NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

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Section: “Paging Back”

Posted as suggestion and request of
Carole Wenzel & Carole Nagle
ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS in the La Salle County Genealogical Society's history was the opening of its building at 115 W. Glover St. in Ottawa. The building is shown before (above) and after its renovation. The facility was dedicated with an open house in 1994.
History organizations have plans for spring
Genealogical Society gets into the roots of history

By JANET LUNDQUIST
Staff Writer

You can learn how to get around problems encountered in your search for your family's roots, find out the value and history of an old personal item and learn the ins and outs of the county recorder's office during the next few months with the La Salle County Genealogical Society.

The society meets on the third Saturday of each month, except in December, at 1 p.m. at 115 West Glover St. It is open Mondays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Founded in 1972, the genealogical society was associated initially with the La Salle County Historical Society, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in July 1984.

The society has records, books and other resources available to the public, including old telephone books and city directories, 40 bound volumes of old newspapers, marriage and probate records and books on history and genealogy. Members record county obituaries on index cards and keep a file, along with a collection of year-end editions of local newspapers which list the names and dates of deaths occurring that year.

In its first meeting of the new year, the society will present Marje Gapinski, longtime member of the

Field trips include historical society events

UTICA — The La Salle County Historical Society also plans several activities.

It will hold an antique show the second weekend in March, the time and place will be determined. In April, the society plans a bus trip to see "Sunset Boulevard" in Chicago.

During the society's annual Afton School program in May, the county's fourth-graders will learn what it feels like to go to school in a one-room schoolhouse.

The children spend the day in the schoolhouse, learning educational aspects from 100 years ago. Demonstrations in basket weaving and in the blacksmith's shop may be part of the program.

Tentatively scheduled for the end of May or the beginning of June is a tour of the Blackwell Mine near Utica where a colony of about 20,000 bats spends the winter. Only a few hundred bats remain through the summer.

The historic mine was dug to produce cement to build the Illinois and Michigan Canal; the area offered a special limestone that could be made into cement by adding water.

The Historical Society will reopen Jan. 15 on its winter schedule of Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. The museum is at 110 N. First St., Utica.