




BYRON HISTORY EXPRESS

PRESERVING OUR PAST.... FOR OUR FUTURE!

SMITHSONIAN COMES TO THE BYRON MUSEUM

"Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?"

The Byron Museum invites you to "explore  Smithsonian Institution

both sides of the fence" when it hosts *Between Fences*, a traveling Smithsonian Exhibition. This exhibition is brought to Byron through Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Illinois Humanities Council.

Byron is one of 6 Illinois communities selected to host this exhibit in 2008 - 2009. *Between Fences* is an exhibition focusing on the legendary role of fences in American culture. The exhibition examines the relationship of fences in U.S. history: neighbor vs. neighbor; gated communities; and the Mexican & Canadian borders. Its subjects include the defining of home, farm, and factory; the settling of the United States; the closing of the range in the South and its meaning to former slaves; and the making of fences, including a look at why Abe Lincoln became known as a rail splitter. The exhibition will be at the Byron Museum November 29, 2008 through January 11, 2009.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BETWEEN FENCES

Between Fences Website

[www.museumonmainstreet.org/
exhibs_fences/fences.htm](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/exhibs_fences/fences.htm)

Museum on Main Street (MoMS)

www.museumonmainstreet.org

*Developer of Between Fences
Exhibition*

*River Arts Center in
Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin*

www.spfences.org

*See what The River Arts Center has
done with Between Fences*

EXHIBITION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hosting *Between Fences* is a great honor! We have already begun preparations behind the scenes here at the museum to accommodate the exhibition. There are plenty of ways for you to get involved; if you are interested in sitting on a committee, or helping in another way, please call the Museum at 815.234.5031.

PR & Marketing - to help get the word out, distribute flyers, and talk to the media.

Exhibit Committee - help to design & build the Museum's companion exhibit which will be displayed in conjunction with *Between Fences* exhibition.

Community Programming - create programs to be held in conjunction with *Between Fences*.
(Examples: Photography contest, lecture series, discussion panels, dramatic readings.)

Exhibition Installation/DeInstallation - coordinate the arrival and departure of this exhibit here in Byron.

Student Outreach - collaborate with area schools to bring students to the exhibition, or bring the exhibition's themes into the classroom.

Tour Guides/Docents - There will be training for docents from both the Byron Museum as well as through the Museum on Main Street.

We are looking for 3-5 people to be on each of these committees. **Anyone** is welcome to volunteer, but we are especially looking for people with any experience in architecture, education, public relations & marketing, carpentry, cabinet-making, electrical, plexiglass, art, graphics, or printing.

The Byron Museum District

Board of Commissioners

Randy Stukenberg, *President*

Angie Bauer, *Vice-President*

Ron Beem, *Secretary*

Kim Boyden, *Treasurer*

Harry Adams, *Commissioner*

Staff

Jessica McCanse, *Executive Director*

Carolin Kauten, *Program Director*

Kristi Gile, *Project Coordinator*

Barbara Haines, *Research Assistant*

Meetings are open to the public, and are scheduled for the **4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM** in the Museum Research Center & Library.

Address changes and inquiries may be addressed to:

Byron Museum of History

PO Box 186

106 N. Union Street

Byron, IL 61010-0186

Phone: 815.234.5031

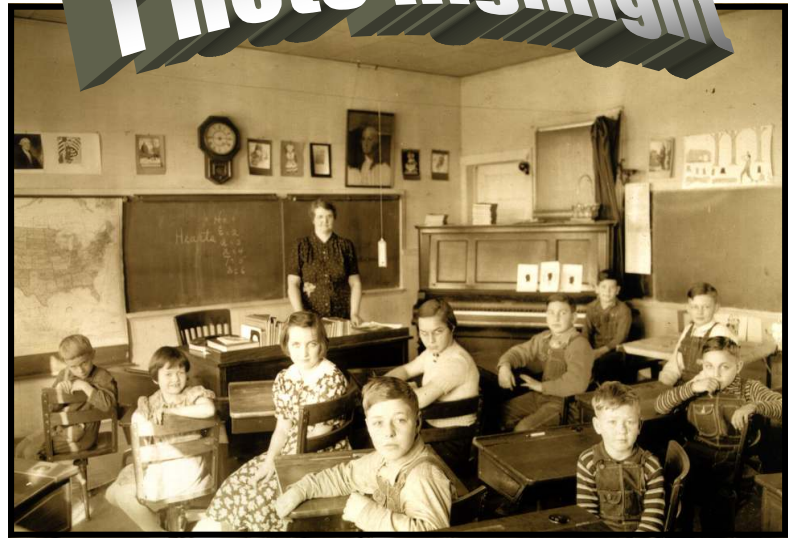
Email: jessica@byronmuseum.org



Richard Christopher, 90, a civil war veteran and Byron's only colored resident for many years, who died last night at the National Soldier's Home in Milwaukee, Wis., will be conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday at the local Congregational church. The Rev. L. M. Isaacs, pastor of the Union church, will officiate, and the American Legion post of Byron will have charge of services at the grave in the local cemetery.

Mr. Christopher was one of the three surviving Byron civil war veterans of the nine who took part in the Memorial services held here on May 30, 1928. The other two veterans are the Rev. A. W.

