

CRETE,  
WILL CO., ILL

# Crete Citizen

1849 - 2024

Crete Area Historical Society

VOLUME 1 Number 2 + April 2024, Newsletter + Published By CAHS

## Board Meeting March 21, 2024

Elections for 2024  
Board Officers and Directors  
were voted on.

### Board Officers

President  
Ryan Martin

Vice President  
Tim Piepenbrink

Secretary  
Sheila Langenfeld

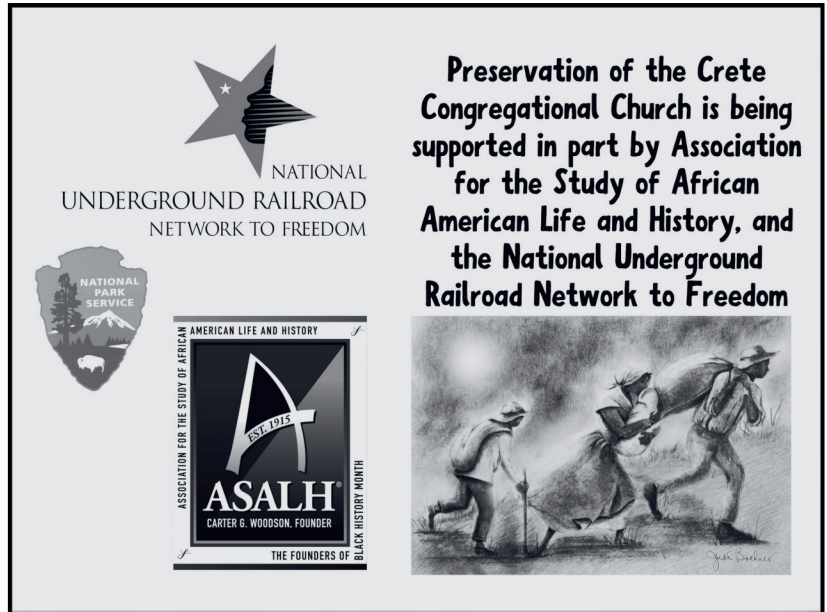
Treasurer  
Phyllis Monks

### Directors

Jim DeMuth  
Ed Genzler  
Jo Hansen  
Chris Manola  
Kathy Piepenbrink  
Mike Wiater

### Board Appointed Director

Sue Giannantonio



Preservation of the Crete  
Congregational Church is being  
supported in part by Association  
for the Study of African  
American Life and History, and  
the National Underground  
Railroad Network to Freedom

Sketch by Judi Boehner and sign designed by Chrissy Whitaker

## The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Grant

On September 21, 2023 the Crete Area Historical Society received notice from the National Park Service Network to Freedom (NPS/NTF) that CAHS had been selected as a grant recipient for 2023. We have installed the National Park Service/Network to Freedom sign in front of the Church so we are ready for repairs to start.

"This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), funded by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of ASALH or the Department of the Interior"

Members have been performing demo work on the existing floor to conserve as much of the grant dollars as possible for use in constructing the new floor. This work will still continue until all the floor boards and timbers are removed.



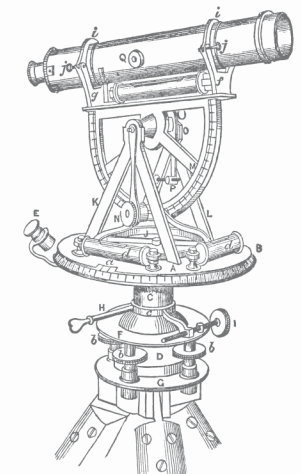
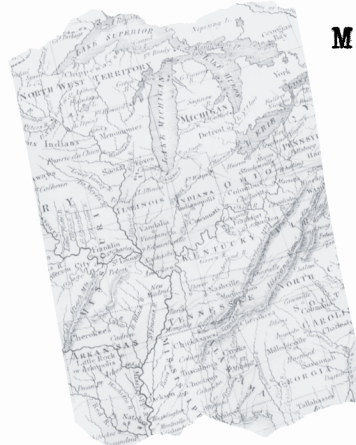
## Recap on February's Membership Drive



Our 1st Membership Drive and Buffet Dinner was a success. We have 71% of our individual Historical Society Membership renewed and we are proud to say we have 93 members. If you have not sent in your dues, please send those in the mail or drop them off at our next meeting (PO Box 266 Crete, IL 60417). Don't miss out on the events that are being planned.

We are very thankful for the donations received that night, which will help us going forward with our museum renovations. It was a great night for our members getting together for dinner and music. Special Thank-You to Smokey Jo's for going above and beyond in hosting our event. We hope you enjoyed some the displays we had in the newsletter and pictures. The drinks weren't too bad either. Willard and Dyantha Wood were memorialized as Honorary Members

Crete Area Historical Society (CAHS) Trifold is ready with information and dates of our events for the year. You will be able to find these at various businesses within Crete, the Farmers Market, and our monthly Members Meetings.



## Recap on the History of Chicagoland in Maps Presentation

Donald and Tanya Smith shared their family's involvement in surveying and map making since 1854. They focused on the history of surveying in the U.S. and Illinois Chicagoland area. Their stories included the Great Chicago Fire, President Abraham Lincoln and Map Making.

