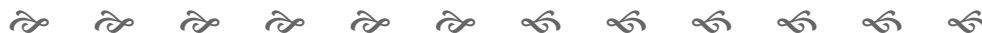


BYRON
MUSEUM OF HISTORY
AND LUCIUS READ HOUSE

❧ BYRON HISTORY EXPRESS ❧



Fall 2010 Newsletter



Byron Museum of History

PO Box 186

110 N Union Street

Byron, IL 61010

815.234.5031 phone

www.byronmuseum.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 18 - **Exhibit Opening 11am-2pm:**
Reflections: 20 Years at the Byron Museum
- 28- Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

OCTOBER

- 12 - Fall Pot Luck from 5:30 - 7pm
- 26 - Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

NOVEMBER

- 19 - Festival of Trees: 6-9pm
- 23 - Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

COMING SOON

The War Comes Home to Byron

A new permanent exhibit honoring this area's veterans from the Civil War up to present day is on track to open by the end of the year. This exhibit will feature profiles of local men and women who served our country over the years as well as explore how war affected the citizens of Byron on the Home Front. Featured Home Front objects will include local war bond advertisements and Red Cross memorabilia. A special display of war souvenirs will also be exhibited. This exhibit also will showcase a collection of personal Civil War era objects as well as a World War I issued helmet, and a collection of objects highlighting the World War II military medical career of Dr. Dearborn.



THE BYRON MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Staff

Jessica McCanse, *Executive Director*
Carolyn Kauten, *Registrar*
Kira Halvey, *Education & Volunteer Coordinator*
Jim Brubaker, *Custodian*

Board of Commissioners

Randy Stukenberg, *President*
Angie Bauer, *Vice-President*
Ron Beem, *Secretary*
Kim Boyden, *Treasurer*
Harry Adams, *Commissioner*

Meetings are open to the public, and are held on the **4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM** in the Museum's conference room.

CURRENT HOURS

Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 5pm

Saturdays 10am - 2pm

We are happy to accommodate your group outside regular hours! We have ample meeting space available and gladly offer it for scout groups, clubs, and other organizations.

Please call us to schedule your group's free tour today.

Tours are **FREE** and are self-guided or a docent can be arranged.

Address changes, requests for additions to the mailing list, and other inquiries may be addressed to:

Byron Museum of History
PO Box 186
110 N. Union Street
Byron, IL 61010-0186
Phone: 815.234.5031
Email: info@byronmuseum.org

SUMMER INTERNS

The museum would like to thank this past summer's interns and wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

Maren McKee, a 2010 history graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, spent her internship conducting an inventory of our collection.

Amanda Swinda, a graphic design student at Eastern Illinois University, created several new museum brochures.

Carly Meminger, a student at Elmhurst College and majoring in English, researched and wrote storyboards for the upcoming military exhibit.

Nate Annis, a student at Rock Valley College and majoring in public history, researched, wrote storyboards, and fabricated a new temporarily exhibit called *Reflections: 20 Years at the Byron Museum*.

Amanda Soll a high school student assisted Maren McKee with the inventory of the museum's collections.

Thanks again to our 2010 summer interns!

Intern Nate Annis (Below) helps volunteer Marge Barnes setup for the Ice Cream Social.



Intern Carly Meminger (Above) takes an ice cream break with visitors.

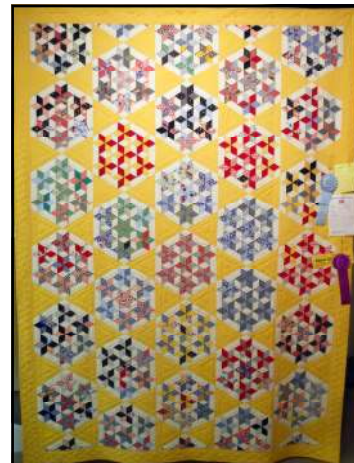
RECENT EVENTS

Ice Cream Social

The museum hosted a free Ice Cream Social Saturday, June 19th. Over 100 local residents enjoyed eating build-your-own sundaes and participating in old fashion kids games. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success!

