

Important Dates to Remember

May

Fountaindale Public Library, Bolingbrook

Genealogy Day

May 6th 9:30-4:30

<http://bit.ly/2oWXxKj>

Stateline Small

Museum Conference

Beloit College, WI

May 20th

<http://bit.ly/2prBnS8>

June

CAGG-NI Trip to Allen County Public Library

June 15-17th

<http://bit.ly/2pVtvld>

Apple River Fort State Historic Site in Elizabeth, Illinois

Jo Daviess County gem, Apple River Fort, is a family-friendly site to which visitors return time and again. The Apple River Fort State Historic Site, a Black Hawk War (1832) landmark, offers an experience that adults and children alike can enjoy.

At the heart of the Apple River Fort experience is a full-scale reconstruction of a long vanished defensive stockade, a civilian fort where on June 24, 1832, a small company of Illinois militia (some thirty men and boys) and their families (an additional forty-odd women, girls, and young children) successfully defended themselves against 200 Sac warriors led by their great tribal leader Ma-ka-me-she-kia-kiak, the man known to many as Black Hawk.

The fort's wooden palisade encompasses three recreated log structures: a log house, a log cabin, and a blockade. Located immediately adjacent to the site of the original fort, the reconstruction is modeled upon documentary sources and on the findings of a 1995 archaeological dig. Apple River Fort State Historic Site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



From May through October, the fort comes to life through weekend living history programs and special events designed to tell the stories of the defending settlers and of the attacking Sac and Meskwaki. Interpreters dressed in the manner of 1832 engage visitors through conversation and demonstrations of daily tasks and invite the adventurous to participate in simple hands-on activities. A special feature of the 2017 living history season will be a June commemoration of the 185th anniversary of the defense of Apple River Fort.

The seven-acre site also includes an interpretive center, where visitors will find friendly and knowledgeable staff, a variety of exhibits, a gift shop, and showings of a brief dramatic video depicting the attack on the fort and other events related to the 1832 Black Hawk War.

The Apple River Fort is located at 311 East Myrtle Street in Elizabeth, Illinois, fifteen miles east of historic Galena, and its interpretive center serves as a gateway to Jo Daviess County for travelers coming to the region from the Chicago area. A sign on US Highway 20 points visitors to the center and its free parking lot.

Although living history activities are limited to weekends during the May-October season, the interpretive center is open to the public year-round, and the reconstructed fort remains open for self-guided tours. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. The site's winter (November-April) hours are 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Thursday through Sunday. For updates and further information call 815-858-2028 or visit www.appleriverfort.org.

Want to be featured in an upcoming issue of the NI-HL newsletter? Submit your events, news and photos to newsletter@ni-hl.org

Monee Historical Society-A Brief History

Established in 2011 as the "Save the Monee Creamery Foundation," the Monee Historical Society is a recent addition to the Village of Monee's cultural landscape. The Society grew



as a natural extension of the Save the Monee Creamery Foundation. Our goal was to raise awareness of the demolition plans of the structure, which had been at the center of Monee community life for over a century, and formulate a plan to save the mid- 19th century two story Lockport limestone structure and restore it for use. We have broadened our purpose to include the restoration and preservation of the Creamery building as well as the preservation of Monee's history, through artifact collection, historical documentation and community outreach.

In 2016 the Monee Creamery was granted Will County landmark status. Even though the building has achieved Landmark status, our work is not done. The building still needs renovation so that it will not only be a backdrop to village life, but a living, breathing part of our town, from both from without and within.

The Monee Historical Society envisions the Creamery as a place where we can archive and store historic



papers, memorabilia, documents and artifacts of the town's history; and be a resource for Genealogical Research; a Repository for the Monee Oral History and Veterans' Projects and eventually, a place to showcase and display elements of Monee village history.

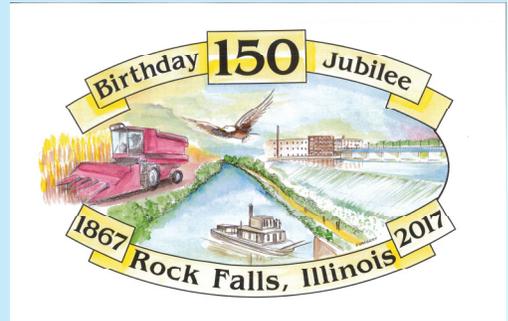
Current initiatives include working with Governor's State University on an oral history project. We will also begin Interviewing local area veterans to chronicle their stories, as well as the stories of our veterans who have passed on. We also offer a monthly lecture series. We strive to become a resource to the community on genealogical studies. Look for a workshop on starting your own family tree this fall!

Contributions accepted from anyone who might have stories, memories or photos to share. We welcome new members to at our meetings the second Thursday of every month at the Monee community building at 5162 W. Court St .Visit us online www.moneehistoricalsociety.com or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/MoneeHistory

ROCK FALLS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

It is doubtful that on May 8, 1932, when Blackhawk and his warriors followed paths that are now our paved streets, he or anyone else could imagine where roads would someday lead.

The trail that they followed goes from our present day Prophetstown Road, to 11th Avenue, down 5th street, across 8th Avenue and north toward the river and 2nd

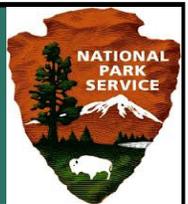


Street, and finally to Dixon Avenue to the Dixon Ferry via Rock Island Road. 1,900 United States troops camped in our area in pursuit of Chief Blackhawk back in those days. Among them were Jefferson Davis, Zachary Taylor, and Samuel Whiteside along with a 23 year old Abraham Lincoln who traveled from New Salem to lead a company of volunteers.

In 1867, A.P. Smith bought 65 acres of land on the south side of the Rock River. He hires John Arey to survey and lay out the town of Rock Falls, thus our journey begins. And now 150 years later we are making plans and preparations to celebrate our Sesquicentennial. Our celebration will take place July 29-August 5, 2017. Please come to Rock Falls and join us in the week long celebration and historical revival that is being planned.

As we look back over our 150 years, we see that many changes have occurred. The rapids of the Rock River are still here, though covered by several feet of water; our forefathers are still here; though buried in mother earth. The history, sacrifices, struggles and stories of our descendants must be told to keep the memories alive. We hope that you will join us as we share 150 years of Rock Falls, Illinois.

Congratulations to these recent additions to the National Register of Historic Places!
<http://bit.ly/2lae3SN>



Speaker Profile: Rochelle Pennington is an award-winning newspaper columnist and bestselling author of ten books including *The Historic Christmas Tree Ship* and *Highlighted in Yellow*. Rochelle is both a lively storyteller and entertaining lecturer, speaking at over a hundred events annually. If you would like to

schedule a speaking engagement, visit www.rochellepenningtonbooks.com