

# THE CASS COUNTY HISTORIAN

Published by: CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jul/Aug/Sep 2018

Newsletter 143

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**CCHGS Officers and Board Members:** President, Tammy Rockwell; Vice-President, Kay Patterson; Secretary, Marke Bobbitt; Treasurer, Charles Taylor. Other members: Janet Handy Martin and Kathy Roegge.



## Spanish Influenza in Illinois

(Compiled by Tammy Rockwell)

This year marks the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the deadliest outbreak of influenza in modern history, the great Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918. The first of three waves of flu started in the United States when in March of 1918 Private Albert Gitchell at Fort Riley, Kansas went to the camp hospital complaining of a fever, sore throat and a headache. By the end of the day, more than 100 soldiers became ill and by the end of the next week there were 522 cases of influenza reported. A total of 46 died that spring at Fort Riley. When the second wave hit Illinois in September of 1918, which would prove to be the deadliest, it started at the Great Lakes Naval Station. During the next few weeks around 5 percent of those at the base would die. It would reach downstate Illinois several weeks later.

The following article from the October 16, 1918 edition of the Illinoian Star describes the situation at the time and how it affected Illinois and Cass County.

## Beardstown Theatres Closed On Account Of Influenza Epidemic

OVER 170,000 CASES IN THE STATE AT PRESENT TIME

OVER 2,500 DEATHS REPORTED IN STATE

Board of Education to Meet Tonight to Review the Situation as Affects Public Schools

Notice was posted at the two picture theaters today, giving public notice that the places would be closed due to the general state-wide order of the department of Public Health of the State of Illinois.

?\_\_\_ Goodell in announcing the closure of these places, until the epidemic subsides, stated that the official order had not yet been received from the state officials, but in view of the general action throughout the state, and following a conference with Mayor Harris it was decided to discontinue all shows for the present.

Ad bills announced at the theater for the present have been cancelled.

The Board of Education was to have held a meeting last night but because of the illness of some of the members the session could not be held but Pres White said today he expected to get the Board together this evening when in addition to other business the influenza situation as it affects the public schools will be discussed.

**(SPECIAL TO THE ILLINOIAN STAR)**

Chicago, Oct. 15—The result of a state-wide survey by telegraph of every Illinois community of 1,000 population or over, given out here tonight by Dr. C. St. Clair Drake, director of the state department of public health, show that 227 cities

and towns in Illinois have been hit by the epidemic of Spanish Influenza. The number of cases reported in those 227 communities is 55,726 of which 17,943 are in Chicago and 37,782 are down state. There have been 2,264 deaths from influenza and pneumonia in Chicago and 401 in the down state communities which have been reported.

From the information we now have said Dr. Drake, "We believe that every community in Illinois will be affected by influenza before the epidemic subsides. On the basis of this report which reached us today, we estimate that there are now more than 170,000 cases in the state outside of Chicago."

An analysis of the influenza situation in Chicago today shows that the epidemic has not reached its crest here. For the week ending September 23 there were 699 cases reported in Chicago with 170 deaths. During the week ending October 7 there were 106 cases reported with 627 deaths. The week which ended October 14 produced 1,223 cases and 1,491 deaths. The total number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia in Chicago during the past three weeks was 1,264 compared with an average of 150 for the same period during the past five years.

Although the situation is bad in many down state communities, it will get worse before it gets better according to members of the state influenza commission which meets daily.

The town of Assumption in Christian county, with a population of 1,918 has reported 500 cases and has called for help. There are only four doctors and one registered nurse in the town.

Greenup with a population of 1,224 reported 400 cases. Two doctors live in Greenup and both are ill with influenza. Peoria reports 10,000 cases and Rockford 6,000. In Peoria, two emergency hospitals have been equipped and in Rockford, medical help has been loaned from Camp Grant where the epidemic is rapidly being brought under control.

More than 1,200 cases have been reported in Kankakee, Cairo reported 500, Marengo, with a population of 872

reported 496 cases and has asked for the help of outside doctors and nurses. Nokomis, which has a population of 1,973, has reported over 600 cases with no hospital facilities available. Bloomington reports 1,200 cases with 11 deaths.

