

Grundy County Historical Society Newsletter



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Historical Society-Illinois

Museum Hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Group Tours by Appointment—Call for Appointment

The Grundy County Historical Society Newsletter is published four times a year. It is distributed to members of record free of charge via e-mail and USPS. Subscriptions start at \$10 for students annually.

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MUSEUM NEWS

INTERRUPTIONS TO DAILY WORK

Calling them interruptions is perhaps misleading. They are part of our day. Sometime we are asked genealogy questions, sometimes someone comes in and educates us. This occurred recently: a man who visited is a collector of U.S. flags. His collection is extensive but his knowledge of the various fields (or cantons—the area containing the stars) is fantastic. He spent over an hour giving us information about our country's flag. As a result, we have booked him into our upcoming programs for Spring of 2020. This was a very nice interruption.

PRESENTATION: WEDDING DRESSES THRU THE YEARS, APRIL 23, 2019

We will be pulling early wedding dresses from the late 1800s thru the 1950s out of our Museum's storage. This will give you an opportunity to see items that we often do NOT display because of their fragility. The Program Committee is working hard on this event—we will probably use *all* our manikins and, possibly a live model for some of the later dresses.

Just think. A few years ago we considered antiques to be 100 years or older. Now we are collecting things from the 1950s and later; items from that time period are now *70 years old*. Because they are from our lifetime, they don't seem to be antiques. We want to and need to collect them because they are available now and may not be in 30 years when they *will be* classified as antiques.

NEW EXHIBITS

We are now working hard on two new exhibits. The first is a coal mine exhibit which will be our first interactive exhibit and the second on the Hornsby stores. Please note, if anyone out

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

All our programs are free to members and nonmembers alike except for the dinner fee for the Annual Meeting in May. Mark your calendars!

April 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.: "Bridal Gowns through the Decades" presented by our Program Committee and featuring items in our collection. This program will be held at the Museum.

May 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m.: "The History of Inventors in Illinois" presented by Terry and Laura Lynch. The annual meeting is a dinner meeting and *will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Jackson Street in Morris*. A modest charge for dinner will be announced closer to the event.

there has an historic item from the Hornsby stores, now is the time to preserve it forever, by donating it to our Museum. We know there were T-shirts at one time and we would love to have one for the Museum. We are also setting up a diary for visitors to enter their memories of working for or shopping at Hornsby's.

WHAT DO WE NEED

If you do not tell someone what you need, you may miss an opportunity to receive it because someone else has it and is going to get rid of it.

We now have a brand new microfilm reader. These microfilm readers are expensive: \$6,600 each. However, we could use another one. It doesn't have to be brand new but an older

one that is still serviceable. The two readers received from the Library both have issues: one did not work at all; the other only rewinds manually which is a pain. If you know of a working one for free or a small fee, it would be appreciated.

Any retired carpenters out there? We need help putting a floor in our garage to make it level with the rest of the Museum. We will be buying all the supplies such as 2 × 10 lumber to frame the floor plus plywood sheathing to go on top of the frame to create a subfloor. Our funds will go no further than construction of the basic floor at this time. So, underlayment, walls, ceiling, and electrical will all have to wait for sufficient funds.

Why are we doing this? Well, there are now TWO access doors to the garage. From the original museum side door, stairs descend about 3½ feet. On the new side there is a second door which is unusable at this time. If you went through that door right now, you would fall down that 3½-foot drop. We need to install a floor obviously to increase safety, but also to give us a second and much shorter path from the original side of the Museum in to the new addition.

WEB SITE REMINDER

There are two reasons to remind our readers to go to our web site. 1. We want any criticism of the site: does it cover what it should? If you, as a local, find it at fault then someone out of our area would not know that there is an issue with the site. 2. The web site shows a list of items available for sale in our gift shop. Someone just came in to purchase a second mastodon plush animal. Easy way to get there: Grundy History artifacts.

