



# Governor's Home Town Award

Montgomery, Illinois

Historic Preservation Commission

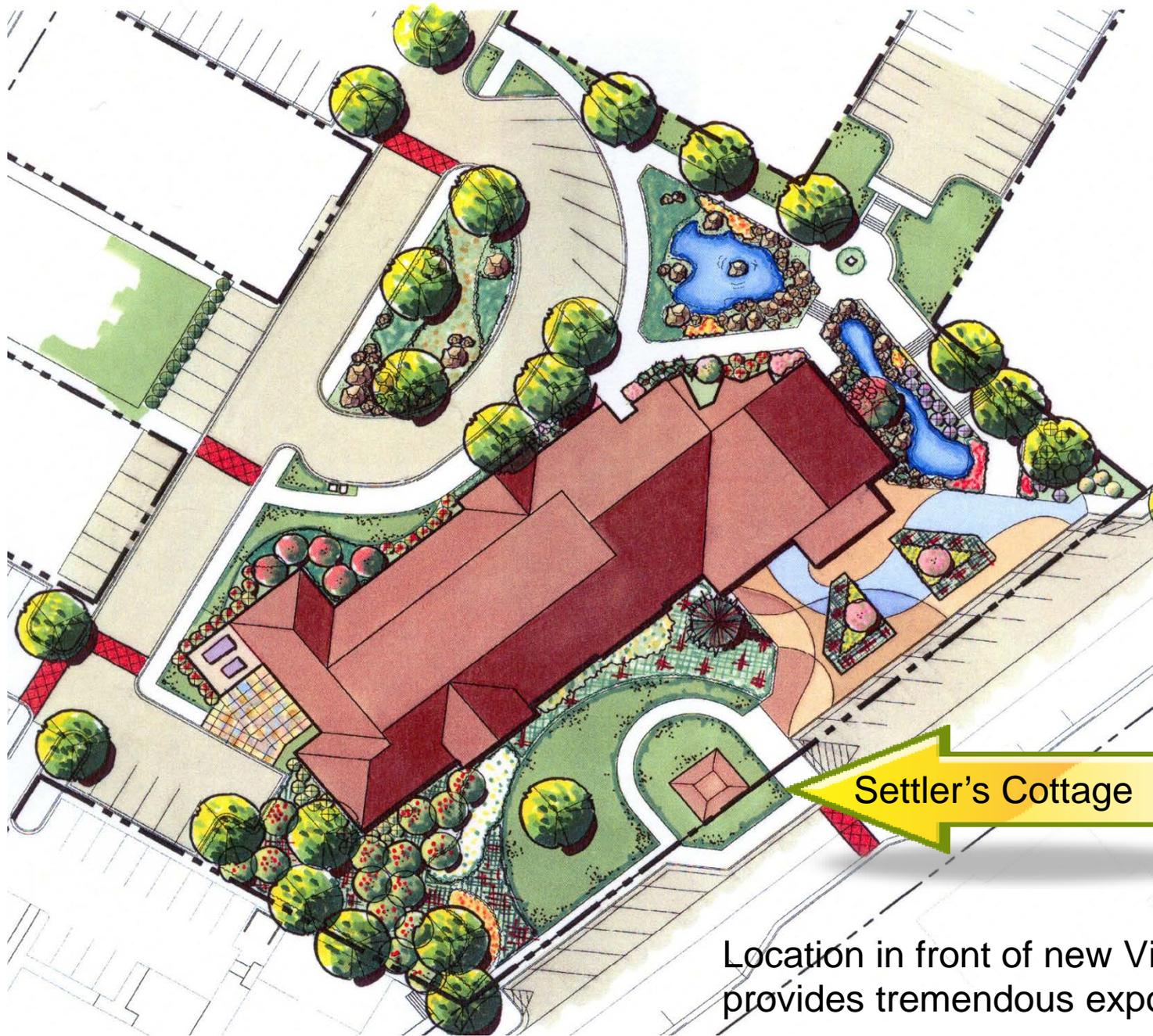
# Need

- No historical society
- History being lost, thrown out daily
- HPC formed in 2005
- Discussed mission and goals
- Then something happened that made our mission clear

