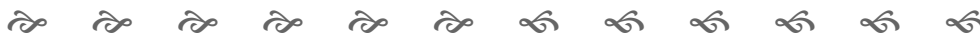


BYRON
MUSEUM OF HISTORY
AND LUCIUS READ HOUSE

❧ BYRON HISTORY EXPRESS ❧



Summer 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

JUNE

- 19 - Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social 1-3pm
- 22- Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

JULY

- 9 - 11- 23rd Annual ByronFest Quilt Show
- 22 - Byron Library's "Scary Cemetery Walk"
- 27 - Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

AUGUST

- 12 - **Program** - Crossroads of the Nation:
The Hidden History of the Railroads of Illinois
- 24 - Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7pm

COMING SOON

Letterboxing at the Byron Museum

Staff is currently working on setting up a Letterbox, which will be hidden somewhere around the museum. Visitors will have the opportunity to follow clues to reach the "treasure box". Stay tuned for more details!



What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is a type of treasure hunting. Starting in 1854, it was the precursor to geocaching, but has recently been gaining in popularity. The Museum's treasure hunt will take begin outside the museum and continue inside with a series of clues.

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

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER BANQUET

The museum hosted its annual Board of Commissioners and Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on April 22nd. The 40 volunteers in attendance were welcomed by staff and President of the Board of Commissioners, Randy Stukenberg. All volunteers were treated to a lovely meal catered by Three Sisters Cafe & Catering, as well as goodie bags containing chocolates and novelty items.

The Klink-Kobel Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Ms. Mary Rose Krupa of Leaf River, Illinois. Ms. Krupa was chosen for her outstanding service to the museum's outhouse dig project.

The volunteer program continues to see an increase in volunteer commitment and the staff anticipates another great year of volunteerism at the museum.



Volunteer Coordinator Kira Halvey presents the Klink-Kobel Volunteer Award to Mary Rose Krupa



COLLECTION NEWS

Abraham Lincoln Hood Ornament

This item, recently donated to the museum, is one of only 300 known to be made around 1927. It was meant to be a hood ornament for a car, and would be mounted on the radiator cap. It is nickel-plated and about 6" tall. The underside is embossed with the words "L.T. Barrick, Byron, Illinois."

L.T. Barrick (1878-1950) was a grandson of early Byron Township settlers. He was a pharmacist and merchant on Byron's Main Street for 42 years. He purchased his pharmacy (Barrick's Drug Store) from E.E. Evans in 1895 and sold it in 1914. He also owned the Barrick and Hunter clothing store on the corner of 2nd Street where Dixson's Department Store was located.



RECENT EVENTS

Antique Appraisal

The museum held its annual Antique Appraisal on April 29th. A crowd of about 25 people participated in this local version of the Antiques Road Show. Antiques, family heirlooms, and unusual old items were all evaluated and given an oral appraisal by Mr. Swan Hachmeister of Hack's Auction & Realty, Inc. in Pecatonica, IL.

Small-Town Heritage: Life in Illinois Communities, 1870-1920

The museum hosted the FREE program *Small-Town Heritage: Life in Illinois Communities, 1870-1920* on May 12th. The program was presented by John Hallwas, a retired professor from Western Illinois University. Utilizing his photograph collection of early Illinois, Mr. Hallwas discussed how small towns were flourishing economic centers of business activity, but also meaningful places for local residents.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

June 19th 1-3pm

The Museum will host a FREE Ice Cream Social Saturday, June 19th from 1-3pm. This event will feature build-your-own sundaes and old fashioned children's game such as Jacob's Ladder, Jacks, Tic-Tac-Toe, and Peg Board games. Bring the entire family out for fun and games!

23RD ANNUAL BYRONFEST QUILT SHOW

July 9th-11th

This popular and FREE event is held during ByronFest, and last year's visitors were treated to a viewing of 60 quilts and textiles! The quilts cover a range of styles and time periods, some dating back to the 1850s. In addition to traditional quilts, our show includes wearable art, wall hangings, and other quilted textiles. The Quilt Show opens for viewers on Friday, July 9th and closes on Sunday, July 11th.

The entry date for our Quilt Show is Wednesday, July 7th from 2-7pm, so please don't pass up this opportunity to show off your beautiful work!

This show is judged by a regional quilt expert, and cash prizes are awarded to the 1st place winner in each category. Categories include Quilts, Wall Hangings, 1st Quilt/Wall Hanging, Youth, and Quilted Clothing/Wearable Art. Entry in the show is \$5 per item, or free for Just for Show (entries not judged).