The State Health Department urges extreme care in order to prevent so far as possible the needless further spread of the contagion. All persons are urged to keep away from crowds to avoid the person who sneezes, coughs, or spits without covering the face with a cloth and to consult a physician immediately upon the first symptom of what may seem to be an ordinary cold.

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People were urged to avoid anyone who was coughing or sneezing, or spitting. Smoking was prohibited in places to prevent spitting in public, and those caught spitting were arrested. It was even prohibited in some places for persons other than the immediate family to attend funerals. A white sheet hanging from the clothesline was a telltale sign that a death had occurred in the household. By the time the epidemic was all over it would have infected thousands from Cass County and a total 79 people would have perished from influenza or pneumonia. This would not count the numerous boys who served in the military from Cass County who would succumb to the virus.

(Sources from above were taken from a compilation found on the websites Genealogy Trails, Mid-America Center for Public Health Practice and the Illinoisian Star, Beardstown, IL)

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## Virginia News Notes

(Illinois State Register - October 12, 1918)  
(Robert Jones, Correspondent)

Virginia, October 12 - Of the 400 cases of Spanish Influenza known to exist in Cass County, about fifty are in Chandlerville, where numerous deaths have occurred. The entire village is under quarantine and all public gatherings prohibited. R. J. Humphrey, a baker, died there on Wednesday night, and others are in a critical condition. Beardstown and Virginia do not consider the situation serious enough for drastic measures as yet.



## Bluff Springs to Have New Grain Elevator and Office

(Illinoian Star-February 26, 1948)

### Frank H Trussell Announces Building Plans; New Directors Named

The board of directors of the Bluff Springs Farmers Elevator Company has decided upon construction in the near future of a new grain elevator, new office building and new scales at an approximate cost of \$100,000.

Frank Wessel, local contractor, is now making plans for the construction of a brick office building just east of the present office. When the office is finished and new scales installed it is hoped that a cement elevator with a capacity of about 50,000 bushels can be build west of the present elevator.

The new elevator will be about 120 feet high according to present plans.

Frank H. Trussell who is secretary-treasurer of the Bluff Springs Company says that the firm has hopes of having the new buildings ready within a year-by the time soybeans start coming in next fall.

The Bluff Springs Farmers Elevator Company was incorporated in 1908 and the present elevator was finished in 1918.

The year 1947 was one of the company's most successful. Mr. Trussell says that sales for the 12 month period totaled \$1,492,161.34. A total of 767,193 bushels of grain were handled in 1947, as compared to 531,060 in 1946.

Mr. Trussell has managed the business for the past 25 years, since

1923. His assistant is Fred W Daniel, who has been with the company 5½ years.

The company recently named Oswell Jokisch as president and Harry Knight as vice president, with Myron Kloker, Claude Davis, Gilbert Lebkuecher, and William Sweatman as members of the board of directors.

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## Little Indian

(History of Cass County, Illinois edited by William Henry Perrin, 1882)

Little Indian Village, or Station, is located on the Peoria, Pekin & Jacksonville Railroad, about four miles south of Virginia. It stands on the northwest quarter of section 35, township 17, range 10, and is but little else than a shipping station on the railroad. It has never been laid out as a village and, indeed, makes no pretensions to that dignity. Jacob Epler was the first white man to locate near the place, and afterward James Stevenson settled there. A burying-ground was laid out very early, where the water-tank of the railroad now stands. Human bones were exhumed, when the road was being built, and were buried at Zion Church, about a mile distant.

Little Indian merely comprises a railroad station, a shipping point, one store and a Swedish church. Mr. Stevenson is the agent of the railroad here, and has been ever since its completion and opening to business.

### Did You Know?

*Cass County was formed in 1837 out of Morgan County and was named in honor of Lewis Cass, who was once a general in the War of 1812, Governor of the Michigan Territory, and had served as the 22<sup>nd</sup> United States Secretary of State in 1860. Just before the County was named, Cass was serving as Andrew Jackson's Secretary of War.*

## VIRGINIA HOUSE BURNS

(Illinois State Register-October 21, 1918)

### THOMAS MALLICOAT AND FAMILY ESCAPE IN NIGHT CLOTHING.

#### STATE REGISTER SPECIAL SERVICE

Virginia, Ill; , Dec. 22 -A large frame house owned by C. F. Carlson and occupied by Thomas Mallicoat and family on the corner of Cass street and Sylvan avenue was totally destroyed by fire last night. The trouble originated in an overheated flue. Only a small part of Mr. Mallicoat's household effects were saved. The family escaped in their night clothing. Mr. Carlson carried insurance amounting to \$1,200. The fire department was on the scene promptly, but the fire was already beyond control.