23rd Annual ByronFestQuilt Show

Area residents and quilters were invited to display their fabric works of art at the Byron Museum's 23rd Annual Quilt Show held every year during ByronFest. Over 250 visitors enjoyed the traditional quilts as well antique quilts, wall hangings, and wearable art. This show was judged by a regional quilt expert and cash prizes were awarded in several different categories. Elsie Reif's Butterflies quilt won for both Quilt Show Committee's Choice and People's Choice. Miriam Bruening's Dog in the Window wall hanging also won for both Quilt Show Committee's Choice and People's Choice. Judge's Choice was Caryl Brix's 7 Sister's quilt (*pictured right*).



Crossroads of the Nation:

The Hidden History of the Railroads of Illinois

The museum hosted the free program *Crossroads of the Nation: The Hidden History of Railroads of Illinois* on August 12th. This program was presented by Simon Cordery, railroad historian and historical advisor to the National Railroad Hall of Fame. Over 50 visitors attended Mr. Cordery's fascinating lecture on the expansion of the railroad industry in the Land of Lincoln.



REFLECTIONS: 20 YEARS AT THE BYRON MUSEUM

Exhibit Opening September 18th 11-2pm

The Byron Museum is pleased to announce the unveiling of a new temporary exhibit, *Reflections: 20 Years at the Byron Museum*, on **Saturday, September 18th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** This exhibit, developed by exhibit intern Nate Annis, celebrates the museum's 20th anniversary as a museum district. A history of the museum, from the early days of purchasing the Read house to the numerous building renovations that led to its dedication, is recollected.

Special events and programs hosted by the museum over the years are also highlighted. The museum's first donation is also on display. The opening speech and exhibit unveiling will begin at 11:00 a.m. Light refreshments will be served during the open house from 12-2 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunities to share their favorite museum memories. A companion booklet will be filled with exhibit photos and available for purchase for \$5 dollars. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 15th to 815.234.5031.

Opening Speech & Exhibit Unveiling 11:00 a.m.

Open House & Refreshments: 12-2 p.m.



Intern Nate Annis installs the new exhibit, which will open September 18th.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

3RD ANNUAL FALL POT LUCK!

The museum will hold its 3rd annual volunteer potluck on **Tuesday, October 12th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm** in recognition of all the hard work volunteers have done throughout the year. Come out to mix and mingle with other volunteers. The museum will be supplying sandwiches & refreshments and is asking volunteers to bring a side dish to pass. We hope to see you there!



FESTIVAL OF TREES Friday, November 19th from 6-9pm

Trees on Display through December 22nd

Every year the museum is filled with holiday trees decorated by area businesses, civic organizations, churches and other groups. This is a wonderful chance to see the new changes at the museum, celebrate the season with your loved ones, and to see the many different beautiful trees on display. This is also a great way to promote your business or group to the community. Last year over 1,000 visitors enjoyed the festival. The beautifully decorated trees will be judged by area residents and ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded. For more information or to register, Please call 815-234-5031 or visit www.byronmuseum.org.

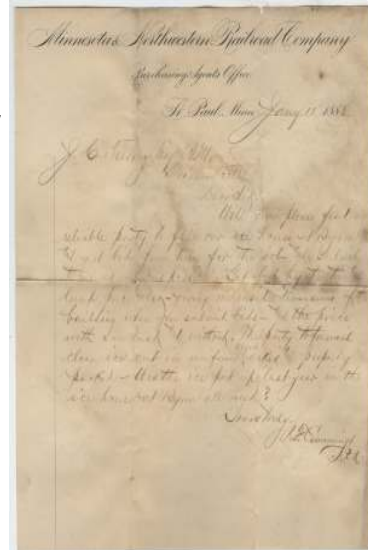


COLLECTION NEWS

MINNESOTA & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY BUSINESS LETTER TO BYRON AGENT

A collection of business documents from the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad Company and Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City Railway Company dating from the 1880s were recently donated by Byron resident Dave Hamer. Included in this collection was a letter from R.F. Cummings, Purchasing Agent in St. Paul Minnesota, to J.C. Tierney, Road Master in Sycamore, IL. (Pictured) Mr. Cummings inquires whether or not the Byron ice house will need to be restocked with ice and, if so, at what price. R. F.

Cummings receives a reply from J.C. Tierney who reports that the ice is more than half full of last year's storage and does not think it will be necessary to restock for the winter.



SHOWCASE YOUR COLLECTION!

