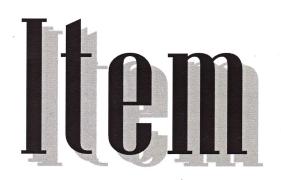
Rochester Historical Preservation Society





P.O. Box 13 ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS 62563

1830sStoneHouse

Spring 2024

www.rocnesternistoricalsociety.org

Steve Wayne Leach



July 3, 1943 - April 15, 2024 Celebration of Life April 21, 2024 Rochester United Methodist Church

The RHPS Thanks



For Building Our WEBSITE

A Tribute to Steve Leach

A lifelong resident of Rochester, Steve was involved with RHPS from it's beginning. Not only did he work diligently on projects, but he served as the society's treasurer for 20 years.

Just about everyone he ever met knew and remembered him for his genuine smile and jovial personality. Steve, you will be missed by many and remembered by all who knew you. Thanks for your dedication to and service to the Rochester Historical Preservation Society.

The RHPS needs YOU!

We need members! You might ask, "Why should I be a member of the RHPS?"

Check the following list for some of the top reasons for joining this group.

- 1. Tiered, tax deductible membership offerings.
- 2. Learn about the history of the community.
- 3. Help support what is going to be happening at the Historical Park.
- 4. Supporting the community through historical development.
- 5. Help preserve the past for generations to come.
- 6. Make new friends.
- 7. Informative newsletters sent to you.

Please join us for the RHPS Meeting MONDAY May 20, 2024 7:00 p.m.
ROCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GYMNASIUM

ROCHESTER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

-OFFICERS-

PRESIDENT

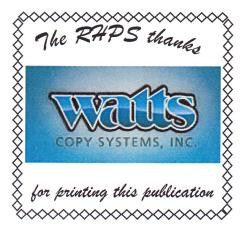
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VICE PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY
Ann Rowley
TREASURER

Max Dillahunty

-DIRECTORSDavid Grubb
Toby McDaniel
David Ramsey
Jerry Robertson
Cheryl Soerensen



RHPS on FACEBOOK

There has been an effort to increase our online presence by showing how the RHPS started. Thanks to Carolyn Moore, posts have recalled the monthly activities of 1988 that led to the establishment of the society. There have also been pictures of the Old Stone House through the seasons posted. "Altitude Imagery" has provided scenes of the property taken by a drone. The scenes are truly worth viewing.

We need more followers. We have 1K!! Let's support the RHPS by becoming a Follower. Search Rochester Historical Preservation Society on Facebook and check out the site. Please choose to Follow.

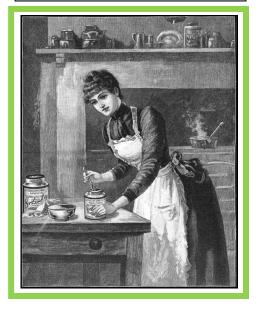
DOCENTS NEEDED

It is that time of year when we need Docents for the Summer Open Houses. The first Sundays, June through October are when the Old stone House is open Sunday afternoons 1-4 p.m. We need at least 2-3 docents each Sunday. If we are going to meet our mission to keep local history alive, we need your help. No previous experience needed. Clothing and scripts will be provided to help you enjoy a nice Sunday afternoon. If you know of someone who might be interested, please pass this information along. Please contact Cheryl Soerensen at csoerensen@att.net with aues-

tions or to volunteer.



If you have lost your membership form or just forgot to return it, the above form may be used to either renew your membership or become a new RHPS member.





Layers Make a Cake

IME LEMON JELLY CAKE by Madeline Babcock Smith. 240 pp. Sort ton: Little, Scown & Co. \$2.

By JANE COBB

It is not usual for a book to be maligned by its blurb writer, but that is what has happened to Madeline Babcock Smith's charming novel "The Lemon Jelly Cake." It is made to sound like one more folkey book in which everyone's face is firmly turned toward the sunny side. It is, on the contrary, a sophisticated, even urbane novel written by a woman with a perceptive eye for the facts of life.

This is not to say that Mrs. Smith has not lived up to her avowed project—that of writing a book in which "a decent man walks into a pleasant living room." Little Helene Eradford's father is a decent man, and the relationship between the sexes are unhysterical but not indifferent.

The symbolism of the title is more indifferent.

The symbolism of the title is method in the prehaps a bit moralistic—Mrs.

facts of life.

This is not to say that Mrs.

Smith has not lived up to her
avowed project—that of writing
a book in which "a decent man
walks into a pleasant living
room." Little Helene Bradford's
father is a decent man, and the
town of Tory in which she lives
at the turn of the century is
at the turn of the century is
at the furn of the century is
rather nicer than most since it
rather nicer than most since it rather nicer than most since it contains no gilded rolling pins

Miss Cobb is a critic of mod-ern American fiction.

incurrerent.

The symbolism of the title is perhaps a bit moralistic—Mrs.

Smith seems to be working a bit too hard to say that it takes a lot of layers to make a cake. However, the only real complaint to be lodged against her is that she is 65 and thesis here. s that she is 65 and this is her

In December 2023, Madeline Moore also sent me a collection of 29 book reviews and other stories published in newspapers nationwide. The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, The New York Herald, The Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Houston Post, and the Los Angeles Times all ran stories of high praise for Smith's novel, The Lemon Jelly Cake.

The enclosed review is from The New York Times, August 3,1952.

