

Fulton County, Illinois

Visitor's Guide



The Heart of Spoon River Country



Welcome to Fulton



Lewistown Visitors Center



Canton Friendship Festival



Buckeye Church



Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge



The Nature Conservancy Emiquon Preserve



Canton Cruise In and Bike Show

We packed our belongings and left our home, heading west to claim the land father was promised by the government. We knew little of the place we were heading except that it was a wilderness and said to be full of Indians. Thus began our journey into the heart of Spoon River Country.

In 1812, an act of Congress set aside bounty lands between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers as payment to volunteer soldiers like father who served in the war against the British (War of 1812). After the land was surveyed settlement of the area could begin. In 1818, the land was declared part of the State of Illinois. The first white settler arrived in 1820 near the mouth of the Spoon River where a small village called Waterford was established.

As more settlers arrived they spread out across the land and the towns of Lewistown and Canton, were founded in 1821 and 1825. Lewistown was designated as the Fulton County seat in 1823 although Canton soon grew to be the largest town in the area.

Fulton County was named for Robert Fulton the inventor of the first successful steamboat, the Clermont, which first sailed in 1807. Between 1823 and 1825 the majority of Illinois north of the Illinois River was under the jurisdiction of Fulton County. This included the current site of Chicago.

We found that the land was much better here than from where we had last lived. There were also roving bands of Indians of the Sauk, Fox, and Potawatomi tribes. As we cleared the ground we found the remains of more ancient inhabitants of the area.

The work was hard but we transformed this wilderness and made a living working the land. We soon came to love this place in the heart of Spoon River Country called Fulton County.

Credits

A special thanks to the Fulton County Board for their vision and determination to make Fulton County a place we can all be proud of. Additional thanks and appreciation to the Fulton County Board Economic Development and Tourism Committee, University of Illinois Extension--Fulton County, and the Illinois State Museum--Dickson Mounds. Without their support and efforts in bringing this project together, this guide would not be possible. Original printing funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Bureau of Tourism in 2008, prepared by Angie Sanders.

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For visitor information and additional copies of this guide, call 309-547-3721. Also visit www.fultonco.org for more information on Fulton County.



County Illinois



The Nature Conservancy Emiquon Preserve



Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive Fall Festival



FULTON COUNTY BOARD

Fulton County Courthouse
100 North Main Street
Lewistown, Illinois 61542
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Home to nearly thirty-seven thousand and visited by tens and tens of thousands more, we welcome you to Fulton County.

Known as Spoon River Country to many, the gently flowing Spoon River winds its way through scenic vistas and villages from London Mills to the Illinois River near Havana. As summer fades, the annual "The Spoon River Scenic Drive Fall Festival" follows bucolic byways as tens of thousands visit hundreds of stands offering everything from A(apples) to Z (zoo).

The Illinois River is our southern border, flowing from Banner Marsh past Rice Lake, the giant Emiquon Preserve, to Anderson Lake on the southern end. Together with Spring Lake, Chautauqua, and the lake at Snicarte just across the Illinois River, they form an inland water world second only to the Everglades. Whether you fish, hunt waterfowl, bird watch, or just enjoy the scenery along the "Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway" its worth your time to visit us.

Just above Emiquon, thousands visit Dickson Mounds Museum to learn about the history of the Illinois River and the by-gone tribes of Mound Building Indians, and to enjoy the scenic overlook of Emiquon and Illinois River. History buffs also enjoy the Easley Pioneer Museum and Illinois River. History Shop and Museum in Lewistown, stately 1800's mansions, country cemeteries, iron bridges, and much more.

Fulton County is one of the top fishing destinations in the state for Large-mouth Bass, Crappies, and Catfish with its thousands of acres of water. The county is also a nation-wide destination for White-Tailed deer hunting, turkey, and other upland game. We also have a growing population of wild boar along the Spoon River water course.

If you hunt, fish, bird watch, are a history buff, or just enjoy beautiful scenery, good food, and friendly people, come and spend a day, or a week, or two. Hope you enjoy us.

Bob Bucher

Bob Bucher
Fulton County Board Chairman



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Explore the Past



Early History

The early history of central Illinois, including Fulton County, is little more than legend, depicting prehistoric Indians, French explorers, Indian tribes, and early white settlers. For decades accounts have passed from generation to generation keeping this heritage alive. These legends are an integral part of personal affiliations in the lives of Fulton County residents. As a recognized center of historical and cultural interest, the area is renowned for Native American archaeology, agricultural evolution, literary achievements, and many other distinctive events.

Did You Know . . .

MAJOR ISAAH STILLMAN was born in Massachusetts in 1793. He came to Illinois as a trader and huckster of pots and pans and other notions. He resided at the Copperas Creek landing in Fulton County, near present day Banner, where he had a warehouse and trading post. By



1832 he had advanced to the rank of Brigadier General elect, responsible for defense of all the vast emptiness west of the Illinois River. In April of 1832 he was ordered to raise a command which he led during the Black Hawk War including the first engagement called *The Battle of Stillman's Run*. During this battle Stillman and his detachment of 275 were defeated by a smaller group of warriors causing them to retreat suffering 12 casualties. Abraham Lincoln was one of the soldiers who assisted in collecting and burying the bodies the day after the battle. After Stillman's Run, the Illinois Militia would never recover. Fifteen days later Stillman's Illinois Militia was discharged from service by the Governor of Illinois, who had determined they were too demoralized and undisciplined to be able to successfully carry out an Indian campaign.

Early Inhabitants

Fulton County was home to one of the highest concentrations of prehistoric man in the Americas, with more than 3,000 sites of ancient people recorded here. Hundreds of earthen mounds represent sites of ceremony, burial, and living, littered with the debris of centuries of Native American occupation. The rich archaeological heritage of Fulton County was almost immediately noticed by Europeans who began settling the region around 1820. Early publications and historians' accounts frequently make reference to Indian sites and chance archaeological discoveries.

Archaeology and Dickson Mounds

In 1927, Dr. Don F. Dickson, a chiropractor, began an exploration of an Indian burial site on land owned by his father. That work would have far-reaching effects on American archaeology. Using a new technique of uncovering the remains but leaving them intact in the ground for study, Dickson and his relatives excavated a 30 by 60 foot area of the cemetery, exposing the skeletons of 247 Indian burials and their accompanying grave offerings. These were protected under a museum building which, despite its setting in a remote location and its opening during



Dr. Don Dickson

a time of failing national economy, attracted over 90,000 visitors in its first two years of operation. Conducted at the same time as the sensational excavation of Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt, these Fulton County excavations immediately attracted national and international attention, including features in *Ripley's Believe it or Not*, and more scholarly popular publications like *National Geographic*.

Scientific institutions soon became interested in research in Fulton County; the foremost of these investigations was carried out by the University of Chicago between 1930 and 1934. On the bluff just northeast of Dickson Mounds, located within the Emiquon Preserve ²⁰, the University established the first formal training program of scientific, problem-oriented, archaeological field research in the eastern United States. Many of the investigative techniques still used in modern archaeology were refined at this unique field

school. A contingent of gifted students who received instruction here would go on to become leaders in American and world archaeology. Because of this pioneering contribution to the science of archaeology, Fulton County is often referred to as the "Birthplace of Modern American Archaeology."

A new museum of anthropology was dedicated at Dickson Mounds in 1972, and it continues to be a leading center for archaeological research and interpretation. This facility is one of the premier on-site archaeological museums in the United States. Through continuing research, innovative exhibits, educational programs, field trips, lectures by authorities on a variety of natural and cultural topics, visitors to Dickson Mounds Museum are provided with a unique opportunity to experience the developing story of man in Illinois.

The Dickson Mounds Museum ⁸, also a branch of the Illinois State Museum and a National Register Historic Site, offers a unique opportunity to explore American Indian history in an awe-inspiring journey through 12,000 years of human experience in the Illinois River Valley. Visitors to the museum will encounter innovative interpretive exhibits; exciting hands-on activities; archaeological sites; and a variety of special events in a rural setting. The museum is open year-round, daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas). There is no admission charge. The Museum is located just off of Illinois Route 97/78 between Lewistown and Havana. Call 309-547-3721 for more information.



Dickson Mounds Museum

Early History

Crossing over this same territory, the first white settlers entered Fulton County by wagon or river. Whether they came from the East, the South, or even Europe, the well-worn paths were traveled by many hardy immigrants into this new land.

The first known permanent settler to Fulton County was John Eveland, who came with his family in the spring of 1820. The following year, Ossian Ross came to the area as the first War of 1812 veteran to claim his quarter section of Military Tract Land. Ross also founded Lewistown, named after his eldest son Lewis. In 1823 Lewistown became the county seat of the newly created Fulton County. The terms "upstate" and "downstate" began to be used when people from Chicago had to come to down to Lewistown to conduct business, attend court, vote, and obtain



The third Fulton County Courthouse

marriage licenses.

The present Lewistown courthouse ²² is the fourth to serve the county. The first courthouse, built of logs in 1823, was in use when much of northwestern Illinois was under jurisdiction of Fulton County. A wooden frame building replaced it in 1830. The third courthouse, built of brick in 1836, had four stone columns. Stephen A. Douglas served as a Circuit Court Judge in this courthouse. On August 17, 1858, Abraham Lincoln stood between its columns to deliver the much quoted speech, "Return to the Fountain." On December 13, 1894, the courthouse was burned to the ground by an arsonist, an incident recounted in the poem, "Silas Dement," in Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*.

gy. Two large columns from the courthouse survived the blaze and were erected in Lewistown's Oak Hill Cemetery ²³ as part of the Civil War Monument.

Coal Mining

Fulton County has enjoyed a rich history of mining bituminous coal. In the 1820s outcroppings of the mineral were discovered in streams cut through the soil exposing coal in their banks. Slope mines developed as settlers dug deeper into the exposed veins of coal. By 1880, deep or shaft mining was employed because it could cover several acres by sinking into a vein of coal vertically and expanding horizontally. Mining was primarily done underground until the 1920s when strip mining began on a large scale. In 1928 there were 137 coal mines in the county, and by 1965 Fulton County was the leader of coal production in Illinois. Coal mining provided many jobs and was widespread throughout Fulton County. The last of many coal mines closed in 1997. The many lakes and ponds visible to the traveler today are the legacy of this surface mining past.

Railroads

While the Northern Cross was the first railroad, the one dear to the hearts of people in Fulton County was their own Narrow Gauge Railway. Before the days of automobiles and highways, Western Illinois was served well by the Fulton County Narrow Gauge Railroad, known popularly as "The Peavine." The railroad was built from West Havana, north and west to Lewistown, then to Cuba, Fairview and Galesburg. The Peavine hauled everything from mail and coal to people. Today the former sites of the little depots, where citizens awaited the arrival of the trains are still visible.

Industry

The first pioneers were hunters and traders who brought hogs and cattle with them. This furnished an increasing amount of raw products to trade for store



Strip mining for coal in Fulton County

goods and could be freighted in flatboats or keelboats down river, mainly to St. Louis, as articles of commerce. They also shipped corn, ginseng, beeswax, salted pork, tallow, hides, and beef. Raw wool, flax products, deer skins and venison hams were also distinct products that Fulton County settlers produced.

Settlers in the second wave were often men from the south who laid more emphasis on clearing land, building, and making improvements. Trade soon subsided as local industries were established. Saw and flour mills were established on several Fulton County streams to supply lumber for pioneer homesteads and flour for food.

One of the most important early industries throughout the county was pork packing. The industry began with local merchants establishing smoke houses in the rear of their homesteads, to barter-and-trade their goods with the local farmers. Soon, every town would contain one or two merchants who bought corn, wheat, and dressed hogs. The pork was smoked or packed in salt and sent by steamboat or flat boat to Chicago or St. Louis. Railroads expanded and soon slowed the business because farmers could ship live hogs to bigger cities.

In 1838, the first established foundry was built to manufacture coal-mine cars and stoves until about the time of

World War I. In 1840, the manufacturing of the Diamond Plow began in a small blacksmith shop in Canton but was short lived because the plow was inefficient. In 1842 William Parlin began the business of making steel plows, and by 1852 there was so much demand for plows that the famous P. and O. Company was formed. The business continued until 1919 when the corporation was sold to the International Harvester Company. At the time it was the largest plant in the world manufacturing plows. In addition to several types of plows, the company made corn and cotton planters, potato diggers, beet harvesters, cultivators, tool bars, and many other implements. The business was finally closed in 1983.