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### Ernest Pauley Dies at Training Camp

(Illinois State Register-October 21, 1918)

#### STATE REGISTER SPECIAL SERVICE

VIRGINIA, Oct. 20. - Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Pauley, living north of this city, have been notified of the death of their only son, Ernest Pauley, at a training camp near New York City, his death due to the epidemic of Spanish Influenza. The young man was 24 years of age and leaves a widow, formerly Miss Margaret Boss of this place, to whom he was married in December 1917. Mr. Pauley, father of the young soldier, went east this month and visited with his son, who expected to be sent overseas in the near future. The body will be returned to his home here for burial.

*"For every fog in August, there will be a snowfall."*

*Old Farmer's Almanac*



### A Country Kitchen, 1850-1910

(Article by Catherine Collins taken from Reminiscences of Virginia by Edited by Catherine Collins)

A glance into the kitchen of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century brought feelings of warmth and friendliness. The shiny wood floors spoke a note of well-being and comfort. The crocheted rugs and wainscoted wall extended a warm welcome to the visitor. The wall lamp shed a comfortable glow, and the tick-tock of the clock added a note of friendliness. The dry sink along the wall stood ready to receive an occasional tray of soiled dishes or a pan of watermelon peel from the fruit soon to appear on the table as preserves or pickles.

The oven of the wood or coal burning range had no need of a thermometer as the housewife determined its heat by opening the door. The range with its copper water tank supplied hot water for the occasional washing up of baking pans. At the side of the range a wood box furnished fuel for the baking of bread or cooking of a meal. The range was built with a warming oven that kept the fried chicken warm when the men folks were late to dinner. The pie cupboard with its screened openings in the side wall was the convenient place for those baked in the early morning for the noon meal.

On the table stood cookbooks offering help in canning, baking and cooking. Recipes from a well-thumbed receipt book call for pounds of sugar and butter, dozens of eggs, spices and salt to taste. The blue book of canning was a necessary guide in

canning the gallons of fruit, preserves and pickles.

Around the kitchen a plate rail displayed decorated plates. In the evening a bracket lamp cast a rather dim light over the activities of the kitchen. A necessary part of the kitchen was the comb case and comb necessary for hasty grooming before a meal.

Other items in that kitchen of long ago were the water bucket and dipper and the matchbox.

Remembering this beautiful kitchen with its copper utensils and shiny wooden cabinets we have the sobering thought this kitchen represents a different kind of housekeeping from that of today with it electric refrigerator, running water, frozen foods, and microwave ovens and air conditioning. The modern housewife has gained efficiency but lost some of the beauty and warmth of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century kitchen.

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**World War I Veterans  
Buried in  
Ashland Cemetery in Cass  
County**

**(Name/Branch of Service/Death Date)  
(Honor Roll of Cass County, State of Illinois,  
Illinois Veterans Commission, 1956)**

- Roland Lee Anderson - Army ROTC - 5 May 1948
- Harry C. Bailey - 25 February 1927
- Henry Burleigh - Army - 15 April 1924
- Clarence E. Carter - Army - 23 December 1935
- Ryal W. Caswell - USMC - 1920
- Paul Adair Clayton - Navy - 8 May 1948
- Edward Davisson - Army - 21 December 1944
- William Glenn Drake - Army - 17 March 1933
- Fred Joseph Gillmore - USMC - 10 November 1951
- Elmer J. Hinds - Army - 4 May 1949
- Earl Leslie Holmes - Army - 31 March 1933

