



Weekly News

Did you know...?

Forgotten

Those who were forgotten in life remain forgotten in death.

A previous article about the Tazewell County Poor Farm, which was located on State Route 9 just west of Tremont, told of the farm itself, and the people who lived and worked there.

According to various reports, the "inmates" were either well taken care of and happy, or treated badly, with some even being locked up. These people were the "unfortunate" of Tazewell County. In those days before Social Security, from about 1870 until 1941, each county was responsible for the care of their own elderly, paupers, ill, "insane," and "weak-minded." Their hard luck stories would break your heart.

There were those who died while residing at the "Poor Farm," as it was then called. They were buried in a special graveyard on the property, with the earliest burial as early as 1873.

Today the cemetery remains in a remote, shaded spot on the old property, where the weeds and poison ivy are tangled wildly together. It is heart-wrenching to see the neglect. There are small grave foot stones, each engraved, not with a name, but with a number from 1 through 144. The numbers and the names of the deceased are recorded in a book that lists the Tazewell Farm Cemetery. To think of the sad lives each stone represents is overwhelming.

We know that one of the numbers belongs to Charles Hobbs, who was from the town of Lilly. An article from the August 13, 1900 Pantagraph from Bloomington tells of his life: "Charles Hobbs, an inmate of the county farm, died Friday the 10th, aged 92 years." He had lived in Lilly for several years.

One obituary appeared in the 1901 Tremont News:

"Francis Nabor (not his real name) died at the county farm Saturday evening, after a short illness, and was buried Sunday. It seems strange and hardly fair (that) one who was possessed of so much wealth a few years ago should die in the poor house. Money all gone, friends gone, and cast out without a place to lay his head, only at the county house. Some will say he ought to have known better. Perhaps he had, but if he didn't, there should have been a conservator appointed for him. We have known the deceased for a great many years, and we do not think that he ever saw the bright side of life for a single day, but perhaps he was not to blame. All that can be said now that he is gone is, 'poor old man.' "

The 1915 Pekin Times reported,

“Henry Williamson, son of a former sheriff of Tazewell County died at the Tazewell County farm Thursday night. Williamson, who was a wanderer, applied to the supervisors for aid several years ago, coming to the city while ill. He was about sixty-three years of age at the time he was sent to the farm, where he has since remained.”

The forgotten, identical stones are striking to see. But the most striking sight in the cemetery is an impressive marker, soaring high above the little stones. The citation reads, “In memory of the unfortunate of Tazewell County, 1910.”

~ Tremont Museum & Historical Society, Lori Fuoss



Scenes from the cemetery. The small footstones are hidden in these photos, due to overgrowth.

Tremont Museum

The Tremont Museum will be open Sunday, December 11 from 2-4 PM. We have several books notecards, and ornaments that would make great gifts for the history buff or Tremont lover.

The museum will be closed for the season after December 11, until March. We are very grateful for all your support this year and will see you in the spring!

Tremont Library

Baby and Me

Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

New and experienced parents are invited to join Miss Nicole on Wednesday mornings for a parent/baby support group. Meet other parents in the area, make friends, enjoy new toys, lots of books, and a must: free coffee.

The focus of this group is parents and young children ages 0-3, but other siblings are always welcome! No registration required, drop in whenever works best for you.

TAPS/HSLC Fundraiser

Tremont First National Bank is hosting a fundraiser for TAPS and the Humane Society of Logan County (HSLC) from November 28 to December 16. If interested, please click the buttons below for an information flyer and the wishlist.

INFORMATIONAL FLYER

Tremont Holiday Lights Contest

Tremont Winning Communities is excited to host a Holiday Lights Contest for the homes within the Tremont 702 School District. Let's spread some Christmas cheer by decking the halls! The only qualification is that the home's decorations are lit up and able to be seen at night. From simple to extravagant, we want to see them all!

To participate in the contest, please send your name and address via email (tremontwinningcommunities@gmail.com) or a direct message on Facebook (www.facebook.com/tremontwinningcommunities). Entries must be in and lights on by December 12th. A list/map of participating homes (addresses, no names) will be available December 13th.

TWC board members will be driving by the entries over the course of the evenings of December 12-14 and choosing a winner to be announced on Facebook and the Tremont Weekly Newsletter on the following Monday. The winner will receive a prize from local businesses and bragging rights until next year. We can't wait to see your lights!

Please click the button below to view the flyer.

CONTEST FLYER



Community Calendar

Wednesday

Baby & Me - 10:30-11:30AM
Tremont Library

Sunday

Tremont Museum - 2:00-4:00PM

Around Town



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Thank you,

Haas IT Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Tremont Winning Communities

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