



Stone House Opening Features Living Historian

Step back into early Illinois History at the Stone House beginning June 7 when the house will be open from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each summer month with living historians on site to demonstrate historical items and share stories of frontier Illinois and early pioneer life.

We are honored to welcome Don Ferricks to the first open house of the Stevens Stone House at the Rochester Historical Park on June 7th. A longtime Illinois living historian, Ferricks has dedicated decades to preserving and sharing our nation's military and frontier history. A member of the reactivated 114th Illinois Infantry since 1983, he rose through the ranks from private to colonel while helping educate countless visitors, students, and history enthusiasts across Illinois.

His reenacting career spans generations of American history, from the War of 1812, the Civil War, to World War II. Ferricks appeared in the television miniseries North and South and the acclaimed Civil War film Glory. He also served for many years as assistant curator at the Illinois State Military Museum, where he helped bring history to life for visitors and school groups alike.

During the open house, Don will display artifacts and items representing life in Illinois from before statehood through the beginning of the Civil War, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the stories and material culture of early Illinois firsthand.



The RHPS Thanks

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ROCHESTER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

-OFFICERS-

CO-PRESIDENTS

Cheryl Soerensen
csoerensen@att.net
Ann Kramer
kram383@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Ann Rowley

TREASURER

Max Dillahunty

-DIRECTORS-

Marty Fairchild
David Ramsey
Jerry Robertson
Grover Schrock
Carole Strick

TREASURER NEEDED

RHPS is looking for someone to become the next treasurer of the group. Max Dillahunty has served in that capacity for 8 years and is stepping down at the end of June 2026. Max has been dedicated to serving the RHPS and will definitely be missed. Max has organized the responsibilities of the position and will share information with the new Treasurer. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

CO-PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy 250th Birthday to our Nation! Let's Celebrate!

What better way to celebrate than to learn about our local history! Plan a visit to the Old Stone House. We will be having our usual first Sunday of the month Open Houses starting June 7 from 1pm- 4pm, through September. Special Guests will share their historical knowledge. There will be different interpreters each Sunday. Visitors will learn about the history of the Old Stone House and learn about other aspects of history and how it plays a role in our lives.

We are also excited to be participating in the Farmer's Markets at the Rochester Public Library on the second and fourth Sundays in June through September. The RHPS will be having a booth at the market. Historical interpreters dressed in period clothing will share information about Rochester history as it relates to USA history. Various artifacts will be on display and printed materials will be available.



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)

☐ Sodbuster/Youth (Student)	\$10.00
☐ Settler/Individual	\$15.00
☐ Homesteader/Family	\$25.00
☐ Blacksmith	\$50.00
☐ Fur Trapper	\$100.00
☐ Tradesman	\$200.00
☐ Storekeeper	\$250.00
☐ Frontiersman	\$500.00
☐ 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.

ROCHESTER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Needs
YOU

Visit the Stone House
and Farmers Market
Booth

Invite Friends and
Family to join you
Volunteer to be a
Docent at both events



Bringing History to Life at the Rochester Farmers Market

This upcoming season, the Rochester Farmers Market will offer more than fresh produce and handmade goods, The Rochester Historical Preservation Society will also be there to offer a journey through time. We will be bringing United States history together with Rochester's own local story, creating an engaging, educational experience for visitors of all ages.

Each week at the market, volunteers will host a small farmers market booth with different displays of artifacts and items from our community's past. This display will highlight a timeline with key moments in American history, ranging from the Revolutionary era to the Civil War and beyond, while also connecting those events to Rochester's unique past. By tying national history to local experiences we hope to make history feel more personal, relevant, and alive.

Rochester is a community rich in heritage, from its early settlement days of James McCoy and family to its role in shaping regional agriculture and industrial development. Yet many of these stories are overlooked as time moves forward. This effort aims to preserve and share those stories in a setting where the community is already gathered. The farmers market provides the perfect backdrop, a place rooted in tradition, local agriculture pride, and community connection.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Members of the Rochester Historical Preservation Society are encouraged to volunteer for market dates and Stone House tours throughout the season. Volunteers can participate in a variety of ways: wearing period clothing, sharing researched stories, demonstrating historical tools or crafts, or simply engaging visitors in conversation about Rochester's past. Whether you are an experienced reenactor or just someone who enjoys local history, there is a place for you.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, sign up at the Farmers Market or email Cheryl Soerensen csoerensen@att.net or Ann Kramer kram383@yahoo.com Let's make this a season where history truly comes alive!

