

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2018



Springtime

Freshly planted gardens, blossoms in the trees,  
Insects flying through the air, gatherings for teas.  
Children playing hopscotch, kite tails in the sky,  
Bunnies in the meadow, bluebirds flying by.  
Raindrops on the tulips, clovers on the ground,  
Blankets drying in the wind, and family all around.  
author unknown



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Thomas Murray Quincer	60	Dec. 2017
Kay Bryne		Jan. 2018
Vernon Howard Wilt	89	Feb. 2018
James Fitzgerald Benjamin	83	Feb. 2018
Lon E. Tryggestad	64	Feb. 2018
Mitzi Hannum	66	April 2018
Mary A. Johnson	88	April 2018
John Hubert Larson	79	April 2018



Circa 1900 Cherry Valley School Desk

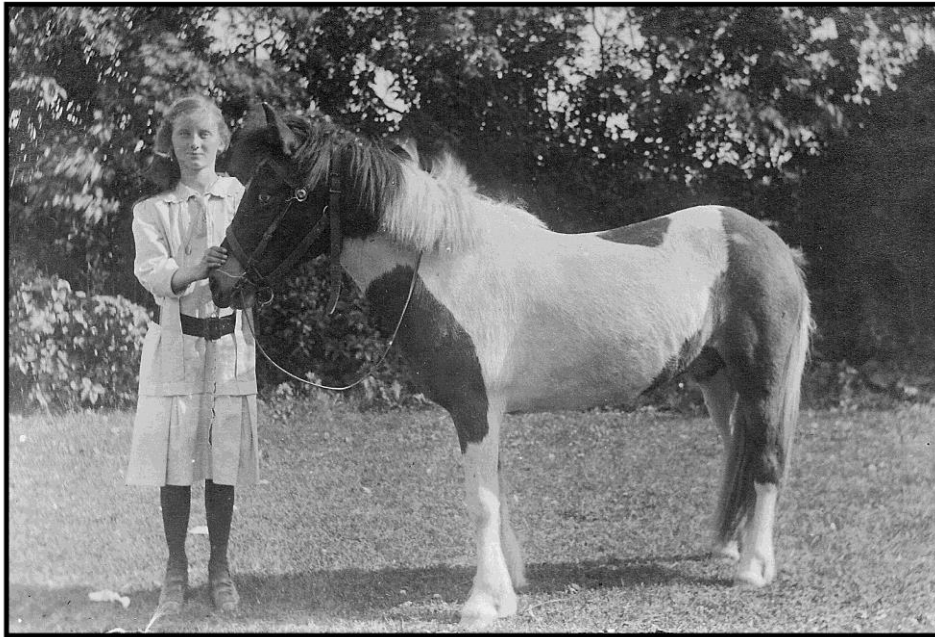
My sister May (Clifford-Keenan) and I recently donated a school desk to the Historical Society. It has been in our family for a long time. My grandfather purchased the desk from an auction at the Cherry Valley School around 1910? It was used by my Aunt, Gladys Clifford, at home. My Grandfather and Grandmother married in Rock Island, IL. in 1888, and settled on a farm on East State Street. This is the current site of the CV Government office building.

In March of 1900, my father Ross was born, and in 1902 Gladys was born on that farm as well. Both attended Cherry Valley Grade School in the early 1900's. The Historical Society has a photo of some students standing on the front steps from the early 1900's, and Gladys Clifford is in that picture!

As a child growing up we often stayed overnight with our grandparents Edward and Mary Clifford. By that time they had moved to a farm on South Mill Rd., just outside the village limits. The desk was always in an upstairs bedroom that was used by Gladys. We assume that she wrote letters and did her home work there. We also donated some school books that my father and aunt used when they attended school there. The photo of Gladys with her pony is a postcard, cancelled Aug. 7, 1913 in Cherry Valley. Mailed for a penny, the address is simply Genoa, IL. ...no street mentioned whatsoever. Amazingly that was enough to get it to the recipient!

If you would like to see the old desk, books, and lots of other things from Cherry Valley's past, please stop by and visit the museum.

Submitted by Ed Clifford



**Gladys Clifford postcard with pony 1913.  
Gladys again in 1920-30 with car.**



**Excerpt from Ross Clifford interview from “Our Memories are Warm”**

I went to school in Cherry Valley. Even big kids went in those days. Sometimes those kids were 19 or 20 years old. Once these “kids” got angry at the professor and threw him in a snow bank. A college was started on the hill across the river. Clay was brought from Chicago and the bricks were made here. Something happened and only part of the foundation was ever finished.



