

Hamilton County Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2009

1829 Hamilton County Bible Society Letter Acquired

The Hamilton County Historical Society has recently acquired an old 1829 letter from the Hamilton County Bible Society addressed to the American Bible Society's headquarters in New York. This document contains the names of most of the first county officers. The first paragraph is as follows: "The Society organized at this place in 1825 gradually dwindled away from some of its members having moved away and from absence and sickness of some of its officers. Through these causes the business became neglected and finally almost forgotten, but in July 1829, we undertook to reinstate or reorganize the Hamilton County Bible Society. A meeting was held, James Hall, Chairman, Lorenzo Rathbone, Secretary, and the following Officers elected for the year 1829, viz: Lorenzo Rathbone, President, James Hall, Vice and Jesse C. Lockwood, Secretary; Abram Ervin, Daniel Marshall, John Anderson and Moses Bumgarner Directors; Jas. Allen, Treasurer." The document is currently being preserved and prepared for eventual display at the Hamilton County Museum.



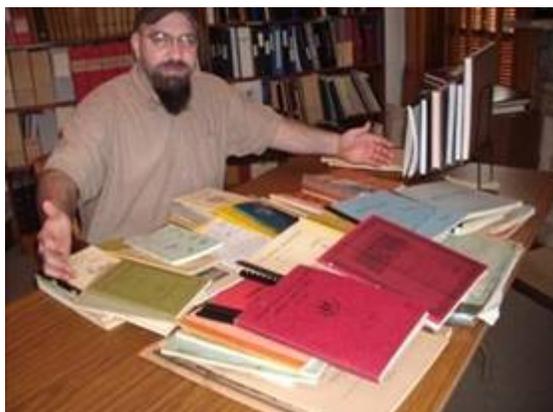
"Illinois Gazette" Books to be Published, Pre-orders Accepted



*Judge James Hall.
Editor of the Illinois Gazette*

The Hamilton County Historical Society is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of a 2-volume set containing gleanings from the rare *Illinois Gazette* newspaper published from 1819-1830, in Shawneetown, Illinois. There were very few newspapers at the time Illinois was in its infancy, so this is a valuable resource for people searching for their relatives or just reading about the happenings of the day. It contains articles about marriages and deaths, commissioners reports, ads for runaway slaves, and much more. The newspaper was published for many years by James Hall, who was a well-known lawyer and author of his day. These excerpts were transcribed by Becky Schmook from microfilm. The books may be purchased by using the order form on the back of this newsletter. Hardcover, indexed, 8½ x 11, \$40 each volume, shipping and tax included.

Gen. Library Received Substantial Donations from Felty, Hardesty



Some of Christine Johnson Felty's donation to the genealogy library. Pictured: Ryan Nelson.

Christine Johnson Felty donated more than 75 genealogy books to the Hamilton County Historical Society's genealogy library Thursday, June 11, 2009. Christine and her late husband Harold's contribution to Hamilton County genealogy is substantial. The couple spent many years compiling what would become the key reference work, "Legacy of Kin," a two-volume set containing obituary abstracts spanning almost 150 years. The Felty's also completed "Civil War Soldiers and Veterans, Hamilton County" and "Marriage Records and Related Notes, 1821-1854." The Hamilton County Historical Society wishes to thank Christine for her generous donation.

Richard Hardesty, a longtime Hamilton County Historical Society member, recently donated several binders of research gathered by Ruby Reasor, originally of Broughton. This donation should add substantially to our resources available about Hardesty's and other related surnames in the county. Thanks also to Richard for this donation.



"New" Grandma Deem Photographs Discovered!

Thanks to Mickey Gunter, Geological Sciences Chair at the University of Idaho and great-grandson of Sevilla "Grandma" Deem, we now have access to five pictures of Hamilton County's favorite obituary clipper. The Historical Society first began publishing Deem's scrapbooks in 1989, however, we did not have any images of the woman herself. The pictures have been published in the final scrapbook, "Grandma Deem's Marriage Notices, 1899-1921, Including Notices from 1930-1931."

Historical Society Awards 2009 Scholarship

Kaitlin Webb is the 2009 recipient of the Hamilton County Historical Society Scholarship. Webb is class president and salutatorian of her graduating class. She wrote, "Thank you for choosing me as the recipient of your society's scholarship. It was truly an honor to be selected by your committee. These funds will help me achieve my dream of becoming a history teacher. I am very grateful to you." Pictured: Ryan P. Nelson with Webb. Photo credit: Paul Lorenz/ *McLeansboro Times-Leader*.