- Ernest Barton Houser - Army - 5 November 1939
- James W. Hudson - Army - 14 June 1927
- Enoch A. King - Army - 28 August 1940
- Grove Cleveland Lewis - Army - 9 October 1952
- William H. Lockett - Army - 24 June 1959
- Galen McCawley - Army - 9 January 1929
- George H. Pettit - Army - 15 October 1918
- Joseph R. Price - Army - 1 May 1951
- Walter Albert Ratliff - Army - 26 January 1950
- Melvin E. Strauch - Army - 5 March 1943
- Guy Thompson - Army - 15 January 1955
- John Wesselman - Army - 10 September 1930

**Note: There are probably other men buried in Ashland Cemetery who have not been recognized in this list. (CCHGS)**

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**Rowland Crum from Virginia, Cass County, Illinois served in World War I.**

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## Dr. Chandler's Arrival in Cass County

(Excerpt from History of Beardstown and Cass County  
by Mrs. T. J. Schweer, 1925)

This incident recalls the fact of how Dr. Chandler came here. He left Rhode Island where he had a good practice in his profession and a new house which he had just built, and started west with his family with the intention of settling at Fort Clark where Peoria now stands. When the steamer upon which he camp up the Illinois River arrived at Beardstown the hostile attitude of the Indians in the vicinity and the preparation for a general Indian war induced the captain to discharge his passengers and freight at Beardstown, thinking it unsafe to go any farther north with his boat. While here Dr. Chandler took a ride up the Sangamon bottom with Thomas Beard and he was so well pleased with that part where Chandlerville now stands that he determined to go no farther north and settle there. This was in the spring of 1832. The bottom of the bluffs had burned over and new fresh green grass and beautiful flowers had sprung up and the trees and vines and shrubbery were dressed in their most inviting foliage, indeed it was a most beautiful sight. Later he took his wife and a little daughter to see their future home and they too were delighted with it. So the doctor entered sixty acres of land that spring and although it was late in the spring he raised a crop of buck-wheat upon it. There was a universal custom among the settlers at that time that every man should be entitled to eighty acres of land on each side of the land already entered by him. He could have the right to this land until he was able to enter it at \$1.25 per acre from the government, and it was considered stealing for another man to claim it.

Shortly after this a man named English came to this vicinity to settle. He too was much pleased with the prospect of living in this new

country. The Doctor assisted and befriended him all he could offering to give up his claim to one-half of the eighty acres tract next to the land that English wanted and let him enter it. English told the Doctor that he was going to Springfield and enter the whole tract that he did not care for the customs of the country, that he was going to have it right or wrong, and started for Springfield. All the Doctor's efforts to keep him from doing it availed nothing. The Doctor went to his cabin and looked over his little pile of money and found that he had fifty dollars. He thought that his neighbor might have some money and so he saddled his best horse. He rode to this man's house and borrowed fifty dollars more. Thus provided, he took a different route through the woods and prairies from that chose by English and putting his horse to his best speed started for the land office.

When about ten miles from Springfield, Dr. Chandler over took two young men on horseback and as his horse was foaming with perspiration and really tired out he rode slowly along with the young men, as well to rest his horse as to relate to them the cause of his haste. When he told them of the meanness of the man, one of the young men was so indignant that he offered the Doctor his own fresh horse that he might make all hast and thwart the efforts of English, while the young man would ride the Doctor's horse slowly into town. But the Doctor rode his own horse, got safely to the land office and entered the land before English got there. Sometime after that he wanted to have his land surveyed and the country surveyor lived at Jacksonville but a neighbor told him that there was a better surveyor at Salem in Sangamon County named Abraham Lincoln. So the Doctor sent for him and when he came with his implements to do the surveying the Doctor found that Abraham Lincoln, the surveyor, was the same young man that had so kindly offered to lend him his horse so that he might defeat the rascally man named English.

## Cass County Marriages

The first known marriages recorded in Cass County began in August 1837. The Cass County Historical & Genealogical Society has books of marriage records available to purchase which cover the years 1837 through 1950. There were no marriages recorded, however, from 10 December 1874 to 17 June 1875 in the Cass County Courthouse, probably because this was the period of confusion regarding the moving of the official records of Cass County from Beardstown back to Virginia. It appears that these records during these dates were lost or destroyed or were never recorded for one reason or another. Some of the early marriages are listed below. The names have not been changed as they were originally written.