World War II

The villages of Table Grove, Ipava, and Bernadotte were part of national mobilization efforts to win World War II. Camp Ellis ²⁴, was the largest U.S. Army training facility of its kind in the nation during World War II. Farmers vacated 17,800 acres so that construction of the training camp for service forces could begin, including quartermaster, medical, combat and engineering units. As many as 40,000 soldiers were trained at one time, and in 1943 there were 2,672 prisoners of war. The area occupied by Camp Ellis returned to individual ownership in the 1950s, and only a few signs of the Camp's existence remain. Portions of the



Camp Ellis during World War II

rifle range, water towers and part of the water processing plant near Bernadotte are all that remain. The area east and northeast of Table Grove is still referred to by local folks as "The Camp."



Home in Lewistown where Edgar Lee Masters once lived

Famous People

Fulton County is home to several notable individuals. Lewistown was the boyhood home of the poet Edgar Lee Masters who made Fulton County world-famous with the writing of *Spoon River Anthology* in 1915. Born near Canton, the inventor Charles Duryea, and his brother James Frank Duryea built the first working gasoline-powered American automobile in 1861. More recently, Canton native Steve R. Nagel became an astronaut, flying four space shuttle missions on *Discovery*, *Challenger*, *Atlantis*, and *Columbia* between 1985 and 1993, logging 732 hours in space. Other Fulton County notables are Smiley Burnett, a native of Sumnum, who appeared in numerous Western movies; Elizabeth Magie, inventor of the *Landlord's game*, precursor to *Monopoly*; Louisa McCall, organizer of the First National Bank of Canton, said to be the first woman bank director in the United States; and Harriet Vittum, a heralded social reformer in Chicago.

Cemeteries

The cemeteries of Fulton County lie in silent testimony to those who made this county their home. Here you will find settlers, veterans, businessmen, farmers, husbands, wives, and children, all contributors to the legacy of Spoon River Country. Gone but not forgotten, some were made famous by the writings of Edgar Lee Masters that made Lewistown's Oak Hill Cemetery [23](#) world famous. Stone monuments adorned with art and symbolism, were erected by the living in loving remembrance of family, friends, and dedicated service to our country in times of war. Local cemeteries are also places to discover one's roots. Genealogical resources compiled by the Fulton County Historical and Genealogical Society can be accessed at Parlin-Ingersoll Library [25](#) in Canton. A self-guided tour brochure is available for Lewistown's Oak Hill Cemetery.



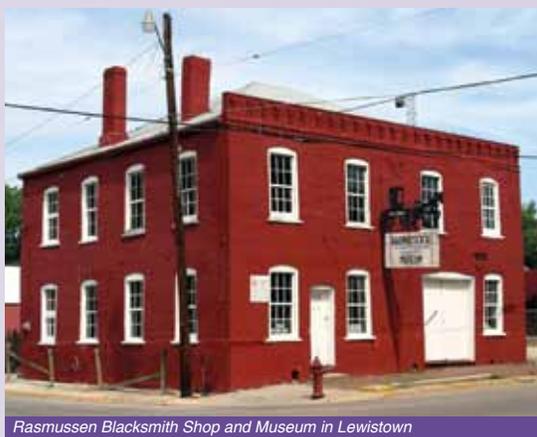
Fairview Cemetery



Fairview Reformed Church

Museums

In addition to Dickson Mounds Museum, several other small museums exist in Fulton County. Lewistown is home to Rasmussen Blacksmith Shop and Museum [26](#), and the Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum [29](#). The Easley Pioneer Museum, located in Ipava, features a restored one-room country school, an exhibit describing nearby World War II Camp Ellis, and the remains of an early pioneer log cabin. Adjacent to Riverside Park [15](#) in London Mills is the restored Ross Hotel, operated in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In Ellisville, the Historic Ellisville Restoration Organization has purchased many of the historic buildings along Main Street and operates the Post Office Museum. All of the museums mentioned here are open during the annual Spoon River Scenic Drive Fall Festival held during the first two full weekends of October, and by appointment.



Rasmussen Blacksmith Shop and Museum in Lewistown

Churches

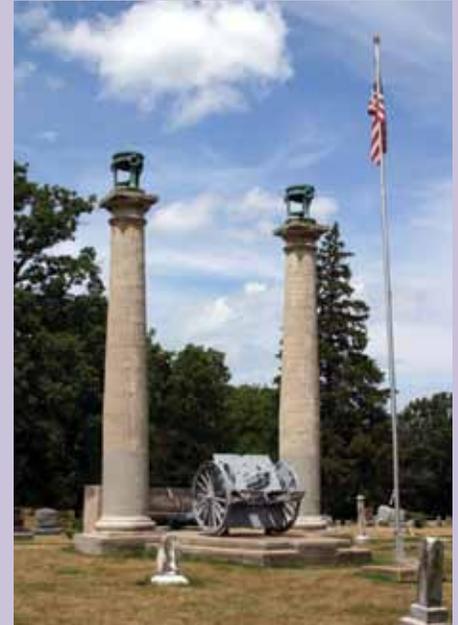
The establishment of churches commonly began as small gatherings of settlers meeting in member's homes or later in the local one room school. Soon these groups formally organized and erected church buildings, many of which remain in operation today. These include modest country churches such as Buckeye Church [27](#) near Smithfield, to more elaborate works of architecture. Three churches in Fulton County have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Lewistown's St. James Episcopal church [28](#), constructed in 1865, was designed by the famous architect Edwin Tuckerman Potter and has been described as one of the best examples of Gothic architecture in America. The Table Grove Community Church was built in 1869 as a Universalist Church. Its first pastor, Rev. John Hughes was a major leader in the Universalist Church movement. The Fairview Reformed Church was dedicated in 1841 as the first Dutch Reformed Church west of the Alleghenies.



Statue of Liberty replica in London Mills Riverside Park

Monuments

Commemoration of past events, places, and individuals can be found in many of our communities. Unique among these is a replica of the Statue of Liberty dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America, erected in London Mills Riverside Park **15** by a former resident who contributed much service to the organization. Nearby are monuments dedicated to the old mill and veterans of World War II. Monuments to veterans of past wars can also be found in Canton, Cuba, Farmington, and Lewistown. Impressive monuments dedicated to veterans of the Civil War are found in Fairview, Farmington, Lewistown and Vermont. Lewistown's monument in Oak Hill Cemetery **23** incorporates two pillars from the courthouse where Abraham Lincoln practiced law and delivered a speech on August 17, 1858. A monument on the town square in Vermont also commemorates Lincoln's speech there on October 27, 1858.



Civil War Monument at Lewiston's Oak Hill Cemetery

Places

Fulton County is known for its rich historical and archaeological resources and the remains found here played an important role in defining the sequence of prehistoric cultures in Illinois. Besides the Dickson Mounds, there are seven other archaeological sites that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the 2000 year old Ogden-Fette site **30** located near Dickson Mounds. Many Fulton County communities have specific places of historical interest. These are highlighted in the Communities Section of this guide, beginning on page 14. These include additional Lincoln related sites and homes that were stops on the Underground Railroad.



Ogden-Fette archaeological site near Dickson Mounds

Homes

Reminders of a prosperous past can be seen in the grandeur and variety of architectural styles preserved in the remaining historic homes scattered around the county. Concentrations of these are found in several communities including Astoria, Avon, Canton, Lewistown, and Vermont. Especially interesting is a group of 15 privately owned homes in Vermont that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Canton also has a significant number of historic homes, mostly located in the west side of town and along 1st Avenue. Particularly impressive is a home known as "Redcrest" **31** (the U.G. Orendorff Mansion) located at 345 Elm Street. These are glimpses of a gilded age when business was good and residents prospered.



One of the National Register homes in Vermont



Plank Road Toll Booth at Dickson Mounds Museum

Structures

Pieces of the history of Fulton County can be seen while traveling the county with a watchful eye. Remnants of historic one-room schools, business districts, public buildings, bridges, and abandoned rail lines tell the story of the past. Today these structures are rapidly disappearing. Two one-room schools are restored and preserved on the grounds of Dickson Mounds Museum **8** near a restored octagonal Plank Road Toll Booth that once stood near Canton. Exhibits are available for viewing in all of these structures. Historic business districts can be found in Astoria, Canton, Cuba, Farmington, and Lewistown. Some retain their integrity and others have undergone efforts to return them to their former grandeur. Among these are the restored Ellisville Post Office/Bank, and Opera House, which once again hosts a schedule of performances and other events. Restored railroad depots are found in Canton and Lewistown, and one of the few remaining iron bridges across Spoon River can be found at Bernadotte.

Encounter Arts



Art is all around us, and Fulton County continues to provide inspiration for writers, actors, painters and photographers. Such inspiration is found in scenic vistas overlooking the Spoon and Illinois Rivers, along the lakes, wetlands, gently winding streams fringed with forest, or across our rolling uplands. It also calls out from the past in the historic architecture of our communities and farms. Artistic beauty can be found in seemingly mundane things just waiting to be discovered by those who take the time to see, listen, and enjoy.

Fulton County's past is filled with colorful characters and stories that crafters of the written word have masterfully preserved on the page. Although the "Spoon River" of Edgar Lee Masters' world famous *Spoon River Anthology*, published in 1915, represents no actual place on the map, the author drew upon knowledge of his home town of Lewistown, and Spoon River Country. His poems are written as if spoken by the deceased residents of "Spoon River" from their graves on "the hill," Lewistown's Oak Hill Cemetery. The poems are remarkable for the range of personalities and the honesty with which they speak, telling stories of life and life's challenges. Today Masters' work is honored, and a monument dedicated to his work has been erected at Oak Hill Cemetery. Visi-

tors come from far and wide to visit the graves of selected characters from *Spoon River Anthology* on "the hill."

American fine artist and muralist Harold Kee Welch also was inspired by Spoon River Country. Hundreds of his paintings, carvings, murals, and sculpture are held in private collections around the country. Born in Smithfield, he later attended the Chicago Art Institute before embarking on a career as an commercial illustrator in Chicago. In 1963 he returned to Smithfield and focused full-time on fine art until his death



Harold Kee Welch Memorial Gallery

in 1972. Today in Smithfield, the Harold Kee Welch Memorial Studio is open during the Spoon River Scenic Drive Fall Festival, displaying works of oils, chalks, watercolors, and clay sculptures of Edgar Lee Masters and Welch himself. A copy of one of his extraordinary murals can be viewed at the Lewistown Visitors Center **38**.

Fulton County is also the birthplace of character actor Ian Wolfe. As a youth in Canton, Wolfe dreamed of becoming an actor and began by studying singing, dancing and pantomime. In 1919 he made his Broadway stage debut. After extensive work on Broadway, he moved to Hollywood in 1934 and went on to appear in over 270 films. In 1991, just before his death at age 95, he was Hollywood's oldest working actor. He is probably most remembered as Sidney Long in the film "Bedlam" (1946). In the 1990's he appeared on such sitcoms as "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "The Bob Newhart Show" and "Rhoda." Wolfe also wrote and self-published two books of poetry.

Singer-songwriter and character actor Lester Alvin (Smiley) Burnette was born in the south Fulton County town of Sumnum in 1911. He began singing in childhood and learned to play a variety

of instruments while still a boy, eventually mastering as many as 100. Later he performed on the National Barn Dance on Chicago's WLS radio station where he met Gene Autry. Burnette and Autry traveled to Hollywood together and got their first small film role in 1934. Burnette teamed

up with Autry as his lovable comic sidekick "Frog Millhouse" for more than 60 feature-length musical westerns. Burnette also appeared in several films with Roy Rogers and wrote over 400 songs, singing a significant number of them on screen during over three decades of success

in western films.

The writer of over 350 religious hymns, George Bennard once lived in Dunfermline. He worked in the coal mines there at the age of 16, supporting his mother and sisters after the death of his father in 1889. By 1898 he became a minister and held revival meetings across the Midwest. In 1913 Bennard, who played the guitar but not piano, wrote "The Old Rugged Cross," considered by many to be the most beloved hymn of all time.

