



FLAGG TOWNSHIP
MUSEUM
Rochelle, Illinois

Rochelle's Place for History

**Special Interest
Articles:**

- 2024—Happy Birthday, page 2.
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2025—Building Community

Help us!

The museum started collecting information about current businesses in Rochelle in the fall of 2024. That project will continue this year. In addition, the museum would like to begin collecting the history of homes in Rochelle.

Visitors often come to the museum looking for information about their home—date, previous owners, the history. While we have some information in our digital records we have very few photos and little details.

Whether your home was built in the 1860s or the 1960s the museum is interested in photos of the exterior and even the interior. Also whatever historical records you might have about previous dates, owners, remodeling, anything you are willing to share will add to our historical records.

Stop in the museum to share what you have—we can scan materials—or to find out more about this project.

Is this your home on North 11th Street?

We have a photo and no other information...help us!



A Welcome Guest

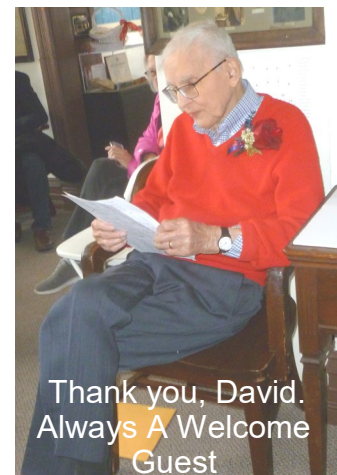
Reception Recognizing David Guest

The Guest family first came to Rochelle in 1856 when Thomas Guest, coming from Canada, purchased farmland west of town. By 1882 the family had moved into town and has been *A Welcome Guest* ever since.

From the beginning his family emphasized education and community involvement. Through the generations...Thomas to Aaron to Arthur to David that was upheld. David's son Tom joined Guest Legal P.C. in 1987, closing the firm 30 years later. In between all those years were Guests who served as railroad district office clerk, telephone company officer, business owner, school director, Township school treasurer, alderman, library director, banker, soldier, bank officer, insurance broker, adjuster, school board secretary, Justice of the Peace, police magistrate, City Treasurer, City Attorney, Historical

Society member and officer, museum board member and officer.

Just think of all the changes in the community the Guest family supported and was involved in. The family was here before it was named Rochelle, before paved streets, before movie theaters, before the overpass....



Thank you, David.
Always A Welcome Guest



L to R are Thomas Guest, David's son, David, Aimee Hucek, David's daughter, Laurie Guest, David's daughter-in-law

Board of Directors

Janet Stewart, President
Terry Dickow, Vice-President
Matt Hagemann Treasurer
Bobbie Colbert Recording Secretary

Board Members

Steve Frank, Curator
Tom McDermott, Historian
Steve O'Connor
Vicki Snyder-Chura

Jenny Thompson, City
Jacee Ohlinger, Park District

Jan Devore, Director
Mary Erdman, Registrar
Ruthann Trinco, Support Staff

2024—Happy Birthday!

2024 started with a Birthday Party for City Hall celebrating the building's 140th birthday.

Board President Janet Stewart was a good sport and played our "Pin the Date on the Building" game.



In February we celebrated the history of churches in Rochelle with artifacts on loan from St. Patrick's, the Presbyterian Church, Faith Lutheran Church and generous individuals.

The museum celebrated the 28th birthday of Poetry Month in April with Ashley Capes and her youth group from the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library.

A State Tree was planted in April donated by Rochelle Girl Scouts.

We welcomed dogs when we turned on the 109 year old Iron Fountain in April and dedicated the installation of the Lincoln Highway Marker donated by Steve & Kathy Haas and installed with the help of the city.

50 Years of Love in Rochelle was held in June recognizing the love and dedication of the Dr. John and Esther Prabhakar.

Gertie Day was in honor of Gertie's 100th Birthday!

The 80th birthday of the Rochelle Floyd J. Tilton VFW Post 3878 was celebrated in November.

Thank you!

We are grateful to our presenters who worked with us for a great year of programs.

Chautauqua presenters **Steve O'Connor**, **Dave Schabacker**, **Kimberly Ekes**, and **Kara Schweitzer**...

Steve Frank for officially turning on the Iron Fountain and to the **city employees** who actually turn on the water!

Ashley Capes for celebrating Poetry Month at the museum...

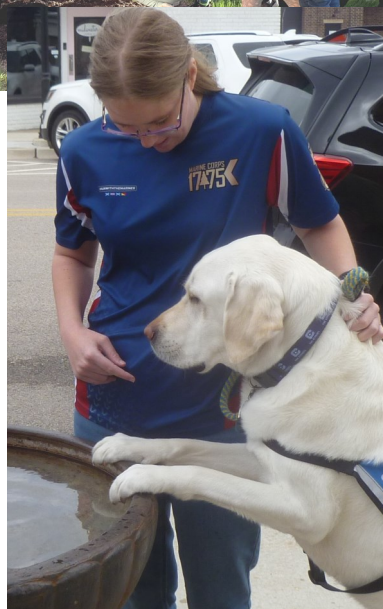
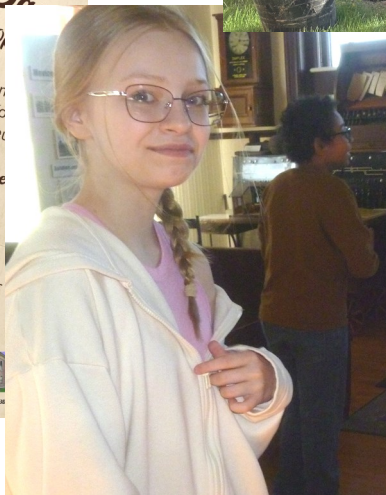
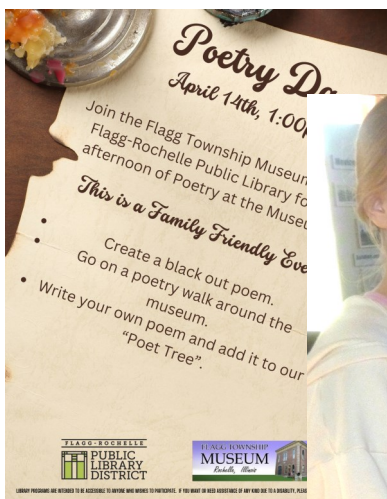


Tom McDermott for War Stories in May and two **STORIES** book signing events...