- Elijah Anderson & Sophia Armstrong - 17 August 1837
- Meedy White & Nancy Kesterson - 17 August 1837
- Elijah Davis & Elizabeth Shoopman - 23 August 1837
- Thomas Greenberry Collins & Mary Shoopman - 28 September 1837
- Rufus I. Harvey & Sarah R. Oakley - 15 October 1837
- Robert Lindsey & Lucy Brown - 21 October 1837
- Mortiz Kallenbach & Christiana Jockisch - 24 October 1837
- John McKown & Harriett Boasman - 30 October 1837
- William C. Miller & Sarah Cook - 28 September 1837
- Edmond Hensley & Matilda Pate - 24 November 1837
- David B. Lamberson & Sarah A. Harvey - 28 November 1837

- William Richey & Mary Cannon - 12 November 1837
- Luther M. Outten & Lucinda L. Beadles - 21 December 1837
- Thomas Buck & Julia Hardy - 21 December 1837
- Henry G. Sattorius & Sophia Catherine Brauer - 24 November 1837

## Illinois News

### Illinois State Genealogical Conference 2018

"Celebrating our Ancestors" is this year's theme for the Illinois State Genealogical Conference that will be held October 26 & 27, 2018 in Springfield. The conference will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel (Hilton) in downtown Springfield. The featured speaker is Thomas W. Jones.

Many interesting and varied topics are offered during the two day event including:

- Planning An Exhaustive Search
- Identifying Female Ancestors
- Pandemics, Epidemics, and Diseases
- Techniques for Using Jewishgen.org
- Where Did Grandpa Live? Mapping Your Ancestors
- Navigating the Illinois State Archives System
- Researching African Americans along the IL & MO River Road
- Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortages
- Why They Left, Where They Went, and What Their Journeys Can Reveal

- Illinois County Resources Primer
- Go Paperless! Organize Your Genealogical Research
- Beyond Names & Dates: Filling in the Stories of our Female Ancestors
- Systematically Using Autosomal DNA Test Results to Break Through Genealogical Brick Walls
- Solving Problems Using Indirect Evidence
- Over the River & Through the Arch
- Proven Organizing & Time Saving Techniques
- Solving Problems with Original Records
- Voting Records: Genealogy's Best Kept Secret
- No Response? No Problem! Learning More About Your DNA Matches
- Will the Real Warren Harris Please Stand Up?
- Are You My Cousin?
- ....and lots more

Check out Illinois State Genealogical Conference 2018 at <https://ilgensoc.org/> to register for this event.

### News from the Illinois State Museum

The Cass County Historical & Genealogical Society recently received a notice from Erika Holst, Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield announcing a new exhibit the museum is working on that will highlight immigrants who came to Illinois from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. Erika and her staff are reaching out to Illinois residents and asking them to share photos and information about the first person in their family who came to Illinois. All the photos they collect will be incorporated into a

photo mural at the museum that will be exhibited from February 23<sup>rd</sup> through about June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Photos must be submitted via email by December 15, 2018 to [erika.holst@illinois.gov](mailto:erika.holst@illinois.gov). The following information should be included: immigrant's name, birth and death dates, country of origin, year arrived in Illinois, occupation and nominator's name. You may also write a brief biography and include additional information as well. Photos should be between 150 and 300 dpi (dots per inch) at 100 percent. If you submit a photo(s) and information to the Illinois State Museum for this project, would you also send one to our society at [cchgs@casscomm.com](mailto:cchgs@casscomm.com)? Thank you!

## CCHGS ANNUAL NUT SALE

Sept. 14, 2018-

Oct. 14, 2018



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**AS OUR CHILDREN GO BACK TO  
SCHOOL, PLEASE KNOW THAT  
CCHGS STAFF WOULD BE HAPPY TO  
HELP ANY OF THEM WITH SPECIAL  
PROJECTS ABOUT CASS COUNTY  
HISTORY OR THEIR FAMILIES!**

**EMAIL US AT**

**[cchgs@casscomm.com](mailto:cchgs@casscomm.com)**

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**From the Desk**

As the leaves start to turn and the days become shorter our thoughts turn to cooler weather and outdoor fall festivals. One of the festivals that is coming up shortly is the **2018 Arenzville Burgoo that will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in Arenzville, IL.** So if you're out looking for that elusive ancestor's grave or simply want to enjoy some outdoor festivities, why not stop by and try some of that famous Arenzville Burgoo! Also, the **Beardstown Fall Fun Festival** will be coming up on the last full weekend in September **(Sept 29 & 30)**

We have been blessed with many donations since the last newsletter from various sources: A set of Willie Peck's Gas Pump Salt and Pepper Shakers to display in our museum from Colleen Burlingame; Several reference books for our genealogy library from Shirley Launer; photos and newspaper clippings from Katherine Beatty, flash drives with cemetery pictures from Bob Daniel; a quilting loom from Rick Stone; and various other items for our research room and museum. Thanks to all who donated items!

