

TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank you to those listed here who recently joined or renewed!
Added to our June total of 264 members, we're now teetering on the brink of our 300-member goal, topping out at 298.
Members are from Tiskilwa unless otherwise noted.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

◆ INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES ◆

- Daniel & Gina Acker Family
- Rosie Baumgartner (Princeton)
- Duane & Helen Bothe (Dixon)
- John & Dorothy Dreher (Black Creek, WI)
- William D. & Sandra Fisher
- Marilyn Olds (Wyanet)
- Brian & Lisa Padilla (Spring Valley)
- Janice Sash
- Eleanor Sapp (Princeton)
- Lloyd & Beverly Schneider (Princeton)
- Russ & Barb Wagner (Sheffield)

NEW AND RENEWED SPONSORS

◆ FRIENDS ◆

- Joe Ary & Family (Quincy)
- Richard Brown (Hilton Head Island, SC)
- Norine Flaherty (Chicago)
- Nicole Miller & Erik Olson (Mbabane, Swaziland)
- Julie McCutchan (Princeton)
- Mary Ann Norin (Firestone, CO)
- Jim & Sharon Read (Putnam)
- Margaret Ringenberg
- Dorene Stalter (Princeton)
- ◆ PROMOTERS ◆
- Lee & Bev Bachman (Kingman, AZ)
- Andrew & Julia Faville (Geneva)
- Don & Helen Schaefer (Noblesville, IN)
- ◆ PATRONS ◆
- Jim & Sharon Covert

REMINDERS: If you are retired from or employed by a company with a **MATCHING GIFTS** Program, we'll cheerfully complete the paperwork!

Also, if you have **Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA account**, please remember that we are a 501 (c) (3) organization, and a contribution to Tiskilwa Historical Society's Building Fund or Operating Fund might be good for both of us.



TiskHistSoc friends with "Classic Rides" joined in the fun and shared a glimpse of specialty vehicles such as Neva & Chuck Lucas's 1955 turquoise Thunderbird. (Can you see the logo on Neva's chair?)

**Alumni Banquet Puts the WOW in Pow
Wow Days with 224 Attendees**



The ever-rowdy THS Class of '82 wanted to be sure Mr. Jim Jones remembered them when he gave the keynote address. Those are "fan photos" of their favorite band director.



Lots of reunions took place throughout the evening. Here, Dorothy Downey Ary (THS '50) gives a hug to Janet Cotter Anderson (THS '82). Anniversary classes of all years were well represented in the parade, at the banquet, in TCA's beer garden.

"Hey, he's just my size!" That's what Ben (grandson of Marty Smith, THS '78) and Max (doggie of Betty & John Brokaw) may have been thinking.



Great time to "make new friends but keep the old" (*tra la*) during Pow Wow Days. Among the 150+ visitors to our Museum on Main were Patricia Fredenhagen Bachman (THS '48), Donald Bachman (THS '47) of Pennsylvania and (far right) Elaine Burress Bowers (THS '44), Princeton, who made the acquaintance of Jo Lakota, Native American storyteller from Peoria.

Our "Voices from Mount Bloom" snagged the first-place trophy! We



traditionally win "nice try" second place. Not this year. With creative designer Jan Lohaus and structural engineer Ed Waca – no room for debate.

Pleasant Echo of **Voices from Mount Bloom** on a Summer Day

As a gentle breeze swayed the lilies surrounding Mount Bloom's gazebo on August 5, more than 145 visitors marveled at the life stories of several of Tiskilwa's early residents. Six months of research, planning, and practice resulted in performances that enthusiastic audience members labeled "Remarkable!" "Wonderful!" "Fascinating!" and, of course, "Awesome!"



Catharine Bloom Keep (1826-1847), daughter of Peter and Jane Bloom, was the first burial in this plot of ground, almost 20 years before it became the village cemetery. On her death bed, Catharine said, "Papa, bury me under the big oak on the hill." PHS sophomore **Shannon Cotter** portrayed Catharine Keep.

Many a Tiskilwa resident, including **Ed Waca**, [right] grew up hearing stories of the fabled blacksmith, **Bill Slygh** (1867-1952). Using the voice, style and apron of a legendary storyteller, Ed spun a few of the best-known tales – those that were acceptable for polite company. The sign above Bill's shop? "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here."



Matriarch of the prominent Stevens family, **Romelia Lyon Stevens** (1844-1934), was portrayed by our own, inimitable **Joy E. Schertz**. From humble beginnings in her mother's hat shop, Romelia came to rule the roost. As she confided to us, "During the time I was living here, I caught the eye of Tiskilwa's *most* eligible bachelor, Alden Newcomb Stevens." And married him.



More than 45 folks attended each of three performances.



Aaron Sturges (1760-1842), a teen-aged fifer in the American Revolution, later settled in Bureau County where his daughter **Lydia Sturges** (1791-1865) had taken a position as caregiver to Mrs. Ann Kitterman Dean. Although not buried in Mount Bloom, each has a commemorative marker, placed by the local D.A.R. Bradford's own **Tom and**

Linda Ashby portrayed the father and daughter.

