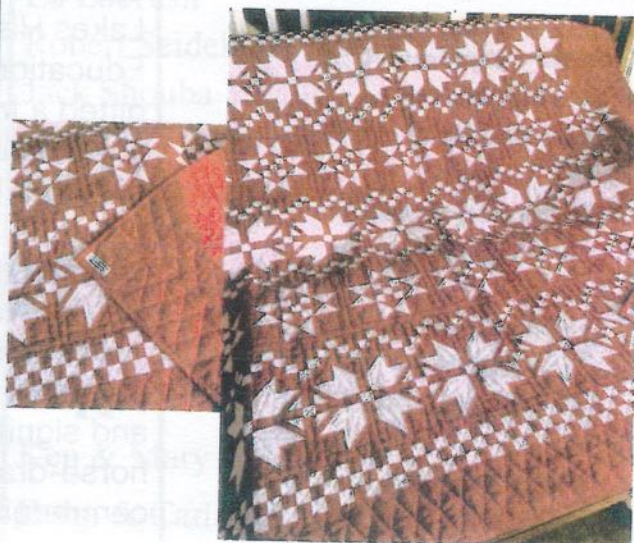
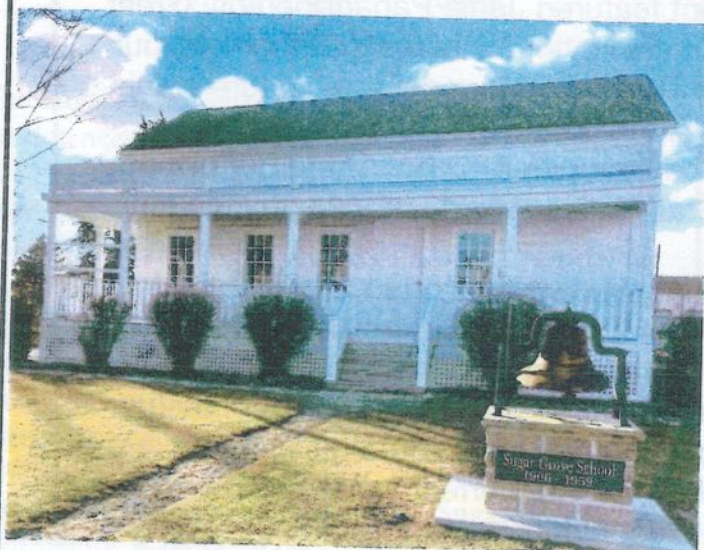


## SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

259 MAIN STREET, SUGAR GROVE

PH (630) 999-3620



We need your help! The Sugar Grove Historical Society is thrilled to present our 2024 Fundraiser, featuring a stunning quilt created and generously donated by local quilt artist Vickie Frantz. This beautiful 79 x 80-inch Fare Isle-pattern quilt is not only a work of art but also a symbol of our community's heart and spirit. We are deeply grateful to Vickie for her generosity.

Now, we're asking for your generosity too. Our fundraising efforts are essential to keeping the rich history of Sugar Grove alive. By purchasing tickets for this quilt drawing, you will directly support:

- The upkeep of the Bliss House Museum and document collection.
- Ongoing research to further uncover and share Sugar Grove's history.
- Educational partnerships with local schools and homeschoolers, helping to teach the next generation about our past.
- The production of our quarterly newsletter.
- And many more vital community projects that celebrate and preserve our heritage.

Without your support, these important efforts are at risk. Even if you don't need a cozy winter quilt for yourself, this makes a perfect gift for someone you care about. Every ticket purchased brings us closer to our goal, and your contribution—big or small—makes a significant impact.

The quilt drawing will be held on December 17, 2024. Tickets are just \$5 each or \$20 for five. You can purchase them online at [Sugargrovehistory.org](http://Sugargrovehistory.org), mail a check to SGHS, PO Box 102, Sugar Grove, IL 60554, or visit us in person. Please help us continue our mission. Your support means everything to us, and we are grateful for each and every ticket purchased. Thank you for being a part of our history!

### Don't forget to renew your membership!



## Officers and Board

### President

Dave Frantz  
(630) 999-3620

### Vice President

Rick Johnson  
(630) 383-6394

### Secretary/Treasurer

Lori McCaffrey  
(630) 881-4426

### Recording Secretary

Karen Elifson

### Historian

Joan Perrin  
(630) 917-4435

### Advisory Board

Ted Koch  
Cliff Frantz  
Dennis Panagopoulos

## Board Meetings

### Next QUARTERLY Board Meeting:

### February 2024 at SGHS

The Sugar Grove Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly. Society members receive each newsletter issued as part of their membership benefits.

