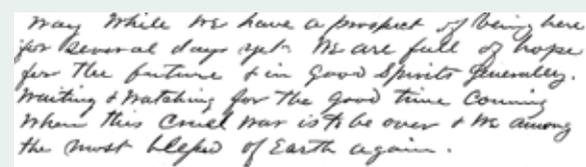


Access to Civil War letters made possible by grant

In its continuing effort to preserve local history, Batavia Public Library recently completed a Civil War Letters and Diaries Digitization Project. The project included the transcription and digitization of letters and diaries written by Batavia soldiers, chronicling their experiences from 1861 to 1865, as well as letters from family and friends to the soldiers, which provide perspectives from the home front.

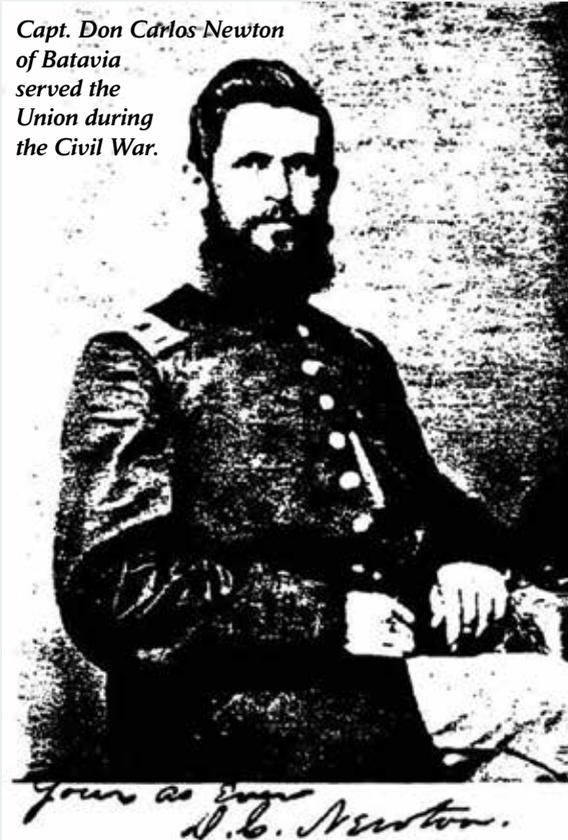
The collection contains numerous letters between Captain Don Carlos Newton (52nd Illinois) and his wife, Mary M. Newton, providing an intimate look at their lives. There are also letters between the Newtons and others during the War. Newton's regiment was involved in the Battle of Shiloh, Sherman's March to the Sea, and many other engagements. The collection also contains the letters and diary of G. W. Young (124th Illinois), and three diaries by Fred Morris (124th Illinois). Young's diary reports his experiences during the historically significant Vicksburg Campaign. Morris's diary covers 1864–1865, during which time his regiment saw action in Mississippi and Alabama.

Digitization provides 24/7 access to the letters and diaries—which are in fragile condition—to Batavians, Civil War researchers, and people interested in the actions of Illinois regiments. Over 150 years after the Civil War's end, interest in the topic remains high among the general public. The letters and diaries are full-text searchable.



The project is a collaboration of the Library, the Batavia Depot Museum, and the Batavia Historical Society; the latter organization owns the letters and diaries. It was supported in part by an award from the

Capt. Don Carlos Newton of Batavia served the Union during the Civil War.



Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records Administration Board. The labor-intensive proofreading of 1,195 pages of material was completed by Library employees and a number of volunteers from the Board of Library Trustees, Friends of the Batavia Public Library, the Batavia Public Library Foundation, and the Batavia Historical Society.

The letters and diaries also were microfilmed, for the purposes of preservation.

To take a look at these personal and historical documents, visit BataviaHistory.org > Local History > Batavia's Civil War History.

Under the Cupola

Batavia's Library: Part 2, 1867–1869

This year marks the sesquicentennial of library service in Batavia, 1866–2016, a time to celebrate “A new story...150 years in the making”!

