Better Days Ahead for Architectural Icon
By Shelly Lehman

The old church at the top of the Main Street hill has renewed life. KDB Group founder Kim Blickenstaff, who received the Peoria Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Award in 2020, has stepped forward to save the historic structure from the wrecking ball.

“Yes, we are taking ownership of the Hale Memorial Church building,” said Greg Birkland, president and CEO of KDB Group. Birkland was assessing the property at the corner of Main and High streets with help from Farnsworth Group and CORE Construction in early June, he said.

KDB agreed to purchase the property for $22,000 from a Utah couple who had purchased it sight-unseen from North Illinois Investments. “The couple didn’t know what they were getting into and how much work would go into making it usable,” Birkland said. North Illinois Investments had purchased it from Peoria County after taxes went unpaid.

Temperatures are rising, which means spring is turning to summer ... and summer means the Peoria Historical Society office is once again busy with exhibits, events and tours. This May we opened our new exhibit space at the Wheels O’Time Museum, featuring artifacts telling the history of distilling in Peoria. In June we sponsored the 56th Rennick Art show at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Local artists did not disappoint with entries of original art related to Peoria’s history. We also curated the “They Made a Difference: Peoria Women Who Empowered Others” art show at the Peoria Public Library Main Branch. The exhibit highlighted Peoria women who were active in the women’s suffrage movement, part of the Peoria community city-wide celebration of the 101st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

We have been collaborating with the Historic Creve Coeur Club, WTVP, Wheels O’Time, the Moffatt Cemetery Memorial, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria Public Library, League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria, Peoria Area World Affairs Council, Dunlap Public Library, several neighborhood associations, local businesses, and community events! The activity is invigorating, and our office volunteers are inspiring. Kathy Platz is continuing her work cataloging and scanning the Jean Morron collection. Other volunteers will be digitizing specific parts of the Pettengill collection. There are also volunteers working at the John C Flanagan House and Pettengill-Morron House giving tours and maintaining the grounds and houses. An enormous amount of gratitude goes to our house museum managers -- Mary Hamm, for her hard work on the beautiful P-M gardens as well as the other extensive work she continues to do for PHS.

There are too many to count! Also, huge thank you’s to Leann Johnson for her continued care and upkeep inside the Flanagan House and to John and Berniece Haverhals for the care and maintenance of the grounds and gardens at Flanagan House! The Preservation Committee is eager to tackle restoration projects and help with creative ideas for fundraising at the two museum houses. Please continue to stay connected through our website, Facebook and get your tickets to a history tour.

Colleen O. Johnson, Executive Director
From the President

Greetings fellow Peoria Historical Society members,

I am excited to have taken over the role as your board president at the annual meeting in May. I have had the unique opportunity to serve as a board member, treasurer, vice president and even a short stint as executive director over the past 5 years. In addition to those, I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as de Tonti chair, manning the door at P-M House for the Holiday Home Tour, and working on projects at both of our grand historic homes. Each activity and board position has given its own unique in-depth view of the many facets of PHS. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

It has been an exciting couple of weeks since the annual meeting! Three big moves took place within our collection and, while there will be more details on their history in future articles, I wanted to tell you about the moves. Move #1 was the 1873 Nymphs & Satyr painting relocation from the old Richard’s on Main to WTVP. With a lot of help from Dan Waibel Design Builders, and Kelly Perkins and Centre State International Trucks, we were able to move the 12ft tall by 9.5ft wide artwork. Removal and disassembly were tedious, a window had to be removed from the building, and iron railings and banister cut off to bring the pieces from the basement of the building. The removal was a full day process, and the rehanging took a half day in the entry hall at WTVP, where it will remain on loan.

Move #2 was the large stained-glass window from the PHS office to the Creve Coeur Club, where it will remain on loan. Originally in the Lud Hotel and owned by Thomas Webb, the window has a bulldog in its center as a portrait of Thomas Webb’s dog King Lear. With the help of Brian Gruber, Brian Slater, and Peter Getz, the window was successfully moved.

