



1838 P.Y. Bliss Store and Home

SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1984

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

259 Main Street - P. O. Box 102

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Open Tuesdays 1 to 4 pm or by appointment

'WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?'

Kathy Whildin will talk on an overview of Genealogy

JUNE MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010 - 7 P.M. In the Bliss House

A Fascinating Evening and An Amazing Coincidence

By Mary Lake

The April 19, 2010, meeting of the Sugar Grove Historical Society was a fascinating glimpse back in our country's history to the time of the Civil War. The presentation was given by Tom Oestreicher, better known in our area as Tommy O, original owner of the restaurant of the same name. Tom took an interest in Civil War history and began collecting artifacts when he was 13 years old. This direction and interest in his life was to the great delight of his neighbor whose garage Tom had accidentally set on fire some years earlier. Tom is now a noted author, lecturer and speaker on Civil War history. He teaches at NIU and has one of the state's largest collections of Civil War artifacts and memorabilia.



Tom is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), and gave his presentation dressed in the blue uniform of the Union Army. The SUVCW is headquartered in Harrisburg, PA. where the National Civil War Museum houses all Civil War records.

The following are only a few of the interesting facts I learned during the evening:

>The North named their battles after the nearest body of water. The South named them after the nearest town. Thus, the Battle of Bull Run as it was called in the North was the Battle of Manassas in the South. The Battle of Antietam as it was known in the North was known as the Battle of Sparksburg in the South. Gettysburg was Gettysburg.

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SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1989

Happy birthday to the Community House. It was 60 years old in 1989. The Society helped celebrate the birthday honoring the people who worked to build it. [Read the history of the Community House on page 6]

The Historical Society sent changes in the words of our incorporation papers to the state in order to comply with the IRS to get our 501(c)(3) status as a non profit society. Then we did not have to pay state sales tax on our purchases.