For more information about our Quilt Show, please call 815.234.5031 or visit www.byronmuseum.org

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

BYRON LIBRARY PRESENTS “SCARY CEMETERY WALK”

July 22nd from 8:30pm—10:00pm

Stay tuned for more details about the 2nd installment of the Byron Cemetery Walk. The Byron Public Library District and the Rockford Paranormal Society are collaborating to bring you the scoop on the dark and scary secrets in the cemetery.

CROSSROADS OF THE NATION: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE RAILROADS OF ILLINOIS

August 12th at 6pm

In 1910, Byron was bustling with activity, including the coming and going of trains. Train whistles tooted, great steam engines shot plumes of smoke into the air, and passenger and freight trains moved to and from the depots.

Paying tribute to Byron’s railroad past, the Byron Museum will host the FREE program *Crossroads of the Nation: The Hidden History of the Railroads of Illinois* on Thursday, August 12th at 6:00pm. Simon Cordery, railroad historian and historical advisor to the National Railroad Hall of Fame, will give a fascinating look at the expansion of the railroad industry in the Land of Lincoln, and demonstrate how the Prairie State fits into the pattern of national railroad development, while exploring the national political significance of the history of railroads in Illinois. All aboard!

Registration is required. Please call the museum at 815.234.5031 to reserve your seat by August 10th. Refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!

MUSEUM NEWS

BYRON CEMETERY WALK

Saturday, May 15th was an eventful day at the Byron Cemetery on 5th Street. Over 35 people attended the Byron Library's first Cemetery Walk. The Byron Library, with the assistance of the Byron Museum, studied the lives of several of Byron's early settlers and prominent citizens. Through the use of interpretive storytellers, visitors were treated to a guided tour of Byron's past, and heard the stories of early Byron citizens, such as Lucius Read, Jared Sanford, and LT & Anna Barrick. Feedback from visitors was very positive. The Byron Library is hosting a 2nd Cemetery Walk on the evening of July 22nd in conjunction with the Rockford Paranormal Society.



*Nellene Jeter tells the story of
Mary Morgan 's remarkable life*

SHOWCASE YOUR COLLECTION!

Area residents will soon be invited to showcase their collections in the Byron Museum. A new area will be created, which will serve as a dedicated space for local collections. Past collections that have been displayed include retired teacher Joy Strub's many fascinating dolls from around the world, vintage bells during the winter holidays, and currently a number of railroad items from a local collector. We invite and encourage you to consider showcasing your collection with the Museum for a period of 2 or 3 months. Please call the museum for more details or if you have a collection you might consider displaying.

FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES...



Picture of Bakener Funeral Home from 1931-1955. This building was erected in 1839 as Byron's 1st hotel and was called the Pacific House Hotel. Built by Samuel and Dudley Wood. Stood on Corner of Union and Blackhawk Drive. It has since been torn down. Written on the back: "This building was erected in 1839 as Byron's first hotel and was called the Pacific House. Built by Samuel and Dudley Wood, it stood on the corner of Union Street and Blackhawk Drive and was last used as a funeral home by Orville F. Bakener from 1931 until 1955. It has since been torn down. Kim Hogard and Donated by Kenneth C. Hevrin July, 1985." Top corner says "1939 Packard. Photograph shows building with man standing in front of a car.

Have a photo or document of interest? We can scan your original and keep just a digital file archived at the museum.

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. The Museum is also a great option for high school students in need of community service hours. 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.



Welcome Summer Interns

The museum is pleased to announce our 2010 summer interns:

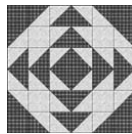
Maren McKee, Amanda Swinda, Nate Annis, Carly Meminger, and
Amanda Soll.

They will be assisting museum staff and volunteers over the next few months with daily museum happenings as well as specific projects in collections, exhibit design, education, and special events.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Quilt Enthusiasts!

Share your passion with others at The Byron Museum of History's Annual Quilt Show: July 9th, 10th, & 11th. Volunteers are needed to help with quilt check in and hanging, staffing during the show, and quilt take down and check out. All Quilt Show volunteers are treated to a Volunteer Tea and get to preview the quilts and vote on their favorites. Help make our Quilt Show a success! For more information please contact the Byron Museum at 815-234-5031.



VETERANS/HOME FRONT PROJECT



ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM – VETERANS / HOME FRONT PROJECT

The museum is pleased to announce an oral history project in conjunction with a new permanent veteran's exhibit slated to open later this year. This exhibit will feature profiles of men and women who served our country over the years as well as examine how war affected the citizens of Byron on the home front. The museum is actively searching for veterans, and relatives of veterans who would like to tell their stories in addition to donations and loans of artifacts, documents and memorabilia related to war or the home front. Please contact the museum at 815.234.5031 with any questions, or if you are interested in getting involved!

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