

*Revised*



## **Historical Preservation Committee**

Kaden Nelms – Chairman

McKenzie Building – Second Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approve the December 4, 2025 meeting minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. New Business
  - 1. Review/Recommend County Bicentennial Logo Selection
  - 2. Review/Recommend Medal of Honor Memorial Vote
  - 3. Review/Recommend Bicentennial State Historical Markers (Hopedale, Mackinaw, Pekin Courthouses)
  - 4. Discussion: Tazewell's Commitment Memorial
  - 5. Discussion: America 250/Historical Story Board
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. Recess

Members: Chairman Kaden Nelms, Russ Crawford, Linc Hobson, John Ackerman

*Minutes pending committee approval*

**Historical Preservation Committee Meeting**

Chairman Kaden Nelms

Second Floor Conference Room – McKenzie Building

Thursday, December 4, 2025 – 3:04 p.m.



Committee Members Present: Chairman Kaden Nelms, Circuit Clerk Linc Hobson, County Clerk John Ackerman

Committee Members Absent: Russ Crawford (appeared via telephone)

**MOTION** **MOTION BY MEMBER ACKERMAN, SECOND BY MEMBER HOBSON** to approve the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**MOTION** **MOTION BY MEMBER HOBSON, SECOND BY MEMBER ACKERMAN** to Review/Recommend Granting of County Funds to Local Municipalities Planning America250 Celebrations

County Clerk Ackerman recommended striking "may receive between \$500-\$1,000" from the proposed Resolution. He stated that it was his understanding that \$19,000 was the pot with the idea that \$1,000 would go to each one and if we got five projects in, we would split the pot between the five.

Circuit Clerk Hobson stated that it was his understanding that \$1,000 would go to each project and nothing additional.

**MOTION** **MOTION BY MEMBER HOBSON, SECOND BY MEMBER ACKERMAN** to amend the Resolution to remove the sentence that states "Tazewell County municipalities may receive between \$500 and \$1,000 to help fund their event."

On voice vote, **AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

County Clerk Ackerman provided the committee with a draft letter which would be sent to the 19 municipalities/townships and requested that the requests be submitted by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion: Tazewell County Book**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that he has reached out to one of the two people and one may be interested. He stated that he will reach out to the second person and report back to the committee.

**DISCUSSION: Medal of Honor Monument**

Chairman Nelms stated that an updated quote was provided in the packet.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that the updated quote includes photos of the medal of honor recipients and the coloring the medal blue for the medal of honor colors. He stated that the date the medal was erected will be on the back. He stated that this will not be available by Memorial Day but could be by Veteran's Day or when we have the bicentennial celebration. He confirmed that this would need to be approved by the board by February.

**DISCUSSION: Historical Tourism Boards**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that Mike Schone, Facilities Maintenance Director, recently advised him that the concrete sidewalks where this would go in is getting ready to be completed. He stated that the cost is \$6,000, which is their previous bid. He stated that the context and photos would still need approved.

Circuit Clerk Hobson stated that his concern is there is no money budgeted for this.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that this project is going where there would normally be landscaping and stated that there are landscaping funds in the budget.

**DISCUSSION: County Bicentennial**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that the planning will take time so decisions need to be made as soon as possible.

**DISCUSSION: Bicentennial State Markers**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that the funding for this is in the budget. He stated that these take six months to make so he is hoping to get approval as soon as possible. He stated that they will not be placed until April of 2027. He stated that \$18,000 was put into County Administration to cover this. He stated that this would be board approval by October.

Chairman Nelms recessed the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Gullette)



Tazewell County  
Bicentennial



Tazewell County  
Bicentennial  
\*\*\*\*\* 1827 - 2027 \*\*\*\*\*



Picture size 20 x 10"



THE MEDAL OF HONOR IS PRESENTED BY  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN  
THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS  
TO MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY THAT HAVE  
DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES THROUGH ACTS OF  
CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY AT RISK  
OF LIFE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

### TAZEWELL COUNTY RECIPIENTS

WILLIAM REED	DR. THOMAS L. MURPHY	JOHN RYERS
1839 - 1918	1844 - 1920	1837 - 1913



Picture size 13 x 19"

Picture size 13 x 19"

Picture size 11 x 19"

