

SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

PORTAL TO OUR PAST

FALL 2023



**Delmar "Del" Kriegbaum"
May 6, 1924-August 17, 2023**

In memory of our long-time friend and member of the Sugar Grove Historical Society.



Here is our 2023 fundraising quilt for the December raffle. It is a *Garden Walk* pattern and measures 86" wide by 99" long.

Thanks again, Vickie Frantz, for your

generous heart and your beautiful work.

You can purchase 1 ticket for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20 on our website at sugargrovehistory.org. You can also mail a check to:

SGHS PO Box 102
Sugar Grove, IL 60554

You're always welcome to stop by Bliss House on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m to purchase tickets as well.

The drawing will take place December 5, 2023, at the Historical Society.

Delmar was a true son of Sugar Grove Township; a friend, and a Sugar Grove Historical Society member. He supported our mission of preserving Sugar Grove's history and shared his many local experiences along with good stories of his years of service to Sugar Grove. He was a friend of our organization, and he will be missed.

Homeschoolers

If you work with Homeschooling in the Sugar Grove area, please contact me for your **FREE Sugar Grove Teachers Guide**. The guide, 1st-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade, is a 50-page overview of Sugar Grove's history and timeline, with a word search, crossword puzzle, and handouts. Call Janie Panagopoulos at (815) 978-5774 for more information.

Don't forget to renew your membership!

Officers and Board

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(630) 999-3620

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(630) 567-3818

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Joan Perrin
(630) 917-4435

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Cliff Frantz
Dennis Panagopoulos

Board Meetings

Next QUARTERLY Board Meeting:

January 9, 2024 SGHS

The Sugar Grove Historical Society Newsletter is published three times annually. Society Members receive each newsletter issue as part of their membership benefits.

Editor: Janie Panagopoulos
(815) 978-5774

From the President's Desk-Dave Frantz -

Welcome!

The quilt raffle tickets are now available. This cozy quilt would make a terrific Christmas gift! I hope we will have record ticket sales this year. The Drawing is December 5th. Last year's sales were down. But our balance was buoyed by *Raised Expectations-Redesigned Furniture* raffle at the Corn Boil in July-a huge thank you to Carrie Frantz, owner of *Raised Expectations*.

We have been invited to join in sharing our history through the Sugar Grove Public Library's database, and we've also arranged the use of their very comfortable meeting room--a great space to present historical programming!

Sugar Grove has a rich and interesting history, but I have also discovered that townships around us are just as interesting. Janie Panagopoulos has been working toward bringing our neighbors together for mutual benefit. It's very rewarding to get to know our neighbors.

On December 2nd, we will be participating with the Kiwanis in celebrating *Christmas In the Grove*. We will have a booth and give guided tours via a horse-drawn wagon of historic Sugar Grove. It is a great time. Come join us!

Lori McCaffrey, our treasurer, has approved the purchase of four CDS at \$2,000 each. They are staggered to mature over the next five years with a decent rate of return.

Please stop by Bliss House on Tuesday afternoons. We look forward to your visit.

In Sugar Grove History, Dave Frantz

Excuse Me!

Winter of 1883 gave way to harsh road conditions in Sugar Grove. The roads seemed too narrow to fit two teams of horses with their wagons to pass.

Citizen Judd, hauling a load of lumber, met Citizen Gregory on the snowy roadway. Gregory demanded half the road, which Judd surrendered, but in the process, tipped his wagon off the road into a snowbank. I am glad road rage wasn't a thing back then.

Don't forget to renew your membership!