**Bigger than Rockford!**

Once upon a time, Cherry Valley was much busier and had a larger downtown area. It was larger than Rockford and older. Approximately where the little grocery store is now, was once the site of a 3 story hotel. Where the real estate office and Baseball Tap are located was a blacksmith shop. There were many more gas stations then. Most of the garages were small because the Model “A” and Model “T” were not very big.

Where Mill and Newburg Roads come together, there was another small town called Newburg. The roads were gravel except for where the brick is downtown. State Street used to be the old Route 5, and the main

road to Rockford. Mill Road is named after the old mill, the remains of which can still be seen down along the Kishwaukee River.

Robert Wilt interview from “Our Memories are Warm”



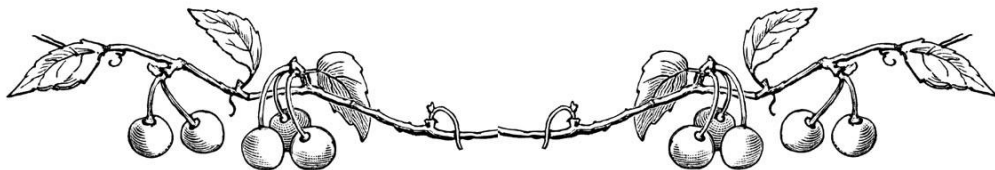
## The final School Program

Cherry Valley Grade School is busy rehearsing their spring musical...”The Final Gargantuan Adventures at Cherry Valley School”. This is the buildings last year in existence, and the students are sharing the final spring program with the community. The dates are Wednesday, May 23 at 12:45 and Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Both will be held in the school gym. Either is open to the public. Anyone who’d like to walk the halls and reminisce following the program is welcome to do so. The building will be open for an hour after each performance. I wanted to mention it, in case alumni would like to visit the school one last time, and enjoy the wonderful program prepared by Mrs. Dowling and performed by the children. I am looking forward to attending! She has also written the program in book form, and had the children illustrate it. Copies were available for pre-payment ordering, but I believe the deadline for that has passed. The Historical Society has ordered the book if anyone would like to stop by and see it. After the school is torn down and property cleared, a new needed well house (water pumping station) will be built on the front part of the property. A community playground will be added in back, in the area where the current playgrounds are.



## Postal Mail..... Email..., we need your input!

In this day and age, so much information comes to us via the web. It was suggested that we see if people would like the choice of having the newsletter emailed, rather than mailed. Many may prefer to keep things just the way they are, and enjoy having it “in hand” to read. Some might prefer it in email form. There are advantages to each. I personally like something I can look at, maybe set down, pick up later to read again, and save or share, etc. Since many of you have included your email address when sending in renewal forms, we know there are a lot of computer users in our database. A couple advantages of a digital newsletter, would be the ability to enlarge to whatever you’re most comfortable reading. The photos would probably be clearer in many cases, perhaps presented in their original tints if applicable. We would never do away with mailing out our newsletter, but if there was enough interest, the digital format could also be an option. I think a downloadable .pdf would work best so it could be saved easily to your personal PC. An attached word .doc or simply an email are options also. Please share some input on this by note, email, or a phone call! You are our primary consideration! Contact information is always at the end of the newsletter.




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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.historical86@frontier.com](mailto:cv.historical86@frontier.com))

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

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



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

# Cherry Valley Area Men's Club

Lifelong Cherry Valley resident Terry Murphy had always wanted to form a men's club in Cherry Valley with the purpose of helping Cherry Valley area kids and the community in general. In 2011 he put his ideas into action and the Cherry Valley Area Men's Club was established. We are a small non for profit organization that raises money through various events, company sponsors and membership dues. The club donates to various community needs and offers five \$500 scholarships per year towards continuing education. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Monday of every month. Check us out on Facebook "Cherry Valley Men's Association" for meeting locations.

What the Cherry Valley Area Men's club has done:

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph on Harrison (Bypass 20) and Mill Road.
2. Established an educational scholarship program
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 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 over 3300 Frisbees for the Cherry Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade 2012 thru 2017.
10. Sponsored the Oscar Meyer Weiner Mobile at the 2012 4th of July parade.
11. CVAMA annually sponsors the Cherry Valley Family Night Ice skating at Carlson Ice Arena.
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. Sponsoring Wild Time Animal Education Show Cherry Valley Public Library 2017
15. Donated a defibrillator to the Cherry Valley Police department.
16. Sponsored the Cherry Valley Bounce Night at the Gymnastics Academy South for 2017 and 2018.