

New Special Exhibit at the Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum

“Clarinda In The Time Of Glenn Miller”

The Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum is pleased to announce the opening of a new special exhibit ***“Clarinda In The Time Of Glenn Miller,”*** running now through January 2017. The new exhibit was funded through a generous grant from the Clarinda Foundation.

The exhibit explores life in early 1900s Clarinda, when Glenn Miller was just a boy, and lets you delve into early 20th century Clarinda, discovering the rich history behind the Miller family and the birthplace home. Vivid historic photographs, maps, hands-on activities, and more will transport you back over 100 years ago as you compare the commerce, population, and size of Clarinda then to the Clarinda of today.

When Glenn Miller was born in Clarinda on March 1, 1904 he was welcomed into a bustling community with a robust economy, a young but growing population, a vibrant social and cultural scene, and the start of many “modern amenities.” Telephones for both rural and city dwellers were becoming commonplace, electricity had come to parts of Clarinda, and infrastructure improvements were on the rise. Yet, young Glenn would still experience many functions of daily life that are drastically different from today, such no indoor plumbing or electricity in his home, cooking over a wood burning stove, and a single pot-bellied stove to heat the house. From these rather humble beginnings, Glenn would rise to fame and fortune. Yet, he still maintained the Midwestern values that he learned as a child. Visit ***“Clarinda In The Time Of Glenn Miller”*** and see the world of Glenn Miller’s childhood.

The Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum is located at 122 W. Clark Street in Clarinda. The museum is open Tuesday – Sunday from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Please visit www.glennmiller.org or call 712.542.2461 for more information.

DAILY LIFE—ENTERTAINMENT & PASTIMES

Attending church services played a prominent role in most people's lives, as well as providing a central support role for culture. In addition to services, back clubs, hand and music classes, various social clubs, meetings, entertainments, sports, and historical reenactments gave people a chance to spend leisure time with others. Churches also had an open house in the town square, which hosted a variety of plays.

Ritual meetings, agricultural fairs, Christmas, carnivals, and holidays such as the Fourth of July were also important functions on the local calendar.

Games, board games, and card games were played at home. Most homes had a musical instrument or two. The Miller's owned a gramophone, and their son made the children music appreciation. Visiting with neighbors or relatives was also a popular pastime.



A group with children and grandparents in front of a schoolhouse. (Source: Fred Colburn)



Christmas market in Ontario, 1900.



The Miller's posing in front of their home in Ontario, 1900.

DAILY LIFE—WORK & CHORES

WOMEN

Not every woman worked, although all the time of doing the chores, but it is women who were responsible for the culture. Culture was created by hand and most things were made, still were made in the home. Sewing and weaving were in all the old and new ways of life.

Thinking of working in public was rare because it is possible to find a woman in a factory, but before that period we are talking about the first half of the 20th century.

Women in traditional roles were for health, doing a good job for the home, and making sure the children were safe.



1900-1910. The school in Ontario, 1900. (Source: Fred Colburn)

DAILY LIFE—WORK & CHORES

CHILDREN

Children also had chores to perform. They would collect eggs, feed and water the chickens, bring in laundry and water, and help in the garden.

Many kids attended school, and had to do the chores at school once they arrived in school, especially in rural schools. Kids brought in laundry and water, swept floors, and helped up the school. Many children stopped their education after the eighth grade.

Those who didn't go to school went to work. Six million American children under the age of sixteen worked outside the home in the early 1900s.



A young boy with his dog in Ontario, 1900. (Source: Fred Colburn)