# Plans for New Village Hall

- 7 older historic homes to be torn down
- Architect identified one home built in 1840 as particularly worthy of being saved
- HPC advocated to the Village Board “Save the House”
- Board agreed to save house in its original location, but no funding





Settler's Cottage

Location in front of new Village Hall provides tremendous exposure

# Our Goals

- Wanted to restore 1840s home, to be renamed “Settler’s Cottage”
- Wanted to create a historical museum
- Planned to collect and catalog artifacts
- Goal was to create displays/educate
- Wanted to reach out to the community to spark interest in Montgomery’s history
- Must accomplish with no Village funding

# Grants for Exterior Work

Riverboat Funds for \$30,000

Wal-Mart Grants for \$7,000

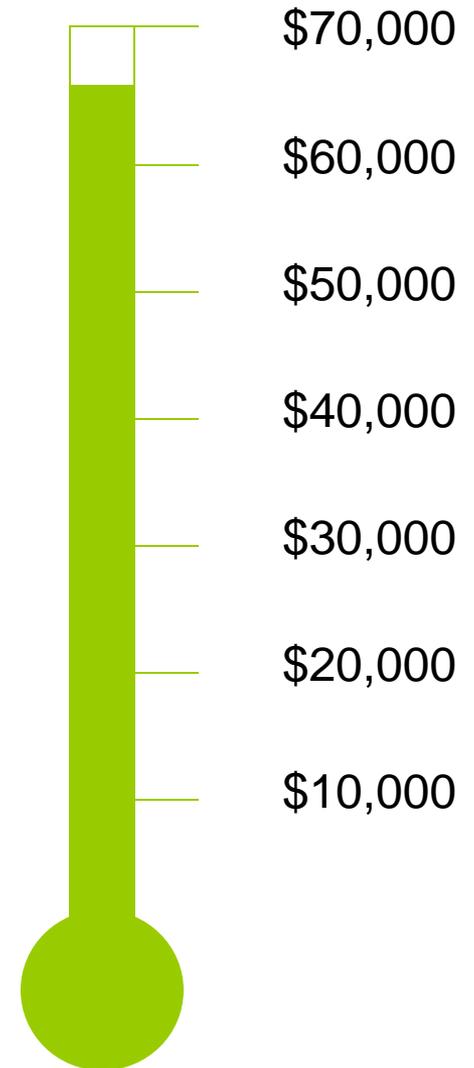
National Trust Grant for \$1,500

Caterpillar Grant for \$500

Landmarks Illinois for \$3,500

DCEO (\$60,000) for \$23,472