In October 1866, as noted in Part 1, the Batavia Lyceum Association, an organization of young men, appointed Salem B. Town and C. R. Williams as a committee to confer with the Sigourney Society, an organization of young women, in regard to “the books.” The committee reported that the ladies decided to let the Batavia Lyceum Association have half of the books by paying \$10.00, which was done. The ladies requested that both societies should have free access to the books.

In late December 1866, George C. Partridge (1813–1893), insurance agent and former pastor of the Congregational Church of Batavia, consented to take charge of the library and keep the books in his store on the Island so that both societies would have access to them.

In March 1867, a committee composed of members of both societies met to draft a constitution for the Batavia Library Association, “an association for mutual improvement and for the collection of a library,” as well as to write rules and regulations to govern the use of what they called “our books.” Members of the

Library Association, which included all members of the Batavia Lyceum Association and the Sigourney Society, paid a \$5.00 lifetime membership and a yearly tax from which books were purchased.

The Batavia Library Association held public exercises on Friday evening, 3 May 1867, at Institute Hall. It was the third membership library established in Kane County; the Elgin Library Association was founded in 1846, the Aurora Library Association in 1864.

The Association held regular meetings in the residences of the members and a librarian was elected yearly along with other officers. “Mr. Wolcott took charge of the books” in October 1867 “until the appointment of a librarian.”

The first librarians (February 1868–August 1869) were, variously, the Wolcott brothers, Seymour A. (1847–1940)—a Civil War veteran—and William A. (1849–1944), at first individually, then jointly and severally. At the time, they both lived with their family on the east side of Batavia Avenue, south of Union Avenue.

The Batavia Library Association was incorporated in June 1869. *(to be continued)*

George H. Scheetz
Director

New trustee named to Library board

Jo Ann Smith was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Library Trustees of the Batavia Public Library. Smith began her one-year term of office in May. She is serving on the board's Facilities and Outreach Committees.

Smith retired in January from a 10-year career as a technology consultant in higher education. Prior to that, Smith was a professor of computer science at the University of St. Francis, Joliet; College of DuPage; and Harper College. She worked nine years for AT&T Bell Laboratories, and was a junior high school teacher. Smith earned a B.S. in Education at the University of Dayton and an M.S. degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Smith and her husband Ray have lived in Batavia for 16 years and have been active members of the Friends of the Batavia Public Library for 14 years. Smith has served as the Friends' president, vice president, and publicity chairperson.

Smith was appointed to fill the vacancy left by trustee Francine McGuire-Popeck, who resigned earlier this year.



The Library will be closed:

Monday, July 4
Friday, August 26

Library Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 am–9 pm
Friday and Saturday 9 am–5 pm
Sunday 12–5 pm (Sept.–May)
Sunday 1–4 pm (June–Aug.)

Telephone

630-879-1393
Fax: 630-879-9118
TTY: 630-879-8335
Home Delivery:
630-879-1393, ext. 290

Library Director

George H. Scheetz

Library Trustees

Douglas Sullivan, *President*
Diane Blodgett, *Vice President*
Cara Schuster, *Secretary*
Tom Von Lunen, *Treasurer*
Andrew Deitchman
Richard Henders
Jo Ann Smith

Programs and activities for youth

Registration Information: Stop by or call the Youth Services Desk, 630-879-1393, ext. 500, for more information and to register. Priority is given to Batavia Public Library cardholders for all programs requiring registration. Registration for July programs is now in progress. Registration for August programs begins Aug. 1. Note: Patrons of all abilities are welcome at Library programs. Please contact the Library regarding accommodations.

Advance registration is required for programs designated 

For Babies, Tots & Preschoolers

Baby & Tot Storytime

Fri., July 1 & 22, 10am
Babies and tots through 35 months with a caregiver. Drop in for songs, rhymes, and stories. We ask that outside care arrangements be made for older siblings. Batavia Public Library card required.

Lap Sit Storytime

Tues., July 5 & 19, 10am
Ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Stories, rhymes, and more.

ABC Storytime

Thurs., July 7, 10am
Wed., July 20, 10am
Ages 3-6

Activities, Books, and Craft program for children without a caregiver.

