

THE WAPSIPINICON

A newsletter published quarterly by the

TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

* 2010 Volunteer Institution of the Year, Illinois Association of Museums

*2020 Project Winner of Illinois Governor's Hometown Award,
representing the Volunteers of the Tiskilwa Community

VOLUME 18

JUNE 2023

NUMBER 2

MUSEUM ON MAIN

AND

GALLERY ON GALENA

More than 15,500 artifacts are displayed to preserve and interpret local history. The MoM is housed in an 1855 Illinois Historic Landmark Building at 110 East Main Street. The GoG is in the former Legion Hall, 550 North Galena, just south of the tracks.

MUSEUM HOURS:
SATURDAY: 10:00 - 1:00

GALLERY HOURS:
FIRST SATURDAYS: 10-1

Admission is free, and our volunteers will show you around. For an appointment, call Ed Waca at 815.646.4016.

Board of Directors 2023

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HOMETOWN EVENTS FILL THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

June 11 SUNDAY MARKET on MoM's Lawn from 10:00 to 1:00:

The second annual market event is right around the corner. We provide the lawn space and Curt Dugosh (THS '85) is organizing the event for the enjoyment of the community. With the success of the Tuesday-evening markets offered by Dugosh Farms and other vendors, this is a different kind of "Welcome to Summer" that replaces the annual Strawberry and Arts Festival of years past. In addition to Dugosh Farms with their produce, crafts and jewelry, other vendors include Maupin's Providence Homestead, Mill Road Farms, Naptime Bakes, and a few surprises. To add to the festivities, the Museum on Main will host an open house for gallery visitors, offer Tiskilwa memorabilia for sale, and provide a crafts booth for kiddies and their families who cheer them on. **FYI:** Tiskilwa Tuesday Markets are scheduled from 4 to 6 o'clock from May 23 to October 31.



Monday, July 10, "FLAGS OF FREEDOM" Program at Museum on Main, 7:00 p.m.

In 2003, a few Bureau County volunteers had the idea to install 30x60-foot American flags at the four corners of Exit 56 on Interstate 80, Princeton. The idea took hold with several more community members, and a dedication ceremony was held in 2005. Since then, the group has continued their mission to honor past, present, and future members of the armed forces and their families. During the program in July, Ann Register of Princeton will explain more about their beginnings as well as purpose, the logistics of installing 153-foot poles, and the future of the organization.

Saturday, August 5, CLASSIC RIDES ON DISPLAY, MoM's west lawn, 9:00 to 12:00:

Don't miss the chance to show off your special ride – car, truck, tractor, motorcycle, bike and beyond – as we again host "Classic Rides" during Pow Wow Days. Roll onto our west lawn around 9 o'clock on August 5, find a shady spot, and fascinate admiring visitors with tales of glory.

"You Gotta See This" Feature on WTVP: LONE TREE SCHOOLHOUSE, rural Tiskilwa:

On a chilly morning last February, several Tiskilwa Historical Society members gathered at Lone Tree to greet a crew from Peoria's PBS station, WTVP, who were there to shoot footage for a feature on Phil Luciano's weekly program, "You Gotta See This." The brief segment aired recently and tells a bit of the history of this National Register building, captures reminiscences of family stories by Sally Ary Trumpinski (THS '76) and Bob Wheeler (THS '65), and explains the landmark's preservation in its use as Wheatland Town Hall today. The brief spot – the sixth of seven segments in this half-hour program – can be found online at WTVP.org. Then select TV Schedules or Local Shows and "You Gotta See This," Episode #222.



(Photo from left: Trent Goodale, Dale Anderson and Joe, Larry Magnuson, Phil Luciano (WTVP), Sally Ary Trumpinski, WTVP videographer Jeff Oesch, and Chris Anderson on February 24 at Lone Tree Schoolhouse.)

TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank you to all listed who have joined or renewed since our March printing deadline. We're standing strong with **367 members!**

NEW & RENEWED INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES ♦

- Sally Berg (Gainesville, FL)
- John & Theresa Cotter
- Steve Greathouse (Grimes)
- Betty Jo Gustafson
- Charlene Hall
- Linda Kling
- Joe & Jill Kunkel (Wyanet)
- Bob Law (Princeton)
- Ed Magnuson (Silvis)
- Jerry & Ellen Nick (Wheaton)
- Jack & Liz Piacenti
- Ann Blaisdell Rothery (St. Louis)
- Dan & Mary Thompson (Princeton)

NEW AND RENEWED SPONSORS

♦ FRIENDS ♦

- Mike & Mary Ary
- Tom & Melissa Burrows (Princeton)
- Dave & Becky Cook (Princeton)
- Norine Flaherty (Chicago)
- Judy Fredenhagen Kramer (Waynesville, NC)
- John & Abby McAnally (Downers Grove)
- Nicole Miller & Erik Olson (Namibia, Africa)
- Ed O'Neill (Dunlap)
- Janet House Skaggs (Princeton)

♦ PROMOTERS ♦

- Linda Cundiff (Peoria)
- David and Kathy Gerber (Edwardsville)
- Barb Hughes & John Taylor (White Heath)
- Jim & Jane Jones
- Paul & Cara Marcum (Urbana)
- Jan Martin (Princeton)
- Cathy Longman & Ann Serrato (Gold Canyon, AZ)
- Joy E. Schertz
- Ed Waca

♦ PATRONS ♦

- Charlotte Pettegrew Golinvaux (Wayzata, MN)
- Scott & Valerie Jensen
- Robert & Constance McChesney (Bath, ME)
- Robert McQueen (Naples, FL)
- Les & Beth Saal

♦ PLATINUM BENEFACTORS ♦

- Jan Lohaus (Putnam)
- Bill & Margaret Wendle

Membership/Sponsor FYI: Occasionally, we receive a contribution from a donor through an entity such as "Network for Good." Because the name of the donor is not indicated, we don't know how to send a "Thank you!" except by using this space in our newsletter. We truly appreciate the generosity of so many big-hearted people who support T-H-S.

Annual Meeting of "Spring Clean-up Committee"

In April, volunteers played pick-up sticks, pulled weeds, hauled branches, and planted hardy flowers at the MoM. At the GoG, **Helen and Jerry Murphy** tidied up flower beds.



Left: We thank **Marg Wendle, Betsy Salsman, Liz Piacenti, Judy Wright, Bill Wendle, Randy Senneff, Cele Gerber** (mostly the photographer) and, at far right, **Connie Kauffman**.

TISKILWA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BANQUET

WHO: Anyone who has fond memories of THS
WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023
 Social hour at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00
WHERE: Hundred Acres Orchard, Princeton
HOW to buy tickets (\$25/person): Purchase at Kelly's Place or Indian Valley Inn (both in Tiskilwa) or Heartland Bank (south branch in Princeton)
OR mail check to Sondra Compton-Owens, 734 Brewster, Tiskilwa, IL 61368 by 07/27/23.

TISKILWA'S POW WOW DAYS, 2023

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4:

- EAST PARK:** 5K returns! Details to follow.
- WEST PARK:** Kids' Tractor Pull, Ice Cream Eating contest, TCA Draw Down, local band Wild Card, TCA Beer Garden
- MUSEUM ON MAIN:** Open 12:00 to 3:00
- GALLERY ON GALENA:** Open 12:00 to 3:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

- MUSEUM ON MAIN:** Open 9:00 to 3:00
- MUSEUM WEST LAWN:** "Classic Rides" 9:00 to 12:00
- PARADE:** Kicks off at 10:30
- COMMUNITY CHURCH:** Serving lunch 11:00 to 1:00
- DEDICATION OF WALL MURAL:** 12:00 at Piccolo's Pizza
- DEDICATION OF MT. BLOOM NORTH ENTRANCE:** 1:00
- TCA WEST PARK:** Colonel Klink's Inflatables, Bean Bag Tourney, water fights, TCA Beer Garden and Second Chance Revival Band, featuring THS Alum Marty Smith
- 100 ACRES, PRINCETON:** Alumni Banquet 5:00 -8:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

WEST PARK: Interdenominational Church Service: 10:30

THE WAPSIPINICON, JUNE 2023

Editor's note: When we read this account of the career of one of Tiskilwa's special citizens, we knew we wanted to share it with you, our readers. In late March, it appeared on Bureau County Historical Society's Facebook page in honor of Women's History Month. BCHS director Lex Poppens told us that it was their #1-viewed entry with more than 130 views and a dozen Shares. With permission from the BCHS and an enthusiastic "SURE!" from Priscilla's daughter, Maggie McQueen, we are proud to share this feature.