Over the years, several successful artists, performers, and writers have been inspired by Fulton County, and millions have been inspired by their works. Fulton County has a long tradition of excellence in music, performance, and visual arts. Today, art thrives, and many practice their crafts locally, sharing their works and talents by teaching, performing, and entertaining. Several arts-related organizations thrive in Fulton County, carrying on this long tradition of artistic excellence. Primary among these is the Fulton County Arts Council, founded in 1971 to bring the arts to area residents through workshops, theater, music, painting and photography shows, and arts programs. Let Fulton County inspire your creative spirit.

Did You Know . . .

Lloyd Allayre Loar attended high school in Lewistown from 1899 to 1903 and while there began performing in local music programs. He became very interested in the acoustical properties of instruments and was a pioneer in the amplification of musical instruments electronically. He later became famous working for the Gibson Guitar Company.

The famous poet Edgar Lee Masters wrote a poem about Dickson Mounds that was gratefully received by the Dickson family.

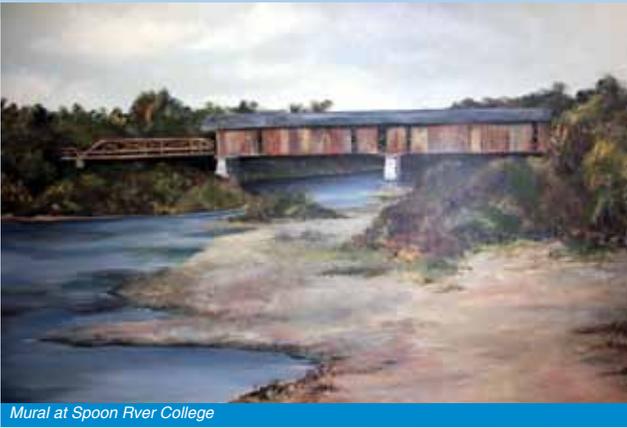
Psychedelic era rock band The Doors, with their iconic front man Jim Morrison, once performed at the Garden Theater in Canton. Now considered a "classic rock" band, Styx later appeared there as well.

Alison Krauss, the popular bluegrass singer and songwriter once performed at Dickson Mounds Museum while still a teenager.

Former Canton resident David Pires has become a formidable Hollywood force in movies, television, commercials, and cartoons.



Fulton County Arts Council Gallery at Graham Hospital



Mural at Spoon River College

level commons cafeteria area of Spoon River College 19 has a long wall with several murals painted by students depicting historic Fulton County scenes and buildings. Similar murals can be found inside the Fulton County Health Department 35 in Canton and in the downtown business district.

Art Venues

The Fulton County Arts Council maintains a gallery located in the lower level atrium of Graham Hospital 36 in Canton, located on West Walnut Street. This gallery hosts shows by local artists and art competitions throughout the year. Spoon River College 19 also maintains a small art gallery in the Centers Building on the Canton campus at the southwest edge of town. This gallery exhibits art by local artists and shows by Spoon River College art students. Located on south Main Street in Canton is the Snowman Studios Gallery, featuring paintings, drawings, jewelry, ceramics, and more. In Smithfield's Red Brick School Community Center is Bill Swango's Wildlife Art Gallery, call for appointment (309-782-3283). Swango fashions incredible wildlife pieces of solid walnut and clay. Dickson Mounds Museum 8, located between Lewistown and Havana, features art of prehistoric Native Americans and also hosts visual art shows in their special exhibits gallery.



Bill Swango's Wildlife Art Gallery



Spoon River College Play

Theater

Opera Houses in several Fulton County communities provided venues for a variety of entertainment. Few have survived, and only the restored Ellisville Opera House continues to function as originally intended. This is the home of the Little Rascals Theater Troupe, a group of local children who perform beloved stories such as Charlotte's Web, and Tom Sawyer. Performances are scheduled during the Scenic Drive Fall Festival and other times during the year. The Fulton County Playhouse 37 near Bryant, established in 1964, has presented

a variety of theatrical productions for Fulton County residents and visitors. The theatre is a converted barn in which several shows are staged annually. Call or more information at 309-647-6032. The Spoon River College 19 (SRC) Drama Department presents a student theater production each year. Call 309-649-6257 for more information. In Canton, Many Lights Stage Productions is a community of theatre artists who are committed to the quality production of plays that make a difference. Call 309-357-9366 for more information.

Public Art

The art of sculpture is seen in London Mills' Statue of Liberty Replica at Riverside Park 15 and in the Civil War monuments in Canton's Greenwood Cemetery 32, Farmington's Oak Ridge Cemetery 33, and the Vermont Cemetery. Impressive stone carvings can be found in many of the other cemeteries around the county. While monuments, memorials, and civic statuary are perhaps the oldest forms of public art, architectural detail and even architecture itself is more widespread and recognizable. Fulton County has many structures, especially homes that are impressive for their architecture. Several that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places are clustered in the communities of Canton and Vermont. Many of the churches exhibit beautiful works of stained glass art. Lewistown's Post Office 34, located on Main Street, is decorated with a mural by Ida York Abelman of New York City. She was employed during the depression years as part of the New Deal Art Program to paint the wonderful mural titled "Lewistown Milestones" that was appreciated by townspeople. The lower



Canton Music in the Park

Music

Former Lewistown resident Lloyd Allayre Loar was a master musician and sound engineer for Gibson Guitar Corporation during the early part of the 20th century. Loar was the mastermind who perfected the sound of the F5 model mandolin which is highly sought after by bluegrass musicians. Today, Marigold Meadows 44 located in Lewistown holds an annual Lloyd Loar's Hometown Bluegrass Festival in his memory on the last full weekend in June. For more information call 641-344-8284. Dickson Mounds Museum is home of the Hickory Ridge Coffeehouse, hosted by popular singer-songwriter Chris Vallillo. The event features performances by noted folk musicians the third Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm. The evening includes an open mic session before each main act and delicious deserts and coffee between sets. Bluegrass, country, and folk music are also played at impromptu gatherings held at the Valley View Campground east of Lewistown during the warmer months and other small venues around the county. The Red Roof Country Music Barn located one-quarter mile south of Lewistown features Country Opry Shows by a group of area musicians. Call 309-338-2808 for more information.



Hickory Ridge Coffeehouse

Enjoy the Outdoors



The landscapes you see and outdoor opportunities that await you today in Fulton County are the result of thousands of years of natural and human forces molding the landscape. The Illinois River, traveling in an ancient channel of the mighty Mississippi, marks the county's southeastern boundary. Along the bluff here Native Americans built mounds that are still visible today. Strip mining for coal left an inheritance of many hundreds of lakes and ponds—so many



Whitetail Deer Fawn

that Fulton County ranks second in Illinois, with over 2,500 water impoundments! Deep ravines and bottomlands—the largest these, the Spoon River valley—make for a landscape of considerable character and variety. Recent and ongoing conservation and restoration efforts have created a rich suite of opportunities that awaits those who visit.

Abundant bird watching as well as chances to see deer, coyote, fox, badger, and other wildlife—even fish feeding—are all within your reach. Several of the top public wildlife viewing opportunities are highlighted in

the Canton Loop of the Illinois River Country Nature Trail which features twelve diverse sites. Print copies of the Canton Loop guide are available upon request from the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce (309-647-2677 or www.cantonillinois.org/chamber). The Illinois River Country Nature Trail project offers seven “loops” of

outdoor recreation and wildlife viewing activities. These stretch from Canton and Havana north through Illinois River Country all the way to Princeton and Ottawa. This same set of

outdoor recreation and tourism attractions is now being shared with visitors through the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway. The Illinois River Road was designated one of America's Byways in 2005, and many new programs to welcome and guide travelers are now in the works. Learn more about the National Scenic Byway and new developments at www.illinois-riverroad.org.

Traveling the Scenic Byway south from the junction of Illinois Routes 78 & 97 and US Route 24, you'll find a remarkable vista opening up before you as you drop down into the Illinois River Valley. The complex of lakes, wetlands, prairie and forest plantings ahead is The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve. It stretches roughly 5 miles north to south and about 3 miles wide, including uplands west of the

highway. The big lake you see here today, Thompson Lake, has returned after an absence of more than 80 years. Lakes and wetlands once existed along much of the Illinois River, providing crucial habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

Thompson Lake and the lands and waters surrounding it were transformed from a private hunting and fishing club around the turn of the 20th century, to one of the largest farms in Illinois. In 2000, the site was purchased by The Nature Conservancy, and work began toward restoration. Now the lake and wetlands have returned in dramatic fashion. The Nature Conservancy plans to manage the site to mimic the natural conditions and cycles of drought and flood necessary to support a rich diversity of plants and animals. Water levels in Thompson Lake will vary from season to season and year to year creating

a dynamic landscape to which visitors will want to return.

The Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge is just to the south, and together the two Emiquon sites offer a wide range of

outdoor activities, including hunting and fishing, hiking, canoeing, and, of course, ample wildlife viewing. A visit to the Emiquon sites should begin with a stop at Dickson Mounds Museum for an orientation to the opportunities to enjoy and learn about the surrounding landscape. While there, don't miss the chance to see how humans have used the rich natural resources of the Illinois River Valley and surrounding landscape for 12,000 years.

Did You Know . . .

Fulton County . . .

. . . has produced the largest non-typical whitetail deer harvested in the state of Illinois. This 36-point buck had a score of 304 3/8 inches, making it the fifth largest non-typical ever recorded in the Boone & Crockett record book and the third largest whitetail deer taken by a hunter in the world.

. . . usually ranks in the top 5 counties of the state in total number of deer harvested each year.

. . . produced state records for Black Bullhead, Smallmouth and Spotted Bass taken from Fulton County strip mine lakes.

. . . ranks second in the state for number of lakes and ponds.



The dam across Spoon River at Bernadotte



Snow Geese at the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting

Fulton County's deep ravines, creek bottoms, and abundant crops growing on rich farmland provide the right mix of habitat and food for healthy deer and turkey populations. Hunters and hunting outfitters come to Fulton County from distant states in search of trophy White-tailed deer. Private land turkey and deer hunting opportunities in Fulton County can be found on the Internet. Contact information for Illinois licensed outfitters is available from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Public land deer hunting opportunities exist at Banner Marsh and Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Areas (archery only) and at the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, but it is public land waterfowl hunting that is in greatest supply in Fulton County. Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area and Anderson Lake Conservation Area both feature large



Blue Goose

floodplain lakes along the Illinois River, providing important Illinois River Flyway habitat for migrating waterfowl and popular waterfowl hunting opportunities as well. Hunting blinds are assigned for the coming season through a drawing held on the last Sunday in July at each site. Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area offers a great waterfowl hunting opportunity for those new to the sport or who don't own all the gear. Hunting parties that win during the site's early morning drawing, get the use of one of 26 hunting blinds, a boat with oars, life jackets, and 2 dozen decoys for the day, all for only \$10.00 per hunter.

Fishing

Bluegill, crappie, bass, pike, walleye, muskie, and catfish—Fulton County has got'em all! The strip mine lakes of Lakeland Park, Fulton County Camping and Recreation Area (trolling motors only), and Banner Marsh hold nearly the whole range. Canton Lake is known for crappie, channel catfish, and big flathead cats.



Fishing on Spoon River



Fulton County Camping and Recreation Area



Ice fishing catch of Bluegill

Anderson and Rice Lakes, with their closer connections to the Illinois River are known for channel cat and bull-head fishing. Spoon River is also known for big catfish and can be fished below the Bernadotte Dam and accessed via boat ramps at London Mills and at the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge along Illinois Routes 78 & 97. The Nature Conservancy has stocked Thompson Lake with a rich variety of native fish, including several game fish species.

Camping

Public camping facilities in Fulton County offer a variety of options, from electric hookup sites for large RVs to tent camping sites in a quiet grove of pines. Most of the locations with camping also include fishing opportunities; so, pack a rod and reel and plan a relaxing weekend. For example, access fishing near your camp at Canton Lake or the Fulton County Camping and Recreation Area, where campsites are available for both RVs and tents. RV travelers will find a dump station here, as well as at several other Fulton County sites. (Please see grid on pages 12-13 for specific sites and facilities.) A special camp opportunity, including a wide range of outdoor activities, is offered to those with disabilities and their friends and families by Camp Big Sky. Built on restored strip mine land, the camp is operated by a charitable, non-profit organization whose staff and volunteers provide access to activities at no cost to participants. (Visits must be scheduled in advance by calling 309-243-9268 or www.campbigsky.org.)