Signing Fun

Fri., July 8, 10am

Ages 0-18 months with a caregiver

Fri., July 8, 11am

Ages 18-36 months with a caregiver

Licensed sign language interpreter Sheryl Ebersold demonstrates how to incorporate sign language into daily activities with signs, songs, and more. Space is limited.

Baby Storytime

Tues., July 12 & 26, 11am

Babies through 23 months with a caregiver

Interactive program for babies with stories, rhymes, and music.

Beanbags, Shakers, and Scarves

Mon., July 25, 10am

Ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Toddlers will feel the rhythm in this interactive class that incorporates

beanbags, shakers, and scarves with music and movement. They will practice following directions as they shake the sillies out.

Early Literacy Fun & Games

Fri., Aug. 5, 10am

Babies and toddlers through 36 months. Thirty minutes of stories, songs, rhymes, and games that promote early literacy.

For Students

American Girl Party

Tues., July 5, 2pm

Ages 6-9

Fans of the American Girl series are cordially invited for games, activities, and refreshments. Dolls are welcome, too. Please inform staff of any food allergies when registering.

Book Buddies

Wed., July 6, 11am

Thurs., July 14, 2pm

Thurs., July 21, 11am

Fri., July 29, 11am

Ages 6-8

Young readers will be partnered with Junior Volunteers for approximately one hour of reading. This program focuses on book-sharing rather than tutoring. Please register for each date child will attend.

Creative Cartooning

Thurs., July 7, 1pm

Ages 8-12

Cartoonist Mark Anderson shares cartooning tech-

niques and guides students as they create their own cartoons. Participants can learn to draw expressive cartoon faces, write jokes, and sketch bodies in motion. Templates will be provided for students to use and take home.

Yarn & Tale

Wed., July 13-Aug. 10,

3-4:15pm

Ages 8-14

Bring #10 knitting needles or a G/H crochet hook and join us as we listen to a tale. All skill levels welcome; beginning instruction and yarn provided.

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course

Wed., July 6,

9:30am-5pm

Thurs., July 21,

9:30am-5pm

Ages 11-15

A 7.5-hour training course in which students learn basic babysitting skills and how to deal with emergencies. Participants must attend entire session. Due to the popularity of this program a lottery drawing is held. (The July 6 class is filled.) A lottery drawing will be held on July 8, for the July 21 class. Sponsored by the Batavia Library Foundation.

Anybook Club

Wed., July 20, 1pm

Grades 4-8

Join us for snacks, games, and book-related banter. Talk about books you've read, and hear about some



SRC families can enjoy a show and learn how to juggle from Mike Vondruska, July 28.

Olympic Preview

Thurs., July 28, 11am

Ages 4-7

The Summer Olympics are about to begin. Make an Olympic flag and Olympic torch and have your picture taken on our "gold medal platform."

Paws for Tales

Sat., July 16 & 30,

10am-11:30am

Grades 1-4

Children are invited to practice their reading skills by reading aloud to a specially trained therapy dog. Register for a 15-minute time slot. Due to the limited space and popularity of this program, we ask that participants register for only one of the two dates offered in July. Sponsored by the Naperville Area Humane Society.

Book Gems

Tues., July 19, 2pm

Grades 2-3

Me Oh Maya!

by Jon Scieszka

Book club and activities for young readers. Registration required; reserve a copy of the book when registering.

Duct Tapin' Time

Wed., July 27,

10:30am-12pm

Ages 7-14

Create a lanyard with card case from duct tape using our step-by-step instructions. Parents of inexperienced duct tapers

you might like. No need to read anything in particular, just come to enjoy book-related activities.

Lego® Fun

Wed., July 13, 6:30pm

Tues., Aug. 9, 11am

Ages 4-10

Use Library Lego blocks to make a creation that will be displayed in the Library. Children age 6 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Batavia Public Library card required; space is limited.

Olympic Fever—Brazil

Mon., July 11, 11am

Grades 4-8

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is the setting for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. Join us for a trip to Brazil without leaving Batavia. Learn what makes the Olympic Games special and about the people, culture, language, and natural beauty of Brazil from Jenn Trott, who lived in Brazil for more than 10 years.

