

Kendall
County
Historical
Society



Established 1970
Yorkville, Illinois

Newsletter

Spring 2023

Easter Bunny invites children to Lyon Farm for pancake breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny is inviting families to join him from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at Lyon Farm for a pancake breakfast, children's activities, group games and an Easter Egg Hunt.

The breakfast will be available until 11 a.m. and include two to three pancakes, two sausages, orange juice, coffee and milk. The Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held out on the Lyon Farm grounds, will be sectioned off according to age, and is scheduled to begin at 11:15 a.m.

In addition to the games, which also will be sectioned off according to ages, the event will offer crafts for children, basket prizes, a bake sale, and a raffle. The raffle prize, donated by Raging Waves Waterpark and the Holiday Inn, Yorkville, features four day passes to the water park, an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn, and coupons for free ice cream at Foxy's Ice Cream, 131 East Hydraulic Ave., Yorkville.

The cost for the event is \$5 for admission, plus an additional \$5 for ages 4 and up for each ticket for the breakfast.



Letter from our President:

Lyon Farm has had some changes in 2022.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Elmer Dickson estate, we were able to do needed repairs to the Corrigan Store. The porch roof was replaced, completing phase two of the restoration.

In addition to the Corrigan Store repairs, the Plano Train Station and Oswego House had roof repairs. Our Yorkville Firehouse had a total roof replacement and a new hand-painted Fire Station sign.

Our buildings weren't the only things to receive improvements. The areas that preserve our artifacts and our books and manuscripts, the Herman Hanouw Museum and the Elmer Dickson Library, both received new air filtration systems, thanks to a Covid relief grant from Kendall County.

We will be holding our annual meeting April 15 at 6 p.m. We will be serving a potluck dinner, followed by a guest speaker and election of officers. As a reminder to our



Lee Hohmann

annual members, your dues for 2023 must be paid in order to attend the annual meeting and vote in the election.

I look forward to 2023. Our volunteers are working hard to complete the projects identified by the Brick and Mortar Committee. Our Library volunteers are working hard to identify grants and private funding to complete these projects. Our Library staff is working with the community to develop programs of interest for our members and the community. We have added another fundraising event this year. Due to popular demand, we will be holding our second annual Easter Egg hunt on the Farm this year on April 1.

I hope you will all come out to join us at our events. (See the list of some of our events on the last page.) If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Farm by calling 630-553-6777. Hope to see you soon!

Lee Hohmann

The Kendall County Historical Society Membership Form

I want to initiate/renew my membership in the Kendall County Historical Society and help preserve the vital elements of American history for future generations.

Name (Last, First): _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am willing to volunteer for:

_____ Lyon Farm Events

_____ Library/Archives/Museum

Please mail this form with your check made payable to:

The Kendall County Historical Society, P.O. Box 123, Yorkville, IL 60560

For more information on the Society, email lyonfarmkchs1@gmail.com or call 630-553-6777

or visit our website at www.lyonfarmkchs.org

New Member Renewal

Mark one box:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Contributing | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Sustaining | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life - Individual | \$175 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life - Family | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000 |

I wish to make an additional donation to the KCHS Fund of \$ _____



Chuck Kernler shows some of his many ribbons and awards for his jams and jellies.

Interested in making jams and jellies?

Minnesota expert will share his secrets on June 24

He's called the jelly man - Chuck Kernler of Winona, Minnesota, and he's coming to Lyon Farm on Saturday, June 24, to give a 3 p.m. workshop on how to make blueberry jam.

"I will be demonstrating the production of blueberry jam, including preservation in fruit jars, canning production and canning of blueberry jam. I'll also include some comments about harvesting wild fruit and competing at various fairs around the country."

No registrations or special fees will be required for the session by Chuck, who has won a myriad of ribbons at state fairs and was part of the inaugural class of the Sure Jell Hall of Fame in 1997.

Chuck says he didn't grow up making jelly. He picked up the skill from his late wife, Diane, who had grown up making jams and jellies with her mother. After he and Diane moved into a house in the country with grape vines, in 1974, they made 47 jars of grape jelly.

"We used to can a lot of vegetables and fruit and make applesauce every year, but now I pretty much focus on jam and jelly," he said. "I'm really fond of wild fruit. Black



raspberries are an all-time favorite, but I have to include blackberries, strawberries, apple, blueberries and crab apple."

He also likes to put up pears, apricot, rhubarb, and in 2022 he grew huckleberries for the first time and plans to do so again in 2023.