Editor: Janie Panagopoulos  
pandex1600@aol.com

## From the President's Desk

Our small group of active members has recently experienced life's ups and downs. We wish all our members good health and prosperity.

This summer, we were proud to once again participate in the Sugar Grove Corn Boil. Our special event featured Janie Panagopoulos, Great Lakes Historical Fiction Children's Author and our Educational Director. In a generous gesture, Janie gifted a free book to the first 75 children, accompanied by a parent, who visited our booth. The event was well received. Thank you, Janie!

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in "Holiday In The Grove" on Saturday, December 7th. During this festive occasion, we will provide historical commentary on local homes, buildings, and significant figures while touring Sugar Grove by horse-drawn wagon, a perfect way to celebrate our community's rich heritage.

This wonderful event also leads up to our highly anticipated annual quilt drawing, which will take place on December 17th.

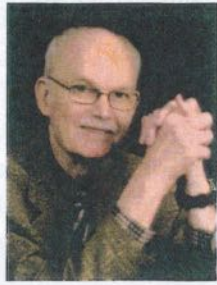
Lastly, we extend our deep gratitude to the Sugar Grove Township for their continued support, particularly for the recent structural repairs to the exterior of Bliss House. Your support helps preserve our local history. Thank you!

Sincerely, Dave Frantz

Don't forget to participate in our annual quilt raffle/fundraiser. Purchase your tickets at the Sugar Grove Historical Society!







**William "Bill" F. Keck**  
Aug. 15, 1939 - Dec. 12, 2023

The Sugar Grove Historical Society extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of William "Bill" F. Keck. Over the past year, our community has experienced the loss of several long-time residents and cherished members, including Bill, whose family has been an integral part of Sugar Grove for generations. The Keck family's legacy, spanning multiple properties and businesses on Main Street, including the town grocery store and "The Old Hotel," is deeply woven into our town's history.

Bill was a dedicated member of the Sugar Grove community, serving on the Cemetery Board, the Lions Club, the Fire Department Board of Trustees, and as a member of the Sugar Grove Historical Society. His contributions were always marked by quiet leadership and an unwavering commitment to bettering Sugar Grove. The impact of his service will continue to be felt for years to come.

In a lasting testament to Bill's dedication, his family has graciously donated many of his personal items, photographs, and business papers to the Historical Society, ensuring that his legacy remains a part of our shared history.

Dave Frantz, President of the Sugar Grove Historical Society, remembers Bill fondly: "He was a quiet, soft-spoken man who gave so much of his time and service to Sugar Grove."

William "Bill" F. Keck will be greatly missed by the Sugar Grove community, his friends, and his family. His contributions will not be forgotten.

## Thank you!

### Donations

Elaine Fox and daughters Marci Nickeas and Jenny Fox

Eric Frantz

Ed Labrush

Robert Seidelman

Jack Shouba

Joe & Lois Yoches

Caterpillar matching donation through Joe & Lois Yoches

### Memorials

Joan Perrin, in memory of Dwight Randall

### Supporting Membership

Ken & Mary Kreighbaum

Dohn & Carla Peterson

Winter 1883, Warning for those driving wagons and sleighs on snowy roads in Sugar Grove. Please give way and share the roadway with your neighbors. Our roads are simply not wide enough; particular caution and manners are in order for the season. If your load is too wide to share the road comfortably, perhaps you should let your fence down and avoid the public highway.

In winter 1883, Grant Bailey was growling around the village, in and out of the shops, for about a week with what was supposedly a bad cold—the following Sunday morning, painful swelling and swollen face of mumps put in an appearance. Quite a large number of adults in Sugar Grove had never had the dreaded mumps before, but it is a guarantee that those who had recently spent time working and talking with Bailey would probably know all about them in a few days.



Autumn and winter have always held a special place in the hearts of Sugar Grove residents. For generations, these seasons have marked a time of rest for our hard-working farmers. As the harvest ended, families gathered together, chasing away the season's chill. The comforting crackle of fireplaces and the delicious aromas of home-cooked meals and fresh-baked cookies filled the air, reminding us of the simple, cherished joys that make Sugar Grove special.