Camping in Fulton County, photo by Mark Dolejs



Watching fish along Lakeland Park's walking trail.

Hiking / Biking

New hiking and biking opportunities are springing up all over Fulton County. Lewistown offers both (see communities section p. 19). Liverpool's levee top trail provides a walking loop with river views. Nature trails can be found at the Spoon River College Arboretum and at the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, where the Frank C. Bellrose trail follows the Spoon River and returns through bottomland forest. A short walking trail, bird watching, and interpretive exhibits are available at the Nature Conservancy's

Emiquon Preserve Visitor Use area. The levees at Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge are also open to wildlife watchers traveling by foot or bicycle, outside of waterfowl hunting season. The same is true for the network of roadways at Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area. The Canton Park District offers a paved walking loop at Wallace Park and over 5 miles of paved walking and biking trail at Lakeland Park. The district's Big Creek Park provides a more primitive forest walk.

Boating

Recreational boaters may launch onto the Illinois River, accessed via boat ramps at Copperas Creek Landing ³⁹ and Liverpool, to travel up or down river, visiting other riverside communities or popular beaches. While the increasingly famous "jumping carp" (they really do jump!) have made waterskiing and jet-skiing on the river hazardous, they have spawned new water sports, such as bow-hunting for the leaping fish. For carp-free boating, head to the 250 acre Canton Lake. Daily permits are available at the campground just a short drive from the boat launch. Canoeists and kayakers start on Canton Lake for an upstream exploration into Copperas Creek. Public access strip mine lakes provide a range of paddling experiences. Lakeland Park offers several large lakes close to Canton (even pedal boats to rent). Long, narrow, and winding, Lake #3 at Fulton County Camping & Recreation Area can feel surprisingly remote after rounding the first bend or two. For an even wilder feel, explore the network of over 200 bodies of water within the Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area, except during waterfowl hunting season. Access the celebrated Spoon River below the Bernadotte Dam and via boat ramps at London Mills and the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge. Distance between access points is long, and private property along Spoon River must be respected; so, careful trip planning is very important. Bernadotte dam is dangerous and must be portaged! When the water is high, Thompson Lake on the Emiquon Preserve offers visitors over 1,500 acres of waters to paddle. At lower water levels, 6 miles of ditches left over from drainage and cultivation, provide access to explore this extensive wetland restoration. Emiquon Preserve boating and fishing permits can be obtained at the nearby Dickson Mounds Museum. Gas powered motors, whether or not in use, are not permitted.



Canoe the winding Spoon River

Key

Many of the sites listed here provide facilities and activities free of charge. However, those associated with an "\$" symbol charge a fee for certain activities. Call the number listed for more information on fees. Sites associated with a ♿ symbol may have only limited accessibility. Call for more information. Please note that Camp Big Sky is specifically intended for handicapped adults and children and their families. The numbered red dots refer to the location of the site on the maps on page 16 - 17.



Indicates that this site is also part of the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway.

Site



Anderson Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area

Rt. 100 South 309-759-4484 \$ ♿ 1

Avondale Lake

Avon 309-335-0550 \$ 2

Banner Marsh State Fish & Wildlife Area

Near Banner 309-647-9184 \$ ♿ 3

Bernadotte Park

4

Big Creek Park

Canton 309-647-1345 ♿ 5

Camp Big Sky

Near Fairview 309-258-6002 ♿ 6

Canton Lake

Near Canton 309-647-9600 \$ ♿ 7

Dickson Mounds Museum

Near Lewistown 309-547-3721 ♿ 8

Double T State Fish & Wildlife Area

Near Canton 309-647-9184 9

Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge

Near Havana 309-535-2290 10

Farmington Township Park

Near Farmington 309-245-2474 ♿ 11

Fulton Co. Camping & Recreation Area

Near Bryant 309-668-2931 \$ ♿ 12

Lakeland Park

Canton 309-647-4702 \$ ♿ 13

Liverpool Levee

14

London Mills Riverside Park

309-486-3610 ♿ 15

Putman Township Park

Near Cuba 309-785-5349 ♿ 16

Ratcliff Park

Near Lewistown 309-547-7111 ♿ 17

Rice Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area

Near Banner 309-647-9184 ♿ 18

Spoon River College Arboretum

Near Canton 309-649-6213 19

The Nature Conservancy Emiquon Preserve

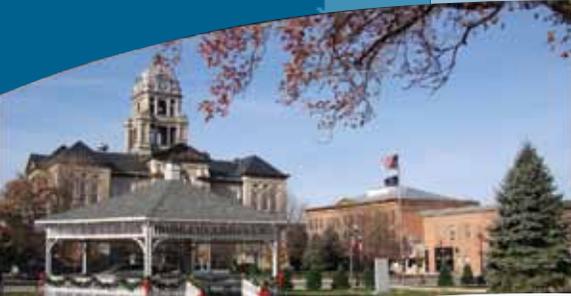
Near Lewistown 309-547-2730 20

Wallace Park

Canton 309-647-1345 ♿ 21

Facilities									Activities									GPS
Concession	Dump Station	Fire Pits	Nature Preserve	Picnic Area	Playground	Restrooms	Shelter	Sports	Wildlife Viewing	Biking	Boating	Camping	Fishing	Disc Golf	Hiking	Hunting	Swimming	
	●	●		●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●		N40°11.792 W090°12.194
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●		●	N40°39.827 W090°25.239
				●		●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●		N40°31.262 W089°53.230
				●	●	●	●						●					N40°24.137 W090°19.349
●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●		●	N40°34.136 W090°02.167
		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●		●			N40°41.036 W090°07.220
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●					N40°34.394 W089°59.253
		●		●	●	●	●											N40°20.949 W090°06.892
			●						●		●		●		●	●		N40°34.945 W090°05.971
			●	●					●	●			●		●	●		N40°18.344 W090°05.165
		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●					N40°41.018 W089°59.959
	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●			N40°27.768 W090°04.647
●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●		●			N40°34.701 W090°02.892
				●	●		●		●	●	●		●		●			N40°23.438 W089°05.197
				●	●	●	●				●		●					N40°42.773 W090°15.957
			●		●	●	●	●	●		●		●					N40°28.526 W090°11.415
				●	●	●	●		●	●					●			N40°23.547 W090°10.104
	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●		●	●		N40°28.599 W089°57.031
								●	●	●				●	●			N40°31.809 W090°04.577
			●						●	●	●		●		●	●		N40°21.133 W090°05.197
				●	●	●	●	●							●			N40°33.150 W090°02.693

Experience Communities



During the early years of settlement, Fulton County residents concentrated in many locations around the county. Since that time many of these places have faded away leaving little or no trace on the landscape, surviving only in the annals of our history. Others remain as vestiges of once thriving communities. For example, just off Illinois Route 78 just south of Canton is Maples Mill where a cluster of homes marks the place where Thompson Maple built a sawmill in the mid-1800s to supply oak planks to surface the wagon

road between Canton and the steamboat landing at Liverpool. Just south of Maples Mill, Little America is perched on the Illinois River valley bluff at the junction of today's US Route 24 and Illinois Route 78. According to local legend it was named for its supposed resemblance to the Antarctic exploration base that bears the same name. South of Lewistown on US Route 24, on the banks of Spoon River lies Duncan Mills, another town named for its founder's mill. Here George Duncan established a grist mill in the 1830s that became a center for early commerce. Further south is Sumnum, the birthplace and early boyhood

home of noted musician Smiley Burnett who had a long and successful radio and film career. Laid out in 1837, Marrietta, located along Illinois Route 95, reached its peak in the days of railroad transportation and once had a depot and full complement of local businesses. Similarly, the town of Fiatt, west of Canton on Illinois Routes 9 and 97 prospered due to the nearby railroad and, in the early 1900s, provided homes for many who worked in the surrounding coal mines. Although little recognized today, places like Blyton, Breeds, Brereton, Enion, Gilchrist, Monterey, Sepo, and Seyville live on as small residential communities.

Did You Know . . .

Fulton County . . .

. . . was named for Robert Fulton who invented the first successful steamboat in 1807.

. . . was part of the lands set aside to be used as payment to veterans of the War of 1812.

. . . was established five years after Illinois became a state in 1823.

. . . extended all the way to the northern boundary of the state including present day Chicago between 1823 and 1825.

. . . now has a population of 37,069.

Astoria

Astoria was laid out in 1836 as a small village called Washington. It was relocated and platted as Vienna in 1837, but that name was already taken; so, it was renamed Astoria by a special charter in 1839. The new name was chosen to honor John Jacob Astor, the renowned fur trader and millionaire, who, it is said, owned a quarter section of land on or near where Astoria now lies. Known as "The Garden Spot of Fulton County," Astoria greets downtown visitors with a beautiful city park, featuring a turn-of-the-century bandstand, quaint lamp posts, and butterfly garden. This park also hosts visitors and vendors during the Scenic Drive Fall Festival. Hughes Park on the south edge of town offers a covered pavilion for picnicking, sports facilities and playground equipment. Those who have seen the movie "Ghost of Spoon River," may recognize Astoria locations from scenes in the film, including the city park and the old brick Town Hall which now houses the Astoria Fire Protection District. Travel services in Astoria include gasoline, restaurants, grocery, ATM banking, and convenience stores.



Bandstand in Astoria Park

Avon

The town of Avon began when Ira Woods and several other Woods families settled here. Between 1835 and 1843 the settlement was called Woodsville. Over the next few years other families from the eastern states, Indiana, Kentucky, the British Isles, and France settled here also. Among these was

Eloi Malliard, who was a personal valet of Joseph Bonaparte, brother to Napoleon. Due to confusion with other area towns, Woodsville was changed to Woodstock, and then later to Avon. When the Northern Cross railroad was built through town, Avon's population nearly doubled and business prospered. Remnants of this prosperous past can be seen in the nicely maintained, large, older homes along S. Main Street / Illinois Route 41. The Federated church has impressive stained glass windows visible from the road as does the Methodist church on Washington Street. The town's railroad "Depot" is preserved in Avcom Park located on the northeast edge of town which is also the site of the annual Fat Steer Show. Here also are a ballfield and preserved steam-powered tractor. Camping, fishing, and other recreation are available at Avondale Lake on the east edge of town for a daily fee. Avon also offers convenience stores, gas, restaurant, ATM banking, medical clinic, quilt shop, library, and antique stores.



United Methodist Church in Avon



Illinois River boat launch at Copperas Creek near Banner

Banner

Founded in 1832 as Utica, the name was later changed to Banner to avoid confusion with the community of Utica in LaSalle County. Located along Copperas Creek, Banner was home to saw mills, grist mills, and a collection of shops. Near the mouth of Copperas Creek a lock and dam was built on the Illinois River in 1876. It was one of four locks built to improve navigation on the Illinois River so that goods could be more reliably shipped from Chicago to the Mississippi River. The walls of the historic lock can still be seen at the end of Dike Road, just a 5 minute drive from Banner. This is also an excellent location for eagle watching during the winter months. Dike Road also provides sportsman's access to a public boat launch and deer and waterfowl hunting in the Copperas Creek Unit of the Rice Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area. Banner sits between Rice Lake and Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Areas, both of which offer a variety of outdoor recreation activities (see table on page 12 & 13). Travel services in Banner include a motel and restaurant.

Bernadotte

Nestled on the banks of the Spoon River in the middle of Fulton County, Bernadotte is a favorite stop on the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive, attracting large numbers of vendors and visitors during the two Fall Festival weekends. Bernadotte was the once the site of a mill dam. The present dam, visible from the public park near the café, was built as part of the water system for WWII era Camp Ellis, whose construction leveled the original town. The pools and riffles below the dam make this a popular fishing spot. A special treat in summer is the large number of hummingbirds visible from the café and at nearby Hummingbird Haven, a private property which hosts bird-banding and educational events each year. The public park offers a pavilion and playground equipment. Travel services in Bernadotte include the café as well as canoe and cabin rental. In 2008, Bernadotte's Iron Bridge was designated one of the state's "10 Most Endangered Historic Places" by Landmarks Illinois. Efforts are underway to save the historic dam and bridge, and donations can be sent to the Bernadotte Historical Society, PO Box 314, Ipava, IL 61441 (309-338-4449).