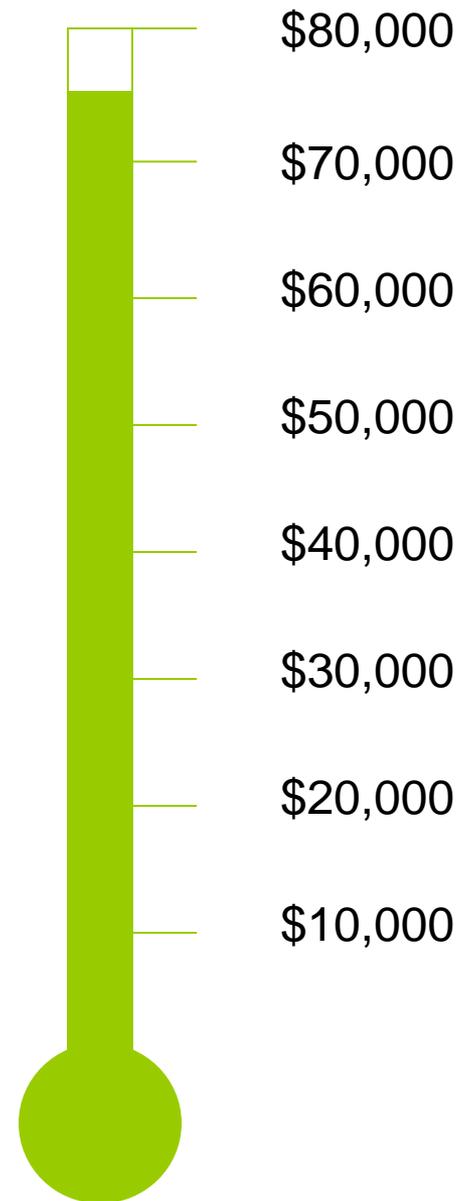
■ **Grand Total: \$65,972**



# Fundraising

- Car Shows
- Brick pavers
- Community Garage Sales
- Donations

■ **Grand Total: \$10,000**



# Settler's Cottage Restoration – October 2007





209

Demolition and  
Investigation  
Phase

Siding





5 DOLLARS FINE FOR DRIVING PASTER THAN  
A WALK ON THIS BRIDGE. or 100 Feet Closer.







Soffit/Fascia



Rear of house









209



# Reconstruction/Restoration Phase





















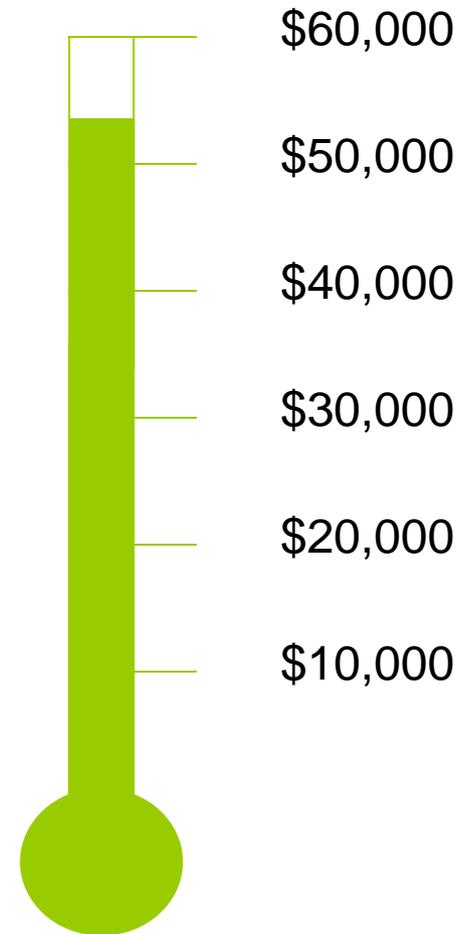




# Interior Restoration - 2010

- DCEO Grant \$36,528
- Landmarks Illinois 3,500
- Annual Fundraising 12,000

**Total Funds \$52,028**



# Interior Restoration Process

- Remove all modern interior finishes
- Examine/investigate for clues to original construction
- Rewire electric
- Install insulation
- Install wallboard, wainscot and cap trim
- Install finish trim, lights and paint