Speech Therapist, Homemaker, Teacher, Writer, Publisher, and Our Mom: Mary Priscilla Luetscher McQueen *by Maggie McQueen*

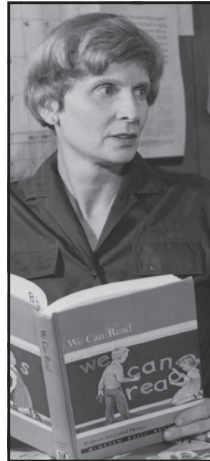
Mary Priscilla's life began in the LaSalle-Peru area. Her mother was a chemist and her father was an engineer. In 1933, her father Oliver moved his family to a farm on Rural Route 1 in Tiskilwa when their daughter Priscilla was 12 years old. After living through the Great Depression, Oliver insisted that hereafter he would always be able to grow his own food.

After graduating from Tiskilwa High School in 1938, Priscilla earned her degree in speech therapy from Washington University in Saint Louis. Her mentor while there was Mildred McGinnis, who pioneered ways to teach soldiers how to regain their speech after head injuries during World War I. Ms. McGinnis soon made the connection to teaching aphasic children [those with language disorders usually caused by injury] to speak and eventually teaching deaf children to speak successfully, using her modified Association Method. Priscilla became very adept and involved in this form of speech therapy. She thrived in this environment and graduated with a desire to teach and help others.

While at Washington University, she met Kent McQueen, who was attending the university's School of Medicine. Upon his return from World War II duty in France, they married in 1946. They moved to Tiskilwa in 1948 where Kent set up his medical practice.

Bloucke Carus, a childhood friend from Peru, became aware of her successes and partnered with her to use his family's small printing company to publish and distribute a new phonics reading program using the McQueen Method. The *Open Court Basic Readers* went on sale in 1963. These books soon were part of the curricula in elementary schools nationwide.

At a time when most women were full-time housewives, Priscilla was forging ahead with her business. As if she didn't have



enough on her hands raising a large family, she started writing textbooks and holding workshops for numerous classroom teachers nationwide. She became a member of the National Council of Reading Foundation and was selected to serve as co-chair of the Illinois committee. In the midst of all this, she decided to open her own publishing company. She established the McQueen Publishing Company onsite at the same farm that her parents had purchased in the 1930s.

After her father died, her mother talked her into moving her large family into the farmhouse. She turned several empty outbuildings into a printing press room, book bindery, graphic arts department, inventory storage, and a shipping office. Somehow, at this point, she also stepped in to help manage the farm!

Priscilla traveled the country lecturing on the advantages and successes of her reading program, steadily building a large base of public and private schools as clients. However, no matter how far away she traveled or how busy she was, Priscilla was always focused on being of service to the community. Her farm classroom was always busy when she was in town, and Priscilla never stopped teaching or giving back to her community. She was active in education until 1999 when she retired and moved to Peoria to be closer to her family.

Several years ago, Maggie McQueen, [author of this tribute] also a teacher, gave a presentation about her mother's work to the Tiskilwa Historical Society. She was honored to hear so many members of the audience share their personal experiences of how Priscilla had changed the course of their lives by helping them with their reading skills when they had almost given up hope.

Priscilla McQueen was a leader in phonics education and ahead of her time as she successfully maneuvered her way through balancing family life and business needs. The Museum on Main in Tiskilwa contains a collection of Priscilla McQueen's books for viewing or checkout.



Left: Mary Priscilla Luetscher, (THS '38); Right in 1963. Seated: Maggie, Bob, Priscilla, Doug. Standing: Dr. Kent, Kent, Jr., Chuck, with Arthur "on the way."

While nurturing their growing family of six children, Priscilla and Kent made their household a place where curiosity and learning were constantly encouraged. Priscilla established a private practice, teaching speech lessons to students from Tiskilwa, Princeton, and surrounding towns in her basement classroom. This venture soon began to include teaching struggling students to read, as her study of speech inspired a new approach to learning to read. She found that she was having great success with all her students.

WANTED: Your Tiskilwa memories for future newsletters. Just get in touch with Cele or Jane, editors of the *Wapsipinicon*.

UPDATE: 20-YEAR FUND CONCLUSION

CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN!

Our one-year campaign ended on April 30, 2023, with a grand total of \$265,755 – **106.3% of the \$250,000 goal.**

As you know, many not-for-profits hire consultants to run their campaigns, but not your T-H-S Board.

Although none of us had any fundraising experience, we did some online research and received helpful advice from **Sara Phalen**, T-H-S member and museum director in the Chicago suburbs as well as owner of 140 East, the former Stevens Home in Tiskilwa.

