

The Rochester Historical Preservation Society



Item

P.O. Box 13
ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS 62563

1830s Stone House

Fall 2022

www.rocnesternhistoricalsociety.org

R. H. P. S. Continues Moving Forward!!

Fall at the Old Stone House

The summer open house events brought local, out-of-town, and out-of-state visitors. As Fall approaches plans are being made for additional opportunities to "show off" our local history gem. The third graders will be visiting during October instead of May. The Stone House will be open during the Rochester Public Library District Fall Festival on Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 9-3. Come out to the park to enjoy food trucks, various vendors, crafters, and learn some local history. Be sure to spread the word.

A Special Thank You

Recently, Ken Hopper of Springfield repaired the sewing table and cleaned a water soaked dasher in one of the churns in the kitchen. A special thank you to Ken for volunteering to share his love of woodworking and interest in history. We are continually looking for volunteers to serve as docents and to help maintain the site. Please consider helping keep local history alive by volunteering.



Rochester historian and author Ray Bruzan recalls his 1977 interview with the former owner of Edgewood, the Orange Judd farm home located on Oak Road that was demolished in 2021. for her science project."

"My neighbor, (the late) Bob Ritterbusch, suggested I speak with Elmer Boehme, who lived at Edgewood, to learn of his farm methods and operation. After being greeted by him and sitting with him on his front porch, I became fascinated by

Elmer's knowledge and pride in his farm. Elmer described a spring in the valley that he used to water his livestock. He told me it never runs dry. A photograph of that spring appeared in an article I wrote for *Illinois Times*, and few years later, my daughter, Jennifer, studied the spring for her science project."

Many Rochester residents in the 1970s recalled how Edgewood was once a beautiful farm, just as it appears in this photograph taken from the 1918 Orange Judd Pictorial.



The RHPS Thanks

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**Please join us for the
RHPS Meeting**

Speaker: Carla Smith
Curator, ALPML (see p. 2)

MONDAY— September 26, 2022

7:00 p.m.

ROCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ROCHESTER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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?????????

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RHPS Board

Continues Search for President

The Rochester Historical Preservation Society (RHPS) continues seeking persons interested in serving as President. Our past President's term expired during COVID and we were unable to have a meeting where the nominating committee could present candidates for an election. According to the RHPS By-Laws, *"The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Directors and Executive Committee; appoint chairpersons of standing and special committees; be ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee and perform such other tasks appropriate to the office."* The President's position is critical to the ongoing and successful operations of the RHPS. If you are interested in being a candidate for President or have questions related to the position, please contact one of the current RHPS Officers or Directors. Max Dillahunt—217-725-3205. Ann Rowley—217-415-4964. Cheryl Soerensen—217-

Behind the Scenes

The speaker for the September RHPS meeting is Carla Smith, who is the Registrar and 3D Artifacts Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library (ALPML). During her fifteen year tenure, she has designed and consulted on many of the special exhibits at the museum. As Registrar, Carla secures artifacts from lenders and manages various collections. This involves documenting and preparing collections for display. Managing the logistics of moving and displaying the historic artifacts is of high priority. Carla will be letting us in on a new exhibit that is being prepared. Do not miss this interesting look into the "Behind the Scenes" at the ALPML.



OLD STONE HOUSE
Rochester Historical Preservation Society

I/We would like to become a member of the
Rochester Historical Preservation Society

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

(Check Appropriate Box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Sodbuster/Youth (Student)	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Settler/Individual	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Homesteader/Family	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Blacksmith	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Fur Trapper	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Tradesman	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Storekeeper	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Frontiersman	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Colonist	\$1,000.00
	And Above

☐ My Additional Gift of \$_____ given in:
☐ Honor of ☐ Memory of

Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I'm interested in being an active Volunteer.

Please contact me: ☐

Please return with payment to:

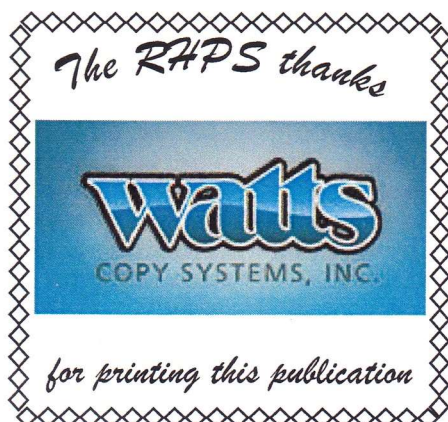
RHPS

P.O. Box #13, Rochester, IL 62563

If you have lost your membership form or just forgot to return it, the above form may be used to either renew your membership or become a new RHPS member.

New Steps at Stone House

Last spring Mark Schweighrt donated the logs and Ronnie Bauhardt milled the logs for badly needed new steps at the Stone House. Then Jim Yeaman built the new steps, donating a third of his labor. These combined efforts added up to a big savings for RHPS. Thanks to all involved.