The Rochelle Fire Department bringing Gertie to the museum for Gertie's 100th birthday...

Joe Drought for the history of Rochelle's Floyd J. Tilton VFW Post 3878...

Thanks to presenters and visitors for making 2024 a successful year.



Recently added ...2024

Recent Acquisitions

The museum is grateful to the following donors for artifacts donated to the museum in 2024.

David Allen, Susan Dicus Andracke, Anonymous, Gretchen Bain, Robert Barger, Estate of Betty Barnes (by Sue Engebretson), Frank Beardin, John Bearrows, Jeannie O'Dell Boeck, Scott Brown, Shirley J. Brown, Bobbie & Steve Bryant, City of Rochelle, Wayne Cox, Kimberly Ekes, Kathy Erickson, Rich Ewald, Mary Lou Felkner, Steve Frank, John Frey, Kris Gilbert, Robert Gingerich, Dan Graber, Mark D. Griffith, Doris Gruben, Teresa Haggstad for Cindy Bertant, Jeanine

Harms, H. James Hart, , Mrs. Robert (Judy) Harr, Christy Hawkins, Shelley Haws, Wendy Horn, Daniel Ihnen, Mike Keene, Pris (Olson) Kellogg, Vicky La Rue, Barbara Luther, Martha Mandeville Kirsch, Nedra Knapp, Gary & Lisa Mason, Rod McQueen, Tammy Misciasci, John Mueller, Family of Leonard & Vivian Nelson, Ann O'Brien, Steve O'Connor, Ed Orner (by Gretchen Bain), Joan F. Parker, John (Jack) W. Payne, Keith & Marguerite Pontnack, Esther Prabhakar, Mary Haas Rayne & Scott Haas, Jeff & Shirley Reif, Charles & Lydia Roberts, Rochelle Fire Department, Rochelle Police Department, Lisa A Russell, Sally Sawicki, Sue Sawicki,

Larry Sherwood, Dawn Somers, Steve Strang, Rene Swartz, Jamie Thomas, Jeana Validivieso, Scott Vierke, Roxanne Weber, Karen Weinreich, Charles Werstein, Robert Whipple

... acquisition is defined as the discovery, preliminary evaluation, taking physical and legal custody of, and acknowledging receipt of materials and objects.



Drum Head used by Ed Orner in the Rochelle Band, Courtesy of Ed Orner & Gretchen Bain

Rescued from Recycling!

Removed from the former Peoples Loan and Trust Company Bank, also known as The National Bank of Rochelle and the Van Orthopedic building and rescued from recycling!

Thanks to Eddy Villalobos for spotting this artifact on its way to a recycling facility and rescuing it for the museum.

Peoples Loan and Trust Company Bank, 1916



Museum Resource: History Trunks

These resources are available for check-out from the museum and can be used to add to school lessons or be an activity for the family to learn more about any of these topics.

Happy Birthday, Illinois

Hispanic Crafts

Hispanic Heritage

Native Americans & Early Settlers

Playground Games & Victorian Etiquette

Quill Pen Workshop

Turn of the Century Life & School

Stop in the museum
to take a look!

FLAGG TOWNSHIP MUSEUM

518 Fourth Avenue
Rochelle IL 61068

PHONE:
(815) 562-3040

E-MAIL:
hubhistory@gmail.com

Museum Hours

Thursday – Sunday
11 am to 4 pm

*Group tours available by
appointment*

www.flaggtownshipmuseumrochelle.org

*Like us on Facebook
[https://www.facebook.com/
RochelleFlaggTownshipMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/RochelleFlaggTownshipMuseum)*

About Our Organization...

The Mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.

Request a Presentation...

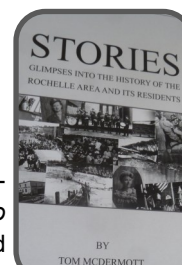
Contact the museum to request a presentation to your club, organization, or school by museum personnel. Presentations support the museum's mission to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history.

Special Thanks

To Flagg Township for supporting
STORIES by Tom McDermott...

To the Rochelle Area Community Foundation for supporting *Getting down to business in Rochelle*, Chapters 2 and 3...

Donors and Members for financial support...



**Getting down to
business**

in Rochelle

Museum Events 2025

In the works...

February 8: Annual Meeting, 10 am, VFW; Members are welcome!

March: Dates TBD, Chautauqua 7 pm, Speakers to be announced

April 20: Closed for Easter

May: The Iron Fountain Opening, Date TBD

May 31, June 1: Railroad Days Activities

May 25: Memorial Day Event

June: Cut the Square, Let's Play! Dates TBD

November: Veteran's Day Event, Date TBD

November 29: Decorate the Museum

December 5: Santa at the Museum, 4-7 pm

December 9: A Holiday Tea, 7 pm