Photo Restoration Project Underway

Charles Hammond of Eldorado has agreed to restore much of the Hamilton County Historical Society's photograph collection. Hammond is an accomplished photographer and is a long-time Springhouse Magazine contributor. Initially, Hammond will concentrate on the Spanish American War photographs, taken by C. M. Sneed. Last year, Hammond restored 100-year-old glass negatives of Harrisburg and southern Illinois taken by W. S. Swann. DVDs of his work are available at the Saline County Historical Society at the Pioneer Village.



Penny VanWinkle discussing the 6th Illinois Cavalry at the April HCHS meeting.

Genealogy Library Currently looking for a Thursday Volunteer



Rick Moore discussing the origins of Hamilton County at the HCHS May meeting. David Dykstra holding map.

The Hamilton County Museum and Genealogy Library is open weekdays from 1-4 p.m. on the second floor of the McCoy Memorial Library. During the summer months, many patrons from across the country visit the genealogy library to search their family tree. At present, we are needing a volunteer for Thursday afternoons. Anyone interested in volunteering at the Hamilton County Museum and Genealogy Library should contact the McCoy Memorial Library at 643-2125.

2009 Business Members

The Hamilton County Historical Society would like to thank the following businesses for their continued support:

- 4-R Equipment
- Auten's Pizza
- Banterra Bank
- Chapman Insurance
- Farris Family Restaurant
- Gholson Funeral Home
- H&R Block
- Hamilton County Loan
- Hamilton County Memorial Hospital District

- Harre Funeral Home and Ambulance
- Hunt's Hardware and Grocery
- Irvin's Jewelry
- Lisa's Hallmark
- Max Hunt Tank Truck Service
- McDonald's Restaurant
- Peoples National Bank
- Rapp Cabinets and Woodwork

Publications From the Hamilton County Historical Society

(Shipping & IL Sales Tax included in Prices Unless Stated Otherwise)

_____ **ILLINOIS GAZETTE: September 25, 1819-December 20, 1823 Vol. One: \$40 Pre-Order**

_____ **ILLINOIS GAZETTE: January 10, 1824-December 18, 1830 Vol. Two: \$40 Pre-Order**

This 2-volume set contains gleanings from the rare *Illinois Gazette* newspaper published from 1819-1830 in Shawneetown, Illinois. There were very few newspapers at the time Illinois was in its infancy, so this is a valuable resource for people searching for their relatives or just reading about the happenings of the day. It contains articles about marriages and deaths, commissioners reports, ads for runaway slaves, and much more. The newspaper was published for many years by James Hall, who was a well-known lawyer and author of his day. These excerpts were transcribed by Becky Schmook from microfilm. Volume One: 196 pages, hardbound, 8½" x 11", indexed. Volume Two: 229 pages, hardbound, 8½" x 11", indexed.

_____ **GOSHEN TRAILS: HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, \$75/SET**

The Historical Society is offering a two-volume set of *Goshen Trails*, the society's historical journal published from 1965 to 1982. 1200 pages, hardbound, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", indexed.

_____ **McLEANSBORO ILLUSTRATED: THE 1900 & 1910 SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS TO THE McLEANSBORO TIMES: \$12 + \$3 S/H**

100 years ago, then *McLeansboro Times* editor M.E. Daniel assembled these special supplements to promote the community and attract businesses. *McLeansboro Illustrated* contains information about prominent individuals, businesses, organizations, local government, churches, and schools and has more than 175 pictures and more than 700 proper names. 70 pages, softcover, indexed.

GRANDMA DEEM'S BOOKS

_____ **MARRIAGE NOTICES 1899-1921 (and additional notices for 1930-1931): \$40**

This book is a collection of hundreds of clipped marriage notices from Hamilton County and Southern Illinois newspapers. 183 pages, hardbound, 8½" x 14", indexed.

_____ **MARRIAGE NOTICES 1922-1929: \$45**

287 pages, hardbound, 8 1/2" x 11", indexed.

_____ **OBITUARIES 1897-1917: \$42**

Researchers, genealogists, and history buffs will find these rare clippings of complete obituaries from Hamilton County and Southern Illinois newspapers a valuable tool. 280 pages, 11" x 14", softback, indexed.

_____ **OBITUARIES 1917-1925: \$56**

334 pages, hardbound, 8 1/2" x 13 3/4", indexed.

_____ **OBITUARIES OF HAMILTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1926-1931: \$50**

Taken from four scrapbooks, this collection of complete obituaries from area newspapers provides a wealth of genealogy information at your fingertips. 473 pages, hardbound, 8 ½" x 11", indexed.

Send books ordered to:

Total Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to: Hamilton County Historical Society
409 N. Pearl Street
McLeansboro, IL 62859