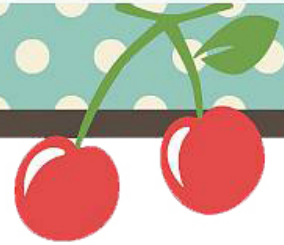


CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
2020 Second Quarter



"Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to get through it." — **Celine Dion**



Sandra Baxter

Excerpt from Bickford of Rockford's March newsletter.

This is Sandra. She retired as the Cherry Valley Postmaster many years ago, and misses it terribly. She often speaks about her experience there with pride. Due to our current Covid safety restrictions regarding personnel, our mail carrier is dropping off the mail to us and we distribute it to residents. The staff decided, however, to ask Sandra to come out of retirement and assist with delivering the mail. She happily agreed, and residents were surprised to see her familiar face delivering their mail.



### Population in the Valley

Since this is a census year, I thought you might like to see how the valley has grown. In the 1830's, 5 homes made up Grigg's Ford, later known as Butler, later still Cherry Valley. After hitting a population high of 800 late in the last century, Cherry Valley went into a decline as its manufacturing interests moved out. Its population had slipped to 420 by 1920, but was back up to 800 when the 1960

census was taken. Cherry Valley's estimated population in 1967 is 1,000. [from Sinissippi Saga, Nelson, C. Hal, 1968]

In the 1990 census, we registered 1,440 people, growing to 3,162 by 2010. Source: United States Census Bureau Estimate for 2020 is 2,820....send in those census forms!



**The  
Merry  
Circle  
~1900**

**Ladies  
Aid  
Society**



These amazing photographs were sent to us by Marilyn Poulton. They are approximately a century old, and were actually printed as postcards. How interesting to see the clothing worn, and the front of the church several renovations removed. The stained glass windows, still as beautiful today, were made by a process no longer in use. Thank you Marilyn for the photos, newspaper clipping and letter ...we so appreciate hearing from our members!



Ladies Aid Women's Group  
by Dorothy Sheldon

From my earliest recollections, in the 1920's, the principal women's group in the CV Methodist Church was known as Ladies Aid. Most women's groups were organized to give "aid" to the church officials in raising funds and other worthwhile purposes. There was an afternoon meeting once a month, and an annual Bazaar in the autumn. In those days most women were housewives, with more time to invest in making home-made items to sell, than money of their own to give.

My grandmother was active in the Ladies' Aid, so I thought of it as an elderly ladies organization. Later my mother joined when it was divided into circles. The objective was to interest more women, and 6 circles flourished for many years. They were called: Aimwell, Come Join Us, Room for You, Ever Ready, Helping Hands and Busy Bees, of which the last two are still active. A circle of younger women called Willing Workers, was created much later.

The women of my family belonged to the Ever Ready Circle, but being a working girl, I wound up among the Busy Bees, as they held their meetings in the evenings. One of our activities was operating a lunch stand on the grounds where the Cherry Valley Homecoming was held in early September each year. We served barbeque, hot dogs, coffee and pie to the merrymakers.

The bazaar and dinner were abandoned in the 60's because the number of women not holding full time jobs had become so small it was unfair to expect a few to do so much. They began holding quarterly coffee breaks, which has now been replaced by a salad luncheon.

Three branches of the Methodist Church merged in 1939, and the names of most organizations were changed. Ladies Aid became the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Another merger in 1960 saw the name changed to United Methodist Women, which still meets regularly.

taken from Our Memories are Warm



This photo is captioned: Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Leonard Keller, formerly of Cherry Valley and Miss America 1969 Judy Ford, formerly of Belvidere, being presented copies of Sinissippi Saga, an History of Winnebago Co. by its editor C. Hal Nelson at the Illinois Sesquicentennial Banquet in observance of the state's 150th anniversary.

It photo was featured in the book We The People....of Winnebago County published by the Winnebago County Bicentennial Commision. Thanks Tom Montana for the gift of this book!



Terry Murphy, a lifelong Cherry Valley resident had always envisioned organizing a non for profit organization with a group of Cherry Valley area men with the goal of helping Cherry Valley area children and the community in general. In 2011 he put his ideas into action and the Cherry Valley Area Men's Association was established. Sadly Terry passed away in 2017 but his vision and goals are the driving force of our organization. We are a small organization that raises money through various events, company sponsors and membership dues. We donate to various community needs and offer five \$500 scholarships per year towards continuing education.

Cherry Valley Area Men's Association is a Nonprofit 501 (C)(3) organization Fed ID # 90-0674903

Events Cherry Valley Area Men's Association has sponsored or contributed to:

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph on Harrison (Bypass 20) and Mill Road intersection.
2. Established an educational scholarship program donating five \$500 scholarships every year.
3. Donated uniforms and equipment for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls basketball teams at Cherry Valley School
4. Donated cheerleading uniforms for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Cherry Valley School Spirit squad.
5. CVAMA members assist with the yearly food and paper shredding drive at Village Hall.
6. Raised funds for uniforms for the Goldie B. Floberg special athletes.
7. CVAMA worked with the Winnebago County Forest Preserve to design, produce and install rules of the river signs at six county forest preserves.
8. Donated to the 2011 and 2012 downtown Cherry Valley Christmas lights
9. Donated and passed out over 4,000 Frisbees at the Cherry Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade 2012 thru 2018.
10. Sponsored the Oscar Meyer Weiner Mobile at the 2012 4th of July parade.
11. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Family Night Ice skating at Carlson Ice Arena 2016-2018
12. Sponsored Cherry Valley 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball players to youth basketball clinics.
13. Mini Golf and silent auction sponsor 2017, 2018 Cherry Valley Public Library fundraiser.
14. Sponsored Wild Life Exhibit and Educational Show Cherry Valley Public Library 2017
15. Donated a defibrillator to the Cherry Valley Police Department.
16. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Bounce Night at the Gymnastics Academy South for 2017 and 2018.
17. Contributed fishing poles and tackle boxes to the Cherry Valley Library that can be used with a library card.
18. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Library tour at the Burpee Museum 2018
19. Sponsor Cherry Valley Library Furry and Friends Petting Zoo 2018

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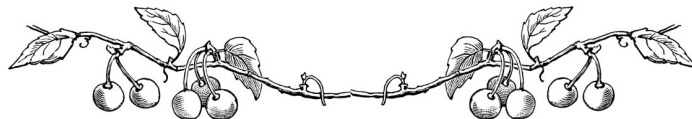
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Cherry Valley  
Methodist Women



Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement in the newsletter, we appreciate them!  
Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their wonderful support and assistance.



Editor.... Pam Jeske      ([golfnsew@aol.com](mailto:golfnsew@aol.com)) 815-621-7262  
Please feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories either to my e-mail,  
The Historical Society's e-mail ([cvhs.1899@gmail.com](mailto:cvhs.1899@gmail.com))  
Cherry Valley Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016



June 2020

Dear Members of the Cherry Valley Historical Society,

This is a reminder that membership for the year 2020 was due the first of the year. We hope that you will remain a part of this organization with your paid membership. Without you, we couldn't continue to work to preserve the history of Cherry Valley. Membership continues to be only \$10.

Please Return the Bottom Portion to:

Cherry Valley Historical Society  
101 East State Street  
P.O. Box 266  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

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Thank you so much for maintaining your membership for the 2020 year. It is greatly appreciated! Any questions e-mail [cv.historical186@frontier.com](mailto:cv.historical186@frontier.com) or call 815-978-6646.