Submitted by Ray Bruzan

From the N Y Times, August 3, 1952

Dr. Edwin R. Babcock, a Civil War surgeon, built the two-story brick home on East Main Street in Rochester in which Madeline Babcock Smith was born in 1887. By that time, the home and office were owned by Dr. E.R. Babcock's son and Madeline's father, Dr. Oliver Brewster (O.B.) Babcock.

It's an interesting coincidence to note that Rochester's two giants in the arts, violinist Louis Persinger and author Madeline Babcock Smith, were born in 1887 in the same East Main Street doctor's office exactly four months apart.

Dr. E.R. Babcock and his wife, Martha, are buried in Rochester Cemetery.

Smith is certainly Rochester's most noted author, having written a New York Times Best Seller that Paramount Studios had considered making into a movie prior to the author's death.

A folder containing the book reviews sent from Moore's home in Portland, Oregon, are now in the library. Local residents are encouraged to stop by the Rochester Public Library to read the reviews and see the first-edition copy of The Lemon Jelly Cake on display. The library also has several copies of the book available for checkout.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

A new "Newsletter" webpage has been adde to the Rochester Historical Preservation Society's (RHPS) website:

www.rochesterhistoricalsociety.org

This contains an archive of old Newsletters. The current archive goes back to 2018. All future Newsletteres will be added to the website which will allow members and visitors to see what has been happening at past metings and with other activities.



Thanks, Toby McDaniel, for a beautiful picture of the Stone House.

2024 MEMBERSHIP LIST *

Charter - Life

Elliott Bell Terry & Tammy Campbell Patricia Creviston Chelsea Gerberding Fred & Carolyn Gerberding Gabe & Angela Gerberding Linda Grimm David & Arlene Grubb Dean & Renee Housel Dennis & Nancy Keiffer Allen & Barb Mendenhall Carl O. "Bud" Moore Lee & Carol Shafer David & Debbie Taft Steve Taft Ann Tucker Bill & Barb Voisin Nate & Carol Wilcoxon

Storekeeper

Joshua & Cecile Becker

Tradesman

Jane Fairchild Patricia Kessler Jacquie Ramsey Roxy Schmidt-Gundy

Fur Trappe

Richard & Karen Alexander Roy & Trudy Ballinger Gary Bottrell Mike & Sandy Brewer Mike & Sharon Cortelyou Susan Cull George Anne Daly Robert Dean Max & Debbie Dillahunty Brian & Mary Fairchild George & Phyllis Fairchild Randy & Brenda Hawkins Harold & Jane Hendrickson Robert Hendrickson Bill & Penny Hinrichs Kim & Cinda Klickna Steve & Nancy Leach Stu & Sandy McMillan Carolyn Moore Pat Palmer Rich & Ann Ramsev

Blacksmith

Lyle & Donna Behl John & Sue Endsley Henry & Mary Gartner

James & Ruth Ann Theis

Rosemary Weistart

Richard Williams

Ron & Sue Green Tim & Priscilla Kluge Mike & Glenda Long Darrell & Denise

Maxheimer

Sandie Nuding
Jerry Orban
Jerry & Reba Robertson
Gina Roccaforte
Ann Rowley
Tris Schnepper
L Keith Steiner
Ben & Mary Tuxhorn
Ron & Kahla Wiggins
Curt & Kathleen Winhold
Debbie Yeaman

Homesteader

Mark & Cynthia Anderson Terry & Diane Arthur Wayne & Anita Beck Tom & Michelle Betrand Ray & Pam Bruzan Paul Carlson Jeffrey & Andrea Deters Tom & Cherie Doherty Rick & Jeanne Eilering Sharon Evans Dennis File Henry & Beth Haupt Don & Gayle Highley Forrest & Mary Lou Holsapple

Don & Becky Honigman Elaine Hundley David & Fay Ann Jostes Ken & Nancy Miller Scott & Suzannel Moss Tom, Stacia & Logan Munroe McDevitt Family Nick & Stephanie

Palazzolo

Henry & Margaret Patterson

Mark & Nancy

Poffenberger

Loree & Carolyn Riggs Randall & Suzann Segatto Dick & Lorine Wallin Deidre Zobrist

Settler

Carolyn Lea Clevenger Bev Drillinger Nancy J. Leach Toby Mc Daniel Robert & Leslie Struble Carolyn Wanless

Sodbuster

Jan Catalano

*NOTE: The above listing of the 2024 RHPS Membership is compiled from new and renewal membership forms received as of May 7, 2024 from the Annual Membership Campaign. If there are any questions, please contact Max Dillahunty at 217-498-9709

DONATIONS to RHPS

From Stone House Tours \$99.00

From Fall Car Show \$500.00

From Dean Housel \$1000.00

From Angela Carver \$85.00

In Memory of Evelyn Ramsey \$1000.00

In Memory of Dorthy Ross \$100.00

In Memory of Robert Struble \$10.00

In Memory of Debbie Schnepper \$780.00

In Memory of Carolyn Carlson \$25.00

In Memory of James R. Weistart \$50.00

In Memory of Clarence R. Leach \$10.00

In Memory of Loren & Charlotte Schmidt \$100.00

In Memory of Steve Leach \$2600.00

In Memory of Byron Braner \$100.00

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON May 20, 2024
ROCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GYMNASIUM 7:00 p.m.

ROCHESTER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. 13

ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS 62563