



Look Into the Past
To Discover the Future

September 2025
Volume 18
Issue 3

The Historian -- Keeping the Public Informed

DCCF Grant Received

Many thanks to the DeKalb County Community Foundation for awarding the Kirkland Historical Society a \$5000 grant to be used to replace the worn, stained carpet with a laminate floor. This will give us a great start on a large and much needed expenditure.



DEKALB COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Volunteers Needed

Workshop every Monday from
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the building,
309 South Fifth Street

Join us!

Sunday, September 14, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
General Meeting at Denny's Corn Crib Museum
3822 Stone Quarry Road, Belvidere

*Potluck luncheon -- bring a dish to pass,
pork chops will be the entrée.*

Tour Denny's Corn Crib Museum and see the amazing finds he has acquired. Also, Carolyn Law, a personal property appraiser, independent scholar and researcher, published author, subject matter expert, and collector will speak about several items in Denny's collection.



Kirkland Historical Society, 309 South Fifth Street, Kirkland, IL 60146
kirklandhistoricalsociety.com
Also visit us on Facebook at Kirkland Historical Society

Heart Mountain Painting's History



During WWII, the hemp mill west of town processed hemp to make rope for the war effort. Area farmers raised over 4000 acres each year in 1942-44. This mill was managed by Earl Wenzel and later by Amos Hachman. The employees included local people, German prisoners-of-war from Camp Grant, and incarcerated American citizens of Japanese descent.

President Franklin D Roosevelt ordered all American citizens of Japanese descent living on the West Coast to leave their homes and assemble in staging areas such as football stadiums. They could bring with them only a suitcase – no pets or furniture. They were confined until after the war ended in 1945. There were approximately 120,000 citizens displaced and interned in army barracks. Many went to Heart Mountain, Wyoming. About 60 of them were sent to Kirkland and lived in small houses in back of the hemp mill near the river. The houses were built by Dutch Lawrence. After the war they were bought by his son, Bob Lawrence, and moved to town on the north side of Highway 72, where they are still located.

This painting of Heart Mountain was made by one of the American citizens of Japanese descent who came to work at Kirkland's plant. He gave it to Ray Way, who was employed at the hemp mill as a mechanic for the hemp machinery. Ray also drove the truck to transport them to the Chicago area to see their families once a month.

The detention of the American Japanese was a tragic, unconstitutional act by our government. None of them were accused of disloyalty, and all were denied due process of law.

Thank you to St. Aubin Nursery who donated this apple serviceberry bush to the Kirkland Historical Society.



The Kirkland Historical Society is beginning to put markers on historical buildings in town. The first marker has been installed at the Kirkland Public Library. Watch for more plaques around town including the houses described above that were on the hemp farm.



Thank you to the Kirkland Lions Club for allowing us to work bingo on Friday, July 4th. By working bingo we were able to keep the profits earned during those six hours.

At the 2025 Dinner & Fundraiser Auction



Kirkland Historical Society 2025 Dinner & Fundraiser Auction

Event Sponsors	Table Sponsors	Auction Donors
Marvin Bernhardy in memory of Wanda	The Fett Family	Helen Davis
Resource Bank, N.A.	The Worden Family	Casey's from Kingston
Kirkland Lions Club	Barbara Luther, a Gilchrist Descendent of Fairdale	Blumen Gardens
Gene Lamont	Resource Bank, N.A.	Ty and Donna Turner
Kirkland Medical Clinic	Helen and Becky Lamont	Cattle & Cream
White Oak Dental	June Yates	Julia Heart
Helen and Ed Davis	in memory of L David Yates	HyVee
Judie Janowski in memory of Carl, Martha and Harvey Swanson	Kirkland Sawmill	Blackhawk Moving & Storage
R J Daniels Fuel & Tire	John and Sandy Lyons in memory of Jim, Don, and Gary "Joe" Blume	Jean Bauer
Farmer's Inn	White Oak Dental	Jim and Peggy Stuntz
Gary Ecklund	Red Brick Inn	Connie Worden
Jim and Peggy Stuntz	Jared and Kara Poynter	Ralph's Car Wash
Kirkland Public Library	Aves Farm - two tables	Crooked Horns
Shape-Master Tool Co.	Culvers of Belvidere	Basketcases
Ryan Braden Insurance Agency	Gulotta Farms	Lori Pepper
Kirkland Pizza N Tacos	Kirkland Public Library	Pepper Creek
St. Aubin's Nursery	Bruch Insurance Services	Pat Page
	Olson Funeral & Cremation - two tables	Sally Jones
	Jean Klock	Linda Fett
	Central Commodities: Central Grain Company	Marian Collins
	Bill and Judy Gontko	Resource Bank
	Lori Pepper	Kirkland Family Restaurant
	in memory of Mildred and Melvin Banks	Tom & Jerry's
	Lori Pepper	Debbie Beard
	in memory of Erma and LaVern Ferb	Mary Jean Lane
	The Finkle Family	Joanne and Charlie Fruit

Thank you to our current board members for organizing this event -- Connie Worden and Becky Lamont, co-chairs; with help from Gary Ecklund, Jean Klock, Linda Fett, Sally Jones, Carol Stiegman, Jim Stuntz, and LindaKay Ebel.

Many thanks to all who attended our dinner and fundraiser auction, to those who donated auction items, to those who bid on them, and to our event and table sponsors. A special thanks to Don Banks, auctioneer and Resource Bank for the use of their Community Room.

This is our yearly fundraiser and without the support of these contributors, we would not be able to do what we do. We appreciate you all!