Historic Iron Bridge at Bernadotte



Bryant Christian Church

Bryant

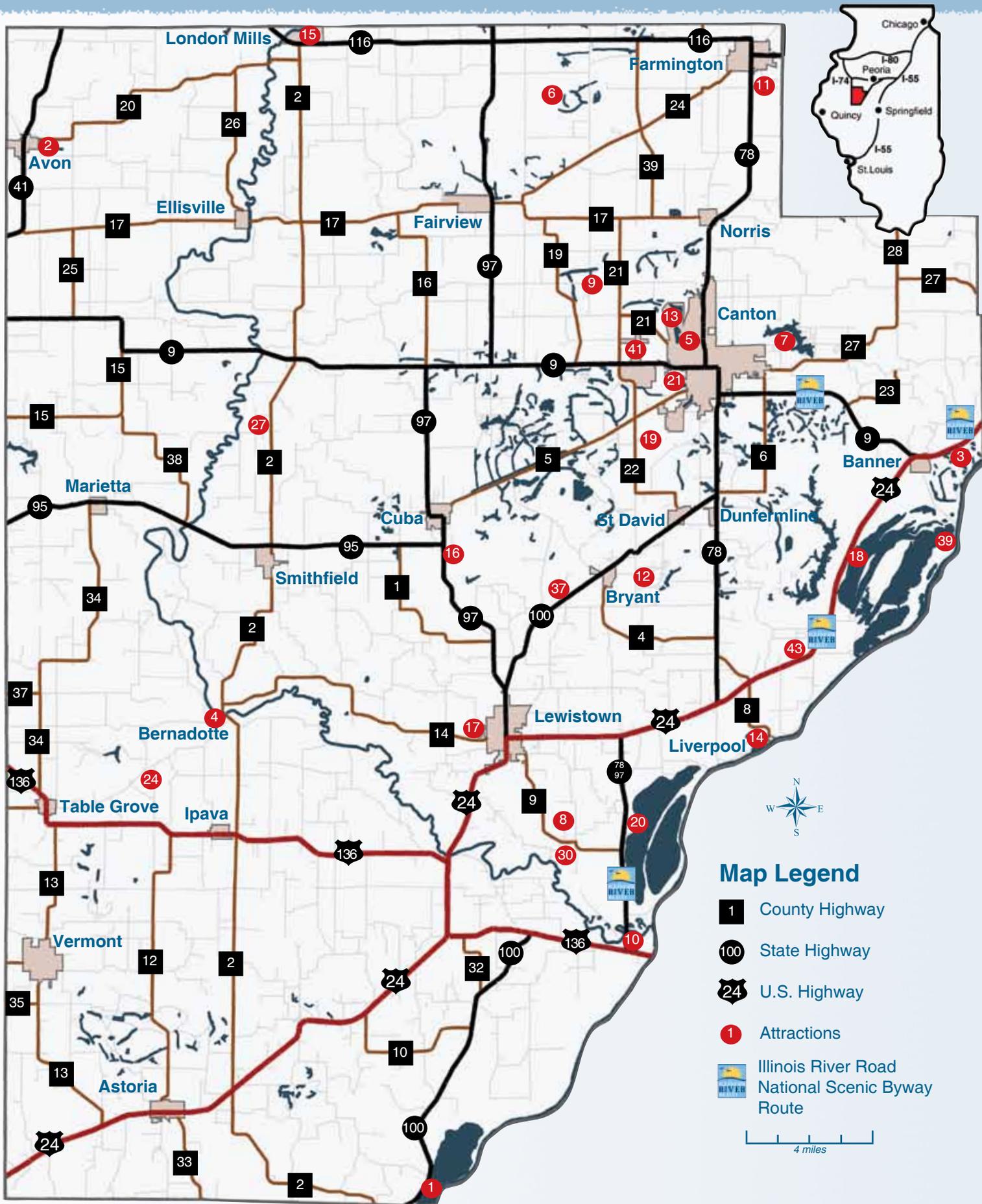
The village was founded in 1863, and named for either an O'Bryant who ran a nearby sawmill or a Bryant from Lewistown who was soon to become manager of an area mining company. In either case, by the late 1860s, Bryant, with its dry goods, furniture, and other stores, was thriving amid the nearby saw mills and coal mines. The Antioch Christian Church, built in 1861 on a site a mile and a half to the south, was moved with a team of oxen and wooden rollers to become part of the bustling village. It now stands on South State Street between Main and Hasson streets. A few blocks away on East Main, sits a Methodist Church of roughly the same vintage. As recently as the late 1960s, Bryant still had a grocery store and greenhouse. These days, travelers through Bryant may be headed for the fishing and camping opportunities at the nearby Fulton County Camping and Recreation Area, just east of the village, or going to see local musical and dramatic talent at the Fulton County Playhouse, just over a mile and a half southwest of town.

Canton

Established in 1825 by Isaac Swan and Nathaniel Jones, Canton is now the largest community in Fulton County. Swan chose the name Canton because he thought his town to be directly opposite Canton in China on the other side of the globe. By 1838 the population had more than doubled, to 780 inhabitants, primarily from the eastern US, Germany, and Ireland. Growth continued, and Canton became a booming place with groceries, distilleries, woolen mills, brick yards, pork packing, and cigar makers. While pork-packing had largely fueled the town's early growth, by the 1860s when the railroads came to town, direct shipment of live hogs to Chicago packing houses led to its decline. Meanwhile other industries expanded. Just before the turn of the 20th century, Canton dominated the cigar industry in the Midwest, with as many as 20 firms producing 20 million cigars annually. Eventually, it was heavy manufacturing that would come to dominate. The Parlin & Orendorff Plow Works, established in 1860, became the largest plow manufacturing plant in the world by 1919, when it was purchased by the International Harvester Company. The prominent families behind Canton's agricultural equipment manufacturing past created trusts that continue to support numerous churches, community organizations and facilities such as the library, and city parks. The Canton Park District includes several parks with a variety of facilities and recreational opportunities (see table on page 13). Its wealth of outdoor activities helped earn Canton recognition as a Gateway Community on the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway. Canton's historic downtown and its variety of travel services—including motels, restaurants, auto repair, groceries, gasoline, convenience stores, sporting goods, bowling alleys, miniature golf, roller skating, ATM banking, and shopping of all kinds—make it an excellent hub from which to explore the area.



Jones Park in downtown Canton



Map Legend

- 1 County Highway
- 100 State Highway
- 24 U.S. Highway
- 1 Attractions
- Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway Route

4 miles

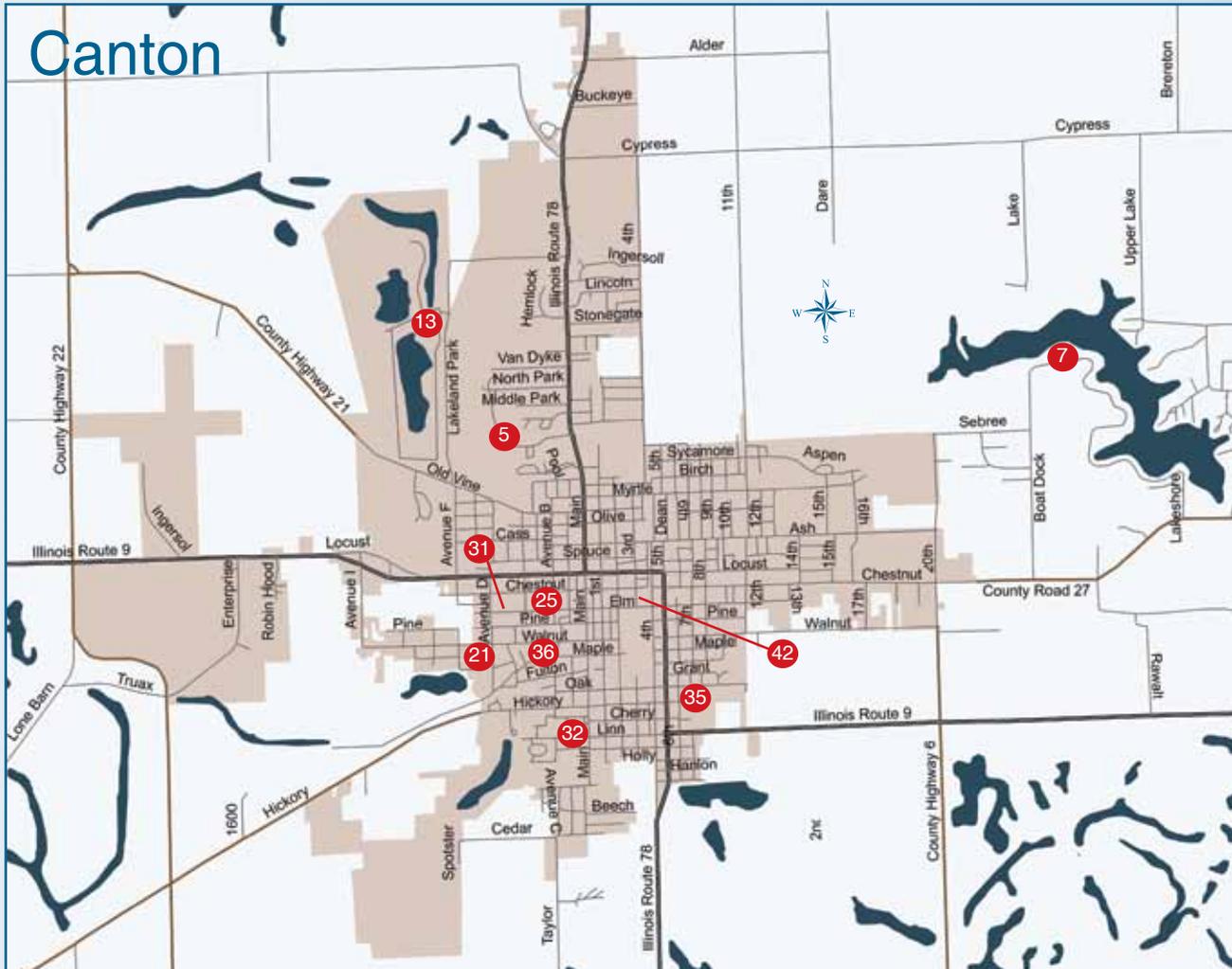
Lewistown



Farmington



Canton



Cuba

Cuba was formerly two towns, Centerville and Middleton, both founded in the middle 1830s. They merged in 1853, and Cuba acquired its name some time after that. The name appears to have been meant to reflect the degree to which it, like its Caribbean namesake, seemed an island surrounded by water. The ponds and wetlands around Cuba weren't drained until the 1880s, but the drainage tiles made in Cuba's factory, once the town's largest industry, were shipped throughout Illinois. The Toledo, Peoria, and Warsaw railroad passed through the edge of town in 1868 and later came the Fulton County Narrow Gauge in 1878. Like other communities business boomed with the coming of the railroad which fueled the development of the central business district, including an opera house that still stands on the town square. The square is the focus of activity during Scenic Drive Fall Festival and Cuba's Soldiers and Sailors Reunion, an annual community celebration. The first shaft mine for coal was opened near Cuba in 1869, and the first strip mine was opened in 1903 at the site of present-day Putnam Park, just south of Cuba. The restored mine ground of Putnam Park now offers fishing, picnic pavilions, baseball and softball fields, and volleyball sand pit. Near this park, is the new Cuba High School, award winning for its use of "green technology." Its solar arrays and wind turbine are visible to passersby on Illinois Route 97. Cuba businesses of interest to



Historic Buildings on the square in Cuba

travelers include ATM banking, laundromat, pharmacy, convenience store, gasoline, car wash, as well as a greenhouse, bulk foods, and furniture store that are part of the Amish settlement established just southwest of town along Illinois Route 95.



