

# Putnam Past Times

Vol. 43

Putnam County Historical Society

August 2017

No. 3

## *Ag Museum Open House Sunday August 13*

The Annual Agricultural Museum Open House of the Putnam County Historical Society will be held 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday August 13, 2017 at 501 Old Hwy 26, Hennepin. Local collectors will be displaying antique tractors and vehicles as usual. The permanent displays are agricultural equipment and tools, wildlife, coal mining and military memorabilia, early 1900s general store, post office, one-room school and farm kitchen.



At 1:00 p.m. Bob and Jerry Read will give a presentation on the history of the hardware and implement business in Henry begun by Duke Brothers in 1880 and taken over by Read Brothers in 1957. The presentation will be in our new Meeting House adjacent to the Ag Museum.

The Putnam County FFA Alumni will be holding a tractor drive before the Open House to raise funds for the Bill Biagi Memorial FFA Alumni Scholarship. Registration for the Tractor Drive will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Ag Museum. The tractors will depart at 10:00 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m. for lunch. Cost of the drive is \$40.00 per tractor. The event is sponsored by McNabb Grain Company. For information on the Tractor Drive contact Brian Biagi at 815-252-0474 or [chachi869@gmail.com](mailto:chachi869@gmail.com).



Everyone is invited to the Open House and admission is free. Pork chop lunches will be available for purchase at the Meeting House. The Agricultural Museum and the Meeting House are handicapped accessible. Pulsifer House (our historic house museum built in 1844) will also be open for tours. Pulsifer House is not handicapped accessible.

For information on the Open House contact Luke Holly at [lholly@yahoo.com](mailto:lholly@yahoo.com) or Sid Whitaker at [sidneywhitaker25@gmail.com](mailto:sidneywhitaker25@gmail.com) or 815-303-5104.

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***Putnam County Historical Society***

**P.O. Box 74 - Hennepin, IL 61327-0074**

**[putnamcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://putnamcountyhistoricalsociety.org) 1-815-925-7560 [pchs61327@yahoo.com](mailto:pchs61327@yahoo.com)**

## *In Memoriam*

We mourn the loss of the following Putnam County Historical Society members and friends. Over the years all have supported the Society's goals and programs. All will be sadly missed.

James Barnard	Vern Gimbal	John C Read (Life)
James Barnes	Helen Hundley	Anthony Rigazio (Life)
David Day	Marilyn Kassabaum (Life)	Leonard Wright (Life)
Helen Marie Engelbrecht (Life)	Harold 'Corky' Mabis	

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## *Memorials & Tributes*

The following Memorials honor the lives of members and friends of the Society:

**Janet Biagi** – Lisa Anderson.

**Dona Morine Burwell** – Lillian Kwas.

**Helen Marie Engelbrecht** – Daniel Campion, Nancy Maze, Barbara Sullivan, Robert Sullivan.

**John Read** – Sharon Clausen, S.M. McCully.

**Edwin Twardowski** – John Twardowski supporting the Ag Museum as a Partner.

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## *Recent Donations*

The Putnam County Historical Society thanks the following donors for gifts to the Society since the last newsletter:

**Darrell Alleman** – letter opener from Field of Dreams.

**Merry Bassi** – celluloid necktie box.



**Marilyn Brown** – historical correspondence from Bob Brandstatter to Eva Morine and Esther Wood, 3 duck stamps, 4 hunting licenses, WW2 ration card, notice for 1886 prohibition rally in park at Hennepin, 36 advertising pencils from local businesses.

**Roy Bruch Family** – WW2 navy (tops, pants, jumper, neckerchief, cap, spats), 1934 4-H fair ribbon for dress and photo of Eleanor wearing the dress.

**Donald Clausen** – 2 white nurse uniforms, blue wool nurse cape, nurse cap, ad plate for Loesch & Anderson store in McNabb.

**Charlene Dean-Jones** – spiral bound copy of Samuel F. Dean: patriot and family legacy.

**Candace & Richard Haar** – metal glove box, Prince Albert tobacco can, small box found in wall of their house.



**Ed & Mary Hayes** – Schultz flare wagon box, Corn King sheller, Vietnam War army (summer & winter uniforms, fatigue coat, winter coat, cartridge belt).

**Nancy Hopkins** – 4 drawer legal filing cabinet, 42 obituary cards, Martha Wood scrapbook (Ida Deck's mother), 2 Putnam County Soils, 1 Marshall County Soils, print of Pulsifer House by Jaqueline Maloney, original constitution and by-laws of PCHS.

**Michael Hult** – geneology of Hult family.

**Beth Mabis** – Putnam County specimen ballot 1908.

**Carol Patterson** – desk from Hullinger School, large cast iron kettle, spring wagon seat.

**Maurine Rice** – 7 corn husk dolls from collection of Ione Stansell Meissen.

**Sidney Whitaker** –

Charles Perdew decoy showing interior construction.



**Theodora Yuhas** –

documents, correspondence, photos and memorabilia from the estates of Frank & Catherine Bannas,

Charles & Helen Montville, Theodore Montville and John Washington.

**Terrie Zilm** – curtain stretcher.



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## *Memberships*

The Putnam County Historical Society is a 501(c) non-profit charitable organization. We depend on memberships and donations to cover the annual cost of maintaining Pulsifer House, the Agricultural Museum, our new Meeting House and carrying on our mission of keeping the history of Putnam County alive through education, restoration and genealogy. Memberships are the life-blood of the Society. We treasure our members and are pleased to welcome the following new members since the last newsletter. A complete membership list for 2017 will be included in the next newsletter:

**Individual** – Ron Bluemer, Betty Campbell, Cindy Huchel, Marianne Mooberry, Lauren Scott, Marcia Thompson.

**Couple** – Gary & Lorraine Boggio, Henry & Ida Bruch, Norm & Jane Langill, Paul & Sherry Miskowiec, Robert & Janice Ossola, Sally Richards, Edward & Nancy Shevokas.

**Contributing** – Thomas Day, Debra Holmes, Nancy Shevokas.

**Family** – Theodora Yuhas.

**Business** – Mennie Machine Company.

**Life** – Robert Bakewell, Gwendolyn Bray, Robert Jacobsen, Randall Keller, Nancy Parmenter, Carol Patterson, Jerry Patterson, Barbara Paxson, Michael Pulliam.

**Golden** – Don Reed, Verna Reed, Charles Robinson Jr., Village of Granville.

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## *Hennepin to Celebrate Bicentennial*

Hennepin will be celebrating its Bicentennial in conjunction with Harvest Home on the weekend of September 22-24. The location of the Village of Hennepin was not decided until the Illinois Legislature recreated Putnam County in 1831 and specified Hennepin as the County Seat. However, Hennepin bases its birth on the year 1817, when the Hartzell trading post (presumed to be the first non-native building in Putnam County) was built on the north edge of the future village.



As part of the Bicentennial celebrations, the Putnam County Historical Society will be sponsoring a Cemetery Walk in Riverside and St Anthony's Cemeteries on Saturday September 23.

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## *Annual Meeting in New Meeting House a Success*



a half hour question and answer period.

An enthusiastic audience of 75 attended the Annual Dinner Meeting and Program that was held for the first time in our new Meeting House. Although there is no longer a kitchen in the building, part of the old kitchen provides space for caterers to operate and the old banquet room provides adequate space for dining and the meeting.

Victor Gensisni, Associate Professor of Earth Sciences at the College of DuPage, gave a riveting presentation on his current research on tornados and storm prediction followed by

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