

March 2013 Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Please mark the date above on your calendar for the Franklin Historical Society's annual membership meeting. The meeting will be held as in past years in Fadrow room of the Franklin Public Library 9151 W. Loomis Road.

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a very interesting and revealing program about the City of Franklin's earliest history. Please read what FHS board member **Joan Thompson** has written below.

Sheehan Presentation at 2013 Annual Meeting

Are you curious about the Sheehan family connected to the Sheehan-Godsell Log Cabin in Legend Park? Have you heard the story of Michael Sheehan arriving in Franklin from County Cork, Ireland, in 1834 with nothing but a shotgun? Well, it's not entirely true. There is much more to the story of the Sheehans arriving in our neighborhood, and some scandal too. And then there are questions as to why some of the Sheehan family changed the spelling of their name to "Sheahan." Learn this and much more when Sue Dolinar, Jack Domencich and Ann Sheahan, fifth-generation descendants of Michael Sheehan, give a presentation regarding their Irish family at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, in the Fadrow Room of the Franklin Public Library. Following their presentation, beverages and cookies will be served. The annual meeting of the Franklin Historical Society will immediately follow the refreshment break. Hope you can join us to learn more about Franklin's Irish roots!

Barn Dance

People who attended the barn dance last November had so much fun that we've decided to repeat the event. To raise funds for the barn project, the next barn dance will be on Sunday, April 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. at The Hideaway, 9643 South 76th Street in Franklin. Vern & the Originals will once again provide good old-fashioned dancing music. There will also be a 50/50 raffle which promises to be bigger than last time as well as new raffle prizes. Advance tickets may be purchased at The Hideaway or at our annual

meeting on April 13. For additional ticket information, please contact Luanne Burdick (423-0065), Ken Gawrisch (529-2494), Barbara Pforr (425-0244), Joan Thompson (529-3675) or Jim Luckey (421-6539). Get ready for a good time!

Cookies Cookbook -Fund Raiser for the Barn Project

The barn fund-raising committee is always open to new ideas to raise funds for the barn project. Best of Country Cookies contains more than 250 best cookie recipes from Taste of Home's national cookie contest. Yes, you may have seen this cookbook at the Greendale Visitor Center priced at \$9.99. We will sell this cookie cookbook for the same price of \$9.99, but \$5 from the sale of each cookbook will benefit the barn project. Best of Country Cookies will be available for sale at our annual meeting on April 13 and at the next barn dance on April 21. Enjoy a delicious cookie from one of those recipes when you purchase a cookbook at the annual meeting or the barn dance!

Franklin Historical Society Website

The FHS website www.franklinhistory.net is a great source for current information and some interesting stories and pictures. Please visit the site for there are frequent updates. Below are listed FHS upcoming events in 2013 where our website has additional details.

1. Saturday March 30 - Lions Legend Park Open house after Franklin Lions morning Easter Egg Hunt.
2. Sunday April 21 - Barn Dance at The Hideaway.
3. Saturday June 15 - Open house after City of Franklin Health. Departments Bike Rodeo.
4. Thursday July 4 and Sunday August 4 - Open house
5. Saturday Sept. 21 - Delikat Smokehouse Dedication
6. Saturday Dec. 14 - Old-Fashioned Christmas Program and Saturday Dec. 7 - Children's Christmas Program.

Eagle Scout Bennett Hoeft

You may have noticed in the heading above it is now Eagle Scout Hoeft, not candidate Hoeft. Many congratulations to Bennett and family and his

volunteer workers. The St. Peters Chapel stairway project was a extreme challenge. Bennett will be honored for this great accomplishment likely in our Chapel Saturday May 4 at 2 p.m.

Welcome Robert Storm

The FHS welcomes Robert Storm as a new member. Mr. Storm has volunteered to help with archiving. He has experience in website design and has made some helpful suggestions for our website.

History Quiz

DO YOU KNOW.....

Here is a list of 20 questions to see what you know about the history of Franklin. All of the questions are taken from articles that appeared in the Franklin Citizen (now called the Chronicle) in the column entitled “Historically Speaking” by Judy Scherrer or appeared in stories in the Cabins to Condos book published by the historical society. Good Luck!

