MAIN STREET
MOMENCE

MAIN STREET
MOMENCE

Janine M. Loftus
Executive Director

P. O. Box 101
Momence, IL 60954
Phone: 815.472.3861
Fax: 815.472.3888
jloftus3@aol.com

MAIN STREET
MOMENCE

May 19, 2005

Illinois Main Street Staff
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
One Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear ILMS Staff,

Following the proper surface cleaning, significant architectural elements should be retained, repaired, or preserved whenever possible. As a last resort, damaged material should be replaced with similar or matching material only. Weathered and cracked wood should be treated with consolidates, preservatives and/or fillers, then sanded prior to sealing.

Masonry is a strong, durable building material and, when well maintained, can last for centuries. As in most communities, many buildings in Momence are consisted of brick masonry. Other structures consist of stone, concrete block, and marble. Two very common repair activities are masonry cleaning and re-pointing. While both may improve the appearance of a building, care must be taken to determine the proper techniques used so that no harm is done to the masonry.

Janine M. Loftus

Executive Director
Main Street Momence

Bill Gilbert
President

Jane Johnson
Vice President

Sandy Nikolic
Treasurer

Fran Le Beau
Secretary

Board Members
Ken Fox
Anne Murray Hall
Rick Seemann
Nancy Simpson
Dr. Phil Smith

Janine M. Loftus
Executive Director

P.O. Box 101
Momence, IL 60954
Phone: 815.472.3861
Fax: 815.472.3888
www.mainstreetmomence.com
info@mainstreetmomence.com

MAIN STREET MOMENCE

MAIN STREET MESSENGER

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF MAIN STREET MOMENCE • SUMMER 2005 • ISSUE NUMBER 3

A Midwest New England Village Becomes 55th Illinois CLG

In 1834, the area that was to become Glen Ellyn, near the western boundary of present day Lombard, was then known as Babcock's Grove. That same year, Deacon Winslow Churchill brought his family from upstate New York and became the first settler, building a log cabin near the east branch of the DuPage River. As was common at that time, much of northeastern Illinois saw a high influx of settlers, who, with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, seized the opportunity to follow a much easier migratory route via the Great Lakes. They came west seeking farmland and a better lifestyle among the fertile prairies of the Midwest.

In 1835, Moses Stacy and his family came to the area with numerous other settlers from upstate New York. Moses Stacy, who was to become one of Glen Ellyn's most prominent citizens, built a log cabin in the area. In 1846, he built his second home, a Greek Revival farmhouse, along Old State Road and opened it up as a traveler's building. Later on, Stacy's Tavern became a stop on the Frink & Walker Stagecoach Line that ran from Chicago to Galena. Prior to the coming of the Chicago, Galena & Union Railroad in the 1850's, Stacy Tavern served as the most important focal point of the small community that grew up along the convergence of roads near present day Main Street and Old State Road (St. Charles Road today) near Glen Ellyn's northern boundary.

Interest in saving an 1840's Glen Ellyn stagecoach stop began with statewide and community groups in the 1960's, and in 1979 the Illinois Department of Conservation presented Stacy's Tavern, located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Geneva Roads, with a preservation award.

The small settlement that formed around Stacy's Tavern became known as Stacy's Corners. This was one of the first permanent settlements near present day Glen Ellyn. After the Chicago, Galena, & Union railroad began to take hold; settlement gradually moved down the hill about one mile to the south and developed along the railroad tracks. As the Village continued to grow in its new location near the railroad, similar to other communities of that era, it experienced a number of name changes, going from Newton Station, to Danby, named after Danby, Vermont, and to Prospect Park, culminating with the incorporation of Glen Ellyn in 1892.

Glen Ellyn's focus on history wasn't really brought to the forefront until some individuals realized that Stacy's Tavern was in danger of being demolished. They talked with the owner of the property and the Glen Ellyn Village Board, which, after much discussion, voted to buy the historic building in 1968.

Continued on Page 2