

Newsletter Fall 2009

Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 13th

1:00 p.m. - FCHS Museum

“The Edge of the World”

Artist, professor, and author **Tom McDonald** will share his memories of his childhood exploits and explain how some of them led to one of his occupations - “Junk Artist”. Join us for this lively program and bring us your childhood stories.

Sunday, October 18th

1:00 p.m. - Park District Recreation Center

“What They Wore - Fashion in the Lincoln Era”

As part of the celebrations for the Lincoln Bicentennial, **Caroline Goldthorpe** will discuss what was worn by the fashionable of the time in Illinois and beyond.

Sunday, November 15th

1:00 p.m.- Park District Recreation Center

“The Endurance”

by author Rochelle Pennington

Rochelle Pennington returns with “The Endurance”, one of the great feats of persistence and survival in the 20th Century. Imagine being stranded on a wooden sailing ship striving to get to the South Pole with no cell phone. In 1912, Ernest Shackleton set off with a band of intrepid adventurers to reach the South Pole. He never made it. Join us for this thrilling story of bravery and pluck.

Sunday, December 6th

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Robert Vial House

“A Victorian Christmas”

Our annual Christmas Open House at the Robert Vial House. Period decor, music, refreshments and photo opportunities. Public invited.

Kids Experience Life in the 19th Century

The Park District day care children spent the morning of July 30th at the Robert Vial House exploring a home of the 1850’s with its one closet, some of the beds on the floor, a wood-burning stove in the kitchen to prepare meals for 10 or more people every day.

They heard the story of the 19th century robbery in the home and the amazing recovery of the stolen goods. Out on the back lawn, they experimented with period laundry techniques (wash boards to clothes lines), used apple peelers, cherry pitters and cabbage cutters with great success. They even had a chance to play with toys of the era, including learning how to use stilts! We look forward to next year’s museum visit!



Day Campers experience dinner preparation 19th century style

Boy Scout Project Upgrades Vial House Basement



**Will Gleich presents Alice Latham with a
Thank You plaque.**

As a community service project, Will Gleich of La Grange built a section of the basement at the Robert Vial House into a walled-off storage area, complete with shelving, which has been sorely needed for protecting a number of artifacts previously crowding the museum.

At ceremonies held in August, Will received a Court of Honor designation and became an Eagle Scout, both prestigious awards for outstanding achievement. FCHS Board Member, Mark MacLean represented the Society at the event. Our thanks and congratulations go to Will for his hard work that so greatly benefits our preservation efforts.

Museum Development Moves Ahead

The Museum Development Committee has been working hard at fund raising for the new Heritage Center. Last fall the committee, then headed by the late Stan Johnson, employed Grant Seekers to help find foundations, write and help us send out grant applications. As many as five applications a week have been generated with some limited success. The committee is also awaiting a decision from the Lyons Township Board for \$1.2 million dollars. Recently additional information was submitted as required. A decision should be forthcoming in October.

The Pleasant Dale Park District Board has shown interest in our project and has allocated some money in this year's budget for us to hire Caroline Goldthorpe, a museum professional with an impressive resume, to work with us on a part-time basis. We are very pleased that the park board was able to do this, despite their need to severely trim their budget. They are continuing to support our efforts and will work toward promoting our programs and attendance.

The Museum Development Committee understands that the present economy makes fund-raising especially difficult, and we plan not to be discouraged. Please do what you can to help us create the Flag Creek Heritage Center.



Proposed Flag Creek Heritage Center

Despite Threatening Skies, Corn Roast Successful

Undaunted by stormy forecasts, the Flagg Creek Heritage Society volunteers, following the plans previously laid out by Kevin Robbins, were able to make \$610 profit. Thanks to all the faithful workers and especially Matt Hoyt who led the day's activity. Well done!



Flagg Creek Heritage Society Board of Directors

Alice Latham, President

Caroline Goldthorpe, Vice-President

Linda Petrasek, Secretary

Peg Komandanchik, Treasurer

Sandi Bulthuis

Jerry Welch

Mark MacLean

In Memoriam

Kathy Cihak

Kathy is remembered as one of the dedicated workers during weekly restoration sessions at the Robert Vial House, with extensive scraping, painting and cleaning throughout the process of taking the home back to its' 1856 origins. She was a valued liaison with Quester groups in the area, gave tours at the Lyonsville Cemetery and made many a Victorian Christmas beautiful by selecting the finest ceiling-high trees for the parlor. Her grand-daughters have grown up absorbing much of the lore surrounding the house and enjoy sharing it with visitors.

Kevin Robbins

Kevin chaired the FCHS Corn Roast for years and recruited many workers who volunteered annually. The event brought in hundreds of dollars over the time he led the project. Kevin also recorded the background music for the Robert Vial House video, and kept the parlor melodian working at the Vial House. His talent will be greatly missed.

Virginia Schmid

"Ginny" worked at the FCHS museum on Monday mornings, often driving in from her second home in Indiana to help accession artifacts donated to our collection. She gave a number of unusual items to the museum and Vial House and shared her knowledge and reference materials with the volunteers.

We will long remember the contributions these individuals made to the work of the Society, and our sympathy goes out to their families.

Flagg Creek Heritage Society Newsletter Fall 2009

Please visit our website:

www.FlaggCreekHeritageSociety.com

Happy Fall to All!

Flagg Creek Heritage Society
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