
SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

259 MAIN STREET, SUGAR GROVE PH (630) 383-6394

PORTAL TO OUR PAST

SUMMER 2023



Visitors

This spring we have been busy with visitors from Kaneville, Elburn, Sugar Grove and Rockford. Stop in and say "Hello".

Nancy Wilson, Elburn

Karen Morrison, Elburn

Sarah Stupegia, Sugar Grove

Denver Henegman, Sugar Grove

Ken Kreighbaum, Sugar Grove

Steven Leick, Rockford

Gayle Sears, Rockford

Sandi Weise and Karen Flamand , Kaneville

Area Events

Sugar Grove Historical Society: Visit the SGHS and purchase your Quilt Raffle tickets. July 20-23 SGHS Booth at the SG Corn Boil

Hinckley Historical Society: Band Concerts in the Park. June 13: Jazz and Swing. June 29: Patriotic songs/Marches. July 11: Traditional music. August 8: Country/pop

Kaneville Township Historical Society: June 11: Farley & Benton Historic Homes, Open House. August 26: Booth at Kaneville Festival

Larry Martin Heritage Center, Elburn: July 27: Workshop, My New England Research. August 24: Finessing Finding My Past. Registration is required through Batavia Public Library.

Homeschoolers

If you work with Homeschooling in the Sugar Grove area, please contact me for your **FREE Sugar Grove Teachers Guide**. The guide is a 50-page overview of Sugar Grove's history and timeline, with a word search, crossword puzzle, and handouts. Call for information, Educational Director: Janie Panagopoulos (815) 978-5774

Don't forget to renew your membership!

Officers and Board

President

Dave Frantz
(630) 999-3620

Vice President

Rick Johnson
(630) 383-6394

Treasurer

Lori McCaffrey
(630) 881-4426

Secretary

Karen Elifson
(630) 567-3818

Historian

Joan Perrin
(630) 917-4435

Advisory Board

Ted Koch
Cliff Frantz
Dennis Panagopoulos

Board Meetings

Next QUARTERLY

September 12, 2023,
SGHS

January 9, 2024 SGHS

Sugar Grove Historical Society Newsletter publishes four times annually. Society Members receive each issue of the newsletter as part of their membership benefits.

Editor: Janie Panagopoulos

From the President's Desk

Welcome! With the 2023 elections behind us in April, we welcome our newly elected secretary, Karen Elifson.

Karen and her husband, Cal, moved to Sugar Grove from Lombard in 2003. Now retired, Karen was a supervising School District Librarian in Maywood/Melrose Park, and Learning Center Director in Lombard. Thank you for joining our board, Karen. We appreciate your help.

Spring/Summer 2023 is busy! We have a new "Johnson's Treasure" exhibit in our display case and a few displayable artifacts from the Outlaw archaeological dig. The Public Library has a new SGHS display of miniature tractors belonging to Dave Frantz and, of course, farming artifacts from our collection.

Treasurer Lori McCaffery is busy working on the 2023-2024 budget. And Historian Joan Perrin is filing files with historical news articles in our Genealogy collection for families of/from Sugar Grove to learn more about their community and family history.

We recently purchased new shelving units and archival boxes to reorganize and display our collections. Rick Johnson, Head of Documents, will gladly share our collection with you!

In April, a survey was sent out to local Historical Societies, asking them to share details about what their historical community was doing to share their local history. Of the seven surveys sent, five societies responded, and we are all hoping to get together this summer in July to communicate, ask questions, and brag about what we are doing to share our local histories.

Sugar Grove Building History

- 120 Main St. Sears and Roebuck House built in 1930s
- 141 Main St. Community House built in 1919
- 163 Main St. Old Normal & Industrial School rebuilt 1906
- 176 Main St. Methodist Church, built 1888
- 184 Main St. Healy/Snow home built 1905



Quilt Time

It is that time of the year again, the Sugar Grove Historical Society is raffling off our beautiful 2023 quilt created by quilt artist Vickie Frantz. Proceeds go towards display, education, and research improvements at the Bliss House.

This years quilt, designed in the Garden Pattern, measures 86"x99", and fits a Queen size bed. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 or five tickets for \$20.00.

To Purchase online:
www.sugargrovehistory.org. go to the brown banner and "2023 Quilt Raffle and Bliss House Store".

Mail:

Send check to Sugar Grove Historical Society, PO Box 102, Sugar Grove, IL 60554

In Person: Tuesdays 1:00-4:00, 259 Main Street and at Calamity Jane's Restaurant, Jericho and Rt 47.

Contact phone number (630) 383-6394.

We will also be selling tickets at community events throughout the year.

You Could be a Winner!