Move #3 was the 2nd large stained-glass window from the Lud Hotel, which has been sitting in the P-M House garage. This features a portrait of the bulldog, King Lud, and was moved to the PHS office with the help of James Kemper, Marci Carballido, and Peter Getz. After some cleanup and restoration work, this piece will stay on display at the office.

I want to thank everyone for their assistance in these moves as well as past president, Kathy Ma, for her leadership in these projects and in PHS for the last few years.

Zach Oyler, President

History Tours On the Move Again!

By Beth Johnson

Our wonderful guides kicked off the new season of history tours on June 4. Walking tours will be held June through August every Friday and Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Eleven different tours are offered, and one new tour of the Warehouse District will be introduced this summer. Guests have responded enthusiastically to the tours again; several tours sold out more than a week before the tour itself. Walking Tours are offered at $15 per person. Tickets for regular tours as well as the special Tours Plus events can be obtained through 309tix.com.

Tours Plus tours make their debut this summer on select Thursdays. In June, guests enjoyed the Lydia and Lucie tour at Springdale and then retired to Flanagan House for lunch and the Notable Peoria Women program. In July the Watches, Whiskey and Royalty tour will be offered on Moss Avenue with guide Kathy Ma. Following the late afternoon tour, guests will return to Pettengill-Morron House for appetizers and libations. Tours for August and beyond are still in development at this time, but they are sure to be interesting and engaging. At $30 or $35 a ticket, it’s a wonderful way to learn more about history while having fun.

The plan is to return to bus tours for September and October, provided the pandemic has abated enough to safely do so. Bus tour tickets will also be sold via 309tix.com. Make plans early to sign up for the Ghost Tours as they are almost always sold out.

Congratulations to our new Peoria Historical Society officers for 2021-2022:
President Zach Oyler; Vice President Clay Hill; Treasurer Doug Hamilton and Secretary Elizabeth “Lisa” Arcot.

Tour leader, Beth Johnson, left, and guests view the 1800’s cottage once owned by Lemonhill Wiley. Wiley was a musician during the Civil War who once played for the Queen of England.
“The building has never been shored up, there are leaking issues and crumbling,” Birkland said. “Our immediate concern is life safety issues, so we will start working on the outside of it, making sure the façade is taken care of so people can use that sidewalk again.” The sidewalk was barricaded by the city of Peoria.

The building was slated for demolition by the city of Peoria, but with new ownership “the clock starts all over again,” Birkland noted. “The issues the city has will be addressed. We will start working on structural issues to make it stable and secure, like the stonework and placing a protective barrier on the roof and trying to dry the place out,” he said.

The decision to purchase the church, which dates to the turn of the 20th century, was made by Kim Blickenstaff, said Birkland, “because it’s a historical piece of property of Peoria that doesn’t deserve to be demolished. There is Old World craftsmanship inside that dates back over 100 years. Our intention is to bring it back and make it another viable venue of some sort, but I’m not sure at this point what that will be.”

The sale of Hale Church to KDB Group was expected to be finalized in early summer, at which time exterior renovation would begin.

**Hale Church history**

Vermont native Asahel Hale, a devout Methodist, abolitionist and philanthropist, paid $5 an acre for 80 acres of West Bluff land shortly after his arrival in 1831. His well-preserved mansion built in 1853 stands at 510 High St. and is owned by Second District Councilman Chuck Grayeb.

At Hale’s death in 1864, he bequeathed $12,000 and a tract of land at the corner of Main and High streets for the construction of a Methodist church. Plans were laid after the Civil War, and the first Hale Memorial church was dedicated in 1869. The congregation outgrew the structure, and the present Hale Memorial Methodist-Episcopal Church was erected in 1900.

Over the years, the building has been home to three other church congregations as well as a private residence. Most recently, the local Yaku arts group had hoped to make it into an arts center, but funding was never achieved.