Remember, if you search the web you will find five references to Grundy, four of which are counties. They are in Missouri, Tennessee, Iowa, Illinois, and Virginia, so trying to find us is not quite straight forward. All were named for Felix Grundy, a Tennessee senator and United States attorney general under President Andrew Jackson. Their county seats are: Trenton, Missouri; Altamont, Tennessee; Grundy Center, Iowa; and, of course, Morris in Illinois. The fifth Grundy is a town located in Buchanan County, Virginia.

CEMETERY VISITS

It is no longer traditional to go to the family cemetery plot on Memorial Day as we all did when I was young but I thought pass along the following interesting tidbit of information. Have you ever gone to a cemetery and found coins on a headstone. Did you wonder if someone lost the coins?

Coins on a veteran's headstone have a more somber meaning. According to legend this practice gained strength during the Vietnam War. With tensions regarding the war running high, people tended not to get into discussions about it. Comrades who visited the graves of fallen friends left coins on their

headstones as a comfort to family that their veterans were not forgotten. A penny left simply meant a visit and the visitor was grateful for the soldier's service. A nickel meant the visitor trained with the deceased in boot camp. A dime signified serving alongside the veteran, and a quarter meant the visitor was there when he passed away—all signs to a grieving family someone remembered.

NEW MEMBERS

The following people, all from Morris, Illinois, are new members of the Grundy County Historical Society. We thank them for their support.

Thelma J. Campbell

Robert and Janet Craig

Tim Brockman

GRUNDY COUNTY TRIVIA

In 1984, the First National Bank of Morris changed its name to what? Look for the answer elsewhere in this newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW?

Before our streets were paved, keeping dust down was an issue that had to be addressed during hot, dry periods.

Contract to Sprinkle, May 12, 1866

[Paper unknown.]

Samuel Shaffer has taken a contract to sprinkle the streets of our city, during the summer. He commenced his labors on Monday last. Street sprinkling is one of the necessities of our city, for when the weather is dry, and a stiff wind prevails, the clouds of dust which sweep through our streets, and finds its way into our stores and other business places, becomes almost unbearable.

The Sad Death of Antis Walley

The Liberal Reformer

p. 3, Jan. 27, 1875

A number of young men were out on a fox chase last Saturday, in the Aux Sable timber. Among them was Antis Walley, about 17 years of age, who with several others had chased a rabbit into a hollow log, and in attempting to get him out, Walley's gun accidentally went off, filling his right side with shot. His comrades immediately took him to his home, which was near by, and everything was done to relieve his sufferings. He lived but two hours, dying before Dr. Ridgeway, who had been summoned arrived. He was a very promising lad, and the only son living at home. His

premature death will be greatly mourned. We saw some of the party passing through Morris that evening on their way home, and they seemed terribly shocked at the sad ending of their day's sport. Such accidents are of too frequent occurrence, and the greatest caution should be used when hunters are excited over the chase and capture of their game.

FACEBOOK



Besides our web site, we have a Facebook presence thanks to Dorothy Cunnea, our very dedicated volunteer who handles the Facebook page. So, a hearty hello to all 1,073 of our Facebook friends. We appreciate your interest in our Museum as well as your support. If you are not currently a member of the Historical Society, please consider joining not only our Facebook page *but* our Museum as well. Friend us at the **Museum of the Grundy County Historical Society-Illinois**. Additionally, you can download a membership application for the Historical Society from our web site, www.grundycountyhs.org, click on Membership/Newsletter. Thank you!

RADIO



Find the Museum on the radio the first Monday of every month. Tune in to "People Are Talking," WCSJ, 103.1 on your FM dial, from approximately 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

FLOAT COPPER

The Museum has an 82-pound example of float copper which is seldom moved. You can understand why. So what is float copper? The dictionary defines it as an Erratic—transported from an original resting place especially by a glacier. To further define it in more detail: the term "float" copper refers to glacially transported native copper from the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The name "float" copper was used in a 1924 publication, *American Mineralogist*, by University of Michigan renowned mineralogist Edward H. Kraus.