We would like to invite everyone to stop by our office and check out our new items and maybe do a little research while you're here. If you are interested in doing research for a family or family member but are unable to do research on your own, or just do not have the time, the society will gladly do research for you from all the resources we have available at the office for **\$20**. That includes our research time, copies of everything we find, and postage.

**Our Annual Nut Sale kicks off on September 14 and runs until**

October 14, 2018. For your convenience we have attached an order form for you below. If you have any questions, please contact us at 217-452-7977 or email us at [cchgs@casscomm.com](mailto:cchgs@casscomm.com). A form will also be posted to our Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support of the society!

**CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
NUT SALE**

(Sept. 14 – Oct. 14, 2018)

**ORDER FORM**

All Choices are in One Pound Bags  
\$12.00 per pound bag

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Price</b>
____ Pecan Halves.....	_____
____ Medium Pecan Pieces.....	_____
____ Light Walnut Halves & Pieces...	_____
____ Black Walnut Pieces.....	_____
____ Whole Cashews.....	_____
____ Praline Pecans .....	_____
<b>____ Total Quantity</b>	<b>Total _____</b>

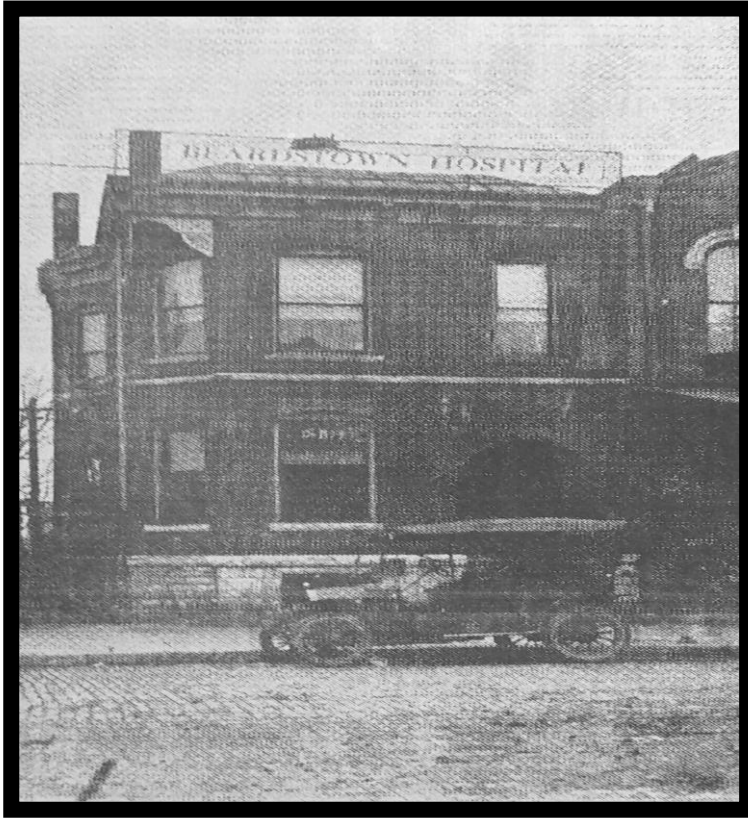
Please return this order form and **Make checks payable to: CCHGS (Cass Co. Historical)**

109 S Front Street  
Virginia, IL 62691  
(217) 452-7977

Can be shipped to you for additional \$3.00 per bag

**PAYMENT is due upon ordering**

**Thank you for your support!!**



First Hospital in Beardstown taken in early 1900s

Cass County Historical & Genealogical Society  
109 S Front Street  
Virginia, IL 62691