

# The Museum Times

A publication of the Stephenson County Historical Society

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### All-Star Birthday Film Series- Lindo Theater-

All shows play at 1PM and 7PM.

Admission is \$5

*More information can be found on the Lindo Theater website.*

**Wednesday, January 6-**

*The Adventures of Robin Hood*

**Wednesday, February 3-**

*Lust for Life*

**Wednesday, March 2-**

*3:10 to Yuma*

**Wednesday, April 6-**

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

**Monday, February 22, 6:30 PM**

**Freeport Public Library**

Free Admission

Living History Program:

*"Brownie Wise: The Original  
Tupperware Party Lady."*

*More information can be found on the Freeport Library website*

## WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING 2016 MUSEUM EVENTS:

**APRIL: ANNUAL DINNER**

**MAY: OSCAR'S GARDEN FAIR**

**JUNE: ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Do you have an historical event coming up in Stephenson County that you would like have included on our calendar of events? If you would like your event listed, please email the information to [o.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:o.taylor@gmail.com). The SCHS reserves the right to post events at their discretion.

## VICTORIAN MANSION HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW

This first-time event was held on November 20th & 21st. Even though Freeport received a major snowfall Friday night into Saturday, the craft show turned out very well. Crafters from around the Stephenson county area offered their wares to sell. The Taylor Mansion first floor was transformed into a holiday gift market for this two-day event. Items offered for sale included Christmas ornaments and décor, knitted items, honey, jams, popcorn, scarves, soaps and lotions, cards, jewelry, and much more. Many of our patrons told us that they had a great time browsing and buying and seeing the mansion decorated for the sale. A portion of all sales benefitted the SCHS.

Watch for the sale again next year. It's a great way to have fun shopping while also supporting the museum. Thanks to all who participated and helped!

## CHRISTMAS WITH THE TAYLORS

On December 5th, the SCHS held its annual Holiday Tea with a bit of a twist. The event took place in the evening instead of the traditional afternoon time so that visitors could experience the museum in a different atmosphere. Santa was added into the mix, along with fun family activities to get people into the holiday spirit. Beautiful Victorian style Christmas decorations throughout the Taylor Mansion completed the event. Mollie Doolittle graciously played traditional holiday music on her flute. Punch, spiced tea, and tasty cookies were served. Our staff and volunteers, some dressed in Victorian clothing, visited with the patrons as they strolled through the Mansion and shopped in our gift shop. Many photos were taken that night and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at this successful event.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this a wonderful evening! We especially appreciate everyone who donated cookies, volunteered to help the night of the event, or helped decorate the museum before the event.



## END-OF-THE-YEAR GIVING

The SCHS would like to remind all of our members and friends to keep the Society and Museum in mind when planning end your end-of-the-year charitable giving. The historical society relies on donations to pay operating expenses, to help improve artifact storage, to plan new exhibits and upgrade existing ones, and to develop new programming for the benefit of our members and friends. Your donation can be made in honor or in memory of a special person and we will recognize that person in our next newsletter.

The SCHS is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and your donations are tax-deductible. We certainly appreciate your continued support to preserve our local history.

## **The Museum Times**

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Historical Society.

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The Stephenson County Historical Society is a tax exempt organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3. Donations to the Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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The Stephenson County Museum's buildings and grounds are owned and maintained by Freeport Park District, while the Historical Society is responsible for day-to-day operations. The Historical Society is grateful for the Park District's support. The Historical Society is financially responsible for the Museum's operation, some of the staff payroll, exhibits, educational programs, special events and collections preservation. We receive income for our expenses through membership fees, donations, Gift Shop sales, admission fees and special events and fund raisers. Thank you for your support!

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### **Museum Hours**

Wednesday to Sunday: Noon to 4  
PM

Closed Mondays, Tuesdays &  
Holidays

### **Admission Fees**

Members — Free

Non-Member Adults — \$8.00

Non-Member Children — \$4.00

**Phone: 815-232-8419**

## **NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS**

**Winter Fashions** - Cozy winter fashions line the Taylor Mansion halls and rooms. Mannequins are decked out in cold weather clothing, including coats, wraps, entertainment attire, sleepwear, and lovely dresses. Stop by and take a look at how your predecessors dressed for winter!