By definition, an **erratic** is a glacier-transported rock fragment that differs from the local bedrock.

Erratics may be embedded in till (unstratified glacial drift consisting of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders intermingled) or occur on the surface and may range in size from pebbles to huge boulders weighing thousands of tons. The distance of transportation may range from less than 0.6 mile to more than 500 miles; those transported over long distances generally consist of rock resistant to the shattering and grinding effects of glacial transport. Erratics composed of unusual and distinctive

rock types can be traced to their sources of origin and serve as indicators of the direction of glacial movement.

Studies making use of such indicator erratics have provided information on the general origins and flow paths of the major ice sheets and on the locations of important mineral deposits. There are actual scientific maps laid out showing the flow of the glacier from northern Wisconsin down to the center of Illinois. Erratics played an important part in the initial recognition of the last ice age and its scope. Originally thought to be transported by gigantic floods or by ice rafting, erratics were first explained in terms of glacial transport by the Swiss American naturalist and geologist J. Louis R. Agassiz in 1840.

Native copper occurs in bedrock of the Midcontinent rift exposed around Lake Superior. The advancing glacial ice plucked the native copper from lodes or veins and entrapped it in the glacial ice. As the ice moved generally southward the masses of native copper moved in the same direction as the ice. The native copper masses were abraded by other rocks and minerals carried along by the glacial ice which resulted in smoothing the malleable native copper and removing attached rocks or minerals from the surface. Glacial striations are visible on some float copper specimens from this scraping.

On occasion, edges of the copper masses were bent over by collisions with larger rocks carried by the glacier. When the glacier retreated, these masses of native copper that were "floating" in the glacial ice were deposited along with smoothed and rounded clasts of the other rocks carried by the glacier.

Some of the float copper was very pure which is especially true of those found in Wisconsin. However, float copper has been found as far south as Effingham, Illinois. Our float copper is not very pure as it is still in its rock matrix showing the natural oxidation of the copper over the years, giving the slab of rock the green patina of copper. Our 82-pound specimen may be heavy but other specimens vary from pea size to slabs weighing thousands of pounds. Also, some of the copper floats that were almost pure copper ended up polished to brilliance by their movement through sand.

COPPER—HOW WAS IT USED

The natives of this area were versatile. The most conclusive evidence suggests that native copper was utilized to produce a wide variety of tools beginning in the Middle Archaic period circa 4,000 B.C. Called the Old Copper Culture, this refers to items made by early inhabitants of the Great Lakes region during a period that spans several thousand years and covers several thousand square miles.

The vast majority of this evidence comes from dense concentrations of Old Copper finds in eastern Wisconsin. Copper tools

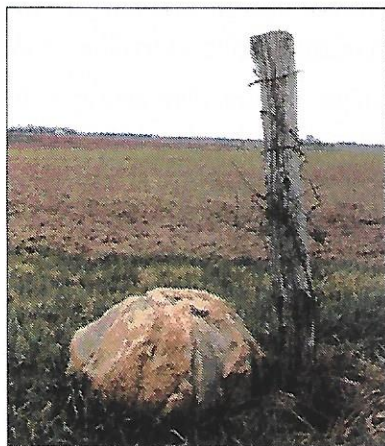
cover a broad range of artifact types: axes, adzes, various forms of projectile points, knives, perforators, fishhooks, and harpoons. By about 1,500 B.C., artifact forms began to shift from utilitarian objects to personal ornaments, which may reflect an increase in social stratification toward the Late Archaic and Early Woodland period. While copper continued to be used in North America up until European contact, it was only used in small amounts, primarily for symbolic ornaments.

NOW, WERE COPPER ERRATICS THE ONLY ONES?