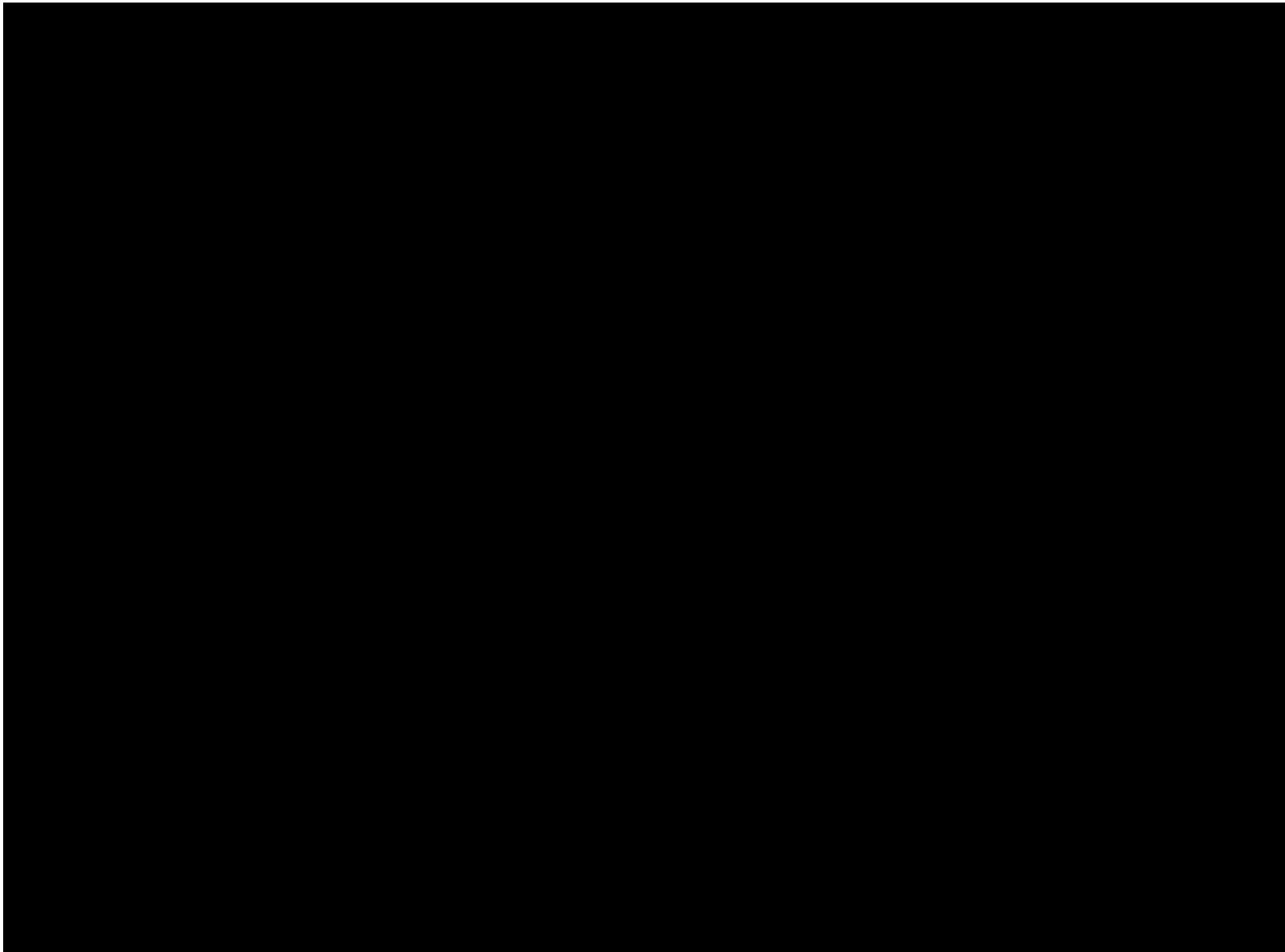


OIL-FREE  
AIR COMPRESSOR  
2.0 HP max 6.0 GAL  
STITCH

HOWARD



# Video























SETTLER'S COTTAGE

Constructed 1840

Owned by Daniel S. Gray,  
Montgomery's founder, until 1854

Restored 2010

07/13/2010

# Settler's Cottage Museum

- Grand Opening August 2010



PLEASE  
WATCH YOUR  
STEP

Door from Daniel Gray's home



1850s

Kitchen Gadgets

Some of the kitchen gadgets shown at the museum are from the 1800s and 1900s.

1800s





# Wash Day

**Laundry**  
In the days before powered laundry  
detergent, women spent hours and hours  
scrubbing in tubs of soap suds and lye.  
Cottons were scrubbed clean on a wash  
board and ironed with a flat iron.  
Wash this



# Montgomery through the Years

Montgomery, June 20, 1850  
This document from the side of a harvesting machine from David Gray's reaper was made from a document that the "Herald" was almost known as "Montgomery" in 1850.