"I make jelly and jam year around," he said. "I have fruit in my freezer right now. Frozen fruit gives up the juices better for jelly. It makes good sense to freeze fruit first if you're going to use it for jelly."

He began competing at the Winona County Fair in 1995, when he was awarded a prestigious ribbon for his crab apple jelly.

"I continue to compete because sadly there aren't many participants left. I encourage young people whenever I can to do fruit preservation and compete."

He says he doesn't have any tips to give would-be contestants, though.

"I have adapted my recipes from the Sure Jell recipe card," he says. "I buy my pectin by the pound. I just use fruit pectin. I think commercial producers use different ingredients. Home made jams and jellies just taste different."

Researchers at Lyon Farm's Elmer Dickson Library aid California man in quest for local family history

It started with a question about a murder.

A 91-year-old Californian, Dale Clipper, called the Elmer Dickson Memorial Library at Lyon Farm in the spring of 2022, asking for help in learning more about an ancestor who was supposedly murdered in Yorkville before the Civil War.

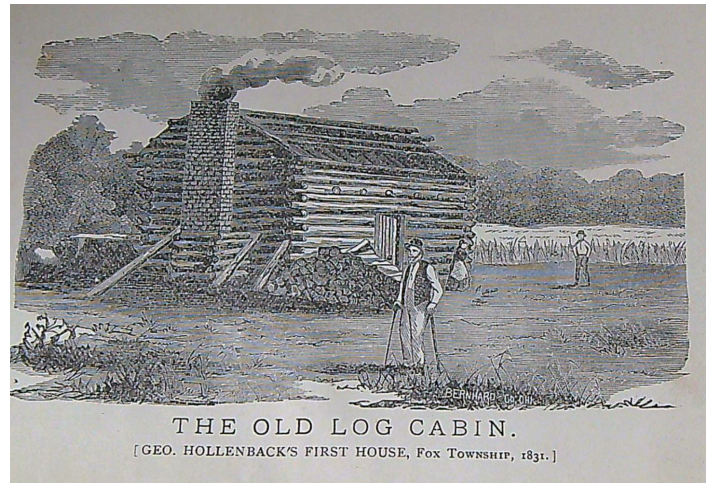
Lisa Wolancevich, one of five volunteers who help man the Library, connected the man to another volunteer, Beverly Casey, who took up the search.

"He thought the murder had happened in Yorkville," Lisa recalls. "Bev discovered his great grandfather, William Boyd, was an attorney who lived in and had an office in Bristol. This was before the Civil War, in the late 1850s. William had a newspaper that was printing articles sympathetic to the South. And this was not an area sympathetic to the South."

Lisa says the records show that someone came into William's office one night while he was working and shot him.

"It took him three weeks to die," Lisa said. "They never did catch who killed him."

A third researcher, Johanna Byram, with help from volunteers Jane Lauterbach and Mark Anderson, then went in to the Library archives and dug up information on several lines of Dale Clipper's family tree, taking one of them, the Hollenback line, back as far as the 1500s.



Drawing of the Hollenback cabin from History of Kendall County Illinois by the Rev. E. W. Hicks, 1877. Dale Clipper is the great-great grandson of George Hollenback, who owned the above cabin and was the original settler of Newark, IL

"There was a lot of extensive archives on his family," Johanna recalls. "At the time, we didn't have a Boyd file, but we had a lot on the Hollenbacks. We sent him a huge packet. He sent us a lot of photos of his family and info he had written, and gave us a lot on the Clipper family for our archives. He added to our archives an awful lot."

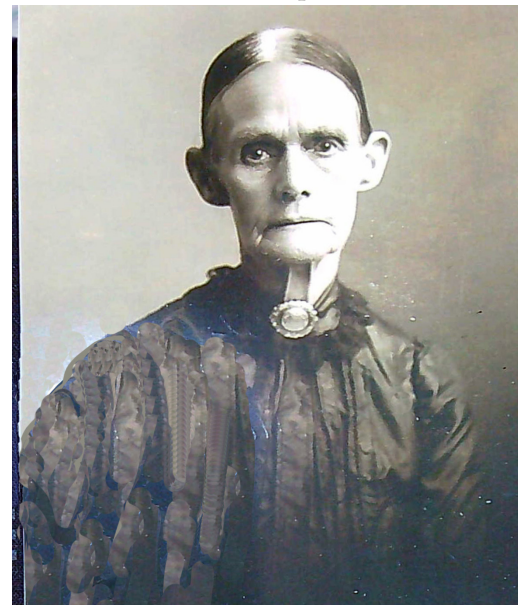
Dale Clipper is ecstatic with the help he received.