ORDER NO:	COLOR: JET BLACK	LITHO COLOR:	ADDITIONAL INFO:
PO: MOH UPRIGHT	4-0 x 6-0 x 0-8 PS FLAT TOP	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE	<input type="checkbox"/> BANGELAST ON BACK
COMPANY NAME: ABEL MORN		<input type="checkbox"/> DARK BROWN <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM BROWN	<input type="checkbox"/> BANGELAST ON BACK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
TICKET NO: 3705084/370708		<input type="checkbox"/> GOLD <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT GOLD	<input type="checkbox"/> BANGELAST ON BASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
COORDINATOR: KS	CARVING: SHAPE CARVE: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/> BANGELAST ON BASE <input type="checkbox"/> NO
12/12/2020 (V2)	<input type="checkbox"/> DEEP SUNK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHIN SUNK <input type="checkbox"/> U-SUNK		<input type="checkbox"/> LASER ETCHING FRONT
NUMBER OF LETTERS OVER 100: 213		SPECIAL LETTERING #:	<input type="checkbox"/> LASER ETCHING BACK
CAMEO INFO: <input type="checkbox"/> INCESS <input type="checkbox"/> INCESS/INSTALL <input type="checkbox"/> SPACE ONLY	CUSTOMER SUPPLIED CAMEO: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> LASER LETTERING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
BRONZE INFO: <input type="checkbox"/> DRILL ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> DRILL/INSTALL <input type="checkbox"/> SPACE ONLY	CUSTOMER SUPPLIED BRONZE: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> DRILL HOLES
NOTES: COLOR LASER ETCHINGS MAY DIFFER IN APPEARANCE AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED. THE RIBBON AT THE TOP IS COLOR LASER ETCHED. THE PORTRAITS ON THE BOTTOM ARE BLACK AND WHITE.			
PLEASE CHECK SPELLING, DATES & DESIGN IF APPROVED PLEASE SIGN			
BY SIGNING THIS APPROVAL YOU AGREE ALL COLOR/DESIGN IS COMPUTER GENERATED AND MAY NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE ACTUAL APPEARANCE OF THE ENGRAVE AND THE MANUFACTURER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COLOR/DESIGN MISMATCH. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF ANY CHANGES AND NO ADDITIONAL CHANGES WILL BE MADE. NO ADDITIONAL CHANGES WILL BE MADE.			

# FORMATION OF TAZEWELL COUNTY

Tazewell County was former from parts of Peoria County by the Illinois State Legislator on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1827. Originally proposed to be named Mackinaw County, prominent Pekin businessman Gideon Rupert lobbied the legislator to have the new county named Tazewell County in honor of Virginia Governor Littleton Tazewell. Tazewell County as established in 1827 included all of current day Woodford County, over half of McLean County and Mason County, and smaller parts of Livingston County, Dewitt County, and Logan County.

Here in Hopedale on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1827, the first meeting of the new Tazewell County Government took place at the home of William Orendorff. The first County Board Members were James Lotta, Benjamin Briggs, and George Hittle. The only business at this first meeting was the appointment of Mordecai Mobley to be the first County Clerk.

The next meeting of Tazewell County Government would take place on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1827, at the homestead of Ephraim Stout in Stout's Grove during which time the office of Tazewell County Sheriff (William H. Hodge), Tazewell County Coroner (Thomas Orendorff), and Tazewell County Treasurer (John Benson) was established.

Finally, during the third Tazewell County Government Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1827, also in Stout's Grove, Sheriff William H. Hodge and County Clerk Mordecai Mobley were ordered to survey and sell lots for the new Town of Mackinaw by the second Monday of June 1827, which would serve as the County-Seat.

## FIRST TAZEWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

During the third Tazewell County Government Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1827, at the homestead of Ephraim Stout in Stout's Grove, Sheriff William H. Hodge and County Clerk Mordecai Mobley were ordered to survey and sell lots for the new Town of Mackinaw by the second Monday of June 1827, which would serve as the County-Seat. The first Tazewell County Government Meeting here in Mackinaw took place on June 11<sup>th</sup> 1827.

During the Tazewell County Government Meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1827, the County Commissioners outlined the construction of the new Tazewell County Courthouse. The building would be one and half story, 18 feet by 22 feet, with black walnut doors and trim. Amasa Stout was the lowest bidder for construction of the new Courthouse, at a price of \$125. The new Courthouse was located at lot 1 of block 11, just to the northeast of this location at the current day southwest corner of the intersection of North White Street and East Franklin Street.

Judge Samuel Lockwood of Jacksonville held the first court here on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1828. The Courthouse remained in Mackinaw until June 1<sup>st</sup> 1831, when the County-Seat was moved to Pekin, Illinois. The time in Pekin was short-lived, as the County-Seat was moved again in 1836, this time to the Village of Tremont, before moving back to Pekin in 1850.