Holiday celebrations, such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, and "Holiday in the Grove," our Christmas-time celebration, have become the heartbeat of our community in these cold months.

These seasonal events unite us in laughter, joy, and a shared spirit of giving. It's a time to slow down, reconnect, and celebrate what truly matters—family, friends, and the wonderful place we call home.



**Halloween  
Party**  
Knudson's Hall,  
Main Street,  
1922 Sugar  
Grove H.S.  
Collection



*Looking North from Main St. Sugar Grove.*

**Electric lines downed on Main Street by an ice storm, date not recorded. Sugar Grove H.S. Collection**

Community plays a vital role in the significance of these holidays. Local organizations and events allow everyone to contribute through volunteering, supporting local vendors, or attending events that raise funds. The spirit of giving and sharing experiences fosters a sense of belonging and pride in Sugar Grove.



**Nicholas A. Bolster Family, 1880**  
Sugar Grove H.S. Collection



**McCannon Boys, 1915**  
L. Frank, M. Willis, R. John  
  
Sugar Grove H.S. Collection

Ultimately, the fall and winter holidays in Sugar Grove aren't just about festivities—they're a time to strengthen bonds within our community, celebrate traditions, and embrace the warmth of the season, even in the coldest months. We at the Sugar Gove Historical Society hope you have a wonderful season of family, fun, and holidays. Please stop by to see us every Tuesday from 1:00 to 4:00. We are also available by appointment.

**Please renew or join our membership to support the history of Sugar Grove.**

**Photo Collections may be viewed at [sugargrovehistory.org](http://sugargrovehistory.org)**



In May 1885, a skating rink opened in Sugar Grove. "There is more wisdom in the building of this rink than was first supposed; for a week ago last Saturday, Messrs. Pratt, Benjamin, Wait, Lye, and quite a number of others and all with their wives put in the afternoon and evening in skating and learning to skate. The steady monotony of farm life can be relieved by doing as Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin and others did.

It was noticed that married ladies had more acrobatic skills or were more level-headed than unmarried ladies, as they did not seem to tumble down quite so frequently. Frank and Gilbert Snow, builders of the rink, were in sympathy with the Sugar Gove Industrial School, and they did not open their rink during study hours. For the present, it will be open on Wednesday from four to seven p.m. and on Saturdays in the afternoon and evening.

In other news, the death and burial of Mrs. Silas Reynolds took another of Sugar Grove's oldest residents. Mrs. Jane Reynolds was the oldest representative of the pioneer women of the village. Her funeral called out almost the entire community. Leonard Benjamin, Henry Chapman, James Gordon, and Mark Seavey were pallbearers.

## SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership.....\$15.00

Family Membership.....\$20.00

Business/Organization.....\$30.00

Supporting.....\$50.00

Individual/Family Life Member...\$225.00

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in Email Newsletter?    Yes    No

Mail check to Sugar Grove Historical Society, PO Box 102, Sugar Grove, IL 60554



As a dedicated member of the Sugar Grove Historical Society, you already understand the value of preserving and celebrating our community's rich history. Now, imagine how much more we could accomplish by inviting your friends, neighbors, and family members to join us in this rewarding mission.

Every new member brings fresh perspectives, talents, and energy to our work. By encouraging others to join, you help expand our outreach and ensure the success of projects such as preserving documents and local artifacts and enhancing our community education programs.

New members will be able to engage in hands-on projects, such as archiving historical documents, organizing new events, helping with research, or maintaining the historic Bliss House. Whether they have experience in history or a simple curiosity to learn, their contributions will make a meaningful difference.

Joining the Sugar Grove Historical Society is a great way to connect with like-minded individuals who share a love for local history. Together, we preserve the past and keep it alive for future generations. We meet on Tuesdays from 1:00-4:00 and offer a friendly and supportive environment where members can ask questions, share ideas, brainstorm projects, and even make lasting friendships.

Membership is open to all, and your support in spreading the word is critical to the future success of the Sugar Grove Historical Society. Let's grow together and make an even more significant impact!

**SUGARGROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**P.O. BOX 102**

**SUGARGROVE, IL 60554**

CAROL STREAM IL 601

28 OCT 2024 PM 11 L

As in past elections  
USPS is re  
If you choose to  
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