



HERSCHER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER – 2023

"from past generations to future generations"

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

One thing that does seem predictable is the years continue to fly by and they all have flavor, some are sweet and some sour. This past year has been no exception. Herscher Area Historical Society has again been favored by the generosity of you, our members and associates. Visitors from across the country as well as locally make the efforts of our board members worthwhile. School outings, family and class reunions, and individuals all make up our visitor list. As you have read or seen on our Facebook pages, one of the highlights of 2022 was our exhibit of Growing Seasons. I believe the adults as well as the children who experienced this had a good time. That exhibit will be going away at the end of January. The past couple months we have focused on Christmas at the Anderson House both with decorating and showing off the house as it may have looked in 1898 and holding our Décor and Gift Sale which has been a successful fundraiser for the historical society's needs. Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers and generous donations of lovely items to sell and to others who purchased items at the sale. Some of you contributed in all areas. Your support is one more way our community is head and shoulders above most.

Our next exhibit planned is for sports memories. We plan to have that ready on or before April 20th at the Main Street Museum. Most every town, school, church, and club in the early settlement days until now has had a sports team of one kind or another. Many had softball or baseball teams playing games in pastures or large grassy fields. These games were a social opportunity and entertainment for people; remember no TV. Sports have changed. We now have baseball, basketball, football, and soccer to name some of the bigger sports. Since 1972 when Title IX became a law, women and girls have taken their place more fully on the playing fields so there are even more opportunities to cheer for our favorite team or individual. I think of baseball and football as being the big attractions when I was a teenager. Competition came with the settlers. People everywhere enjoyed the challenge. Horse racing and other impromptu events have local history that precedes organized sports as we know them. What are some of your memories of area sports? We need your help to make this exhibit complete. Do you have any newspaper clippings, pictures, or other memorabilia you could loan us for 8 months? Call the museum at 815-426 2627. If there is no answer, please leave a message with your name and number and we will return your call. Tell us what you have. Maybe you attended the Olympics or a World Series game. These would be of interest to others and so would the story of when you played in someone's pasture. Please share your memories. Looking forward to hearing from you sports enthusiasts.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2023.

Carol Desch
HAHS President

MISSION STATEMENT

Herscher Area Historical Society's purpose is to capture and preserve history and artifacts related to Herscher and the surrounding area from past generations to future generations.

**HERSCHER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2023 Leadership**

President – Carol Desch
Vice President – Bob Voss
Secretary – Mary Kirstein
Treasurer – Myrna Mashing

At large members of the board:
Janet Boyer Kelly Knobloch Donna Mashing
Betty Planet Monica Ruder Dennis Schwark
Jane Schwark Ron Shank Wendy Skarstad
Judy Witheft

Newsletter Editor: Jenny Cochran

MUSEUM HOURS

MAIN STREET MUSEUM
190 S. Main, Herscher

ANDERSON HOUSE
161 W. Myrtle, Herscher

Open Fridays 9-11 AM and the First
Sunday of Each Month 1-3 PM

Open the First Sunday of Each
Month 1-3 PM

Museum Board Meetings take place at the Anderson House at 4:00pm on the Fourth Monday of each month. Exceptions will be posted at 190 S. Main and on our website at herscherhistory.org. All members are welcome to attend.

Call the Museum at 815-426-2627 to visit the museums at a time convenient for you.

HISTORICAL PLAZA and GIFTS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

The Historical Society offers an opportunity for families, friends, and organizations to remember special people in our lives with gifts in honor of or in memory of their loved ones. These can be designated for pavers at the Historical Plaza located next to the Village Hall in Herscher or as funds to be used as needed for the ongoing upkeep and special needs of the Herscher Area Historical Museums. We are happy to say we have located a company to do our pavers. At this time pavers may be requested, and pricing will be available in a few days. Contact the museum by mail at Box 403, Herscher or call 815-426-2627 for more information regarding honoring someone who has made an impact on your life, family, or community.

Become a
MEMBER

Our Memberships run from January to January and are available as follows:

Individual/Family: \$20
Business/Civic: \$50
Lifetime: \$200

If you or someone you know would like to become a member, please complete the membership form included with this newsletter.

Membership dues help us to
Preserve the Past for the Future



HAHS GARAGE SALE

Friday, April 14
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Saturday, April 15
9:00 am – Noon

Location:
Anderson House
161 W. Myrtle
Herscher, IL

Donation drop-off arrangements can be made through March 31 by calling the museum at 815.426.2627 or emailing herscherareahistory@gmail.com. NO CLOTHING PLEASE.