Thank you for your Donation

Joe and Lois Yoches
 Bill and Ruth Anne Hartman
 Doug and Dianne Frantz
 Doug and Carol Musser
 Mary Ochsenchlager
 Eric Frantz
 Kathy Walz
 Mary Pneuman
 Liz Chalberg
 Sara Stupegia
 Mike and Lorri Dugan
 Fireside Grill
 Caterpillar (matching donation)
 SG Ace Hardware
 Tom and Donna Frantz
 Kristine Smets and Michael Booth

Supporting Membership:

Bill Durrenberger
 Kristine Smets and Michael Booth
 Ken and Mary Kriegbaum

Memorial Donations:

Dorothy Bourdeau in memory of Sue Jacobson
 Jack and Terry Shouba in memory of Sue Jacobson
 Barbara and George Alexander in memory of Sue Jacobson
 Joan Perrin in memory of Roger Griffin
 Marlene Shields in memory of Sue Jacobson
 Rick and Becky Johnson in memory of William Lye
 Marcia and Joe Miles in memory of Phyllis & Leigh Sauer Jr. and Verna & Leigh A. Sauer Sr.

Contact us if any members have artifacts from the area that you would like to share with the community, (630) 999-3620.



Sugar Grove Cemetery,

540 Merril Rd, Sugar Grove

My morbid curiosity always leads me to interesting cemeteries in the many locations I have visited or lived. And Sugar Grove Cemetery was on my list. I learned the cemetery was located next to the *Lakes of Bliss Woods* subdivision when I took my grandchildren to the park there, where we live, and peeking through the shrubbery, I spied tombstones. I soon learned it was a quick walk to the cemetery grounds, and I was on a quest to learn whose grave was the oldest.

With some research, I discovered that the first known burial in Sugar Grove Cemetery is a mystery. It would be appreciated if you or your family could help us solve this mystery.

According to the record: *the first Sugar Grove cemetery was*

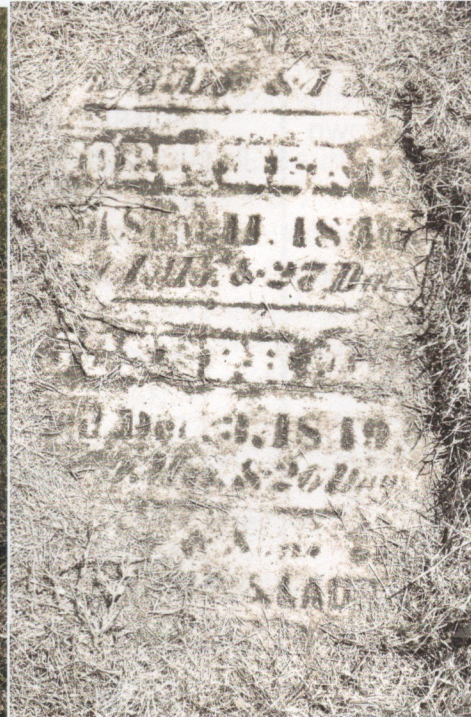
situated, in the low ground east of the residence of P.Y Bliss, on Merrill and Bliss Rd. But, after interring one of the old settlers in a grave half filled with water, the neighbors of the deceased unanimously decided that it would be sacrilege to bury another friend in such a location, and accordingly, a burying ground was purchased a little north of the former position and in a place adapted for the purpose. It is now surrounded by a good stone fence and contains several elegant and costly monuments. (Past and Present of Kane County, IL, 1878)

This is just the beginning of the story. I was told by community members the oldest known grave belonged to Asa McDole, who died 16 September 1839. Upon further research in the cemetery record books, I discovered graves belonging to Mary Jane Gordon McDole, date 181?, Mary Slater Gillett Feb.7,1813, Chas Edward Thompson July 23, 1815, Thompson, Infant 1816, Byron Lombard 1817, Joseph Gillett May 8, 1818, Ebenezer Hadley, Sr. Jan. 11, 1819, Gregory L. Lyman 1819, Wealthy Thompson 1823. All in all, there were 14 graves located there, all before 1839.

Who are these people? Anyone out there related and have a bible registry or genealogy? I have returned to the cemetery with a soft brush and towels to try to locate and clean the moss and clippings off these stones and attempt to take rubbings of those that are nearly impossible to read to see if the cemetery record books are incorrect or are these people, indeed, very early settlers.



Asa McDole, one of our first Founders.



Covered in clippings and nearly buried.



The stone is worn so 4 appears as a 1, 1841, 1846, 1849 NOT 1811, 1816, 1819. One mystery solved!

SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership.....\$10.00

Family Membership.....\$15.00

Student (17 and under).....\$1.00

Business/Organization.....\$25.00

Supporting.....\$50.00

Individual/Family Life Member.....\$200.00

Donation _____

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

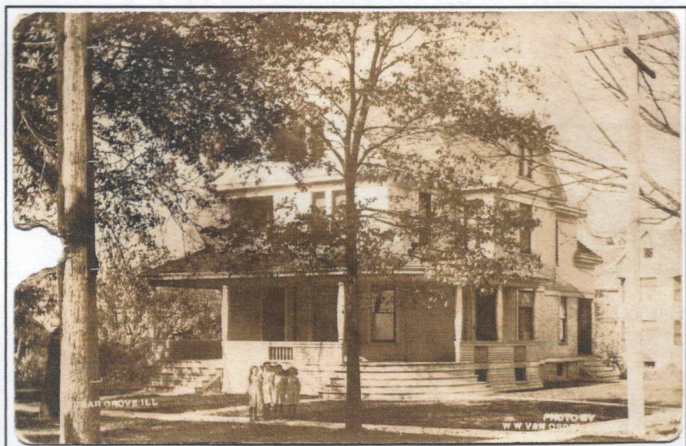
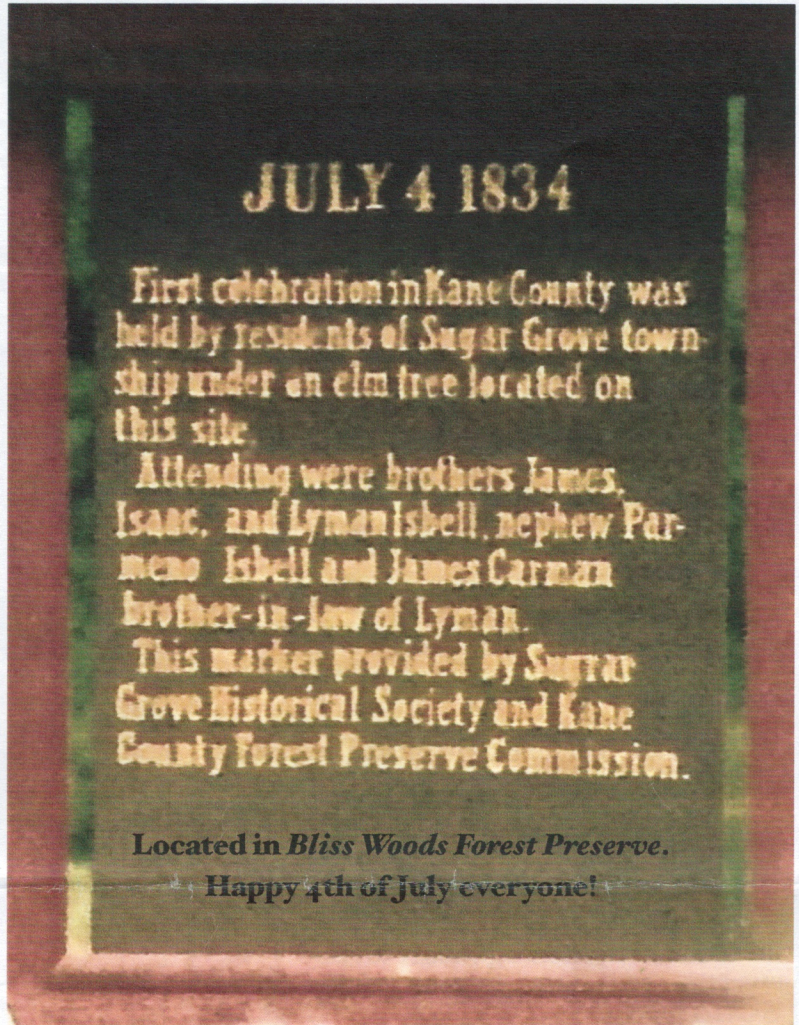
E-mail _____

Are you interested in Email Newsletter?

Yes

NO

Mail: Sugar Grove Historical Society,
PO Box 102, Sugar Grove, IL 60554



Member Dorothy (Johnson) Bourdeau holds a 3D model of the Susie Judd home (59 Maple Street, Sugar Grove) made for her by the current resident of the home Brian Swan. The Bill Johnson family resided there in the '40s through 1955 when they moved to 263 Main Street. The Judd home was built in 1892 by Sarson Judd and remains one of the treasures of Sugar Grove.



Stop by and visit Ol' Abe at the Sugar Grove Historical Society!

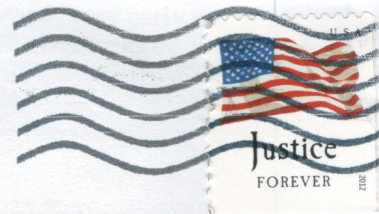
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P.O. BOX 102

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