

Madison County Archival Library Moves Online

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*Roxana Petroleum refinery construction circa 1917-1918. Photograph by Mr. Koch of Alton. MCHS
photograph 1985-175. Note the workhorses in the foreground.*

EDWARDSVILLE - Although the Madison County Archival Library is closed until future notice due to COVID-19 and the Museum for renovation, the Madison County Historical Society and museum staff continue to offer access to information about Madison County history through its website (<https://madcohistory.org/>) and Facebook page.

Assistant Curator Mary Z. Rose has created two on-line exhibits in recent months. The first was on Edward Coles, an Illinois Governor who once made his home in Madison County. Many credit Coles with assuring that Illinois remained a free state. The second recent exhibit explores the Wood River Refinery that last year celebrated its centennial. Earlier topics covered by online exhibits, and still available for viewing, include Civil War stories of Madison County, music and African-American history. There is a total of ten exhibits currently available.

The website also has archived copies of the Society's award-winning newsletter, MCHS News. Each issue of the eight-page newsletter focuses on a different aspect of Madison County history. For example, if readers go to the January 2015 issue, they can read about the 1918 Flu Pandemic in Madison County. Other topics include the ethnic neighborhood of Lincoln Place in Granite City, the Wildi Masonic Temple in Highland, the Village of Carpenter and the Civil War Prison in Alton.

The Society's Facebook page, "Madison County Historical Society," offers a variety of posts about Madison County history that usually include photographs. Recent posts that have proved popular were photographs of the historic Nickel Plate Depot in Edwardsville moving to its new location and a story from WW II provided by MCHS member Marilyn Sulc.

MCHS encourages area residents to remember nonprofits. Additional contributions would be appreciated to help with renovation of the Madison County Historical Museum building. For more information visit the Society webpage at <https://madcohistory.org/> or call 618-656-1294.



January 2015

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 3 No. 2

712 N. Main Street
Edwardsville, IL
62025**Hours**Wed-Fri 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm
Group Tours Available**Tue. Admission****Museum Phone**

618-456-7362

Library Phone

618-456-7369

Web Address

mchshistory.org

E-mail

info@mchshistory.org

About Us

The MCHS museum complex, consisting of a modern archival library, a museum in the 1836 War House and the Helen Collection Centre, is owned by the nonprofit Madison County Historical Society and operated jointly with Madison County.

The Madison County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918

It was "only the flu." Or so they thought in the beginning, but in 1918 the influenza virus known today as H1N1 or "swine flu," mutated into a deadly strain. From 1918 to 1920 influenza and its deadly partner, pneumonia, would kill tens of millions worldwide. Here in Madison County, it was most deadly in Oct-Dec 1918 when the virus killed an estimated 500 people and made thousands more ill. It interrupted industry, closed schools and churches, and left a sorrowful legacy.

Despite being referred to as "Spanish influenza," historians believe the epidemic probably began in Kansas, then spread to a regional military camp during the early days of the WW I draft. The overcrowded conditions in these camps were the perfect breeding ground for the virus. And when soldiers were transferred from camp to camp for training, the virus moved with them. Eventually they carried it to Europe where thousands more died. In WW I, more men died of disease.

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The medical office of Dr. Adam Oliver in Glen Carbon, circa 1917.
(Photo courtesy of Joan Ewing)

New Exhibit Coming!

First Do No Harm Medicine and Medical Practices

A new exhibit will open at the Madison County Historical Museum on Feb 10 focused on medicine and medical practices in Madison County.

Beginning in 1830 when Dr. John Weir began practicing in Edwardsville, the exhibit will explore the treatments and remedies for typical ailments as well as common medicines through the first half of the twentieth century.

The exhibit will also feature photographs of various medical offices from around the county. MCHS hopes that visitors will enjoy comparing past and current medical practices. The exhibit will be open during regular hours beginning Feb 10.

JANUARY - MARCH CALENDAR

Exhibit Opening

Sunday, February 15

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

FIRST DO NO HARM

MEDICINE AND MEDICAL PRACTICES
Madison County Historical Museum

Special Hours

Saturday, February 7

Saturday, March 7

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAYS

FAMILY HISTORY DAYS

Madison County Archival Library



MCHS NEWS