Lydia "Mina" Palmer Boyd and son Robert. Lydia was born in Fowler, NY in 1843, died in Oakdale, CA in 1931. Her parents were Philo Palmer and Eliza Willard. Son Robert was born in 1873, died in 1940.



John S. idle Boyd, Dale Clipper's great grandfather, and husband of Lydia Palmer Boyd. Born in 1842 in Bristol, IL and died there in 1893. He fought in Company C, 147th Regiment, IL Volunteer Infantry.



Sarah Hollenback Boyd, third child of George Hollenback and wife Sophia Sidle and mother of John S. Boyd.

Researchers con't.

"I've done research for over 30 years on my line," he said. "I've done it verbally, with great dedication, and I've done three books. I was very fortunate because a cousin in Arizona gave me my grandmother's photo album."

After having the murder verified by Lyon Farm researchers, Mr. Clipper said he asked Johanna if she could discover how his grandparents met.

"They sent me this fabulous information," he said. "I had some great experiences talking to them. They did a wonderful job for me! Lisa even told me that my great great grandmother Sarah Hollenback's wedding dress is on display at the farm. And they found for me where my great grandmother, Lydia Elmina Palmer Boyd, who died in Callifornia, is buried, in Kendall County beside her husband John S. Boyd.

"The Kendall County Historical Society has been extremely generous to give me information."

"It really was a team effort," said Lisa Wolancevich. "We are helping him discover his family's genealogy and he is enriching our archives. We now have an archive of the Clipper and Boyd families that we didn't have before."

Lisa and the other Elmer Dickson Library volunteers encourage anyone interested in learning more about their local family history to contact the library.



Children of John and Lydia Boyd: Ella, Sarah and Robert. Ella Louise (1871-1960) was Dale Clipper's grandmother. Sister Sarah died at age 10; Robert died in California in 1940. Ella married Dale Clipper's grandfather, Allen Clipper, in 1890. The couple moved to California in 1903 and had six children, including Dale Clipper's father, Claire Robert Clipper, in 1902.

Elmer Dickson Memorial Library

Open 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays \$15 an hour for research

The Library, operated by the Kendall County Historical Society at Lyon Farm, is housed in the Herman Hanouw Museum building. It contains many archive records such as census lists, tax assessment lists, head of household lists, birth, death and marriage records, and cemetery records, some dating to 1840. Some additional materials include:

- ◆ An 1859 Map of Kendall County
- ◆ 1871, 1903, 1922 Atlas and Plat Books of Kendall County
- ◆ An 1876 Biographical Directory of Kendall county
- ◆ An 1877 History of Kendall County by Reverend Hicks
- ◆ 1888 Portrait & Biographical records of Kane and Kendall Counties
- ◆ 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 U.S. census lists
- ◆ Kendall County cemetery records
- ◆ Kendall County veteran records of the Spanish American, Mexican and Civil Wars, the War of 1812, World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam

Go to www.lyonfarmkchs.org for more information or call 630-553-6777.

Historic Firehouse/Yorkville City Hall gets new roof, beautification work

This past fall the Kendall County Historical Society replaced the roof on Yorkville's original Firehouse, located now at Lyon Farm.

Built in 1887 in response to the fire that gutted the Old Kendall County Courthouse in March of 1887, the Firehouse opened in 1888. Prior to the construction of the Firehouse, Yorkville had no organized fire department.

The firehouse was originally located on Bridge Street south of Van Emmon Street. It roughly sat where the Old Second Bank drive -thru sits today until the building was moved up the hill and relocated to Madison Street, across from the Old Kendall County Courthouse, in 1905. By 1905, Yorkville had a second Firehouse on Hydraulic Road to serve the businesses in the downtown and Bristol (the north side of Yorkville today).

Then when the Bristol-Kendall Fire Department was established in 1946, a new firehouse was built at the corner of Rt. 47 and Fox Road. The Fire Department subsequently moved out of the original firehouse, which then was used exclusively as Yorkville's Town Hall until 1986. The garage style door on the front of the building was removed when the building was converted to the town hall.



The Firehouse/City Hall after renovation.

Photo courtesy of Christian S. Landorf

protected from the elements for years to come. In addition, Michael Wolanevich of Yorkville created a new sign for the firehouse. Volunteers Christen and Caleb Landorf of Yorkville, and Scott Stevens of Plano rolled up their sleeves and gave the building's interior a good cleaning, redressed the displays and spruced up the landscaping.