**Antique Purses** - Located in the Taylor Room inside of a large antique case you will find lavish purses and accessories from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. Purses of all sizes and colors decorate the case and sparkle in the light. A must see display!

**Coming in 2016-Jane Addams** - We're currently researching, gathering artifacts, and drafting up labels for an update of the Jane Addams exhibit located upstairs in the Taylor Mansion. This 'new' take on Jane will focus on her contributions specifically to Stephenson County and will look in depth at the relationships she had that made her endeavors possible.

## **RECENT MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS**

Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships since the last newsletter. We still have many members who have not renewed. It's never too late! Please consider renewing your SCHS membership today. You can now renew by sending in your check, or you can join online -go to our website: [www.stephcohs.org/#!become-a-member/c866](http://www.stephcohs.org/#!become-a-member/c866). Thanks!

### **Individual**

Allen Buus  
Helen Toelle  
Freidag and Associates  
Judi Snyder

### **Family**

Jeri Nieman  
Dale and Judy Schimpf

### **Addams**

Randy and Janie Manus

### **Tutty**

Carole Dickerson  
John and Paula Rawleigh

### **Recent Memorial Donations-**

**In honor of Jane McConville Sullivan** by Elizabeth Sullivan

**In honor of Margie Rigney** by Arlene Olson

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Everyone at the Stephenson County Historical Society would like to extend our best wishes to you for a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year!

We had a great year at the museum, and we are fortunate to have such wonderful members and friends. We want to take this time to thank you all for your support.

To members, donors, volunteers, visitors, and all our friends- THANK YOU!



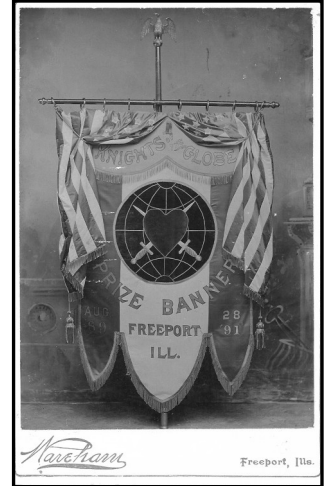
## FROM THE COLLECTION

### **Knights of the Globe in Freeport**

*By Tiffany Arnold*

The Knights of the Globe was a fraternal organization founded by Dr. William W. Krape. It was organized on April 28, 1889. The first subordinate body of this organization, called the George Washington Garrison No. 1, was established in Freeport, IL in 1890. It started out with 80 members, but soon grew to over 9,000 by 1896.

The Knights of the Globe's creed was obedience, honesty, and loyalty. They encouraged free thought and speech and stood for equal rights to all without discrimination. The order's objectives were: (1) "to preserve and strengthen bonds between members," (2) "only select members who have an established reputation of morality, loyalty, honesty, economy, and industrious habits in the community in which they live," and (3) "to cultivate true allegiance to the U.S.A. based on respect for the rules established by the Constitution by upholding the spread of universal liberty."



Knights of the Globe Banner with heart and swords insignia



Dr. W. W. Krape in Knights of the Globe ceremonial attire.

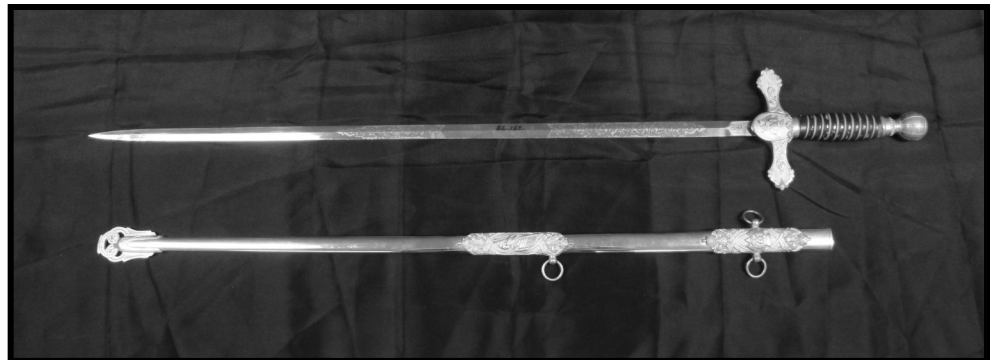
The organization's most unique feature was its system of promotion. Only the humblest of individuals would reach the highest rankings within the order. They would be promoted based solely upon their own good merits and endeavors.