Exotic Rocks . . . or Erratics are Erratic

Here and there in Illinois are boulders lying alone or with companions in the corner of a field or someone's yard, on a courthouse lawn or a schoolyard. Many of them—colorful and glittering granites, banded gneisses, and other intricately veined and streaked igneous and metamorphic rocks—seem out of place in the stoneless, grassy knolls and prairies of our state. Their erratic occurrence is the reason for their interesting name.

Where did erratics come from?

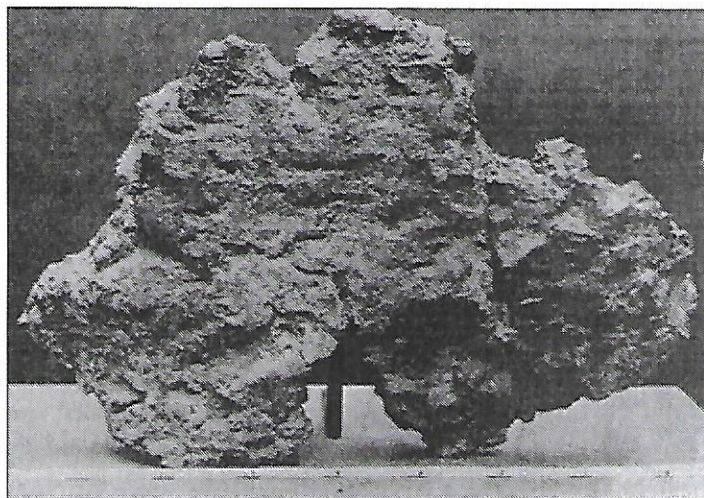


A boulder moved by glaciers from Canada to Illinois.

Illinois State Geological Survey, University of Illinois at Urbana.

These exotic rocks came from Canada and the states north of us. The continental glaciers of the Great Ice Age scoured and scraped the land surface as they advanced, pushing up chunks of bedrock and grinding them against each other or along the ground surface as the rock-laden ice sheets pushed southward. Sometimes you can tell where the erratic originally

came from by determining the kind of rock it is. A large boulder of granite, gneiss, or other igneous or metamorphic rock may have come from Canada. Some erratics containing flecks of copper were probably transported here from the Copper Range of the upper peninsula of Michigan. Large pieces of copper have been found in glacial deposits of central and northern Illinois. Light gray to white quartzite boulders with beautiful, rounded pebbles of red jasper came from Ontario, Canada. Purplish pieces of quartzite, some of them banded, probably originated in Wisconsin. Most interesting are the few large boulders of Canadian tillite. Glacial till is an unsorted and unlayered mixture of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders that vary widely in size and shape. Tillite is glacial till that was deposited by a glacier many millions of years older than the ones that



The largest copper mass found in Illinois weighs 1,606 pounds and was found by L. J. Paul 8 miles west of Canton, Fulton County, Illinois. It now resides in the Illinois State Museum, catalog number 5590.

invaded our state during the Great Ice Age. This glacial till has been around so long that it has hardened into a gray to greenish-gray rock containing a mixture of grains of different sizes and scattered pebbles of various types and sizes.

Many boulders were probably dropped directly from the melting front of the glacier. Others may have been rafted to their present resting places by icebergs in ancient lakes or on floodwaters of some long-vanished stream as it poured from a glacier. Still others, buried in the glacial deposits, could have worked their way up to the land surface as the surrounding loose soil repeatedly froze and thawed. When the freezing ground expands, pieces of rock tend to be pushed upward, where they are more easily reached by the farmer's plow and also



This map shows the extent of glacial ice coverage of North America.

more likely to be exposed by erosion. Erratics, seen along sections of Cemetery Road, are being used in lieu of fencing as deterrents to trespassing onto private property.

Many erratics are of notable size and beauty. Some are used as monuments in courthouse squares and parks, or along highways. Many are marked with metal plaques to indicate an interesting historical spot or event.

Keep an eye out for erratics. You may find some of these glacial strangers in your neighborhood!