THE FOURTH OF JULY  
MONTGOMERY, JULY 4, 1850  
The Fourth of July was celebrated in Montgomery in 1850.



1850  
David Gray's reaper was introduced in Montgomery in 1850.

1850  
The first newspaper in Montgomery was published in 1850.



1850

1875

1900

1925

1850

1875

1900

1925

## MONTGOMERY 1835



Officers of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment that mustered in at Camp Hammond in Montgomery in 1861.



The First Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated in 1885.

Aurora Daily Express  
July 5, 1901

### THE FOURTH OF JULY

Celebrated Quietly in Aurora.  
Streets Were More Like  
Sunday.

#### RIVERVIEW PARK WAS CROWDED

Many Fleets to the Beautiful Groves  
Along the River. Few Accidents  
From Fireworks

The Fourth of July was passed quietly in Aurora. No particular program for the day had been arranged and the city's people formed themselves in picnic parties and hid away from the hot sun burned town to the groves along the Fox River and other inviting retreats. Every grove around Aurora held picnic parties. A large portion of Aurora's population spent some of the day at Riverview Park. Fully ten thousand people visited the resort and the street cars were taxed to their fullest capacity. It was toward midnight when the last car reached Aurora.



Electric streetcars ran from Aurora to Montgomery and on to Oswego, Yorkville and Morris from 1897 to 1926



Aurora Daily Express  
July 15, 1892

### EXTENSIVE SHEEP YARDS.

THE MONTGOMERY GRAVEL PIT TO BE CONVERTED INTO A SHEEP PEN.

All of the Sheep of the U. S. & G. and the C. & N. Y. Lines will be shorn here. These and Foreign for Market. Montgomery will be a Big Sheep Shipping Point.  
Montgomery is about to become a great sheep shipping point. It has become customary for all railroad companies whose lines extend from the Western plains to Chicago, to provide at some intermediate point, not far from Chicago, sheep yards where the sheep shipped to the Chicago market can rest and recuperate before completing their journey. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy company has several yards of this character and now intends to consolidate them all into one immense yard at Montgomery. The pens and yards will cover fifteen or twenty acres and will be built in the old gravel pit just north of the village.



A mausoleum was built in Riverside Cemetery in 1911. The project brought many workers to the area, some of whom stayed to raise their families here.



The first concrete bridge at Mill Street was constructed in 1918.

### Weddings



Wedding dress  
The bride's dress is a symbol of purity and innocence. It is a long, flowing gown with a high collar and long sleeves. The dress is made of a light-colored fabric, often silk or satin, and is adorned with lace and other decorative elements. The bride's dress is a symbol of the beginning of a new life.



### Weddings

### Early Businesses



- MAIN BAY
- OF THE
- PEA RISE
- PERRYVILLE
- STONE RISE
- CHICKAMAUGA
- MISSION RISE
- RENEGADE
- ATLANTA
- SPRING HILL
- FRANKLIN
- NASHVILLE



# Weddings



Edna and Fred of the 1920s. Photo by [unreadable]



[unreadable]



[unreadable]



[unreadable]

**Wedding Dress**  
This wedding dress is made of [unreadable] and [unreadable]. It is a [unreadable] dress with a [unreadable] collar and [unreadable] sleeves. It is a [unreadable] dress and is [unreadable].



[unreadable]



[unreadable]



# Weddings



[unreadable]



[unreadable]



[unreadable]



[unreadable]



[unreadable]



[unreadable]

# Faces & Places



Felix and Berney Michalks in their grocery store.



Felix Michalks, pictured here with his wife, Kathie, moved to Michalks' Village House for 40 years in their last years.



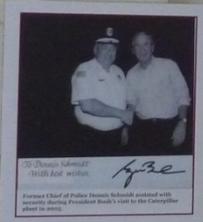
In the past, Michalks was a community leader. For years he was on the Michalks Board of the Michalks Society on his last day and Charles Michalks led the Michalks family to their new home along Michalks Road east of River St.