The building features rusticated limestone walls that frame each doorway and climb above pointed arches of Gothic-style windows. As was becoming common practice, the central tower, like those on the old Peoria County Courthouse, was actually stamped from sheet metal and painted to resemble stone.

The site of Hale Memorial was the entrance to High Street, the most exclusive residential street in Peoria at the time. Passengers riding in horse-drawn streetcars whose rails had recently curved up the Main Street hill could admire the houses built for the whiskey and grain barons.

Some information for this article came from the book “Peoria Two: East/West Bluff Pre-1940” published in 1981 by the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

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**PHS Granted Funding for Programming, Restoration Work & Data Entry**

*By Maureen Naughtin*

Peoria Historical Society is grateful to receive grants from Illinois Humanities, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board.

The Activate History Micro-grant from Illinois Humanities in the amount of $500 was used toward the “Soft Knock at the Door: The Abolitionist Movement in Peoria,” a program researched and presented by Pettengill-Morron docent Corey Curtis.

The NSDAR’s Historic Preservation Grant for $5,042.00, will be used toward masonry work at John C. Flanagan House Museum.

Finally, we were granted $4,200 from the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board. This funding will allow PHS to digitize the Moses Pettengill Collection that has been catalogued by long-time volunteer Barb Meyn. The process of entering and scanning will allow the collection to be searchable through the PHS website.
New trustees a welcome addition
By Shelly Lehman
Peoria Historical Society elected trustees at its annual membership meeting May 19 at the Creve Coeur Club of Peoria. Joining the board were:

Sheila Brewster of Peoria, who has been involved with the society since childhood, helping her mother who was a volunteer at Pettengill-Morron House Museum. Through the years, Sheila continued as a member, volunteer and donor. She says: “I have traveled around the world and come to appreciate the tapestry of Peoria’s history and would like to help ensure we preserve that history.”

Linda Herron of Chillicothe is a self-employed seamstress and dressmaker who formerly was the manager at Flanagan House Museum and served on the board. Linda says she is looking forward to once again assisting in activities, events and hands-on work to benefit the society.

Jeremy Kindred-Winget of Peoria is a nurse practitioner/advanced heart failure. He resides in a 1902 house in the Moss-Bradley Historic District near the Pettengill-Morron House Museum, and he says: “For (the house museum’s) continued survival and relevance, an active involved group of caretakers is needed. I would like to be part of its preservation.”

Elizabeth Klise of Peoria is a writer. “I’ve always had a deep interest in the city of Peoria and its history,” she says. She calls Peoria Historical Society the organization that does more than any other to preserve and promote our city’s past.

Jarrod Martis of Peoria is president of JIMAX Landscape. A collector and restorer of antique fans, military guns, vintage radios and antique farming equipment, he says his hobbies exemplify his appreciation for engineering, machine design and historical architecture.

Trisha Noack of rural Eureka is retired from a career in public relations and fundraising development. “Our past,” she says, “is rich and diverse, and we have many opportunities to educate and help our community understand our past and how we got to where we are today.” She says she looks forward to helping bring enthusiastic and well-planned history programming to the Peoria area.

Randall Yelverton of Peoria is executive director of Peoria Public Library. He says he looks forward to continuing the long relationship between the library and the historical society and “serving as a pathway for strengthening and expanding our partnership.”

All the board members were elected to three-year terms except Trisha Noack, who will fill the one-year term of a resigning trustee. Re-elected to a second consecutive three-year term was Susie Papenhause of East Peoria, whose roles include overseeing the society’s Timeline newsletter and chairing the annual Holiday Homes Tour fundraiser.

Thank you to these individuals who will help the society fulfill its mission to preserve, share and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area.