One of their great achievements in history was establishing the Globe Hospital, which opened on July 1, 1902. Today it is known as Freeport Memorial Hospital.

The creator of the Knights, Dr. William W. Krape, was born in 1847 on a farm near Orangeville, IL. During the Civil War, he enlisted as a private in the 46<sup>th</sup> IL Volunteer Infantry Co. A, serving for two years. After the war he attended the University of Wisconsin. He entered into the dentistry profession at the age of 26. He taught school for the Orangeville school district for many years. He also was the general manager for the Freeport Daily Standard newspaper, and president of the Cosmopolitan Life Insurance Company. Before creating the Knights of the Globe, he was affiliated with many fraternal organizations and secret societies. He was a well-respected leader of the community. Krape park is named in his honor.

Pictured below is an ornate ceremonial sword with the words "Knights of the Globe" engraved on the blade. The sword also shows the heart and crossed swords insignia of the order upon it. These intriguing artifacts are part of Stephenson County Historical Society's collection.

Ceremonial sword of the Knights of the Globe, complete with engraved insignia and title.



## TAYLOR GLASS PLATE NEGATIVE COLLECTION

*The photos featured here are from the large collection of glass plate negatives that were recently digitized by the SCHS. It is believed that most of the photos were taken by Frank Bass, husband of Charissa Taylor. Frank lived at the Taylor home with Charissa from 1907 to his death in 1929. Before moving to Freeport he was a professional photographer.*



**Winter Scenes from Bohemiana, Home of the Taylor Family**

## A RARE ARTIFACT COMES HOME TO FREEPORT

In May of this year, the museum was contacted by Gerald Strohecker of Pearl City. Mr. Strohecker was calling because he had come into possession of a rare Crotty Brothers soda bottle, and wished to donate it to the museum.

The Crotty Brothers Soda Company was established in Freeport about 1870. It was located on the corner of Walnut and Jackson Streets in Freeport. The owners are listed as Lawrence R. and Thomas Z. Crotty. The brothers list their place of residence as - Thomas boarding at the Pennsylvania House Hotel, and Lawrence residing at the address of the soda company. The company can be found listed in the old Freeport business directories of 1870—1873. It does not appear in the 1869 directory. The museum is missing directories between 1874-1876, but by 1877 the company is no longer in business. There is however, a soda company by the name of Galloway and Snooks operating at this same location. It remains listed as soda manufacturing company at this address for the next fifteen years or more.

This type of early bottle is referred to as a "blob top." These types of bottles usually date from the 1840's to about 1890. The name comes from the manufacturing process. After the bottle was taken from the mold, a blob of glass was applied to the top and hand-tooled to form the shape. The bottle was usually capped with a cork plug and wire bail. Visible iron stains on this bottle show where the wire bail once sat. The Crotty Brothers bottle was manufactured by the A.&D.H. Chambers Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The bottle had been dug out of an alley in Dubuque, Iowa. It was found about 10 feet under the ground. The place where it was found was probably once an out-house or privy, which often was the place where household garbage was dumped.



Mr. Strohecker learned of the bottle about 5 years prior to the time of purchasing it. When the owner was finally ready to sell, Mr. Strohecker jumped at the chance to buy it and bring it back to Freeport. He thinks it may be the only surviving bottle from this company. The SCHS is very grateful to Mr. Strohecker for his willingness to purchase this rare bottle and donate it to the museum where it will be safely preserved for future generations.



This plain, unassuming bottle provides an important link to Freeport's past.