Photo Highlight



Old Union School, 1931
(Photo courtesy of Chuck Snyder)

STAFF UPDATE

This winter we have received an intern through the Job Explorers Program at Byron High School. Lindsay Nauman is a Senior who is looking forward to going to Elmhurst College where she will be on their softball team. She will be helping the Museum with a number of projects, including accessioning objects into our museum database, researching Byron History, and of course helping us to prepare for hosting the Smithsonian exhibit!

FEATURED ARTICLE FROM OUR ARCHIVES: BYRON CIVIL WAR VETERAN OBITUARY

"Funeral Services for

Hetrick, Byron, and Charles Willmarth, who resides with his son near Oregon on the Blackhawk Trail.

"Uncle Dick," as he was known to his many friends in this community, was born in Tennessee on Jan. 2, 1842, and was proud of the fact that he was "freeborn." His father, a saddler, had purchased his own freedom before the birth of his son."

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Mr. Christopher enlisted with Company F, Thirteenth U.S. Colored Infantry, at the outbreak of the civil war and served until 1865 when he was honorably discharged. Immediately after the war he came to Ogle county and worked as a tenant farmer for more than a quarter of a century. During the past two years he had been a resident at the Milwaukee Institution. Two daughters, Mrs. Cora Lewis, Milwaukee, and another



Upcoming Events & Programs

Antique Appraisal - Saturday, March 15th at 1:00 p.m. Bring in your antiques, collectibles and family heirlooms. Swan Hachmeister of Hack's Auction and Realty, Inc., will give you an appraisal based on his many years of experience. \$3/item

Volunteer Banquet - Friday, April 17th at 6:00 p.m. This year we will have a slightly different format, with an ice-breaker or two. Stay tuned for more details!

School Tours - Week of May 12th. Byron's 4th Graders will be visiting us for tours & activities

Quilt Show - July 11 - 13th will bring more lovely quilts, including a raffled quilt this year!

HANDS ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS & YOUTH

We now have several different scavenger hunts and quests for all age groups.

We have a History Quiz for both elementary school & middle school ages, an "I Spy" game for little ones who can't read yet (though it's pretty fun for adults, too!) and a regular Scavenger Hunt which takes you through the museum finding different items and figuring out what they do.

We also have several "Hands On" exhibits where we invite you to go ahead and touch and explore items.

Kids who complete a scavenger hunt or quiz are invited to pick a prize from our treasure chest of goodies. **Come learn something new - about something old!**

DID YOU KNOW?

Along with a grocery wagon, and a meat wagon that came once a week to the area farmhouses, there were tin peddlers, with pots, pans, dippers, etc...There was also a rag picker buying quality rags.

There was a time when "calling" meant getting in the wagon and going to a neighboring farm. Instead of going to the store for something, you would borrow from a neighbor, and this also included exchanging work among the farmers.

World War I Cookies

1.5 cups molasses, 1/2 cup cooking oil or lard, 1 cup leftover coffee (from meal), 1 tsp each of soda, cinnamon, ginger, & pinch salt & flour to mix stiff. Mix overnight and keep in cool place till morning, when you will be able to roll out the dough. Take a portion at a time, without the addition of much more flour. Bake in a quick oven. (Excerpt from Recipes from a 1917 Cookie Diary by Barbara Swell)



Postcard of 2nd street in Byron, possibly in 1937. On the back of postcard lists businesses either on the street or in Byron at the time. "Barrick and Hunters, Gambles Store, Hewitts Store, Dentists, Post Office, Bank, Johnson-Reber, Dixon's 10 cents store, Sherman's Electric, Pat Smith Pool Hall, Rydholms Leather shop, Bitterner's Bakery, Clarks Hotel Blackhawk, Pyrofax, Austorn Jewelry, Byron Cafe, Tassenelli Barber, Drug Store, Stukenburg Store, Piper's Hardware, Elmer Reber's Garage, Spoons Second Hand, Royal Blue, Gamrbels Vet, Across the St. Heldson Tavern, Cassells Barber, Byron Transet -Across from Blanchards Tavern."

(Photo courtesy of Ralph Wright)

FESTIVAL OF TREES A SUCCESS

Byron Chamber of Commerce's Miracle on 2nd Street came and went. Hundreds of people came through this year and voted for their favorite tree. 35 trees were decorated by 30 different businesses and organizations. Highlights of this year's festival included refreshments, music by the Rock Valley Children's Choir and complimentary pictures with Frosty the Snowman and the Santa Express Train.

The People's Choice and Judge's Choice tree this year was decorated by the Semper Fi Moms (Armed Services Tribute Tree). First and Second places, respectively, were Lady Painter and Swedish American Medical Group/

Byron Clinic awarded in the Business category; Northern Ogle Girl Scouts and Byron Chamber of Commerce for Contemporary Glitter; Davis Junction Historical Society and Heritage Farm Museum for Christmas Past; Conover Coffees and Chocolates and By-Y-Badgers4-H Club; Rock Valley Children's Choir and Neighbors Rehab and Health Care for Spirit of the Season. People's Choice Runners up included: Davis Junction Historical Society, Byron Police Department, Attorney Maria Berger, and Cub Scout Pack #147.



Members of Byron High School's Key Club decorating their tree at this year's Festival of Trees