Sports Trivia

Mon., Aug. 1, 2pm

Ages 7-14

Test your knowledge of things related to sports and the Olympic games. Join us for fun and prizes.

are encouraged to stay and help. Bring your favorite duct tape and scissors.

For Families

Drop-In Craft

Catch-It Cone

Sat., July 9, 10am-12pm

Olympic Torch

Tues., Aug. 2,

10am-12pm

Children age 6 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Chess Knight

Tues., July 5-Aug. 2,

7pm

Ages 8 through adult. Participants should have a basic knowledge of the game.

Gina Marie's Singsong Yoga

Thurs., July 14, 10:30am

Families with children ages 2-8

Gina Slager incorporates her original music, yoga, breathing, storytelling, and imagination in this program. Yoga and breathing allow children to redirect their energy in a positive way. Sing, dance, breathe, and relax with Gina. Doors to the Founders Room open at 10:15am.

Movies at the Library

Mon., July 11, 6:30pm

Thurs., Aug. 11, 11am

Please call the Library for movie title, length, and rating.

Game of the Week

Please note ages for specific game days.

Registration required for Mancala only.

Create a

Family Board Game

Fri., July 8, 2pm

Families

Mancala

Fri., July 15, 11am

Ages 8-14

Make & Take Bingo

Mon., July 18, 11am

Families

Game Day

Mon., July 25, 2pm

All ages

Sports Bingo

Mon., Aug. 15, 11am

Ages 3-14

30/30 Juggling Show

Thurs., July 28, 7pm

Mike Vondruska brings his 30/30 Juggling Show to the Library. Enjoy a 30-minute juggling performance, followed by 30 minutes of beginner juggling instruction! Doors to the Founders Room open at 6:45pm.



Kids love to read to dogs during the Paws for Tales program.

Summer Reading Club 2016

June 4-Aug. 3

There's still time to join the Summer Reading Club. Stop by the Youth Services Desk to register. Logbook deadline is Wed., Aug. 3, 9pm.



Programs for adults and teens

Registration Information: Registration is required for some programs; please call the Reference Desk, 630-879-1393, ext. 200, or register online at BataviaPublicLibrary.org.

Advanced registration is required for programs designated 

Feature Programs



Tom Sharpe performs July 10.

Tom Sharpe in Concert

Sun., July 10, 2pm

Tom Sharpe, prize-winning composer and drummer for Mannheim Steamroller, performs his own original music on keyboard, drums, and a variety of other instruments—all at once! This performance is a percussive symphony—a sonic and visual feast for the senses.

An Army for Eternity: China's Terracotta Warriors

Wed., July 20, 7pm

Throughout 2016, Chicago's Field Museum hosts a rare tour of ancient terracotta figures from the tomb of China's first emperor. In this slide lecture, art historian Jeff Mishur talks about the process used to create these figures and the other objects in this exhibition of ancient artifacts and their relationship to China's imperial past.

Summer Songwriter Workshop and Performance Series

Co-sponsored by the Fox Valley Music Foundation

Sat., July 23, 1–3pm

Professional musician Noah Gabriel discusses his songwriting process at 1pm and then performs his music at 2pm.

Sat., Aug. 27, 1–3pm

Professional musician Gerald Dowd discusses his songwriting process at 1pm and then performs his music at 2pm.

Genealogy Research

Whether you're just starting or would like help overcoming obstacles, a librarian will guide you in your genealogy research during a one-hour, one-on-one session. Available Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm.



Decorating Cupcakes

Tues., July 19, 7pm

Learn how to decorate cupcakes for summer parties and special events throughout the year from pastry chef Rose Deneen. Recipes and samples provided.

New Lyceum Lecture Series

The Batavia Public Library Foundation is the 2016-17 Season Sponsor

Surviving 9/11

Tues., Sept. 6, 7pm

Presenter Lt. Col. Ryan Yantis is a decorated survivor of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon. Hear his personal account of duty, providence, and overcoming challenges in the face of danger. Co-sponsored by Rotary Club of Batavia.