Volunteer of the Year: Marcia Johnson
By Maureen Naughtin
At the annual membership meeting of Peoria Historical Society in May, Marcia Johnson was named the 2021 Volunteer of the Year. A Wheels O’ Time Board member and employee, Marcia has served on the PHS Board of Directors for the past 6 years. She has volunteered at numerous PHS events over the years, but this year, because WOTM did not open in 2020, she was able to spend time volunteering in the office. While not a huge fan of our database, Past Perfect, Marcia none-the-less persevered and tackled data entry and scanning with her ever-present positive attitude. Because of her efforts, we were able to finish cataloguing a huge donation we received in the summer of 2019. Peoria Historical Society office staff is so thankful to Marcia for her hard work and dedication. Congratulations!
Winning the Right to Vote Celebration
By Maureen Naughtin

After planning for over two years and weathering the cancellations and postponements of 2020, the city-wide Winning the Right to Vote Celebration finally happened, albeit in an abridged form. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Greater Peoria, Peoria Historical Society, Peoria Public Library and Peoria Riverfront Museum, the celebration marked the 101st anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s 1920 passage. The 2021 celebration offered one in-person event and half a dozen virtual programs, including the main event – a lecture and book signing by Elaine Weiss. The sole in-person event was an Election Tea and Luncheon hosted by Peoria Historical Society and held on the front porch of Pettengill-Morron House. Twenty-five attendees enjoyed tea and a boxed lunch from The Chef and the Baker while listening to a powerful portrayal of Elizabeth Cady Stanton by Laura Keyes. Ms. Keyes’ rendering of Ms. Stanton, an early suffragist, beautifully set the stage for that evening’s main event featuring Elaine Weiss. Ms. Weiss, author of The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote, spoke to nearly 75 participants via a Zoom webinar format. Her presentation was enlightening and entertaining, adapting her usual talk to include specifics regarding the Illinois suffrage movement and referencing Peoria women who were integral to the local fight. In a separate meeting, she signed book plates for participants.

Thank you to all organizations and individuals who sponsored Winning the Right to Vote, and equal thanks to the thirteen-member committee who persisted – determined to mark this important anniversary and to honor the women who fought the great fight.

They Made a Difference: Peoria Women who Empowered Others
By Maureen Naughtin

In conjunction with the Winning the Right to Vote Celebration, Peoria Historical Society partnered with Peoria Public Library to create an exhibit honoring Peoria women who made a difference in the lives of other women and contributed greatly to the advancement of their community. The exhibit highlighted those Peoria women who were active in the women’s suffrage movement of the last century. Within the exhibit, portraits of important women were supplemented with textiles which outlined the trajectory of the suffrage movement – from a late 1800’s gown, to a 1910 walking suit, to a simple 1920’s dress a newly-minted female voter might have worn to the polls to cast her first vote.

PHS thanks Peoria Public Library for the space and the Peoria Women’s Club for lending to the show four important paintings integral to telling the story of Peoria suffragists.

Welcome New Members!

PHS would like to extend a warm greeting to those who have become new members since our last publication.

Stanley and Lori Collins
Linda Hernandez
Elizabeth Klise
William Wolfner
G Lynn Huber
Betsy Bladel
Winter Walker
Carolina Huser
Carrie McClallen
Rosemary Murphy
Amy and John Kelly
DAR Regent

Thank you to Denise Scislowicz, DAR Regent, for her involvement and commitment to the Peoria Historical Society’s board over the past two years. Her service at Flanagan House, overseeing the preservation of the 173-year old lacey ironwork, the addition of time-appropriate lighting for the DAR library, and all other activities under her leadership is sincerely appreciated. Replacing Denise as Regent is Deborah (Deb) Owen, who will serve a two-year term, commencing June 8. Welcome Deb!