Historic Buildings in Ellisville

Ellisville

In 1828, Levi Ellis began building a log cabin and flour mill here along Spoon River. Before arriving he is said to have cut the first tree for the first log cabin in what became the city of Springfield. The town of Ellisville was later founded in 1839. Although the town never had a large population, it became a center of activity which once had several businesses, including two hotels, an opera house, a bank, and two churches. The legacy of its more prosperous past is kept alive through the efforts of its citizens who have established the Historic Ellisville Restoration Organization. Through

their preservation and restoration efforts several of the town's historic business buildings have been purchased, preserved, and renovated. This downtown district is a center for Scenic Drive Fall Festival activities. Post Office, Shoe Store, and Opera House all offer authentic glimpses into Ellisville's past through photos and exhibits. The Opera House and Community Center also host several events throughout the year including plays, musical events, toy shows, a Sassafras Festival, and other tasty fundraisers. Ellisville's public library had the unique distinction of being the smallest community library in the state. Travel services in Ellisville are limited, but include a tidy small-town auto repair shop.

Fairview

By 1837, several families from New Jersey had settled and the town of Utica had been laid out. The name was later changed to Fairview. In 1838, the Fairview Academy was constructed, serving as a church and school. The upper floor of the academy was used as the church until the current Reformed Church building was completed in 1841. Located at the corner of Main and Market Streets, this was the first member church of the Reformed Church of America (est.1628) to be constructed west of the Alleghenies. Fairview's City Council governs from their unique octagonal City Hall at the corner of Wilson & Pumyea streets. The nearby Civil War monument dates back to 1868, just shortly after that bloody conflict's end. Several well-kept older homes can be seen throughout the village. The Scenic Drive Fall Festival includes Fairview, where exhibits and music at the historic Opera House are a highlight. Valley Park District offers baseball and softball fields, pavilion, playground, basketball court, and an outdoor stage. Recently, Mid-Century telephone has added a paved walking path at their new facility just north of the park. Travel services in Fairview include a café, restaurant, convenience store, and gasoline. A greenhouse, bank, and library can also be found in town.



Fairview's octagonal Town Hall



Dunfermline Fish and Chicken Fry

Dunfermline

Founded in 1890 this small town was named for the home of Andrew Carnegie in Scotland. In keeping with its Scottish name, Dunfermline's early inhabitants were immigrant miners mostly from Scotland, England, and Wales. As in many mining towns, a lot of the simple, single-story homes were originally owned by the mining companies. It was also for a time home to George Bennard, author of over 350 religious songs. The village hall site on Center Street is home to the Annual Dunfermline Fish and Chicken Fry, a locally famous fundraiser.

Farmington

Illinois Routes 78 and 116 passing east to west through Farmington's downtown, are called Fort Street, so named for the Blackhawk War era's (early 1830s) fort that once stood near where the town's water towers are now. Farmington itself dates to 1834, when intersecting stage coach lines supported hotels and other businesses opening later in that decade. By 1900 the business district on Fort Street was well established. Much of it remains today, along with the attractive older homes that would have belonged to the local merchants who built and maintained the downtown over the years. Turn of the century immigration of coal miners brought new waves of Europeans to Farmington. A strong Italian heritage is still evident in today's Italian Fest, a community-wide celebration that includes a contest to find the hidden "Grande Pomodoro" (Great Tomato). In 1912 an inter-urban passenger rail line linked Farmington with Canton a few miles to the south. Spoon River Scenic Drive historical markers indicate the location of two private residences, visible from the street, that were stops on the Underground Railroad. One, the 1854 Riley



Veterans Memorials in Farmington's Reed Park

Bristol home on the north side of Fort Street, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The other stands above the road on the west side of South Main Street. Farmington's Oak Ridge Cemetery, with its first burial dating back to 1835, includes an impressive Civil War monument erected in 1892. Another monument, this one honoring Farmington's veterans, and spanning conflicts from the Civil War to the First Persian Gulf War, can be found in Reed Park, downtown just one block north of Fort Street. This park also plays host to Scenic Drive Fall Festival vendors and visitors during Fall Festival. Farmington boasts three other parks: Jacobs Park, with a pavilion, sports facilities, and restrooms; Dimmitt Park, with picnic pavilion, playground, and ballfield; Farmington Township Park, with a picnic pavilion, restrooms, sports facilities, playground, and a small lake. The Farmington Historical Society Museum can be found within the downtown business district. Travel services in Farmington include restaurants, groceries, ATM banking, car wash, gasoline, convenience stores, and laundromat.

Ipava

With its annual Camp Ellis Days celebration, Ipava remembers its role as home to Camp Ellis, a WWII training and POW camp that stretched north and west from Ipava nearly to Table Grove. Visitors to Ipava can obtain a driving tour brochure and view an exhibit about Camp Ellis at the Easley Pioneer Museum and restored Freeman School, located at the corner of Broadway & Mill Streets, open during Scenic Drive Fall Festival and Camp Ellis Days. (Other times call for 309-254-3207 an appointment.) Downtown Ipava's Veterans Park is the focus of Camp Ellis Days festivities and also hosts Scenic Drive Fall Festival visitors and vendors. Memorial Park on the east side of town offers a pavilion, a basketball court, and playground equipment. Baseball and softball fields can be found at the Ipava Ball Park near the Easley Pioneer Museum. Services include a restaurant, convenience store, post office, banking, as well as taxidermy and outfitting for hunting.



Camp Ellis Days Parade

Lewistown

Founded by Ossian Ross in 1823, named for his son Lewis, is the oldest city in Fulton County and its County seat. Fulton County once extended all the way north to include Chicago. For Chicagoans between 1823 and 1825, obtaining a marriage license meant a lengthy journey south to Lewistown's log courthouse. Today's courthouse is a prominent landmark on Main Street, facing the elegant 1st Presbyterian Church (circa. 1854). East of Main Street and running parallel is Broadway, home to many of Lewistown's stately older homes and to St. James Episcopal Church, considered to be one of the finest examples of pure gothic architecture in America. Author Edgar Lee Masters set his *Spoon River Anthology* in Oak Hill Cemetery, which is on Main Street, north of the center of town. As a young man, Masters lived on Main Street in a home that still stands across from the grocery store. A later family home can be seen on Adams Street, west of Main. Two pillars, between which Abraham Lincoln once gave a speech, were relocated from an older version of the courthouse to become a prominent landmark in Oak Hill Cemetery. Just north of the cemetery on the opposite side of Main Street is a modest brick home where Lincoln visited his friend Major Newton Walker on several occasions. Lewistown has walking and biking opportunities, with parking in the north end of the cemetery and walking throughout. Bicyclists will find parking and a marked route leaving from the MidAmerica Bank parking lot on Main Street, extending into the quiet countryside west of town. For the traveler, Lewistown offers a newly opened visitors center, restaurants, motel, gasoline, convenience stores, grocery store, laundromat, ATM banking, and auto repair services.



Lewistown First Presbyterian Church

Liverpool

Formerly the site of a 2000 year old Indian village and burial mound group, the Village of Liverpool was founded in 1836. Shortly after 1850 a plank road was built, connecting Liverpool to the manufacturers in Canton. As the railroads captured a larger share of what had once been river commerce, Liverpool's importance diminished. However, a thriving fishing and hunting industry provided several decades of relative prosperity in the late 1800s and early 1900s. By 1920, the levee construction and drainage of wetlands and backwater lakes transformed the floodplain into row-crop agriculture. Liverpool still offers river access for sport and recreation. A boat ramp, parking lot, and levee top walking trail, offer a range of activities. Travel services include a restaurant and auto alignment shop.

London Mills

In 1846, James Eggers built a grist mill just below the entry of Spoon River into Fulton County. The mill was called "London" in honor of the English city which was his original home. In 1851 the town of London was established. However, the town did not prosper until the arrival of the railroads and construction of a bridge across the river in the early 1880s. The town once had a thriving business district in its center including a opera house, hotel, businesses, and several stately homes built along High Street referred to as "Quality Row". The name of the town was later changed to London Mills when it was discovered that there was another town in Illinois named London. Today, it is a popular stop during the Scenic Drive Fall Festival, when the streets are filled with antique, craft, and food vendors. At Riverside Park, located at the corner of Second and Water Streets, you will find parts of the old mill on display, veteran's monuments, and Statue of Liberty replica. The statue, dedicated by the Boy Scouts of America, was as part of the "1951 Campaign to Strengthen Liberty." Across the street you will find the Ross Hotel Museum, open during the Scenic Drive Fall Festival or by appointment by calling 309-486-3707. City Park, located at the former site of London Mills School, has a ball field, playground equipment, and pavilion. A boat ramp across the river from Riverside Park provides access to Spoon River.



Ross Hotel Museum in London Mills

Norris

Named for pioneer settler William Norris, this small town is just north of Canton. A relatively recent reroute of Illinois Route 78, takes travelers past the town itself. A turn onto the old highway through town might be worth it for the hungry traveler. Thought by some to be the "dining capital" of Fulton County, Norris, a village of only about 195 residents, boasts two restaurants. Norris was once a center of coal mining activity with several nearby strip mines and facilities still visible west of town.



Smithfield's Red Brick School Community Center

Smithfield

Smithfield is home to the Red Brick School, a very popular stop during the Scenic Drive Fall Festival for its famous "chicken n' noodles." After the school closed, the building was purchased by Cass Township and transformed into a community center. It now houses the spectacularly lifelike wood carvings of Bill Swango's Wildlife Art Gallery, a site on the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway (call 309-783-3283 for an appointment), as well as the shops of other local craftspeople. The 1890s era Smithfield Bank, the small rectangular brick building on Main Street beside the railroad tracks, is home to the Harold Kee Welch Memorial Studio. Welch was a Smithfield native who achieved success during the mid-1900s as a sculptor, artist, and commercial illustrator. The gallery is open during Scenic Drive Fall Festival weekends in October. An unusual, octagonal, block-built Methodist Church sits at the corner of State and Brock streets on the east side of town.

St. David

Homes for workers sprang up as mining boomed in this part of Fulton County. Thought to be one of the richest sources of coal in Illinois, immigrant miners arrived from Wales, England, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, and other countries as well. The town was named for St. David, the patron saint of Wales. It was established in 1886, along the railroad spur running from Canton to the nearby mines. Many of the first miners were Mormons, so the earliest church established in St. David was a Mormon Church. Village Park located on Main Street contains a ball diamond (named in honor of John Perardi), playground area and the Village Memorial Board. The other park, called 40 Acres Park, located on the western side of town contains a ball diamond and is also the location of the Village Hall. Travel services in St. David include convenience store, gasoline, and ATM banking (Casey's General Store). A veteran's memorial is located along Main Street, near the post office.

Table Grove

Sitting higher than its surroundings, the aptly named Table Grove offers an occasional overview of the nearby countryside. Originally called Laurel Hill, it was renamed when the railroad's arrival generated confusion with another Laurel Hill elsewhere in the state. Table Grove lies near the western end of what was once the WWII era Camp Ellis, stretching east to Ipava some 6 miles. A handful of elegant older homes in a variety of architectural styles are scattered throughout town, and the 1869 Table Grove Community Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A small park on the west side of town offers playground equipment, a pavilion, as well as basketball and tennis courts. Travel services include gasoline, convenience store, restaurant, ATM banking, and post office.



Table Grove Park



One of Vermont's National Register homes

Vermont

Known for its unique collection of stately historic homes, Vermont boasts 15 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In an uncommon honor, its whole central business district is also listed. Most of the impressive private homes can be viewed by taking a brief driving tour of Main Street, East 4th, East and West 5th Streets, and Liberty Street. A plaque in the park at the south end of the business district marks the place where Abraham Lincoln spoke on October 27, 1858. Tombstones in the well-kept Vermont Cemetery date back to the 1840s-1850s and mark the plots of many of the same families who built Vermont's National Register homes. The cemetery includes a monument to Union Civil War Dead at the A.J. Koon gravesite as well as a more recent Civil War Monument erected in 1904. Travelers will find a convenience store, bowling alley, and restaurants.

Enjoy Festivals



Fulton County is home to a wealth of festivals, special events, and other recreational opportunities that occur throughout the year. These range from small town "Homecomings," with food, entertainment, and often a carnival, to one of the largest fall festivals in the state. Some of these events have considerable history, having been started over one hundred years ago. The Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive Fall Festival draws tens of thousands of people each year from all over the Midwest, around the US, and other countries as well. Beyond these, many other special events and ongoing opportunities are available for visitors to enjoy. No matter when you visit, there is always something to do in Fulton County.