Last, but not least, this restoration would not have been possible without the guidance of Jack Jenkins, the Farm VP of the Kendall County Historical Society, and help from his fellow board members.



ABC roofing employees at work on the Firehouse.

Photo courtesy of Paul E. Burd Photography.

After 1986, the building sat vacant and was in a state of deterioration when the Kendall County Historical Society rallied support and raised funds to have the building moved to Lyon Farm in 1996.

The new roof was completed by Justin Prince and his crew from ABC roofing, ensuring that the building will be



Photo of historic Firehouse/City Hall being moved to Lyon Farm in 1996.

Woodcarver Michael Nolan, instructors slated to teach 3 days of woodcarving techniques during Fall Festival

Boulder Hill resident Michael Nolan, owner of Studio Carvings, will be bringing up to five instructors from all over the country to teach three days of woodcarving classes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22 and 23, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24.

The classes will be taught in the Exhibit Building at Lyon Farm. Cost for the three classes is \$250. Pre-registration is required and can be done online at www.gatheringofwoodcarvers.com.

Nolan, who has been carving since 2012, says he and the instructors will be covering different types of carving.

“Vic Hood, a former Woodcarver of the Year from Tennessee, does realistic bust carvings such as Indian busts or mountain men, whatever a person is interested in doing.”

Another instructor, Dillon Goodson from Michigan, teaches relief carving as well as figure carving.

“He does figures about 15 inches high and they are realistic,” Nolan says. “His relief work is like you would see in a fireplace mantel or a wall plaque.”

In addition to these two instructors, Nolan said he will be teaching a class on how to create caricatures about two inches high.

“You can stick them in your pocket,” he said.

He also likes to do mantels and chainsaw carving. Bears are one of his favorite creations. He carved a nine-foot bear from a big maple tree that is on display in Plano on Dearborn Street.

At the Lyon Farm program, in addition to the classes, there also will be a display of carvings, with some items for sale. People can come in and browse. Those who sign up for the classes don't have to bring anything with them, Nolan said.

“If they have the tools, they can bring them, but it's not necessary. We just want to encourage people to get interested in woodcarving.”

Nolan said he himself became interested in woodcarving



Michael Nolan's Black Bear, carved from a maple tree in Plano. Photo by Paul E. Burd

in 2012 when he visited the shop of a woodcarver.

“Joe Dillett started a Gathering of Woodcarvers. He's from Somonauk,” Nolan said. “He had a shop just north of Lake Holliday. He started out at the great Pig Out at the Sandwich Fair Grounds, a fundraiser for the Boy Scouts, but when interest in that declined, he started a workshop for woodcarvers.”

Eventually “antiquers” wanted more space at the Fairgrounds, Nolan explained. So Dillett suspended doing his event for a few years.

“He had a reunion of the group in 2013 at his studio, which was when I met him. He asked me to stick around and carve with the guys if I wanted to. His Gathering of Woodcarvers show only lasted a few days, but he had people come from all around the country. It was my introduction to the world of exceptionally talented woodcarvers.”

In 2016 Nolan asked Dillett if he could take over the event, which hadn't been held since 2013.

“He said go for it,” Nolan says. “Since 2017 I've been running it with a lot of help. It's a three-day weekend event held every year, formerly at the

Fairgrounds, but this year we'll have a new venue.”

Nolan encourages anyone interested to come out and learn about woodcarving.

“It's relaxing. It's therapy,” he says. “You can sit down with a piece of wood and a knife and truthfully you can sit and wittle and it's a relaxing way to be creative. I think you get to concentrating on something that takes your mind off every day challenges or troubles or whatever. It takes you away a little bit.”

Nolan, who started the Oswego Area Carvers that meets at the Senior Center every Friday, says it doesn't cost a whole lot to get started in woodcarving.

“Most classes you can get into and get started very inexpensively,” he said. “It's an investment into yourself. It is worth every penny.”

Upcoming Events . . .



Easter at the Farm

Saturday, April 1
9:30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Jelly, Jam Making Workshop

Saturday, June 24
3 p.m.

Sheepie Fest 2023

Sunday, Sept. 10
noon to 3 p.m.

Fall Fest

Saturday & Sunday,
Sept 23 & 24
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Halloween at the Farm

Saturdays, Oct. 15 & 22
1 to 4 p.m.

Christmas at the Farm

Saturday & Sunday
Dec. 16 & 17
1 to 4 p.m.

Kendall County Historical Society
P.O. Box 123
Yorkville, IL 60560