Most of our pre-launch time was spent defining our strategic goals and determining the resources needed to achieve them. When we shared those findings last May, you responded with tremendous financial support.

We humbly thank you for your support and vote of confidence in our efforts. And we must especially thank our anonymous donors who matched \$125,000 of your gifts, making achievement of our goal possible.

Bill Wendle, 20-Year Fund Campaign Chair

IN MEMORIAM

Thank you for memorials received since our March newsletter.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Orville & Bessie Brokaw | Melda Magnuson Pritchard |
| Chuck Bruder | Floyd & Geri Pruitt |
| Sue Ioder | Raymond & Margaret Ringenberg |
| James R. Maðsen | Betty Burress Rosecrans |
| Phil & Julie Marcum | Sandra Andersen Sissel |
| Ed & Helen Pettegrew | Ruby Downey Stacker |

TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual dues: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

MEMBERSHIP: Individual \$15; Family \$20

SPONSORSHIP: (Includes membership dues – and it's tax deductible)

Friend: \$50 Promoter: \$100 Patron: \$250

Bronze Ben: \$500; Silver Ben: \$1,000; Gold Ben: \$2,500; Platinum: \$5,000+

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ DATE: _____

In addition, I'm enclosing a MEMORIAL DONATION of \$ _____ in memory of _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Please make check payable to **TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** and mail it to P.O. Box 87, Tiskilwa, IL 61368. Thank you.

Three Spring Programs Draw 132 Visitors

Our community gave Tiskilwa Historical Society another tip o' the hat to our programming by showing up in large numbers for our presentations in March, April, and May.



March 13: "History All Around Us," presented by students in Mr. David Gray's social studies class: **Hannah Claiborne, Jazzlyn DePauw, Josie Sierens, Ruby Acker, and Kyrstin Arkwright.** After the program, their proud families – parents, sibs, grandparents, aunts & uncles -- gathered 'round for a photo.

April 19: Enthusiastic representatives from several nearby historical societies and community groups were scribbling notes like crazy as T-H-S member **Sara Phalen**, (*far right in photo*) presented new and effective methods of spreading the word as well as finding funding and other means of support.

Following the program at the Museum on Main, Sara invited everyone to walk over to 140 East, the historic "Stevens Home" that she and husband **Brad Kimme** have been lovingly restoring for almost two years now. The program was presented in collaboration with the **Illinois Association of Museums** as part of their on-site programming for their spring conference. The other on-site IAM conference locations were **Illinois State Museum, Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Chicago Architecture Museum, Joliet Area Historical Museum, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.** Impressive company, agreed?



May 8: **Dr. Norman Moline's** audience came away with a new and expanded appreciation for the **National Park Service** and especially its varied presence in Illinois. Dr. Moline, who is a Professor Emeritus at Augustana College, joined us through the Road Scholar program sponsored by the **Illinois Humanities Council.** He carried the day with his enthusiasm, and we found that we had visitors from



eight different zip codes! For those who couldn't attend, copies of Norm's listing of "Culture-Related National Parks, Monuments, Trails in and near Illinois" are available at the Museum on Main.

Above: Before the May 8th program, **Melvina Lewis** was honored by the Board (Cele Gerber presenting) for her years of keeping records up-to-date. P.S. Happy 93rd B-day in June, Melvina!

Right: Dr. Norman Moline spoke to a rapt audience of 45 visitors at the MoM.



Wapsipinicon Editors:

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Jane Jones, jjones215@gmail.com

Gateway to “Mount Bloom North” Completed!

When an old fir tree creamed the historic 1895 Waiting Room on the “old side” of Mount Bloom Cemetery in 2008, a pop-up civic organization took action. Calling themselves **Friends of Mount Bloom**, they raised several thousand dollars to replace the center building with a new gazebo, restore the 76 concrete steps and railings (built in 1915), recreate the stairway entrance ironwork, design interpretive signs, and complete landscaping.



The group’s final project, a pipe dream that started in 2008, was to install a columned gateway on the north side of the road. The “old part” of the cemetery (land purchased from **Peter and Jane Bloom** in 1865) has long had a graceful entranceway. But the “new part” of Mt. Bloom (opened in the 1930s) had no identifying sign.

Last fall, **Alvaro Cadena** constructed the two handsome brick pillars. Over the long winter of 2022-2023, local blacksmiths **Tom and Doc Schertz** crafted a new gateway, a facsimile of metalwork on the archway to the south side of Mount Bloom.