Questions & Ancestors Genealogy Series

File Organization

Thurs., Aug. 18, 7pm

Presenter Carole Magnuson demonstrates how to organize genealogy materials—library research, correspondence, family stories, documents, photos, downloads, and digital images—so that information can be found easily when needed. Learn how to reduce paper and how to format research to use as a foundation for a family history.

Sundays on Stage

The Batavia Public Library Foundation is the 2016 Season Sponsor.

Celebration of Chicago—Gangster Style!

Sun., July 31, 2pm

Jan and Gino of Soundz of Time take us back to the Roaring Twenties in Chicago—Al Capone's hangouts, Green Mill Club, Aragon Ballroom, Little Italy, Rush Street, Chicago Theater—performing the lively music of the era.



Jan and Gino perform hits from the Roaring Twenties, July 31.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Sun., Aug. 28, 2pm

Actress and scholar Leslie Goddard portrays Eleanor Roosevelt as she ponders accepting the invitation to become an American delegate to the new United Nations. As she considers her options, she shares stories of her childhood, her marriage to Franklin D. Roosevelt, her work during World War I, Franklin's bout with polio, coming to the White House in 1933, World War II, and Franklin's death.



Leslie Goddard portrays Eleanor Roosevelt, Aug. 28.

Monthly Programs

Book Discussion

Tues., Aug. 9, 7:30pm

The Soul of an Octopus

by Sy Montgomery

Octopuses have remarkably different personalities and are intelligent, affectionate, playful, and even sneaky (think Fido on the forbidden

couch after you leave the house).

An enchanting National Book Award finalist.

September book discussion selection:

The Whites by Harry Brandt

Adult Anime Club

Wed., July 27 & Aug. 24, 6:30–9pm

Adults ages 18 and older are invited to watch anime and meet other adult anime and manga enthusiasts.

Teen Programs

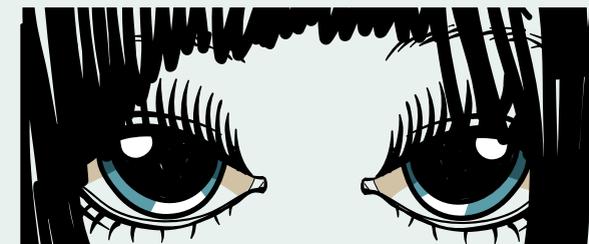
Advance registration is required for programs designated 

Fun Stuff

Inclusion Game Night

Wed., July 13 & Aug. 10, 6:30–8:30pm

Teens and young adults of all abilities—and their families and friends—are invited to meet new people and try out a board game or card game in a relaxed setting. High school volunteers are welcome.



Anime Club

Thurs., July 14 & Aug. 11, 6:30–8:30pm

Teens ages 13 and older are invited to watch anime, play games, and meet other anime and manga enthusiasts.

Inclusion Movie Night

Tues., July 26 & Aug. 23, 6:30–8:30pm

Teens and young adults of all abilities—and their families and friends—are welcome to meet new people and watch a movie in a relaxed setting.

Computer classes for adults

Registration Information: One-hour, hands-on computer classes. Basic computer skills, including mouse and keyboard proficiency, are required. Please call the Reference Desk, 630-879-1393, ext. 200

Advanced registration is required for programs designated 

Internet Classes

***Internet proficiency required:** _____

Searching the Internet*

Tues., July 19, 9am

Learn to use Google to find information. Learn search tips and how to evaluate Web sites.

Online Job Searching*

Thurs., Sept. 15, 9am

Learn helpful networking tips, as well as how to use a variety of online resources in your job search, including Indeed, LinkedIn, and employer websites. Required: Bring a digital copy of your up-to-date resume.

Digital Pictures*

Tues., Sept. 20, 9am

Learn how to remove digital photos from your camera or smartphone, edit them using Picasa, and send them to Flickr. Please bring your smartphone or camera, as well as your USB charging cable, to class.

Other Computer Classes

Introduction to Microsoft Word 2013, Part 1

Mon., July 18, 9am

Create documents and folders; edit; change font style and size, underline, italicize, make bold, and center text; and save.