Scenic Drive Demonstration

Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive

In 1915, Edgar Lee Masters published his *Spoon River Anthology*, which would eventually introduce the region to a worldwide audience. Masters, the observer, poet, author, and attorney, grew up in Spoon River Country during the

1890s, experiencing the beauty of its hills and valleys and the ironies of its small-town folks. The Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive traverses the landscape that Masters knew, winding amid both subtle scenery and the occasional spectacular views.

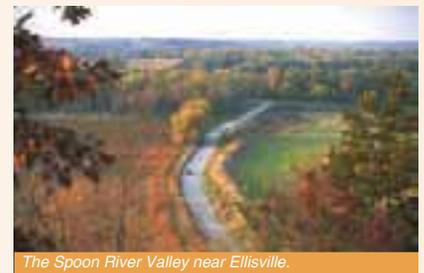
In October, 1967, Fulton County geared up to share its "fall face" with the rest of the world, launching the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive Fall Festival to celebrate its history, people, land, and the river at its heart. The spirit of that original event lives on, and the Fall Festival marked its 46th year in 2013. Much

expanded, the annual event—held on the first two full weekends in October—attracts visitors from all over the world for fall scenery, arts, crafts, music, food, produce, historic sites, museums, old-time farming, collectibles, antiques, and to explore Masters' *Anthology* in Lewistown's Oak Hill Cemetery ²³. The Scenic Drive route remains a year-round, marked scenic drive running approximately 140 miles through 16 communities: Astoria, Ipava, Bernadotte, Duncan Mills, Lewistown, Waterford/Dickson Mounds Museum, Cuba, Smithfield, Canton, Farmington, Elmwood, Fairview, Ellisville, Avon, and London Mills.

Several additional events coincide with the Scenic Drive Fall Festival each year. Also that first weekend, the Spoon River Rascals Theater Troupe performs a play at the historic Ellisville Opera House. During both weekends of the Scenic Drive Fall Festival, Dickson

Mounds Museum ⁸ hosts the Rendezvous at Spoon River. This gathering features a primitive *voyageur* encampment with woodcarving, cooking, fiber art, and hatchet throwing. Lewistown's Rasmussen Blacksmith Shop ²⁶ and Museum and Narrow Gauge Depot Museum ²⁹ are also open during both Fall Festival weekends. (Call 309-547-4300 for more information about these attractions.) At the Fulton County Fairgrounds ⁴⁰ in Lewistown, the annual Fulton County Fair is held during the third full week of July.

Beyond the events, traveling the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive while Fulton County sports its shimmering fall colors can make for a memorable trip. The countryside is rich in trees that burst with color during the fall months. Spring finds blooming redbud trees dotting the roadsides against a background of emerging greens. By summer, greens blanket Spoon River Country, sunny fields of tall corn giving way to the cool shade of streamside stands of trees. In winter, stark bare



The Spoon River Valley near Ellisville.

branches silhouetted in the sunrise or sunset over snow covered ground can also be breathtaking. You can enjoy the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive anytime. Brochures can be picked up at Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown City Hall, Lewistown Visitors Center ³⁸, and other locations around the county. For more information call 309-647-8980, 309-547-3721, or visit www.spoonriverdrive.org.

Did You Know . . .

Fulton County . . .

. . . was once located on the west bank of the Mississippi River before the Wisconsin Ice Age changed its course to where it is today around 22,000 years ago.

. . . was once the home of William Pitt Kellogg who later became the Governor of Louisiana.

. . . communities of Lewistown and Vermont both hosted public speeches by Abraham Lincoln during his unsuccessful campaign against Stephen Douglas for the U.S. Senate in 1858.



Spoon River Scenic Drive vender display at Bernadotte

Other Events and Entertainment

Community Festivals

Annual festivals are held in several communities located around the county. These occur at various times throughout the year. Refer to the “Events at a Glance” listing on the opposite page for details. Perhaps the oldest festival is the annual Fulton County Fair held in July at the fairgrounds in Lewistown. This countywide event features talent and queen contests, carnival, food, music and entertainment, and judging of livestock, produce, and other projects. Canton is the site of the annual Art on Main Fine Arts Festival and Friendship Festival, which features a similar suite of activities and concludes the city-wide celebration with a parade. Similar but smaller events are Avon’s Fat Steer Show, Cuba’s Soldier and Sailors Reunion, Fairview’s Homecoming, Farmington’s Italian Festival, and Ipava’s Camp Ellis Days Reunion. All these feature carnivals, food, music and entertainment, and a variety of other activities. Ipava’s Camp Ellis Days boasts one of the state’s largest displays of patriotic colors. Dunfermline’s annual Fish and Chicken Fry are widely known for their home cooked fish and chicken. Farmington’s Italian Festival features the search for the “Grande Pomodoro” or “Great Tomato,” offering prizes to the finder. In the spring, Ellisville’s Sassafras Festival offers food, sassafras tea, and other activities at the historic Opera House, and in the summer a play in the opera house. Christmas festival events take place in Astoria, Fairview, Farmington, and Lewistown.



Canton Art on Main Fine Arts Festival



Cruise-In on the square in Canton

Planes, Trains, Automobiles, and Tractors

The Fulton County Flying Club, based at Canton’s Ingersoll Airport **41**, holds an annual Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast each May that attracts flyers from all over the Midwest. The airport is named after the late William P. Ingersoll who was fascinated with aviation and a generous supporter of his community. The airport has two paved runways, one 3900 ft and the other 3300 ft and offers a courtesy car for visiting pilots. Fulton County’s railroad history is preserved in three communities. Lewistown’s Narrow Gauge Depot Museum **29** exhibits railroad photos, memorabilia, and displays, along with the enchanting, retired old caboose to visit. In Canton, the restored Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Station **42** located three blocks east of downtown was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. Just north of the depot is a Dinky Engine that visitors can view, which was used in railroad construction. Avon has a restored railroad depot plus an old steam engine tractor in AVCOM Park at the northeast edge of town. Car culture thrives in Fulton County, with local clubs holding “Cruise-In” events throughout the summer and racers and their fans flock to the dirt track action at Spoon River Speedway **43** on Saturday nights. Tractors, especially vintage tractors, also draw crowds. There are antique tractor shows and pulls at various community events and celebrations, and even garden and mini-tractor pulls in the town of Ipava every other Saturday afternoon from May through October. (Call 309-547-2820 for details.)



Antique tractor shows

Parks and other Recreation

Public parks are found throughout the county, and nearly every community has one. Many of these are described briefly in the individual communities pages, 14-20. The Canton Park District is extensive enough in size, number of facilities, and range of activities, to require further description. Organized in 1923, the District includes several parks, totaling 1,403 acres. Wallace Park **21**, with its playground, pavilion, and paved walking loop, is home to the Donaldson Community Center, which provides space for public activities and events. Big Creek Park **5**, whose hiking trail explores rolling terrain filled with natural beauty, also features lighted tennis courts, a skate park, an 18 hole disc golf course, picnic shelter, bocce ball court, and an outdoor water park and pool, complete with zero-depth entry and flume and drop slides. Lakeland Park **43** illustrates the recreational potential of reclaimed strip-mine lands. The park contains over 5 miles of hiking/biking trails, picnic shelters, fishing on several lakes, natural areas, a nearby golf driving range, and even scuba diving. It is also the site of the annual Lakeland Bi-Tri Classic, a popular regional biathlon/triathlon consisting of swimming, biking, and running. In addition to all of this, the Canton Park District has athletic parks and administers the baseball, softball, and flag football leagues that use them.



The Canton Park District's Lakeland Park



Global Positioning Systems and Geocaching

The new sport of geocaching is an entertaining adventure, a technology enhanced scavenger hunt for GPS (Global Positioning System) users. Hunting for a geocache (usually a hidden weatherproof container holding a log-book and perhaps a fun prize) is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of GPS units. Geocaches have set up all over the world and the coordinates for cache locations are shared on internet sites such as www.geocaching.com. GPS users then use the coordinates to find the hidden caches. There are nearly 450 geocaches within 20 miles of the center of Fulton County. Today, many any visitors find their way to Dickson Mounds Museum **8** using GPS.

Events at a Glance

Late Winter

Eagle Day Festival Art & Poetry Competition & Awards - Dickson Mounds Museum, Contact: 309-547-3721.

Artifact Identification Day - Dickson Mounds Museum, 10am - 4pm. Flintknapping demonstrations. Contact 309-547-3721.

Spring

Second Weekend in March - Town & Country Arts Show - Donaldson Center, 250 S Avenue D, Canton. Saturday from 1pm - 5pm, Sunday from 1pm - 3pm. Contact 309-647-1345.

Second Tuesday in March through second Tuesday in May - Digital Art Show - Graham Hospital Gallery, 210 W. Walnut St., Canton. www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com

Ellisville Sassafras Festival - Historic Ellisville Opera House. Ham & Beans with Cornbread. Free Sassafras Tea Contact 309-293-2741.

Spoon River China Guild Show - Donaldson Center - Wallace Park, 250 S Avenue D, Canton. Contact 309-647-1345.

Federal Adult Duck Stamp Art Exhibit - Dickson Mounds Museum, 8:30am - 5pm daily. Contact 309-547-3721.

Every Weekend April - September - Dirt Track Racing - Spoon River Speedway, Rt.24 east of Lewistown. Contact 309-668-2622.

Second Weekend in April - Gem & Mineral Show - Donaldson Center, 250 S Avenue D, Canton. Contact 309-647-1345.

Last Saturday in April- Antique Auto Cruise-in and Tractor Show - Spoon River College, Canton, IL 9am - 3pm.

May - Oct. - Rasmussen Blacksmith Shop & Narrow Gauge Depot - Downtown Lewistown, open Saturday's and Sundays 1pm - 4pm. Contact 309-547-4300.

Showers of Quilts - Canton High School South Gymnasium, 9am - 4 pm, \$5 admission, Vendors, Raffles, Demonstrations, Hands on projects, Bed Turning, 50 yr old quilts with history attached, expecting 200 to 250 quilts on display. Bi-annual event. Contact 309-647-6496.

Second Tuesday in May through Second Tuesday in July - Fine Art Show - Graham Hospital Gallery, 210 W. Walnut St., Canton. www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com.

Third Sunday in May - Fulton County Fly-in Breakfast - Canton Ingersoll Airport, 26013 N Ingersoll Road, Canton, 7:30am - 10:30am. Vintage planes on display. Contact 309-647-0804.

Summer

June - Musical Performance - Historic Ellisville Opera House, Call 309-293-4651 for details.

June - September - Farmers Market - Every Saturday, Jones Park, downtown Canton. Every Tuesday, Porter Park, downtown Lewistown.

June - October Music in the Park - Lewistown, Porter Park downtown, free music, first and third Friday 6:30 - 8:30 pm, food for sale, bring chairs.



Fulton County Playhouse

June - Dunfermline Fish & Chicken Fry - Dunfermline, Call 309-668-0886 for details.

First Weekend in June - Art on Main Fine Arts Festival - Jones Park, downtown Canton, Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm, fine art, food, and music. 309-647-2677 for details.

Friday of Father's Day Weekend - Chamber of Commerce Coachmen's Annual Cruise-In and Bike Show - Jones Park Downtown Canton, 5pm. Contact 309-647-2677.

Saturday of Father's Day Weekend - Chamber of Commerce Canton Antique Tractor Show and Pulls - Canton, Friendship Festival Fairgrounds, 9am - 6pm. Contact 309-647-0065.

Last Full Weekend in June - Lloyd Loars Annual Hometown Bluegrass Festival - Lewistown, Marigold Meadows, 309-344-8284 for details.

Annual Cuba Soldiers and Sailor's Reunion - Downtown Cuba, Carnival Games and Family fun with live evening entertainment. Contact 309-785-5351.

July 4 - Fourth of July Celebrations - Held in several local towns.

Second Tuesday in July through Second Tuesday in September - Art of Photography Show - Graham Hospital Gallery, 210 W. Walnut St., Canton. www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com.

Second Weekend in July - Fairview Homecoming & Livestock Show - Fairview, Thursday-Saturday, Live Entertainment, Livestock Show, Main Street Parade 10:15am., Antique tractor pull following parade. Contact 309-778-2500.

Third Full Week of July - Fulton County Fair - Fulton County Fairgrounds, Lewistown. Livestock, Exhibits, Carnival, Grandstand Events, Antique Tractor Show . Contact 309-647-3744.

