



PO Box 54, Washington, IL  
(309) 444-4793



**DAVID DAVIS, THE MAN AND THE MANSION**  
November 5, 6:30 pm



**VETERAN'S DAY OPEN HOUSE**  
November 9, 9:00-noon



**CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR**  
December 10

# HERITAGE HERALD

[www.washingtonilhs.com](http://www.washingtonilhs.com)

## 34th Annual Christmas Home Tour

The Historical Society will again be presenting a walk through local homes decorated for the holidays. This year's tour will be Tuesday, December 10th. Encourage your friends to eat lunch or dinner at Blacksmith's because they are donating \$300 to WHS on that day. Homes will be open during two times, 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the Dement-Zinser House, so plan on time to stop for a sip and a cookie as well as see some of our displays. If you wish to help on tour day, please call Sue at 444-7621. As usual, cookies will be needed for the reception at the Dement-Zinser home. They may be brought any time after 11 a.m.



821 Anne St.– a new home featuring the collections of Roger French and Jackie French

604 N. Main St.– with cottage décor by Julie Burns and Patrick Murphey

1302 Mitchell St.– the perfect size condo for Darlene Philips

701 Wellington– the new family home of the Hahns and their 3 sons

108 N. High St.– the welcoming, country decor of Les and Penny Wright

## Time Travels in Trunks

Time Travels in Trunks was well traveled in the 2018-2019 school year!! This group of incredible volunteers gave thirty minute historical presentations to elementary students in Washington Township. Teachers were able to select from eleven different trunks. And, because many classes viewed several trunks, “views” are counted instead of students.

THERE WERE 2,770 VIEWS THIS YEAR!!



## Honoring All Veterans

The public is invited to stop by the Dement-Zinser House (105 Zinser Place) during the hours of 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, November 9. Visit with your local vets, thank them for their service, and view our collection of uniforms and patriotic memorabilia. We will be serving doughnuts and coffee. Your historical society hopes to welcome a variety of ages of veterans who have current or past military service.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CENTRAL GRADE SCHOOL, DISTRICT 51— EARLY HISTORY *Kenneth Prater*

...continued

The four classroom concrete block and brick veneer building accommodated the students from the old Central School in two 32-desk classrooms. The first two teachers at the new school in January 1957 were: Mrs. Euphemia Schmidt and Mr. Schmeckpepper, who served as the District’s first administrator. The third classroom was put into use in September 1958 when Mrs. Alice Griffin was hired. The fourth classroom had no blackboards, floor tile, ceiling lights and was sometimes used as an all purpose room. Plans were being considered for an eventual capacity of 128 students according to Wesley Wenger, President of the Board of Education. Mr. Walwer, the Secretary/Treasurer recalls the first budget in the new facility was around \$30,000. He was responsible for paying the bills at the time. The third board member was August T. Rosenberg. The assessed valuation of \$1,163,610 supported the bond issue of \$58,000 approved by the voters for architects Verkler and Tinsman to construct the school. Included among the teachers added to the faculty in 1959 was Mrs. Marg Pacey - Grades 1 and 2, (who taught her

classes in the basement of the Wenger home since her classroom was not ready for occupancy), Mrs. Marge Abernathy - Grades 3 and 4, Mrs. Griffin for Grades 5-6 and Mr. Schmeckpepper who taught the 7-8th graders and served as the first administrator. The only sports team from the old Central School and continuing at the new Central School was an ad hoc softball team that played competitively against students from Lafayette, Hopewell, Columbia, and Liberty schools. Mr. Richard “Bud” Berry was a volunteer who offered to help coach the softball/baseball team in 1957.

The new Central School graduated three eighth graders its first year: Gail Bachman, Ron Kuykendall, and Dave Weaver. There were eight in the class of 1958 – four girls and four boys according to Mrs. Nancy Bender. The graduates held their ceremony with the graduates of District 50 at the Washington Community High School gym.