Phil Kaufmann, known for his one-man musical "Cotton Patch Gospel" performances, shifted dramatic gears to become **O.W. Battey** (1823-1899), C. R. I. & P. stationmaster and founder of the Battey Lumberyard, which continued in the same family for almost 120 years. Ever civic-minded, O.W. helped draft the Mt. Bloom constitution, served as village councilman, assessor, and library board member.



Thanks to Nancy Harmon and Peg Foster for the photos.

For Information about Building Fund and Former Legion Hall: WATCH THIS SPACE!

We are moving ahead with plans to spruce up the former American Legion Hall to use it for military and one-room schoolhouse displays. Since our report in the June issue we have some exciting developments to share with you.

FIRST, the Board of Education of the Princeton Elementary School District #115 has instructed their attorney to transfer the property underlying the Legion building to Tiskilwa Historical Society.

SECOND, we've received a generous offer from member Bob Sash to match individual contributions to our Building Fund.

THIRD, following our appeal in the June newsletter, contributions have already started arriving in P.O. Box 87! As of press time, we have more than \$2,000 from individuals. In another nice development, when we were invited to make an appeal at the Alumni Banquet in August, a whopping collection of \$549 appeared in our "Collection Kettle"!

The overall purpose for our Building Fund is to acquire additional space in order to set up military displays as well as a country school classroom. Because people have been so generous in their donation of artifacts of local interest and importance, our museum is on overload!

Once the legalities of this transfer of the building and property are complete, our goal is to renovate the old Legion Hall to make it a source of pride for our community as well as an annex (staying in its present location) for our museum.

Since many who grew up in Tiskilwa have fond memories of events held in the old Legion Hall, **WE'D LOVE TO HAVE COPIES OF YOUR PHOTOS OF EVENTS** (smelt fries, scout meetings, class parties, Mother-Daughter banquets, family reunions, poker nights, and other gatherings) **HELD AT THE HALL OVER THE YEARS!**



Couldn't resist showing Ray Anderson (THS '64) with his artistic photo-bomb of the "Smith Kids" family portrait at the "Voices" program, Julie (THS '76), Janet (THS '75), and Marty (THS '78), and a lovely view from afar at "Voices."

2017 Pow Wow 5K Scholarship Winner

Every year, the Pow Wow 5K Run/Walk raises funds for a \$1,000 grant to a descendant of a Tiskilwa High School graduate. This year's winner, Cole Wright, has a long line of THS ancestors: great-great-grandmother, great-grandfather, grandparents, dad, aunts, and uncles.

In his winning essay, which Cole read at the Alumni Banquet, he noted: *Even with THS's days behind her, the glory of the "good old days" lives on. Even today, it's common to see Tiskilwa Indian shirts and jerseys around the community. Indian Pride runs deep. One thing for sure, Tiskilwa will always be Bureau County's "Gem of the Valley."*

A Special Thank-You Note to Lee Helle

Dear Lee: It sure is fun corresponding with you! Love that wry sense of humor of yours. You know we appreciate your support as a sponsor for all those years – from way out there in Northport, Washington. But your gift of your extensive pocket-watch collection (with proceeds to be directed to our Building Fund) is OVER THE TOP!



Thanks for sharing the photo of you with your dad Don, circa 1951. Many folks remember him and his steam-driven lumber mill.

We know you said good-bye to Tiskilwa back in the fifties, but there must be a special spot in your heart for our little "Gem." And we're so happy that you started reminiscing about the Arispie Country School you attended and searched out our website to ask a couple of questions. The beginning of a beautiful friendship, so "Here's lookin' at you, kid."

Thanks and best wishes from the Board of Directors

VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN



Several members took care of the set-up and take-down for "Voices." From left: Dave Gerber, Paul McCauley, Jerry Zabransky, Wes Sampson, and Dave Sampson. Not pictured: Nicole Sampson, Julie Sampson, Ed Waca, and Cele Gerber. [Right photo] Jan Lohous and Katelyn Splitt served as hosts and ticket-takers at the cemetery while Betty Brokaw, Richard Fisher, Madison Splitt, and Judy Wright did the same at the museum.

FOUR GRANTS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED IN JUNE

*The OmniArts Foundation of Peru, dedicated to promoting the arts in our area, gave us a grant of \$416.00 to cover speakers' fees for the April and July programs.

*The Bureau County Cattlemen's Association donated \$200.00 after gathering at our museum during a pause in the Bureau County Farm Bureau's "Ag in the Classroom Tractor Trek" on Sunday, June 25th. Ed Waca presented a program on the Tiskilwa Watershed (Land Dams) Project.



*Walmart sent us a "Volunteerism Always Pays" grant for \$250.00 in recognition of 25 hours of volunteer service to our society by Tiskilwa resident Karen Parish. A true win-win!

* "The Girls of THS Class of '65" had a special opening of the museum for part of their 70th birthday party and sent us a check for \$250.00!