Resume Writing Basics

Mon., Aug. 22, 9am

Microsoft Word 2013 resume templates. Internet proficiency required.

****Microsoft Word proficiency required:** _____

Introduction to Microsoft Word 2013, Part 2**

Mon., Aug. 8, 9am

Font and background colors; text boxes, clip art, and photos; bulleted and numbered lists; tables; lines, arrows, and autosshapes; page numbers; and page setup

Introduction to Microsoft Word 2013, Part 3**

Mon., Aug. 15, 9am

Headers and footers, section breaks, WordArt, page borders, footnotes, endnotes, tables, charts, and mail merge

Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2013, Part 1**

Tues., Aug. 23, 9am

Summation; formulas; data entry; autofill; print

Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2013, Part 2**

Tues., Aug. 30, 9am

Add and delete rows and columns; find and replace; sort; navigate workbooks; introduction to charts; security

Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint 2013**

Fri., Sept. 16, 9am

Android Tablet & Phone

Fri., July 15, 9am

Please bring your device to class.

iPad & iPhone

Thurs., Aug. 4, 9am

Please bring your device to class.

Computer Coaching Sessions

Schedule an appointment with a technology assistant for a one-hour, one-on-one coaching session based on your individual needs. Available Monday–Thursday, 4–8pm; Batavia Public Library card required. Contact the Reference Desk, 630-879-1393, ext. 200, for details and appointment.

Library foundation launches campaign to save Batavia maps

The Batavia Public Library Foundation is in the midst of a campaign—“Save the Maps: Batavia’s Historic Map Quest”—to preserve a significant chapter in the city’s history.

The Library owns a unique set of two historic, oversized (73 x 111 inches) fire insurance wall maps of Batavia, which were produced by the Sanborn Map Company in early 1907. The maps are unusual because they were printed on paper and then mounted on woven cloth and hung on spring rollers. Back in the day, Sanborn maps usually were issued as loose sheets of paper or sheets bound in books.

The maps depict the commercial, industrial, and residential sections of Batavia in 1907 and were designed to assist fire fighters and fire insurance agents in determining the degree of hazard associated with a particular property. They show

the size, shape, and construction of dwellings, commercial buildings, and factories as well as fire walls, locations of windows and doors, sprinkler systems, and types of roofs. The maps also indicate widths and names of streets, property boundaries, building use, and house and block numbers.

Batavia’s maps, one of the east side of the city, the other of the west side, are the only known set of Sanborn wall maps of the city. They are significant and useful resources for historical and genealogical research, urban planning, community preservation, social studies, and research on urban architecture and geography.

The Library acquired the wall maps from Batavia resident Kyle Hohmann, who can trace their provenance back to the Newton Wagon Company of Batavia.

The maps are in need of extensive restoration. The Foundation board of directors decided in 2015 that the maps are an important piece of Batavia’s history and that they could be an important resource for both scholars and students, possibly the centerpiece of an interactive eLearning component at the Library



Key from one of the Sanborn maps of Batavia

and in the Batavia schools. A digital version of the wall maps ultimately will be made available to the general public via BataviaHistory.org.

The Foundation is in the process of raising funds to restore the maps. Restoration will be done by the Graphic Conservation Company of Chicago. Once restored, the maps will be on permanent display in the Library on the north wall of the upper level.

To learn more about the Foundation’s “Save the Maps: Batavia’s Historic Map Quest” and to donate to the project, visit BataviaPublicLibrary.org > *Save the Maps*. Donations also can be made online at MyBatavia.org.



Sarah Henry, Library page, was awarded the Friends of the Batavia Public Library Margaret E. Cooper scholarship in May. Before being hired as a page, Sarah volunteered at the Library for four and a half years. She plans to attend Patrick Henry College this fall to study strategic intelligence and someday work for either the FBI or CIA. Best wishes, Sarah!

Follow the Library on



The Library pages in *Neighbors of Batavia* are funded in part by the Friends of the Batavia Public Library and the Batavia Public Library Foundation.