Underground Railroad Conductor Recognition Event

By Maureen Naughtin

Peoria Historical Society is partnering with Tazewell County in its Underground Railroad Conductor Recognition project by placing a “Freedom Train” Conductor grave marker at the tombs of Moses and Lucy Pettengill, buried in Springdale Cemetery. The simple grave markers were “unveiled” after “A Soft Knock on the Door: The Abolition Movement in Peoria” presented by Corey Curtis at Pettengill-Morron House. The markers were placed at the grave sites on July 2 at the conclusion of Corey’s walking tour of Soldier’s Hill and Mt. Repose at Springdale Cemetery.

An Elemental Primer of Central Illinoisans in the Olympics

By H Wayne Wilson

Despite not understanding many elements in the periodic table when we were in school, they have become part of our lexicon today. We have platinum credit cards, titanium airplanes and manganese vitamins.

However, there are three widely known elements – gold, silver and bronze (okay, bronze is an alloy of copper and tin). We know something about them in part because the top three performers at the Olympic games earn medals in those names. With the 2021 Olympic Games in Japan this summer, it’s appropriate to reflect on how some central Illinoisans have performed in past Olympics.

A local track star put Peoria on the athletic map in the first modern Olympics in 1896. Three years earlier, Peoria High School senior Herb Jamison was a triple winner at the state track meet, sweeping the 50-, 100- and 220-yard dashes. But the pinnacle of his athletic success came in the Athens Olympics when he clocked 55.2 seconds in winning the silver medal in the 400-meter contest. Another track star, Bradley University’s Pat Redd, proved his mettle in the 1932 Olympics. But track isn’t the only Olympic sport central Illinoisans have performed in past Olympics.

The great American baseball tradition did not become part of the Olympics until 1984, when it was introduced as a demonstration sport, earning official status at the 1992 games in Spain. That status subsequently was stripped by the International Olympic Committee beginning with the 2008 Olympics. But baseball returns at the Tokyo Olympics.

All-American Bradley University pitcher Mike Dunne played for the American squad at the Los Angeles-based 1984 games. He pitched against the Italian team, allowing no hits and striking out two batters in two innings. USA won that game 16 – 1. However, the power-hitting Americans, led by Mark McGuire, Barry Larkin and Will Clark, lost the championship game to Japan, 6 – 3, and settled for silver.

Dunne later was drafted in the first round of the major league baseball draft by the St. Louis Cardinals but was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates before he ever played at Busch Stadium. He finished second in the 1987 National League Rookie of the Year voting behind Benito Santiago. However, injuries shortened his career to just five seasons.

Illini Central High School (Mason City) graduate Vic Wunderle competed in three Olympics, winning an individual silver medal and a team bronze for archery in the 2000 Sydney games. He also won seven gold medals at four different Pan American Games and 44 national championships.

On the ice, Peorian Matt Savoie did not earn a medal but he did place seventh in figure skating at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. He was in the top five at the U. S. Nationals every year between 1999 and 2006.

With knowledge about gold, silver and bronze, we next should become familiar with the previously mentioned metals. Titanium is alloyed with other elements to produce lightweight but strong materials in the aerospace industry; platinum is most commonly used as a catalyst in chemical reactions; and manganese is used industrially as an oxidation chemical. There is no word yet on how they might work their way into Olympic use.
City of Peoria receives Historic Preservation Award for Role in Making Murray Baker Bridge Come Alive Again

By Edward J. Barry Jr.

The (original) decorative lighting of the Murray Baker Bridge, an idea conceived and planned by D. James Jumer, was dedicated July 4, 1991, in a ceremony aboard the Spirit of Peoria. Jumer; Leonard B. Marshall Jr., chairman of the fund drive; James Maloof, mayor of Peoria; and Jeff Giebelhausen, mayor of East Peoria, turned on 156 ornamental lights in this project that’s an outstanding example of intergovernmental cooperation, working with private enterprise.

This summer marks the 30th anniversary of the original lighting, and the dedication to that effort is found on a metal plaque at the base of one of the concrete support pylons. The plaque has aged to a patina, and it includes a Who’s Who of Peoria glitterati in the ‘90s, all of whom helped make that first lighting project possible.