HERSCHER HISTORICAL BRIDAL SHOW



Sunday, February 12
2:00 pm at the Anderson House

Love fills the air in the month of February, and our community was built through love stories of the past. Join the Herscher Area Historical Society as we host our Herscher Historical Bridal Show. Bridal gowns from the past, '30s, '40s, '50s and more, will be featured along with the bride's story of how she met her love and their wedding story. You will also learn about wedding traditions, and of course you will enjoy wedding cake and a toast to all the couples of the community.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Tickets are limited!

\$10 per ticket for guests

\$5 per ticket for HAHS Members (not too late to become a member)

Tickets can be ordered online (visit our Facebook page), by emailing herscherareahistory@gmail.com, or by calling 815-426-2627.



CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUMS



ROADS IN EARLY PILOT TOWNSHIP

by Bob Voss
robertlvoss@aol.com

I was asked recently about what I knew about the roads in early Pilot Township. Our roads today are on all of the section lines and also include one half mile road. That is 2500S Road between 11000W and 12000W. All of these roads are tar and chip and the township keeps them in good condition. But what about those early days? We certainly did not have “roads,” but we would have had paths, trails, or trodden ways made by wagons and there would have been no surfacing of any sort. These “roads” would have had to go around sloughs and crossing of the many branches of Horse Creek would have been an issue.

The township’s first dwelling was that of Joel Hawkins’ cabin which was built in 1847 at Pilot Hill. Then the early settlers came in the mid-1850s. The 1860 census of Pilot Township listed 80 families with a population of 448 people. The 80 families were scattered over the entire township, and these early settlers would have needed to be able to get to schools and churches, get supplies, get their crops to market, get in once a year to vote, go to the post office, and maybe get to a doctor visit. There was certainly some way to get to these places.

Pilot Township was formed in 1857 and was notched out of the existing Salina Township. The first township meeting was held in a schoolhouse in Township 29 or somewhere in the two bottom tiers of sections of the township. There was an election that year, as in every year since, and people had to get there. So if you were coming from the northern part of the township with a horse and buggy, you most likely would have been making a new path. In fact, the elections from 1857 to 1864 were held in schoolhouses. Could some of the early schools have been built by Salina Township?

In talking about these “roads,” I kept thinking about surveying and land sales. These sound like another article in the making, but the fact is, Pilot Township had been surveyed. I think for the most part that the “roads” would have followed section lines, but then again, how would they have known where the section lines were? I don’t think that there would have been markers denoting it was a “road,” but there must have been something??

It has been said that 4000S Road, Route 115, may have actually run in the back of Marlene Papineau’s property across from the Pilot Cemetery. There are those that maintain there may have been people buried on Papineau’s property. Also, it has been said that 12000W Road, between 1000S and the railroad tracks to the north, may have been further to the west. That does make sense in that the old Catholic Church and school that were there actually had been set further west of the 12000W Road (Herscher blacktop).

Then, in the Pilot Township Secretary’s minutes from April 5, 1859, there was a note that read “A motion was made and carried that the commissioners proceed to lay out roads on the section lines in the town.” At that time, all of Pilot Township was considered the “Town of Pilot.” There were four Overseers of Highways elected at this meeting, and what was meant by laying out, I am not sure. Section lines would have been established by the state at some point.

It was not until the meeting of 1869 that there was any mention of road work. Apparently, the township purchased a grader to be shared by the road commissioners. With this grader and a team of horses, “roads” would come into being, but there would have been constant maintenance due to weather conditions.

This picture is thought to be taken of S8000W looking north to about where the Chicago, Indiana & Southern railroad is today (½ mile south of Route 17). The year would have been about 1862. Note that the “road” was probably what most of the roads looked like at that time.

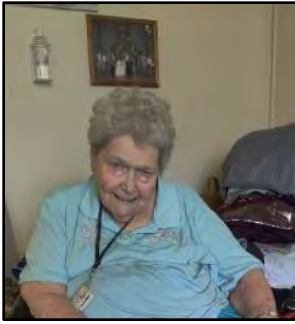


LEHIGH
SITE OF FIRST ST. JAMES CHURCH BUILT IN THE EARLY 1860'S
(BETWEEN TREES, WHERE SQUARE TWO STORY BUILDING IS SEEN)

MARIE DUVAL

Interviewed by daughters, Patty Sabino and Linda Terrell

Compiled by Janet Boyer



Have any of you ever been invited to a “liver and onion” party? Marie Duval misses the fantastic liver & onion parties she would host. The kids would not eat liver after butchering. She would invite friends for a meal and have some good times.