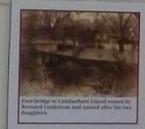
Charles Michalks, son of Felix Michalks and Anna Michalks, lives in Michalks' Cottage in 1918.



Felix Michalks, son of Felix and Anna Michalks, lives in Michalks' Cottage in 1918.



Police Chief Police Dennis Schmidt assisted with the Michalks family's move to the Michalks' Cottage in 1918.



From bridge in Calabash, Michalks moved to Michalks' Cottage and moved after the Michalks.



One Michalks operated a paddling on the Fox River in the early years. It was built with an ornate design in the back that ran the paddle and was about 40 feet long.



Michalks family photo 1918.



The Michalks family spent 40 years today on Fox Island. It is the Michalks' family's home. The Michalks family also owned the land where Michalks' Cottage is now located.

# Faces & Places



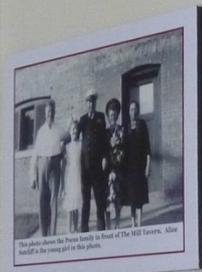
Photo of a person on a bicycle.



Photo of a group of people.



Photo of a young man.



This photo shows the Michalks family in front of The Michalks' Cottage. It is the Michalks' family's home.



Photo of a family.



Photo of a large group of people.



Photo of a woman.



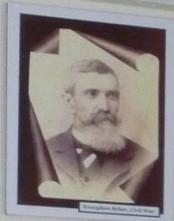
Photo of a large group of people.



Photo of a car.

# Wall of Honor

## Military



2010

# Early Businesses



In 1878 they operated this general store at the corner of 3rd and 4th Street in the village. It later expanded to Montgomery's First Office. Used for fresh produce in front of the store. Purchased here by W. Adams Pillsbury, C. R. Vaughan, Sr., James S. Johnson and Mr. Washburn.



Started in the 1850s, the Montgomery Springs and Water Company sold bottled water locally and also shipped water to Chicago for use in hotels there.



Built around 1880 and now 125 years old. This building at the corner of 4th and 5th Streets originally housed James C. Brown's store. Used and altered. Washburn opened the first Michaels Grocery Store here in 1912, but later moved this to another store that they built next door.



The Pillsbury, Washburn and Bird Factory was on the north end of the mill town.

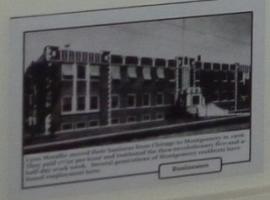
Continued by  
**MICHAELS GROCERIES AND MEATS**  
 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables  
 Telephone 2-3883  
 Montgomery, Illinois

**JOHN WATSON DRINKS**  
 The Montgomery "Bottle" Shop (Watson's) was opened in 1878 in the corner of 3rd and 4th Streets. It was a general store, selling a great variety of goods. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife.

MEMORANDA

1935	JANUARY							1935
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
			1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	31				

**CHICKEN JACK'S SANDWICH GARDENS**  
 Opened in 1912 at the corner of 3rd and 4th Streets. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife.



In the early 1920s, Washburn and Bird opened a grocery store at the corner of 3rd and 4th Streets. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife.



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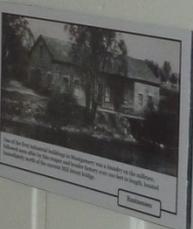
The old South Street was shown in the southwest corner of 3rd and 4th Streets. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife.



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Eric's Washburn and his brother Fritz opened Washburn's Tavern in 1913 at the southwest corner of 3rd and 4th Streets. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife. It was one of the first stores in the town. It was owned by John Watson and his wife.