In honor of the decorative re-lighting of the Murray Baker, completed earlier this year in a similar spirit of broad community cooperation, Peoria Historical Society is thrilled to bestow upon the City of Peoria (as catalyst for this re-lighting effort) the 2021 Historic Preservation Award. The award honors people, organizations and businesses that demonstrate outstanding efforts to reclaim, rehabilitate and preserve the architecture, neighborhoods and landscapes of the Tri-County area. The award was created in 1988 to further the society’s mission to preserve, share, and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area.

The Murray Baker Bridge and the decorative re-lighting project represent a wonderful confluence of several important gems of historical significance:

Landing Big Yellow in Town
The bridge is named for Murray Morrison Baker who early in the 20th century was instrumental in the formation of Holt Manufacturing Co. in East Peoria. He became the first executive vice president of the earthmoving equipment firm and was responsible for ensuring that Central Illinois remained its home base. Holt became Caterpillar Tractor, and the rest, as they say, is history.

A Quintessential Example of Cantilever Engineering
The structure itself is an excellent example of a steel cantilever bridge, with a rather robust and prominent steel superstructure above the driving surface that carries an average 68,000 vehicles per day. While such designs were popular in the mid-20th century, they have somewhat fallen out of favor. Preference is now given to perhaps splashier tensile structures such as Sir Norman Foster’s Viaduc de Millau in southern France or Zaha Hadid’s Danjiang Bridge in Taiwan.

Honoring Those Who First Made the Bridge Sparkle
While the bridge is 63 years old, the original decorative lighting, as noted above, would have celebrated its 30th anniversary this summer. That effort was completed for the modest sum of $150,000, and it involved an incredible outpouring of community support on both sides of the Illinois River. Today’s re-lighting project was embraced with equal community enthusiasm and input by the cities of Peoria and East Peoria, the counties of Peoria and Tazewell, the Illinois Department of Transportation and many others.

Perhaps the biggest difference is the price tag, with the recently completed high-tech LED lighting system costing $5 million. However, with that higher price tag comes 502 long-lasting, energy-efficient lights, rather than the 156 bulbs in the original scheme, as well as a variety of lighting color possibilities to showcase and support holidays, community events, and not-for-profit causes. The original 1991 commemorative plaque listed 24 ‘Major Donors’, 172 ‘Light Sponsors’ and 36 ‘Additional Contributions.’ Many of these generous citizens are alive and well and still making a difference in our city, while others are no longer with us. All would most likely agree that the community’s decorative re-lighting project has made the Murray Baker come alive again.

‘Nymphs and Satyr’
Over the next few editions of PHS Timeline, we will share the history of the renowned “Nymphs and Satyr” painting. It was recently moved from Richard’s Bar, below the Apollo Theatre, and installed at WTVP studios, where it can be viewed by the public during the station’s business hours. Stay tuned for an exciting article written by Kathy Ma!
**Winners of 56th Annual Rennick Art Show Announced**

*By Maureen Naughtin*

Entries submitted for this year's Rennick Art Show illustrated some aspect of Peoria history. The subjects, which ranged from the Illinois River to iconic historic buildings, were as varied as the mediums, which ranged from watercolor and ink to a print on metal.

The judges had quite the challenge but earnestly made their choices and concluded the following as winners:

**Best of Show:** Maggie Martin for *Illinois River Fog*, watercolor

**First Place:** Bennett Johnson’s *Peoria Waterworks*, photograph

**Second Place:** David Gregory’s *Whiskey & Beer*, watercolor

**Third Place:** Laurie Jean Moore for *Tower Park Foundation*, oil on canvas

Thank you to the following for their contributions to this year's Rennick Art Show: Peoria Riverfront Museum for use of its auditorium; Kristen McKinsey and Susanne Nestory for judging the show; John and Jeff Heintzman for installing the show; and all artists who entered.

