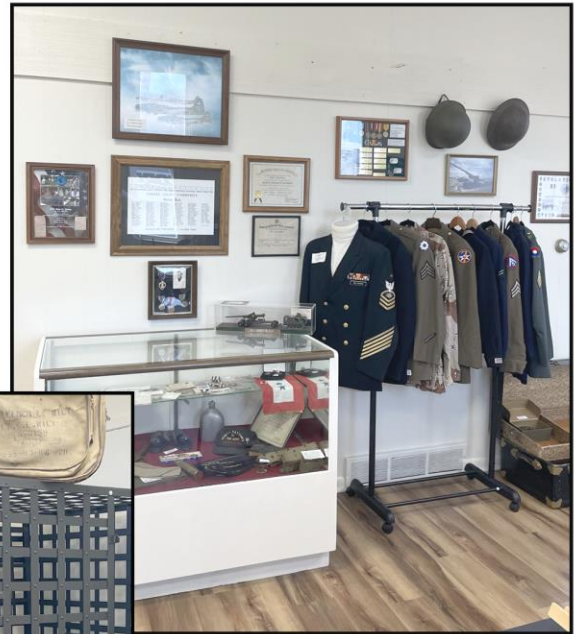
The administration side has offices for the village president, administrator, public works director, clerk, treasurer, and administrative assistant. This side of the building holds fireproof vaults for storage of records. The entry doors can be opened to allow for expanded seating in the lobby. The lobby is also used to display Village history and tourist information and to host community events.



### Oberg's Confectionary


The items pictured above are among a few new items at the museum. The candy tins were donated in memory of Lodena Wilt. Her son Craig thought their uncle Homer Green had given them to her. They are from Oberg's Confectionary. Lodena also kept the Greens' very old scrapbook with many newspaper clippings, ration stamps, stories from WW2, photographs, and more. We are now fortunate to have the scrapbook as well.

Carolyn Spenser found the 5-cent token going through some coins in a box at her father's home. Bernie and Dorothy Bahling lived in Belvidere, where he was a businessman and store owner. Patrons dropped the token into the slot on the Oberg's player piano to see and hear it create a bit of magic. How thoughtful of Carolyn to take the time to locate us and mail the token from her home in Tennessee.



Many hands worked tirelessly to give a facelift to our building, including fresh paint, new floors, ceiling repairs, refinishing of the jail cell, a new door, and even a little revamp outside by the entryway. We also have some new donations and a new layout. We're nearly ready to re-open and can't wait to have visitors!





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

**Rockford**      **Belvidere**  
5112 Linden Rd.      1821 Chrysler Dr.  
1619 Meridian Rd.  
3722 Baxter Rd.  
5315 Sandy Hollow Rd.      [aplaceforspace.com](http://aplaceforspace.com)

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



**Rawson**  
*Custom Woodworks LLC*

ph (815) 332-9222  
[info@RawsonCustomWoodworks.com](mailto:info@RawsonCustomWoodworks.com)  
follow us on Facebook & Instagram  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016



815-332-2103  
7295 Harrison Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61112  
[www.peppercreek.com](http://www.peppercreek.com)

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




**Family Owned & Operated**  
[www.fitzgeraldfh.com](http://www.fitzgeraldfh.com)



**Riverside Chapel**  
3910 N. Rockton Av  
(815) 654-2484



**Mulford Chapel**  
1860 S. Mulford Rd  
(815) 226-2273

Cherry Valley  
Methodist Women



 **Cherry Valley Mens Club** 

Serving the Cherry Valley Area



Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement here; we appreciate their patronage!  
Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their continued support and assistance.

Feel free to drop a line, add some content, or share some stories to the Historical Society's email:  
**[cvhs.1899@gmail.com](mailto:cvhs.1899@gmail.com)**

Or share via mail:

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