- 1. What is the name of the one-room school that is located in the historical park?**
- 2. Which Franklin cemetery has the oldest marked grave site in Milwaukee County?**
- 3. What are the two major ethnic groups that originally settled in Franklin?**
- 4. Where is the church located that was built in the middle 1800’s by the “free thinkers”?**
- 5. What well-known museum to aviation in Oshkosh was founded in Franklin?**
- 6. What was the name of the grade school that was built when the 4 one-room schools were consolidated into a single school district?**

- 7. Where was the Hales Corners Speedway located?**
- 8. What church in Franklin was built using buildings from a former prisoner-of-war encampment?**
- 9. What church was moved from the cemetery grounds on S. 68th St. to the historical park?**
- 10. What was the location of the Japanese pagoda style Wadham's gas station?**
- 11. When was Franklin High School built?**
- 12. Who was the first principal of Franklin High and continued to hold the job for a total of 28 years?**
- 13. What weekend celebration in September is Franklin known for?**
- 14. Which church in St. Martins was established by the Irish?**
- 15. What building is considered the oldest home in Franklin and is now located in the historical park?**
- 16. What was the name of the early brewery established in the St. Martins area?**
- 17. What family operated an implement business in St. Martins for many years?**
- 18. When was the Franklin Historical Society founded?**
- 19. What is the newest addition to the Franklin Historical Park?**
- 20. What is the latest fund-raising project being conducted by the Franklin Historical Society?**

(answers on next page)

ANSWERS:

1. Whelan School
2. Carman Family Cemetery on 68th St., north of Ryan Rd.
3. Irish, German
4. Painesville Chapel, located on corner of Ryan Rd. & 27th St.
5. EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association)
6. Ben Franklin School, formerly located on 76th St., south of Drexel
7. On present site of the Franklin Menard's store
8. St. James Catholic Church on 27th St., south of Rawson Ave.
9. St. Peter's Chapel
10. 76th St. & Ryan Rd.
11. 1962
12. Romuald Kucinski
13. Labor Day Fair
14. Holy Assumption Catholic Church
15. Sheehan-Godsell cabin
16. Gross Brewery
17. Mayer family
18. 1969
19. Delikat smokehouse
20. Barn project (housing a museum to farming)

The Smokehouse is completed with only some minor touch up work to do. The dedication will be Saturday Sept. 21. Detailed information will be given in a future newsletter. In that newsletter there will be a detailed account of the project written by board member and building & grounds director **Steve Gyuro**. Below is the first paragraph of Steve's story.

Moving a stone structure is a big deal. Walls that are two feet thick, and individual stones weighing as much as 400 pounds is a handful. That, coupled with permits and politics, makes for a daunting task. What made the structure a worthwhile preservation project was two-fold. The front facade consisted of two stacks of geometrically cut stone, on each side of a weathered old door. A grand, massive stone lintel bridged the door, and along with it, the two stacks supported the gable stones. Amidst the gable was a carved identification stone saying, "H.1891.D." The date, of course, and the initials of the builder, Herman Delikat were carved. The second reason for the preservation was its inherent importance of the concept of a smokehouse to our fore fathers. A smokehouse was crucial for survival in the preservation of meats of all kinds. This structure would make an excellent addition to the other historic buildings at Legend Park, the City of Franklin's historical park.



WHELAN SCHOOL PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers to assist with 1-4th grade classes who take part in the One-Day Learning Experience offered by our historical society in the Whelan School. The time involved is usually from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Attire required is a white blouse and long dark skirt. We anticipate about 20 classes to be visiting between April through the beginning of June. The more volunteers we have will help to reduce the load. One, two, or three times during these three months would be greatly appreciated. Help serve your community, strengthen our Franklin Historical Society and learn history! Barbara Pforr, 425-0244

DO YOU LIKE TO KEEP TRACK OF THINGS? If so, we need volunteers to label artifacts, record information, identify artifacts, etc. Please contact Barbara Pforr, 425-0244.

Our curator Barbara Pforr along with a number of FHS members have been working hard on re- displaying our town hall museum. One major change is going to be a display of farming tools. There is going to be some extra room for one more new display for which we are hoping someone in our membership has something of a historic interest of Franklin, or a collection of anything of American history. We are thinking of taking this on loan for our 2013 open houses. If you have something, or know someone who would be interested, please let me or Barbara know.

In Memoriam of Ed Schlueter

The FHS has lost a valued member and an important part of the history of Franklin. Ed's family farmed the land that is today Lions Legend Park. For many years Ed had a trucking business and sold Christmas trees in St. Martins. He wrote the book Country Boy Makes Good published by the FHS. Most recently he gave a great speech at our Founding Farming Families event. Thank you Ed for everything you did.

In Memoriam of Irene Tretow

The FHS has lost another very valued member of our society Irene Tretow. Irene along with her husband Vern have been dedicated and hard working members for over 10 years. Vern told me that Irene especially enjoyed doing hospitality work. I last had the privilege of working with her last September during our Labor Day parking. Irene was a very nice and kind person. Thank you Irene for everything you did.

Jim Luckey
President FHS