Area residents are now invited to showcase their collections in the Byron Museum. Past collections that have been on display include retired teacher Joy Strub's dolls from around the world, vintage bells during the winter holidays and currently a number of railroad items from a local collector. We encourage you to consider showcasing your collection with the museum for a period of 6-8 weeks. Collections should be at least fifty years old and historic in value. The museum is actively seeking holiday collections to showcase during our annual Festival of Trees. Please call the museum at 815.234.5031 for more details or if you have a collection you might consider displaying.

FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES...



This pre-1930s interior photograph is of Stukenberg Bros. grocery store on Second Street. Louis Stukenberg is behind the meat counter at the back and Elmer Stukenberg is behind the counter at right.



Stukenberg Bros was founded in 1910 by brothers Elmer and Louis Stukenberg. A new store front was added on in 1934 (Pictured Left). The business was sold to Pete and Stephen Cacciatore in 1952 .

GUEST TICKET
Admit One Free
to the
**ROSE
THEATER**
Byron, Illinois

When accompanied with
one paid admission. Good
on Friday and Saturday
nights. Void on special
and benefit shows.

Compliments of

Stukenberg Brothers

FANCY GROCERIES
FRESH AND SMOKED
MEATS

Telephone Your Order
We Deliver
Service and Quality
Telephones: 107 and 44
Byron, Illinois

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are critical to the ongoing success of the Byron Museum. Whatever your talents or interests we invite you to participate in your local history through volunteering. Examples of volunteer opportunities are listed below:

- **Office:** Greet visitors at the reception desk, monitor gift shop, and assist with mailings
- **Collections:** Cataloged new donations, research objects, and scan photos & documents
- **Exhibits:** Assist with planning, researching, and installing new exhibits
- **Education:** Help develop new programs and assist with school and scout tours
- **Special Events:** Help out during exhibit openings, Quilt Show, & Festival of Trees
- **Carpentry and landscaping**
- **Oral Histories:** Conduct and transcribe interviews

Our volunteers are treated to an annual dinner every spring, and several other group activities throughout the year.

INTERNSHIPS

The Byron Museum always welcomes new interns. Interns will assist museum staff and volunteers with daily museum activities and ongoing projects in collections, exhibit design, education, and marking and special events. For information about summer 2011 internships please call the museum at 815.234.5031.

*Research for the exhibit **Byron's Railroad Era** was conducted by Intern Melissa Clark during the Summer of 2009.*



FREE ACTIVITIES & SCAVENGER HUNTS



Family Self-Guide Brochure

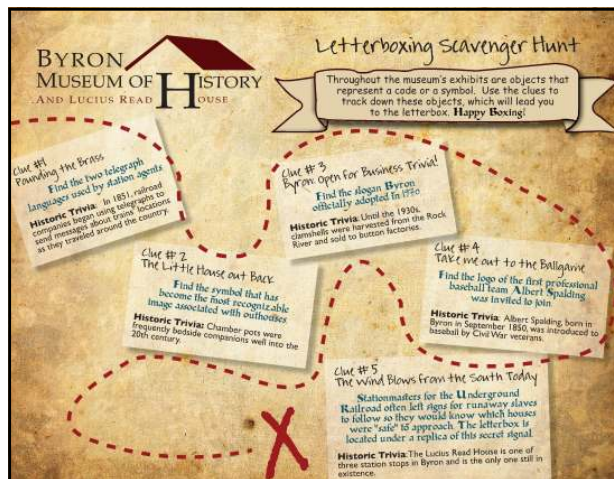
Visit the museum and check out our new Family Self-Guide brochure, designed by Intern Amanda Swinda. The Family Self-Guide brochure is a fun filled way for families to discover the exhibits at the museum. Available at the welcome desk, this brochure highlights interactive activities for kids and exciting things to look for in the exhibits.

Letterboxing

A letterbox is now hidden in one of the museum’s exhibits. Visitors will have the opportunity to follow clues to find the letterbox.

What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is similar to a “treasure hunt.” Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly-accessible places and post clues to finding the box online on one of several letterboxing websites. There are about 20,000 letterboxes hidden in North America alone. Visit letterboxing.org to get started and to find the first clue to the museum’s letterbox. Happy Boxing!



**Byron Museum of History
PO Box 186
Byron, IL 61010**