Voices from Mount Bloom

- ❖ We'd like to thank the following contributors who sent generous donations in support of our fundraiser: **Roberta Albrecht, Thelma Casper, Fiocchi-Jensen Funeral Home, Dwight & Jean Goodale, Betty McComber, Timothy J. Puhr DDS, Eleanor Sapp, Bob Sash, John & Suzanne Sweek, Tiskilwa Community Association, Russ & Barb Wagner, and Jack Yepsen.**
- ❖ After the expenses of postage, transportation, and printing were paid, we earned approximately **\$1,500** for our Building Fund. Thanks, again and again, to all!

Financial Report for 2016-17 Fiscal Year

Once again, because of your generous support through memberships, sponsorships, and memorials, the Tiskilwa Historical Society ended the 2016-2017 fiscal year on a break-even basis. A complete financial report will be presented by our treasurer **Judy Wright** once the audit is completed. Our success depends on the generosity of those who continue to contribute their time, talent, and resources, and WE THANK YOU!

IN MEMORIAM

Thank you for memorials received since our June newsletter.

LAWRENCE DABLER

JOHNNY FRIEL

JOHN O'NEILL

ED & HELEN PETTEGREW

JEAN QUICK PIPER

WALTER C. SCHAEFER

FLOYD & DOROTHY SMITH

HISTORY MYSTERY FOR SEPTEMBER



How many folks can you recognize from this historic **THS Class of 1957**? Don't peek at the top of the next column until you've given it the old Tiskilwa try.

SEPTEMBER HISTORY MYSTERY REVEALED

The Tenacious THS Class of 1957: Clockwise, starting with Helen in front row: **Helen Kenney, Bob Bittner, [hidden] Suzanne Morris Glafka, Nancy Nordstrom Cotter, [hidden] Norma Norton Joiner, Louie Smith, Mel Tyne, Laurence Stalter, Paul Busker, Mary Beth O'Neill Morrissey and Marcia Wheeler Johnson.** What's your "Who's Who" score?

Chock-a-block Summer for Our Historical Society

On June 3, 2017, our Artists and Artisans Festival filled the lawns and galleries at the MoM. (*Our acronym for Museum on Main*)



Dozens of visitors strolled around the various items on display or for sale while kids enjoyed the hands-on area we call "Children at Play." Yes, these good children put things back right where they found 'em.

On Sunday, July 9, we re-grouped to celebrate our eleventh anniversary with a Medicine Show, recognition for 73 volunteers, and a picnic for more than 65 friends and neighbors.



The flamboyant medicine man and Tiskilwa native, J. I. Lighthall, portrayed by **Mick Henneberry**, captivated a crowd with his stories and remedies. Our mannequin "Posey" photo-bombed once again.

A perfect summer day and shade trees made a perfect setting for the annual picnic as **Gail McCauley** and other board members hosted and served hot dogs with all the fixin's to the crowd.

TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPECIAL BUILDING FUND APPEAL FOR 2017

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \$ _____ DATE: _____

Please & thanks: Note BUILDING FUND on the memo line and make your check payable to Tiskilwa Historical Society
Post Office Box 87
Tiskilwa, IL 61368

TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

110 EAST MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 87

TISKILWA, IL 61368

www.tiskilwahistoricalsociety.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The 50-year Reunion Class is lookin' better every year, don't you agree? Posed at the East Park monkey bars: Standing from left: Jerry Hooker, Pat O'Neill, Loren Cook, Rachel Kaufmann, Julie Perry Sampson, Laura Sissel Lee, Ann Benningfield Chambers, Linda Sissel Kling, Virginia Vail Gustafson (peeking out), Jon Hughes, Fred Bachman; above in middle: Virginia Lehman Whipple; (above from left): Gerry Gutshall, Cathy Lundeen Becker, Jerry Fisher, Jewel Rocke Manship, Steve Ringenberg, Nita Vaughn von Holten, Bill Philhower. (another peeker) Not pictured but in attendance: Georgia Clark Cook and Dennis Chamberlain. Let's hear it: "Cha-He, Cha-ha, Cha-Ha-Ha-Ha" for the great turn-out from a class of 29 students!

Editor's note: In memory of their deceased classmates, Sam Bittner and Dan Sissel, the THS Class of '67 donated \$1,967 to the Tiskilwa Historical Society. Thank you. How very touching and generous.

Indian Valley Inn

Tiskilwa (815.646.4244)

Mon - Sat:

5:30 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Sunday:

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Mike McComber, Owner

Central Bank
ILLINOIS

PRINCETON 317 S Main St 815-875-3333	GENESEO 101 N State 309-944-5601	FULTON 1404 14th Ave 815-589-3232
---	---	--

www.central-bank.com
Search App Central Bank Illinois
Member FDIC

JOHN F. HEDRICH

Trial Lawyer

726 South Main Street
Princeton, IL 61356
815-872-1010

Kelly's Place
222 W. Main Street - Tiskilwa
Ph: 815-646-4773

These generous businesses
help to pay postage costs.