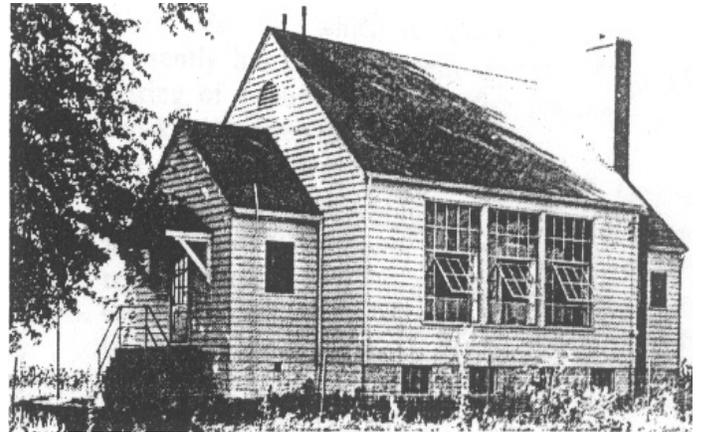
By March 1960, student enrollment had continued to climb with the Board of Education anticipating growth

to 110 students. The need for addition rooms was evident as the voters of the District approved a \$60,000 bond issue to construct additional classrooms, a kitchen, office, storage space, and toilet facilities. Architect Tom Landis designed and provided oversight for the 1963, 1965, 1967, and the 1980 additions. Four teachers were employed by the District in 1960. It was also about this time that the first school bus was purchased by the District.

A survey of the District indicated a large number of homes under construction or proposed in the Washington Estates and Felker's Addition. In 1960, one third of the school's enrollment came from the Cummings Lane area; another third from Washington Estates, and the balance coming from the remainder of the District. Accompanying the growth of the area was an increase in assessed valuation to \$2,223,110 with a steady increase predicted for the future.

Plans to build a gym were presented to the public in February 1963. Due to zoning ordinances the original plans had to be altered before approval from the Washington City Zoning Board of Appeals was received.

Mrs. (Helen?) Emerson wrote the lyrics for the Central Trojan Fight Song in the early 1960's. She later taught music instruction at Robein School. In 1976 Mr. David Musick used help from former student and Central teacher (A.K. Berry) in recalling the lyrics. He then created the musical score for the school's Fight Song. Adrienne Berry was a first grade student when the new school opened.



One hundred twenty-one students were enrolled in Central School in July 1, 1963 and the District had reached its limits of bonded indebtedness of five percent after the voters approved the plans for the new gymnasium. The District's financial flexibility was enhanced with the consolidation and closing of Hopewell School, District 271, as the assessed valuation rose from \$3,195,610 to \$4,255,490 and increased student enrollment by 39. There was one teacher per age/grade level classroom after 1963.

The first Hopewell School was built in 1869 and reportedly had two teachers and a principal. Mr. Keil was a teacher at Hopewell for a long time. Mr. Schrone was the principal for 20 years. The Hopewell School bell remains the property of Central School District 51.

to be continued...

**It's easy to become a WHS Member!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Choose your membership level:

- Student/ Free     Single/ \$25     Family/ \$35
- Business/ \$50     Golden/ \$100     Lifetime/ \$300

Employee Matching: \_\_\_\_\_  
(employer name & address) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to: WHS, P.O. Box 54, Washington, IL 61571  
or visit: [Washington-historical-society.org/membership](http://Washington-historical-society.org/membership)



I would be interested in helping with:

- Activities
- Buildings
- Grounds
- Research
- Programs/  
Traveling Trunks

Contact us:  
[washingtonilhs@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonilhs@gmail.com)



PO Box 54  
Washington, IL 61571  
(309) 444-4793

## Your Kroger Plus Card helps us grow!

### Here's how to enroll:

1. Visit [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)

2. Scroll down to find your location and click "Enroll Now"

3. Sign in to your online account, or create an account

4. Find and select our organization and click "Save"

You'll start earning rewards for Washington Historical Society right away on qualifying purchases made using your Kroger Plus Card!

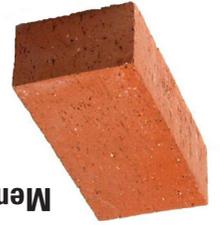
Learn more at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and thank you for your support.

## Ask your employer about matching funds.



\$100

Memorial Bricks in front of Dement-Zinser & Dr's Museum to honor family, business, or a loved one.



## How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. Please pick the Washington Historical Society (Washington, Illinois) as your Amazon Smile recipient.

