

Moultrie County History Center holds grand opening in new location

Last year the Moultrie County Genealogical and Historical Society moved from its downtown location just off the square in Sullivan to 1303 S. Hamilton on the south side of town.

On Saturday, April 1, the group held their grand opening at the Moultrie County History Center, Library and Museum in its beautiful, spacious remodeled building.

In that building is housed a library where they can help you find your roots as well as a museum where you can start millions of years ago and travel through time and view 20 ever changing and updated displays.

The MCHC also "has a dedicated area for public group learning, presentations, book club events and many other educational purposes." The brochure states that, "the purpose of the MCHC is to enrich lives by uniting all those who share an interest in Moultrie County and to promote and preserve the county's unique, rich and common heritage. Knowledge of the past creates appreciation of the present and hope for the



future."

Besides having the opportunity to tour the History Center, the program also featured the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band which played a large and varied selection of music for those in attendance. Their program also included extensive and often humorous narration as to the origin of many of the songs which were composed and originally played during the 1700s and 1800s, most still familiar to us today. From the band's webpage: "The 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band Inc. was re-created in 1996 by musicians from central Illinois. Like the original band, the musi-

cians were recruited from the same geographical area in Illinois and come from all walks of life. The band is an authentic re-creation of the actual Civil War era band that was mustered at State Normal University in 1861." A clip of the band singing and playing "The Battle Cry of Freedom," (1862) can be found on the Moultrie County Genealogical and Historical Society facebook page.

A visit to this beautiful new display of the history of Moultrie County is highly recommended. The phone number is 217-728-4085 and the hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.



In one of the more unique displays a hologram of a teacher tells visitors what school was like in a rural district.



The 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band is shown entertaining the crowd.



Farming in Moultrie County is shown in the display featuring a tractor, farm tools and a picture of the Roger Molzen farm near Lovington.



A familiar landmark for many who visited Sullivan in the mid 20th century was Hezzy's bowling alley.

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