Back L to R Sue Bergenfield, Jane Nelson, Marion Harke, Judy Frazier, Mary Didier, Ruth Frantz, Lois Johnson, Mary Jane Nagel, Norma Anderson, Helen Jorgensen. **Front** L to R Phyllis Christiansen, Ruth Krieghbaum, Carolyn Campbell, Betty Kaminski, Jackie Shanahan, and Marge Krider. **Not Pictured:** Elaine Fox, Irene Dreyer, Byrel Leifheit, Carolyn Bjornson, Mari Johnson, Yvonne Adkins, Mary Bauer, Elaine Zielke, and Joy Rubo

The Amazing Women of Sugar Grove

For twenty years (1972-1992), the *Sugar Grove News*, a free newspaper/newsletter, was operated by volunteers who produced ten issues yearly. They gathered the news, typed and edited the copy, and printed the paper on a hand-cranked mimeograph machine. When finished, the papers went to another group of volunteers at the Sugar Grove United Methodist Church to be put together, stapled, and delivered. Revenue from advertisements and donations from Sugar Grove organizations paid for production expenses.

Three people remained on staff since 1972. They are the editor, Helen Jorgensen, the treasurer, Norma Anderson, and Ruth Frantz, who was chosen as the printer because she was willing and owned the only mimeograph machine in the village. "If the machine had died, the paper would have died sooner," Frantz said. "I don't know how it lasted all those years," she added. On February 27, 1992, the last issue, 1,001 copies of the *Sugar Grove News*, was printed. This type of community effort is a forgotten treasure of Sugar Grove.

Contact us if you have artifacts from the area that you would like to share with the community and the Sugar Grove Historical Society (630) 999-3620. They could be featured in an exhibit at the Museum and Public Library.

Area Names

Many towns in the area were known by other names or named for the founder's hometown. Here are just a few.

Kane County was named for Elias Kane, who was instrumental in establishing Illinois statehood in 1818.

Aurora was named by Elias Terry, who came from Aurora, New York, in 1835.

Batavia (Fair Meadows, Dutch) was also known as the *Big Woods*. Named by Judge Isaac Wilson in 1840, who came from Batavia, New York.

Geneva, originally named LaFox, Big Springs, and Herrington's Ford, was renamed around 1836 by a Dr. Dryer from Geneva, New York.

St. Charles used to be named Charleston but was renamed in 1839 because Illinois already had a Charleston in Coles County.

Sugar Grove (Sin-Qua-Sip, Indigenous, Sugar Maples or Grove) is named after large groves of Sugar Maple trees where early founders in 1834, discovered a *sugar camp*.

Thank you for your Donation

Rick Johnson
 Dave Frantz
 Mary Ochenschlager
 Janie Panagopoulos

Supporting Membership:

Ceryl Benson

Memorial Donations:

Rick Johnson
 Bill and Ruth Anne Hartman
 Joan Perrin

Looking for a neat holiday gift-giving idea for friends and family? How about a family membership to the Sugar Grove Historical Society?

What happened to Main Street?

The place where everyone congregates. Historically, downtown Main Street has been a community's economic heart and soul, offering a variety of retail services to residents. In most communities, downtown served as the governmental and social center. City Hall is usually located on Main Street near the courthouse and jail. People were drawn downtown to the post office, library, and church.

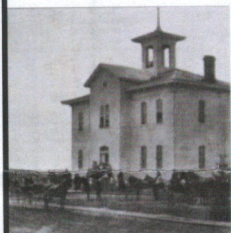


Maine Street-Sugar Grove

During Holidays and special events, Main Street came alive with festivities and lights.

1870s-1900s, Sugar Grove's Main Street was at its heyday.

Main Street, north of the tracks, included the Normal and Industrial School (Which serves today as apartments). The school was the first of



Normal and Industrial School

its kind in the area. Graduates left with teaching degrees and industrial training. Professor Frank Hall from the school later developed his version of the Braille typewriter for vision-impaired students.

Town Hall was located north of the school on Main Street and was used for community meetings, voting, and social gatherings. Across the street, you found the beautiful United Methodist Church, which still serves the community today.



United Methodist Church



Sugar Grove Supply Company

The Sugar Grove Supply Co., later known as Keck's Store, was a place where you could purchase everything from hardware to food. The building is still there, but sadly, the store no longer exists.