Thank you, Donald and Tanya, for such an informative night and display of your collections. We also want to thank Crete Public Library for hosting this presentation.

Since acquiring the Museum site on August 5, 2022, CAHS has completed numerous projects including:



**May 2023** (Illiana Roofing, Beecher)  
 Tore off the old roofing material, repaired numerous leaks, installed new roofing, added gutters and downspouts where needed.

**August 2023** (Areawide Excavating, Crete)  
 Excavated, regraded, drain runoff and gravel was added to the parking lot areas.



**October 2023** (Crete Public Works Dept)  
 The lead water line from the street to the building has been replaced and the sewer line outside the building has been repaired.

**October 2023** (Burnham Concrete, Crete)  
 Built new sidewalks, steps to the Church door and landing with a handicap accessible ramp added to the main entrance.

**November 2023** (Village of Crete)  
 Paved, lined and parking bumpers added along the RR tracks to the parking lots.



**December 2023** (Powder Coating Creations, Manteno)  
 Exterior light poles have been refurbished and are ready to be installed.

**February 2024** (Electric Power Solutions, St. John, IN)  
 Completed and rerouted the electrical feed to the Church and Annex sub-panels allowing for conduit and cable to be removed from the Annex roof side of the Church

**February 2024** (TranSystems, Chicago)  
 3D Laser Scan of entire Church from crawlspace to the roof. This survey provides a very detailed record of the existing condition of the floor, and the floor support structure.

**March 2024** (Phil Moeller, Areawide Excavating)  
 Black dirt has been filled in where needed on the grounds.

**April 2024** (G.D. Gazis, Chicago)  
 Completed the design, plans and specs for a new Church floor system.

Through the work of member volunteers, the following work has been performed

Fall 2022 Insulate the Annex Attic and part of the Church Belfry

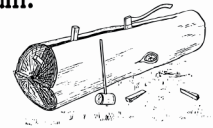
2023 - 2024 Construct new supports for the Annex floor system

Winter 2023 - Spring 2024 Remove the existing Church floor and prep for installation of a new floor and floor support system.

This included removing nails and bolts from each board to prepare for storage.

**\*\*The Church floor boards are being stored safely for future replacement back into the Church.**

**\*\*Floor timbers are being removed and will be stored for future display in the Museum.**



These are great accomplishments but a significant amount of work remains to be completed before we can open to the public.

A few examples are:



Rebuild the Church floor

Termite extermination of the buildings



Install a lift device to provide handicap access to the Church and Annex from the modern middle building



Construct a handicap accessible washroom

Restore the Church and Annex windows, which includes the historic stained-glass panels at the top of the Church windows. The names etched in these windows are the Congregation's Founding Members, in which some of them were Conductors on the Underground Railroad.

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 . These are only a few of the projects CAHS plans to .  
 . undertake in the future. We really could use your .  
 . help with all future projects. We also appreciate .  
 . any donations. CAHS is a 501(c)3 .  
 . Not-for-profit Organization, so all donations are .  
 . tax deductible .  
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## Upcoming Membership Meetings

The meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm in the Crete Township Hall at 1367 Wood Street, Crete

April 18th, 2024 + June 20th, 2024  
May 16th, 2024 + July 18th, 2024

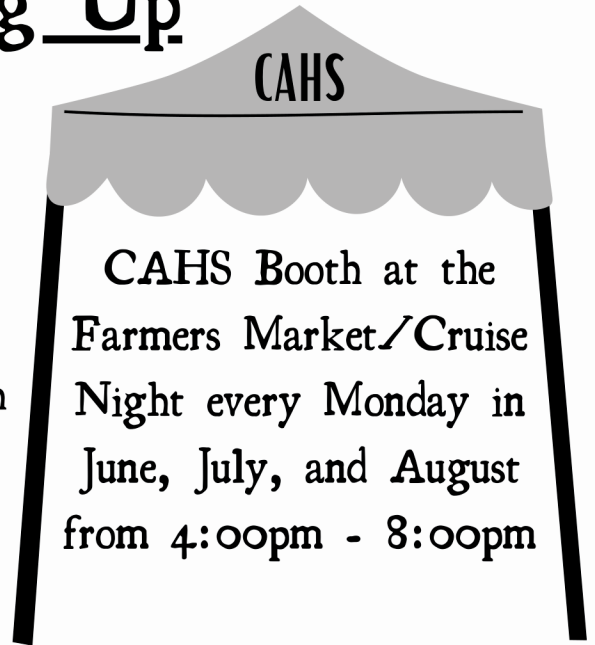


## Events Coming Up



### Memorial Day

Our Planning Committee is working on plans for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 27th, 2024. CAHS will be participating in the parade again this year with a float representing the Historical Society



CAHS Booth at the Farmers Market/Cruise Night every Monday in June, July, and August from 4:00pm - 8:00pm

### Corn Hole Partner Tournament

Saturday July 20th, 2024  
Registration at 11am  
Bags start flying at Noon!



2nd Annual Golf/Dinner  
Fundraiser Sunday  
September 15th, 2024 at  
Lincoln Oaks Golf Course