## **THIRD TAZEWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

This County Courthouse you are looking at is the fourth such building in Tazewell County. The immediate predecessor of this grand building stood on this same ground.

Mackinaw had the first County Courthouse from 1827 to March of 1831. Then the County-Seat was moved to Pekin for the first time between 1831-1836, however no County Buildings were constructed. Tremont built the second Tazewell County Courthouse and moved the County-Seat there in June of 1836.

Pekin was disappointed in losing the County-Seat and several initiatives were taken to regain this status. The Illinois Legislator intervened and on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1849 an election was held to determine if Tremont or Pekin would be the County-Seat. One condition the State Legislator placed on the election was if Pekin was chosen, then the citizens of the City of Pekin would have to donate land for "Courthouse Square" and pay for the construction of a new Courthouse. The City of Pekin won the election and immediately stated plans for what would be the third Tazewell County Courthouse. The last meeting at the Courthouse in Tremont was August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1850.

The third Courthouse was of Greek-Revival style with six white marble columns two stories high supporting an impressive portico. The building was composed of sandstone quarried 5 miles northeast of Pekin and bricks fired on the East Bluff in Pekin. The cost for this building was \$8,000.

Of the many attorneys and judges to serve within the third Courthouse, a few stand above the rest; future United States President Abraham Lincoln, future United States Supreme Court Justice David Davis, and then United States Senator Stephen A. Douglas. The Third Tazewell County Courthouse would remain till 1914, when it was demolished to make room for the current Fourth Tazewell County Courthouse.

2:32



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[#364814] TAZEWELL



• New Year's Day — Thursday, January 1, 2026  
• Day After New Year's — Friday, January 2, 2026



ORDER NO:	COLOR: JET BLACK	LITHO COLOR:	ADDITIONAL INFO:
PO: TAZEWELL MONUMENT	2-2 x 0-6 x 2-6 P2 FLAT TOP DIE	<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE	<input type="checkbox"/> SANDBLAST ON ALL SIDES
COMPANY NAME: ABEL MON.	W/SAWN TAPER JOINT (x4)	<input type="checkbox"/> DARK GREY <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM HULITE	<input type="checkbox"/> SANDBLAST ON BASE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
TICKET NO: 364814/366424		<input type="checkbox"/> GOLD <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT HULITE	<input type="checkbox"/> SANDBLAST ON VASE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
COORDINATOR: LC	CARVING: SHAPE CARVE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LASER ETCHING ALL SIDES
10/16/2025 (V3)	<input type="checkbox"/> DEEP SUNK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SKIN SUNK	<input type="checkbox"/> U-SUNK	<input type="checkbox"/> LASER ETCHING BACK <input type="checkbox"/>
NUMBER OF LETTERS OVER 100:	SPECIAL LETTERING #:		
CAMEO INFO: <input type="checkbox"/> RECESS <input type="checkbox"/> RECESS/INSTALL <input type="checkbox"/> SPACE ONLY		CUSTOMER SUPPLIED CAMEO: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
BRONZE INFO: <input type="checkbox"/> DRILL ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> DRILL/INSTALL <input type="checkbox"/> SPACE ONLY		CUSTOMER SUPPLIED BRONZE: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
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New Message

# **HISTORIC TOURISM SIGNAGE FOR TAZEWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE**



**Purchase 2 Triangular Kiosk for the West Side of the Tazewell County Courthouse Lawn. This would give us 6 story boards to share Historic Information:**

- 1) Abraham Lincoln at the Tazewell County Courthouse**
- 2) Tazewell County Government History**
- 3) Tazewell County Veterans Memorial**
- 4) Tazewell County Courthouse History**
- 5) Tazewell County Famous Citizens – Gary Dean Richrath (REO Speedwagon), Joseph Girardi, Susan Dey, Sam Kinison, Henry H. Cole, Eva Parker Ingersoll, Scott Altman, Dr. Thomas M. Murphy, John L. Hiners, Nance & William Costley**
- 6) Tazewell County Political Leaders – Congressman Dietrich Smith, Congressman Joseph Graff, Congressman Harold Velde, Senator Everett Dirksen, Governor/Senator Shelby Cullom.**

**A) Famous Attorneys to Serve in Tazewell County – Abraham Lincoln, David Davis, Stephen Douglas, John Logan, Edward Baker, James McDougall, Robert Ingersoll**

**These units are 36" x 48". Total cost is \$9,250.**