Keck's Store



We can't forget the old Hotel (Uncle Tom's Cabin), once used as a dormitory for the Normal and Industrial School and later housed visiting workers building barns on the local farms, railroad workers, and community visitors. The Hotel also housed the community's first restaurant and served as a store, post office, depot, telegraph, and express office.



Uncle Tom's Cabin -1876 Burned 1879 and Rebuilt 1880

Miller's Store, located north of the depot, provided general store shopping, an ice cream parlor, and a pool hall.



Miller's Store

Further north on Main Street, you found a multi-purpose building that housed a blacksmith and barber shop on the lower level. Upstairs, a large hall (Knutson Hall) was used for school functions such as basketball games, graduations, and social gatherings. You can still find this building today at 214 Main Street.



Knutson Hall

South of the tracks on Main Street, you could find all the agricultural businesses: grain mill and elevator, creamery and cheese factory, stockyards, Johnson's Livery Service, and Stables that sold feed, lumber, coal, and farm machinery.

Main Street is a place where people do business, attend church, visit families, and attend community events.

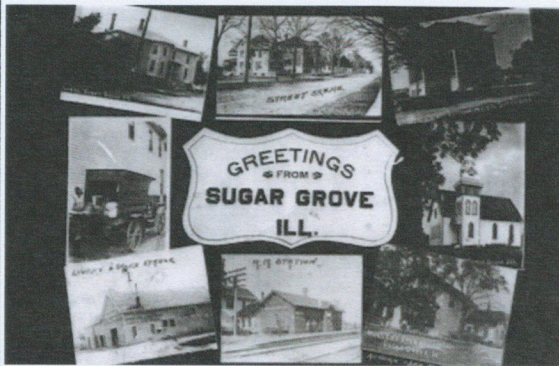
Our Sugar Grove Main Street was once alive and vibrant. A "Sense of Place" that made people feel like they belonged and were part of a growing community.

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Sadly, the old businesses have closed, services to the community are limited, and needing a local newspaper to share information and events that glue our community together, we lose contact with those things going on around us.

What Happened to our Main Street?

I think they call it progress.



SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP

- Individual Membership.....\$15.00
- Family Membership.....\$20.00
- Business/Organization.....\$30.00
- Supporting.....\$50.00
- Individual/Family Life Member...\$225.00

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**

Here's what I remember about Halloween when I was a kid in the 40's in Sugar Grove

- Mom, Emily "Marie" Laycock Johnson, made popcorn balls to pass out and still did until her passing in 1980.
- At Grandma Healy's, you came in and sat down for a piece of pie. I think Apple.
- Miss Dromgoole gave coins. Miss Dromgoole was a high school teacher who lived next to us on Main Street with her mother.
- There was scary talk about outdoor toilets being tipped over in past years. My grandparents had one of those, but nothing ever happened to it.
- I'm sure there are MANY other stories about Halloween in those days, but I don't remember going to a whole lot of places.

Dorothy Johnson Bourdeau



Halloween Party Knutson Hall, 1926

Those in attendance: Dick Richards, Charles Conway, Francis Muth, Charlie Calkins, Miss Lucy Burnham, Miss Stockman, Margret Harkins, Stanley and Mona Mighell, Kermit and Hattie Coddington, Bill Johnson, Gladys Shults, Clarence and Frances Kouth, James Malcolm, Stanley Mighell, Erma Miller, Margaret Harker, Frances Cook, Teachers: Edwina Ware, Edith Stockman, and Bertha Eels



“School Children in front of the former Sugar Grove Town Hall, 1917”
L to R back row: Grace Needham, Dorothy Kouth, Ada Knutson, Genevieve Johnson, Helen Reed, Frances Kouth, Alice Kirchenbauer, Hattie Coddington, Mary Galor
L to R front row: Kermit Coddington, George Kouth, William Johnson, Lewis Judd, Clarence Kouth, Clement Vickers, Alvin Henne

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P.O. BOX 102

SUGARGROVE, IL 60554

CAROL STREAM IL 601

24 OCT 2023 PM 8 L