2026 MEMBERSHIP LIST *

Charter – Life

*Elliott Bell
 *Terry & Tammy Campbell
 *Carolyn “Cari” Carlson
 *Patricia Creviston
 *Adron Cross
 *Chelsea Gerberding
 *Fred & Carolyn Gerberding
 *Gabe & Angela Gerberding
 *Linda Grimm
 *David & Arlene Grubb
 *Dean & Renee Housel
 *Dennis & Nancy Keiffer
 *Allen & Barb Mendenhall
 *Carl O. “Bud” Moore
 *Lee & Carol Shafer
 *David & Debbie Taft
 *Steve Taft
 *Ron & Ann Tucker
 *Bill & Barb Voisin
 *Nate & Carol Wilcoxon
 *Tom Wood

Frontiersman

*Marty Fairchild

Storekeeper

*Mike & Sandy Brewer
 *Mike & Brenda Jeffers
 *Patricia Kessler
 *Jeremy & Lisa Strawn

Settler

*Aaron Beetzel
 *Paul Carlson
 *Carolyn Lea Clevenger
 *Lillian Dalsin
 *Bev Drillinger
 *Nancy J. Leach
 *Toby McDaniel
 *Carolyn Wanless

Tradesman

*Wayne & Anita Beck
 *George Anne Daly
 *Jane Fairchild
 *Harry & Jane Hendrickson
 *Dave & Ruth Hicks
 *Jacquie Ramsey
 *Roxy Schmidt-Gundy

Fur Trapper

*Roy Ballinger
 *Lyle & Donna Behl
 *Grant & Alison Blasdell
 *Gary Bottrell
 *Mike Cortelyou
 *Max & Debbie Dillahunt
 *Jeanne Eilering
 *Phyllis Fairchild
 *Henry & Mary Gartner
 *Angela Gerberding
 *Audrey Gerberding
 *Levi Gerberding
 *Jim & Nancy Hagerman
 *Randy & Brenda Hawkins
 *Bill & Penny Hinrichs
 *Kim & Cinda Klickna
 *Tim & Priscilla Kluge
 *Stu & Sandy McMillan
 *Carolyn Moore
 *Mark & Suzanne Pettyjohn
 *Dean Jr. & Pamela Robert
 *Don Taft
 *James & Ruth Ann Theis
 *Rosemary Weistart
 *David & Vanessa White
 *

Blacksmith

*Richard & Karen Alexander
 *Mark & Cindy Anderson
 *Jerald Calvert
 *Sue Cull
 *John & Sue Endsley
 *David & Fay Ann Jostes
 *Mike & Glenda Long
 *Tom, Stacie & Logan Monroe
 *Sandie Nuding
 *Jerry Orban
 *Henry & Margaret Patterson
 *Jerry & Reba Robertson
 *Gina Roccaforte
 *Ann Rowley
 *Tris Schnepfer
 *Cheryl Soerensen
 *L. Keith Steiner
 *Leslie Struble
 *Ben & Mary Tuxhorn
 *Dwight & Marcia Van Pelt
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 *Richard Williams
 *Curt & Kathleen Winhold
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Homesteader

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 *Hugh & Rita Bass
 Tom & Michelle Betrand
 *Ray & Pam Bruzan
 *Mark & Teresa Creviston
 *Jeffrey & Andrea Deters
 *Tom & Cherie Doherty
 *Sharon Evans
 *Dennis & Janie File
 *Henry & Beth Haupt
 *Forrest & Mary Lou Holsapple
 *Don & Becky Honigman
 *Ann Kramer
 *Stephanie & Larry McDevitt
 *Monroe & Laurie McWard
 *Darrell & Denise Maxheimer
 *Ken & Nancy Miller
 *Scott & Suzanne Moss
 *Nick & Stephanie Palazzolo
 *Mark & Nancy Poffenberger
 *Rich Ramsey
 *Grover & Marilyn Schrock
 *Randall & Suzann Segatto
 *Dan & Carole Strick
 *Kahla Wiggins
 Dick & Lorine Wallin
 Deidre Zobrist

NOTE: This listing of the 2026 RHPS Membership is as of June 1, 2026. If there are any questions, please contact Max Dillahunt at 217-498-9709.

* Indicates Members who have renewed for 2026

DONATIONS to RHPS

In Memory of Evelyn Conboy (Sharon Conboy)	\$25.00
In Memory of Evelyn Conboy (Hampton Roads Tours)	\$50.00
In Memory of Evelyn Conboy (Gary & Vallie Gould)	\$100.00
Allen and Barb Mendenhall	\$1000.00
In Memory of Bill Dalsin (Lillian Dalsin)	\$25.00
In Memory of Robert Fairchild (Jane Fairchild)	\$50.00
In Memory of Renee Housel (Dean Housal)	\$1000.00
In Memory of Diana Fairchild (Marty Fairchild)	\$500.00
In Memory of James Weistart (Rosemary Weistart)	\$30.00
In Memory of Ann Ramsey (Richard Ramsey)	\$50.00
In Memory of Roy Gundy, Lorren and Charlotte Schmidt (Roxy Schmidt-Gundy)	\$50.00
In Memory of Bob Church (Lawrence and Suzanne Moss)	\$10.00
In Memory of George Fairchild (Phyllis Fairchild)	\$50.00
Anonymous	\$10.00

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P.O. 13
 ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS 62563 .