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# School Days

## School Teacher Rules of Conduct

If you were a school teacher in the mid 1800s, you were most likely required to obey rules such as those typical requirements:

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys (hang globes) and trim wicks.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Teachers will make their pens carefully. They may whittle slabs to individual taste.
4. Make teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After 10 hours in school, teachers should spend their remaining time reading the bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unbecomely conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of their earnings for their benefit, during their declining years so that they won't become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a Barber-shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intentions, integrity, and honesty.
9. Teachers must keep the school clean, haul any necessary wood to keep the stove going, bring water from the well, and start a pot to boil in the morning so students who bring their lunch can heat it if necessary.
10. The teacher who performs his/her labors faithfully and without fault for five years will be given a pay increase of 25 cents per week, providing the Board of Education approves.

School Days

## One Room Schoolhouses

As early as 1816, a small one-room school in Massachusetts that was used as a one-room schoolhouse. The teacher was paid by subscription, meaning that the family of each student paid for the time he attended.

In the 1840s, Sarah Ketch established a one-room schoolhouse west of the Village near Ketch Corners that served the many children in that area.

In 1914, another school was built that served the Village as a school during the week and a church on Sundays.



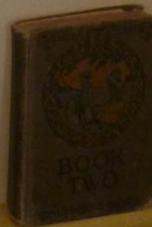
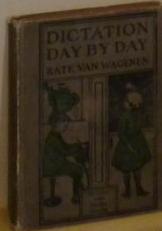
Students at Ketch School around 1914.

School Days

## McGuffey Readers

Teachers often had to read down the line. By 1825, a teacher named Benjamin McGuffey published a series of four graded readers that became popular in many parts of the country. The books consisted of stories, spelling, oral speeches, the alphabet, irregular and spelling, vocabulary exercises, and handwriting.

School Days





# Montgomery School

**Montgomery School**

Build as this Montgomery School replaced the one-room schoolhouse that Montgomery students had attended since 1818. There were four rooms, grades one through eight, and fifty classrooms covered two grades.

A frame addition was built onto the school in 1911. The high roof was removed in the course of being largely dismantled for fire and a concrete-reinforced masonry addition was added in 1938.



The school was much larger and known as Nicholson Elementary School, instituted to serve Montgomery's students as it has for nearly one century. However, over the years, little portions of the school were dismantled as newer portions were added, or altered as part of the original school building renovation.



*School Days*

**Grace Nicholson**

Grace M. Nicholson began teaching at Montgomery School in 1898 and worked there for nearly 50 years. After being named principal in 1911, she continued to teach a double classroom until her retirement in 1947. Using her personal funds, Miss Nicholson started the first school library around 1911. She also initiated the Book Kindergarten and the first P.T.A. group. In 1918, the school was renamed Grace Nicholson Elementary School in her honor.




*School Days*



*School Days*

**School Photos Wanted**

If you attended in Nicholson School, please contribute your school photos to add to this wall!

*School Days*



# MAIN BATTLES OF THE 36TH

- ★ PEA RIDGE
- ★ PERRYVILLE
- ★ STONE RIVER
- ★ CHICKAMAUGA
- ★ MISSION RIDGE
- ★ KENESAW MTN.
- ★ ATLANTA
- ★ SPRING HILL
- ★ FRANKLIN
- ★ NASHVILLE

1861

# MONTGOMERY AND THE CIVIL WAR

1865

## CAMP HAMMOND



General Sherman  
 General Sherman's March to the Sea  
 Sherman's March to the Sea  
 Sherman's March to the Sea  
 Sherman's March to the Sea



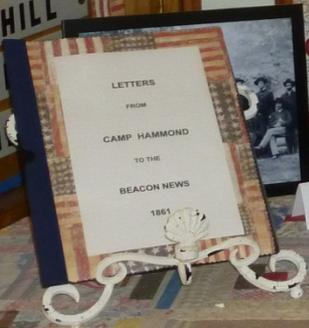
General Sherman  
 General Sherman's March to the Sea  
 Sherman's March to the Sea  
 Sherman's March to the Sea  
 Sherman's March to the Sea



# QUOTES / COMMENTS

A collection of various items pinned to the right board, including:

- Handwritten notes and letters on different colored papers.
- Small printed cards with text.
- A circular graphic with the text: "THE 36TH MONTGOMERY INFANTRY WAS THE ONLY REGIMENT FROM THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO FIGHT AT THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN." (Note: The image shows 'MISSISSIPPI' but the caption says 'MISSOURI').
- A red banner that says "MISSISSIPPI" (partially obscured).
- Small framed portraits of individuals.