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**Wheels O’ Time Museum: Intoxicating Times: The Golden Years of Peoria’s Distilling and Brewing Past**

*By Maureen Naughtin*

Be sure to visit Wheels O’ Time Museum this season and check out the newest building which contains several significant military vehicles, Caterpillar tractors and even a 1947 Aeronca airplane on the main floor. In the upper level, a visitor can see *The Evolution of Textiles*, curated by Pat Dowd; *Christmas Memories*, curated by Marcia Johnson; and *Intoxicating Times*, curated by Maureen Naughtin.

PHS is most grateful to Wheels O’ Time for this exhibit space and wishes to thank the WOT board: Laura Evancho, executive director; Marcia Johnson; and all the wonderful WOT volunteers, especially Cory Tribbetts, PRM retiree, who was instrumental in arranging and mounting artifacts. Additionally, thanks go to PRM for leaving its wall panels and wall cases for our use. A big thank you to distilling and brewing experts, Bernie Drake and Jim Carballido, for their contributions. Last, and certainly not least, a special note of thanks to Mike and Pam Luenz, whose major 2019 donation of cooper’s tools and other Gipps related memorabilia helped frame many of the displays. What a timely donation they made!

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**“Garden of Memories” and Future Plans: You Can Help**

*By Mary Hamm and Carol Hornickle*

A “Garden of Memories” has been created in the Pettengill-Morron House lower garden. Carol Hornickle donated a beautiful iron bench in memory of her sister, Karen Fauber, who passed away in January 2020. Carol knew her sister wanted a bench but Karen didn’t specify where it should be placed so Carol generously gifted one to us. She also donated the pavers on which it rests, plus sod. The “Garden of Memories” is for anyone to visit and reminisce or to enjoy the view of the peaceful gardens.

Much work has been done on these beautiful, historic gardens, uncovering many surprises, including hidden hostas, peonies, as well as buried flagstone borders and multiple bricks. We never know what will be unearthed next! Perhaps Moses Pettengill had a brick walk that originally led to the carriage house and barn!

With completion of this special place, the idea emerged of offering families an opportunity to honor a loved one by sponsoring garden space. We are preparing landscape plans for 10-foot sections, or larger, that would provide plantings for the side yards at P-M House. This would be a structured way to provide a lovely setting for weddings and other events. If you are interested in honoring a loved one in this manner, please contact the PHS office.

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The new P-M Gift Shop is now open in the lower level. Shop vintage items, antiques, linens, crystal, fine china, jewelry and home decor in our expanded setting. We feature unique and interesting treasures! We are open every Thursday from 10 – 2 and some Sundays during regular house tours. There is no admission to shop, so bring your friends and support our historic homes. All of the items are generously donated and the proceeds are used to maintain the houses.
Pass along your passion for history and consider becoming a Peoria Historical Society Membership Sponsor. Someone you know has the same interest in "preserving, sharing, and celebrating the stories of the Peoria area". Your gift of membership not only helps further the PHS mission, but encourages others to do the same. Please use the form below or go online to peoriahistoricalsociety.org for a printable membership form and add a note that you’re sponsoring the new member when you submit the form. Thanks for your continued support.

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**Become a PHS Membership Sponsor!**

Yes, I would like to sponsor a one year membership to the Peoria Historical Society.

**New Member Information**

Name___________________________________________

Address________________________________________

City________________________  Zip_________________

**Sponsor Information**

Credit Card # (Visa or Mastercard) _______________________________________________

Expiration__________Security Code_________

**Membership Level:**  Student: $25___  Individual: $35___  Family: $60___  Patron: $100___  Legacy: $1,000___  Corporate: unlimited, starting at $250_____  

Your Name___________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________

City____________________________________ State_________________ Zip____________

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Please mail this completed form to the

Peoria Historical Society
611 SW Washington St.
Peoria, IL 61602

Thank you! The new member will receive a special “Welcome to PHS” note in your name.