Marie Riordan was born February 8, 1931 to Edith (Ruder) and Clement Riordan. She was the second of 4 children: Charles (deceased), Marie, Rosemary (Brooks) and Norman. Marie attended Union Hill Grade School having graduated in 1945. Electricity was installed in Marie’s childhood home in 1938. Before that, with no electricity, she used candles and oil lamps to read at night.

Marie had an uncle that managed a department store (aka Montgomery Ward) in downtown Chicago. He gave Marie and her sister the prettiest dolls and dresses for Christmas. Marie’s mother raised geese to sell at Christmas to people in Chicago for their “Christmas Goose.” The feathers were used to make “down” pillows. Marie’s daughter still has one of the pillows. In the summertime, Marie remembers going to many church “fairs.” Her senior class went on a two-week trip to Washington D.C. Each student had to raise \$50 to go. When she wasn’t spoiling her little brother Norman, she would help her mother sew their clothes and can everything from the garden.

In 1949, Marie Riordan graduated from Reddick High School. Marie’s first job was as a secretary at E-Z Way, a cook stove manufacturer (aka Roper), in west Kankakee. She remembers paying \$.20 for a gallon of gas, also some years later paying \$.29 for 1 gallon of milk – not pasteurized.

In 1953, Marie Riordan and Robert (Bob) Duval were married at St. Mary’s Church in Reddick. Bob’s parents were Antonette (Toni) and Oliver Duval. After marriage, they started their eventual family of 8 (5 boys and 3 girls). All their children received higher education degrees ranging from associates degrees to PhDs. In a tragic farm accident, Bob died in 2005.

Bob and Marie’s family:

Patty (Gary) Sabino, Streator, IL

David (Amber) Sabino, Leander, TX, 2 children (Luca, Leah)

Brian Sabino, Streator, IL

James (Hope) Duval, Streamwood, IL

Tommy (Nicole) Duval, Evanston, IL

Dick (died August 2021) (Lynda) Duval, Royal, IL

Bobbi (Cory) Busboom, St. Joseph, IL, 1 child (Cameron)

Kiel (Katie) Duval, St. Joseph, IL, 2 children (Jude, Myles)

Toni (Ryan) Barnes, St. Joseph, IL, 2 children (Cohen, Teagan)

Don (Gail) Duval, Herscher, IL

Matt (Dana) Duval, Bourbonnais, IL, 2 children (Henry, Hannah)

Jessica (Andy) Robertson, Springfield, IL, 3 children (Paisley, Piper, Mason)

Thomas Duval – Died May 1967

Steve (Sandy) Duval, Chebanse, IL

Wesley Duval

Brady Duval

Loagan Duval



*Marie Duval with daughters,
Patty, Linda, and Michelle*

Linda (Jim) Terrell, Charlotte, N.C.

Cole Terrell
Luke Terrell
Sylvia Terrell

Michelle (Josh) Malinsky, Stillwater, MN

Megan Malinsky
Max Malinsky

On to raising a family and being involved with children and their activities, Marie remembers many days of sitting on bleachers watching their kids, grandkids, and local kids play football, basketball, baseball, and wrestling. Then there was the marching band, especially their out-of-town trips that were enjoyed by all. The Duvals had an advantage over other families in that their home was right across the street from the school and football stadium.

On Christmas mornings, Marie also remembers all the kids sitting on the back steps waiting for their Dad to finish milking cows so they could open presents. Also, one thing Marie is glad she no longer has to deal with is washing cloth diapers. She never used disposable diapers. There are many mothers that agree with this.

Labor Day was a big day in Herscher. When your house, building, and grassland are so close to the parade start, all the animals, mostly horses, were in your yard to get ready. The Duvals also helped cook Herscher-Style chicken every 4 years and made desserts for the meal served at Herscher High School. Marie remembers the Pork Producers cooking pork for the football scrimmages and football games. She thinks they did more than just cook the pork roasts.

Marie's words to live by: Do it to today.....not tomorrow.

**REMEMBER HERSCHER AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN YOUR ESTATE
PLANNING**

Your legacy is important to us and our community.
Please remember the Herscher Area Historical Society in
your final wishes
and estate planning. Your gift will ensure that the work
of capturing and preserving the
history of Herscher and County West
continues for future generations.
If you have questions, please contact the museum at 815-
426-2627 and we will direct you to our legal advisor.

Contact Us:

Herscher Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 403
Herscher, IL 60941
1-815-426-2627

Email: herscherareahistory@gmail.com

Follow our Facebook Page: Herscher Area Historical Society

Join our Facebook Group: Herscher Area Historical Society/Kankakee County West

Website: herscherhistory.org

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P.O. BOX 403
HERSCHER, IL 60941