# MONTGOMERY AND THE CIVIL WAR

CAMP HAMMOND

1865

CIVIL  
WAR

## QUOTES COMMENTS

RECRUITS

36TH ILLINOIS REG'T!

VETERAN VOLUNTEERS,

DOLLARS

07/14/2010

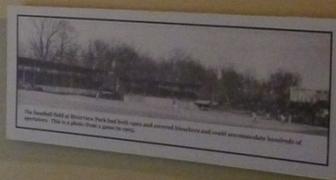
8'x9' Master Bedroom

Pre-Civil War items





# Baseball



MONTGOMERY  
V.F.W.



DONATIONS FOR  
\$                      \$  
SETTLERS COTTAGE  
MHPC

## **Thank You for Visiting Settler's Cottage**

**We hope you enjoyed the exhibits and learned a bit about Montgomery's history. This museum is a work in progress, and we would welcome suggestions for displays, or any items that you may be able to donate. If you have photos that you would like to share, we can scan them and return the originals to you unharmed. Please help us in our efforts to preserve and share Montgomery's rich heritage.**

**Come Again Soon!**

# Comments from Visitors

- Great job! Wonderful! Amazing!
- Thanks for restoring a beautiful piece of history!
- Brings back a lot of great memories.
- A wonderful tribute to the history of Montgomery. Thanks to all who had a part in preserving it for everyone.

# Volunteers

- Seven members on Historic Preservation Commission
- Community Service worker scanned photos and painted Cottage--90 hours
- Four High School volunteers earned service hours cataloging items and writing Cemetery Walk scripts—95 hours
- Other volunteers for specific events

# 2010 Community Outreach



# MONTGOMERY AND THE CIVIL WAR

1865

## CAMP HAMMOND



### Battles of the CIVIL WAR

of Andrew Pickens' Army  
D



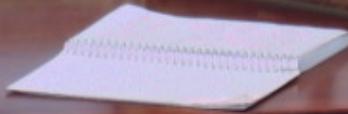
...



...

## QUOTES / COMMENTS

Multiple white cards with text, some in speech bubble shapes, pinned to a background with an American flag pattern. The cards contain various quotes and comments related to the Civil War.





# Collecting and Cataloguing Historic Items and Photos



# Collecting and Cataloguing Historic Items and Photos



# Preserving Oral Histories



# Annual Cemetery Walk









Pioneer Family Church  
presents  
Susan A. Wilhask  
a daughter of  
Nicholas Gray,  
who served in the  
...

Pioneer Family Church  
presents  
...

Pioneer Family Church  
presents  
...

Pioneer Family Church  
presents  
...

10/26/2010



# 2010 Volunteer Hours

- More than 150 hours by HPC members
- 185 volunteer hours spent cataloging historic items and photos
- More than 300 volunteer hours for Car Show and 35 volunteers
- 50 volunteer hours for Cemetery Walk by 15 volunteers
- At least 100 hours by other volunteers

# Summary of Accomplishments

- Saved historic 1840 home from demolition
- Raised funds and restored/reconstructed building
- Created historical museum and displays
- Preserved historic items and oral histories
- Inspired appreciation for Montgomery's history through ongoing community outreach activities

# Conclusion

- Historic Preservation is not just preserving buildings—it's preserving history
- Volunteer hours – approximately 785 in 2010 including HPC members
- Well attended events which shows wide community support
- Community pride
- Ongoing work to preserve and promote Montgomery's history

A photograph of a two-story yellow wooden building with a gabled roof. The building has several windows and a door. In the background, there is a brick building. The scene is set outdoors with green grass and some bushes. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Questions?**