And on Saturday, May 13, the 15-year-old dream became a dramatic reality. *[See page 6 for the completed installation.]*

May 29 Memorial Day Ceremony Hosted by T-H-S

The annual Memorial Day ceremony was held in Tiskilwa’s East Park, especially honoring the memory of three Tiskilwa men who were killed in action: **Carl Sidebottom** and **Thomas Howard Thompson** (World War II) and **Warren Feldges** (Korean Conflict). Taps were performed and Vietnam War veterans laid wreaths at Tiskilwa’s two war monuments. Immediately following the ceremony, the Society hosted an Open House with refreshments at Tiskilwa’s Gallery on Galena. Displays there include military artifacts and uniforms from World Wars I and II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam era, and Desert Storm. The photo at left is a monument erected in 1992 by the **Tiskilwa American Legion Post 346** with names of local soldiers who died in service to our country.



History Mystery Solved: You’re looking at the grand entrance of the **Indian Valley Inn**, Main Street, Tiskilwa. Hmm. Or maybe the angle of this photo is from the back door?

Our Talented Tiskies . . . Now & Then



***Doris Travis Hamilton** (THS '50) posed on the THS stage in 1960, ready to conduct yet another of her dozens of spring concerts.



***Sally Munson & granddaughter Luella** decorated an Easter wreath for us. (Luella wanted “Doggie” and “Kitty” to be in the photo, too.)



* **William V. Kenney** (THS 1889), a nationally recognized cornetist, performed with the John Philip Sousa band at Chicago’s Columbian Exposition in 1893.

Yet Another “Take” on Our Name of Tiskilwa

Most of us relish the idea that “Tiskilwa” means “gem of the valley” in the poetic language of the Potawatomi. Admittedly, a number of diehards cling to a line in the tongue-in-cheek ditty written by a fellow named Pearl Smith (Yes, that was the guy’s name!) in the early 1900s. His little poem begins, “*In a village where the hoot owl hoot for lack of things to do*” and concludes with the one-on-one between two braves for the love of a lovely maiden. Oh sure, “Tis-Kill-Wa,” no matter how unlikely it was that the Potawatomi were using English words in those early times!

Interestingly, we recently came across another explanation in an article given to us by the **Bureau County Genealogical Society**. In the February 16, 2008, issue of the *Bureau County Republican*, publisher **Sam Fisher** shared this passage from *Emery’s Journal of Agriculture*, 1858, which describes a community in southern Bureau County. We believe it will sound quite familiar to you. *We returned to this place from Princeton. This little village is in many respects one of the most interesting spots in our grand old Prairie State. . . It is snugly ensconced in a beautiful valley, surrounded on every side by wooded hills . . . traversed by a dozen sparkling streams and scores of deep, mysterious valleys and ravines. . . Gaitchwalka, as we believe it was called in the olden times, was a favorite Indian town. In fact, here was situated one of the largest villages of the once-powerful tribe that called this beautiful hunting grounds home.*

Do you think that, somewhere along the way, the pronunciation of Gaitchwalka morphed into “Tch-walka” and then eventually “Tiskilwa”?

Here’s an additional account that fits with that 1858 article: **When Tiskilwa Was Young** (1985 booklet by Mary B. Steimle), states that the commonly-held idea is that Tiskilwa received its name after the railroad came through in 1853. At that time, the valley settlement was known by two names, Windsor and West Windsor. But the C.R.I.&P. officials wanted one name for the town. “*A meeting was held and after much discussion, Lorenzo Whiting* (later an Illinois state representative and state senator: 1870-1886) *suggested the name of Tiskilwa since it was an old Indian village.*” No account we’ve come across explains where and how Whiting arrived at this name. But Sam Fisher’s discovery back in 2008 seems to be a plausible explanation.

History Mystery for June



The label affixed to this photo identifies it as **Dan & Alta Stahly’s Restaurant, Tiskilwa**. Says it was later sold to **George Berney** and then became **Wyatt’s Tap**, owned by **Bud & Dory**. **Can you name today’s business there?**

TISKILWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

110 EAST MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 87

TISKILWA, IL 61368

www.tiskilwahistoricalsociety.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

New Gateway to "Mount Bloom North"



Thank you to these stalwart volunteers who put the new entrance sign in place on May 13: **Bill Sims, Tom & Diesel & Doc Schertz, Gary Wagner, and Ed Waca.** After a whole lotta figuring, measuring, adjusting and welding, they got 'er done in two hours. Perfection! [See the article on page 5 for details about the project.]

These generous businesses help to defray postage costs.

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