Rochester History: The Life Story of Lucetta Putnam Stevens West— Part II

by Carolyn Moore



Previously:

Lucetta Putnam married Samuel Stevens in 1836 in New Hampshire and they returned together to Rochester to the Stone House to begin their life together in this developing area. By 1839, Lucetta had a 7 month old son, her husband had died unexpectedly, and she was left with massive debts. Her husband's business partner, Samuel West, accompanied her back to New Hampshire so she could be with family. However, she had left her heart in Rochester and realized that she

must return. Knowing that it would be overwhelming to return to the prairie as a widow with an infant and deal with the settlement of her husband's estate, we learn that she married Samuel West in Unity, New Hampshire in 1840. He provided the support she needed during this period of upheaval and gave her the stability she needed to make the return journey to Rochester. Upon their return, they secured the services of a Springfield lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, who assisted in settling the estate.

Part II:

"Now that I had returned to Rochester, Mr. West and I became a part of the growth of the village. We contributed to that growth by giving my baby, Samuel three brothers and three sisters. Not only did I have the joy of my own children, but my sister, Zylpha and my sister-in-law, Permelia both had babies within months of each of my children. Even though it was a happy time to have a house full of children, I dealt with the sorrow of losing my Benjamin when he was 8 years old. The good Lord gave me the strength to bear this sadness. My friends at the Christian Church were indeed a help. We were able to comfort and help others when they faced afflictions. As my

husband was an elder in the church, we were always aware of our brother's and sister's needs.

The children were fortunate to be educated in our local schools in addition to their spiritual schooling. Not only was my husband active in the business community, but he followed politics. His brother, Benjamin, had been a State Legislator in Illinois when they first came to the area.

As I reminisce on the two decades that I have lived in Rochester, I see how the village has grown and changed. Intertwined with this is the growth of my own family. My first-born son, Samuel Stevens has recently married Olive Slater, whose family were also early Rochester settlers. My son, Samuel, now a fine 16 year old

young man, my Martha or Mattie as we call her is 13, Charles is 11, Lucy is 9 and little Louisa is just 5 years old. My life has been filled with joys and sorrows as is our lot in this earthy life. I thank the Good Lord that I have been blessed to call Rochester my home."

[Lucetta (aged 42 years) died of typhoid fever on October 14, 1859. She lived in Rochester for 22 years; from 1837-1859. Following her death, Samuel West married her sister, Zylpha. This was a common practice in this era, especially when there were young children who still needed rearing.]

Lucetta seems to have been a blessed woman, for her first husband, Samuel Stevens, labored to provide her a unique dwelling in a prairie setting of log houses. Then, her second husband, Samuel West, even though he remarried after her death, chose to erect a lovely monument in the Rochester cemetery to commemorate their life together and mark their final resting place.

What a touching tribute to Lucetta Putnam Stevens West.

2022 MEMBERSHIP LIST *

Charter – Life

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Randy & Brenda Hawkins
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Steve & Nancy Leach
Stu & Sandy McMillan
Carolyn Moore
Jacquie Ramsey
Russ & Beth Ramsey
Roxy Schmidt-Gundy
Don Taft
Dorothy Taft
James & Ruth Ann Theis
David & Vanessa White
Richard Williams

Blacksmith

Mark & Cynthia Anderson
David L. Armstrong
Frank & Joanne Barnes
Lyle & Donna Behl
Jerald & Nancy Calvert
John Day
Shawn, Mary Ann & Lucas Denney
John & Sue Endsley
Ron & Sue Green
Jim & Nancy Hagerman
Katie Joshi
Steve Kapple
Mike & Glenda Long
Darrell & Denise Maxheimer
Jerry Orban
David & Karen Ramsey
Gina Roccaforte
Ann Rowley
Tris & Debbie Schnepfer
Bill & Sandy Sheppard
Cheryl Soerensen
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Homesteader

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Toby Mc Daniel
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*NOTE: The above listing of the 2022 RHPS Membership is compiled from new and renewal membership forms received as of September 5, 2022 from the Annual Membership Campaign. If there are any questions, please contact Max Dillahunt at 217-498-9709.

Rochester Historical Preservation

Society Donations

October 2021—August 2022

The Rochester Historical Preservation Society truly appreciates all of the donations provided either in memory of a loved one, a friend, or in support of the ongoing operations of the Rochester Historical Park and the Stone House.

Donation	\$25.00
Donation	\$1,000.00
In Memory of Bill De Croix	\$475.40
In Memory of Nathan Wilcoxon	\$50.00
In Memory of Roy A. Gundy and Loren & Charlotte Schmidt	\$100.00
In Memory of James R. Weistart	\$50.00
In Memory of David H. Kincaid	\$5.00
Total Donations	\$1,705.40

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ON
SEPTEMBER 26, 2022
ROCHESTER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
7:00 p.m.**

ROCHESTER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. 13

ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS 62563