First Saturday of August - Canton Bi-Tri Classic (triathlon) - Lakeland Park, Canton, Registration at 6:30am, Events Start at 8am, Participant Fee. Swimming, Running & Biking. Contact 309-647-1345.

Saturday of Labor Day Weekend - Farmington's Italian Fest - Jacob's Park, Farmington. Food, Sports, and Talent Contest. Contact 309-245-2441.

Fall

September - Annual Astoria Homecoming - Downtown Astoria, carnival rides, food, entertainment and parade. Contact: 309-329-2424.

Fri. & Sat. of First Weekend after Labor Day - Camp Ellis Days - Downtown Ipava. Homecoming with food, music, and more. Parade 10am with Military Dedications following. Contact 309-267-6290.

Third Weekend in Sept. - Canton Friendship Festival - Canton. Parade, carnival, rides, food, games, exhibits. Contact 309-647-3744.

Oct. - Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Exhibit - Dickson Mounds Museum, 8:30am - 5pm daily. Call 309-547-3721 for details.

October - The Clothesline Project Show - Graham Hospital Gallery, Canton, exhibit addressing violence against women.

First and Second Full Weekends in Oct. - Scenic Drive Fall Festival Events - See listing on opposite page and www.spoonriverdrive.org for details.

Second Tuesday in November through second Tuesday in January - Membership Art Show - Graham Hospital Gallery, 210 W. Walnut St., Canton. www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com

Friday prior to Thanksgiving - Astoria's Annual Carriage Night - Astoria. Contact 309-329-2768.

Early Winter

First Thursday of Dec. - Farmington's Lighted Christmas Stroll - Downtown Farmington, 5pm - 7pm. Contact 309-245-2441.

Early December- Lewistown's Christmas Wishes - Carriage Rides, Santa, treats, Christmas tree decorating contest. Contact 309-547- 2501.

Early December - Fairview Christmas Walk - Fairview, 3pm - 7pm, Home Tour 3pm - 5pm, Contact: 309-778- 2360.

First Saturday of Dec. - Christmas in Astoria with Breakfast with Santa - West edge of Astoria, craft and bake sale. Contact 309-329-2424.

All Year

Nature Conservancy Emiquon Preserve - Visitor use area, every day, dawn to dusk, hiking, bird watching, fishing with boats and electric motors, interpretive exhibits.

Browns Oakridge Zoo - Rare Exotic and domestic animals, rural Smithfield. Contact 309-783-2112 for hours. brownsoakridgezoo.com



Rendezvous at Spoon River

Visitor Services



Emergency Services

Dial 911 for emergency medical care, police, or fire department.

Hospitals

Graham Hospital - 210 W Walnut Street, Canton 309-647-5240

Mason District Hospital - 615 N. Promenade Street, Havana 309-543-4431

McDonough District Hospital - 525 E. Grant Street, Macomb 309-833-4101

Medical Clinics

Graham Medical Group - 10 S. Main Street, Canton 309-647-0201

Graham Medical Group - 601 E. Fort Street, Farmington 309-245-2406

Graham Medical Group - 2001 N. Main Street, Lewistown 309-547-9700

Community Medical Clinic - 135 W. Broadway, Astoria 309-329-2926

Fulton County Health Department - 700 E. Oak Street, Canton 309-647-1134

Unity Point Methodist - 2078 N. Main Street, Canton 309-647-6090

Unity Point Methodist - 158 E. Fulton Street, Farmington 309-245-2416

ATM and Banking Locations

Astoria

Farmers State Bank of Astoria - 122 W Broadway

Ipava State Bank - Rt. 24, Astoria (inside the Convenience Store), 101 E. Broadway

Avon

Tompkins State Bank - 117 N. Main Street

Canton

Bank of Farmington - 2115 N. Main

CEFCU - 1807 E. Chestnut, 18 E. Elm Street, 2073 Main, and 210 W. Walnut (inside Graham Hospital)

Ipava State Bank - 74 E. Pine Street

MidAmerica National Bank - 100 W. Elm (in the parking lot); 1600 E. Chestnut; 825 N. Main (Hy-Vee grocery store parking lot)

The National Bank - 801 N. Main Street

Wells Fargo Bank - 245 N. Main Street

Cuba

MidAmerica National Bank - 228 Main Street

ATM Location- Casey's 504 E Main St

Farmington

Bank of Farmington -16 N. Main; and also inside the entry to the high school, S. Lightfoot Rd.

CEFCU - 1090 Fort Street

Lewistown

Havana National Bank - 143 S. Main Street, 202 S Main St. (inside Rocket Tap)

Ipava State Bank - 601 W Main

Street, 518 W Main, (Inside the County Market grocery store)

MidAmerica National Bank - 120 E. Washington

Prairie State Bank - 105 W Lincoln

ATM Locations - Casey's 818 S. Main, Casey's 1500 N. Main

St. David

First Premier Bank - 204 N. Main Street, St. David (inside Casey's General Store)

Table Grove

Table Grove State Bank - 705 S. Broadway, Table Grove (inside the "S & S Short Stop" gas station)

Vermont

ATM locations - Mercer's 217 N. Main, American Legion Post #26 213 N. Main, Vermont Convenience Mart 209 N. Main

Fulton County Resources on the Internet

Canton Chamber of Commerce - www.cantonillinois.org

Canton Park District - www.cantonpark.org

Farmington - www.farmingtonil.com

Fulton County - www.fultonco.org

Fulton County Arts Council - www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com

Fulton County Tourism Council - www.fultoncountytourism.org

Fulton County Playhouse - www.fultoncountyplayhouse.com

Illinois River Road Scenic Byway - www.illinoisriverroad.org

Lewistown - www.lewistownil.org

Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau - www.peoria.org

Spoon River Drive - www.spoonriverdrive.org

Did You Know . . .

Fulton County . . . history can be explored in great detail on the Internet at www.illinoisancestors.org/fulton/.

. . . is home to the Graham Hospital School of Nursing which has been in operation since 1909.

. . . was home to Dr. William Strode, a noted naturalist who amassed a large collection of mounted birds, bird's eggs, freshwater mussel shells, and Indian artifacts. His mussel shell collection is now housed at the Smithsonian Institution.



Private residence in Cuba that was once the site of Fulton County's first hospital.

Places of Worship

Assembly of God

Assembly of God Church - 101 W. State St., Astoria 309-329-9008

Assembly of God Church - 200 Stonegate Dr., Canton 309-647-3286

Assembly of God Church - 603 E Main St., Cuba 309-231-7541

New Hope Fellowship - 1102 N State Rt. 78, Farmington 309-245-2957

Assembly of God Church - 108 E. Hickory St., Industry 309-333-5873

Assembly of God-Hope Christian Center - 13118 N. U.S. 24 Hwy., Lewistown 309-547-2212

Adventists

Seventh Day Adventist - 980 S. Main St., Canton 309-647-6265

Baptist

First Baptist Church - 301 E. Elm St., Canton 309-647-7241

First Baptist Church - 325 B 2nd Ave., Farmington 309-245-4218

First Baptist Church of Avon - 116 S. Main St., Avon 309-465-7979

Baptist - American

First Baptist Church - 135 N. West St., Farmington 309-245-2329

Baptist - Independent

Calvary Baptist Church - 20 N Avenue L, Canton 309-647-3444

First Baptist Church - 300 E. Avenue L, Lewistown 309-547-2480

Baptist-North American

Waterford Church of God - 10564 N. Starling Rd., Lewistown 309-547-5540

Baptist - Southern Convention

Temple Baptist Church - 10 Van Dyke Dr., Canton 309-647-3727

Brethren

Church of the Brethren - 702 E. Broadway, Astoria 309-329-2253

Woodland Church of the Brethren - 3485 N. Co. Hwy. 2, Astoria 309-759-4883

Church of the Brethren - 269 E. Chestnut St., Canton 309-647-4828

Catholic - Roman

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church - 139 E. Chestnut St., Canton 309-647-1473

St Matthews Church - 156 E Vernon, Farmington 309-245-4001

St Michael's Church Hall - 528 S. 4th Ave., St David 309-668-2096

Christian

Christian Church - 219 W. State St., Astoria 309-329-2150

Christian Church - 8888 E. Turner Hwy., Astoria 309-759-4236

Christian Church - Bryant 309-668-2502

Christian Church - 215 S. 4th St., Cuba 309-785-2831

Berean Christian Church - 10750 N. Co. Hwy. 2, Ipava 309-753-8534

Christian Church - 100 W. 3rd St, Vermont 309-784-5621

Disciples of Christ

First Christian Church - 215 W. Elm St., Canton 309-647-1363

Christian Church - 51 S. Market, Ipava 309-753-8265

Illinois Street Christian Church - 101 N. Illinois St., Lewistown 309-547-3460

Christian Science

Christian Science Society & Reading Room - 165 E. Chestnut, Canton 309-647-3942

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - 1313 Sunview Dr., Canton 309-647-3428

Episcopal

St Peter's Episcopal Church - 170 E. Locust St., Canton 309-647-0873

St James Episcopal Church - 420 E. Macarthur Ave., Lewistown 309-547-3352

Evangelical Free

Evangelical Free Church - 1300 E Chestnut St, Canton 309-647-4278

Free Methodist

Free Methodist Church - 604 S. Adams St., Lewistown 309-547-7450

Independent - Fundamental

Fiatt Christian Church - 13960 E. IL. Hwy. 9, Fiatt 309-789-6643

Jehovah's Witnesses

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses - 1566 E. Ash St., Canton 309-647-9042

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses - 1126 N. Main St., Lewistown 309-547-2587

Lutheran

Wiley Lutheran Church - 26500 N. Co. Hwy. 2, Ellisville 309-293-4212

Trinity Lutheran Church - 301 E. Chestnut, Canton 309-647-0724

Grace Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) - 109 1/2 N. Main St., Canton 309-647-5123

Nazarene

East Side Church of the Nazarene - 325 N. 8th Ave, Canton 309-647-2697

First Church of the Nazarene - 2051 E. Chestnut St., Canton 309-647-2397

Church of the Nazarene - 605 S. 3rd St., Cuba 309-785-4171

Nazarene Church - 157 S. Main St., Smithfield 309-783-2003

Church of the Nazarene - 523 4th St., St. David 309-668-2190

Non-denominational

Covenant Community Fellowship - 2075 N. Main St., Canton 309-647-7771

Faith Community Church - 450 Cass Place, Canton 309-649-1041

Church of the Nazarene - 13192 N. U.S. 24 Hwy., Lewistown 309-547-2023

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church - 275 Linden St., Canton 309-647-1256

Ipava United Presbyterian Church - 190 E. Main St., Ipava 309-753-8554

First Presbyterian Church - 101 N. Main, Lewistown 309-547-2805

Presbyterian - America

First Presbyterian Church - 83 N. Cone St., Farmington 309-778-2375

Reformed

Fairview Reformed Church - 175 N. Church, Fairview 309-778-2475

Salvation Army

Salvation Army - 176 S. 1st Ave., Canton 309-647-0732

United Church of Christ

First Congregational Church - 159 N. 2nd Ave., Canton 309-647-0271

United Methodist Church

United Methodist Church - 305 W. Broadway, Astoria 309-329-2040

Locust Lane United Methodist Church - 26012 N. Co. 19 Hwy., Canton 309-647-7317

Shields' Chapel United Methodist Church - 19022 N. Shields Chapel Rd., Canton 309-647-0337

South Park United Methodist Church - 600 S. 1st Ave, Canton 309-245-4310

United Methodist Church - 626 E. Main, Cuba 309-785-3811

Fairview Providence Chapel - 690 W. Main, Fairview 309-778-2385

United Methodist Church - 187 W. Fulton St., Farmington 309-245-4310

Maples Mill United Methodist Church - 22015 E. Co. 8 Hwy., Lewistown 309-668-3213

Mt. Pleasant Church - 19472 E. Nuthatch Rd., Lewistown 309-547-3920

United Methodist Church - 204 W. Washington Ave., Lewistown 309-547-2398

United Methodist Church - 241 N. Main St., Norris 309-647-5809

Brock United Methodist - 180 N. Brock, Smithfield 309-783-3171

United Methodist Church - 114 E. 1st South St., Vermont 309-784-8661

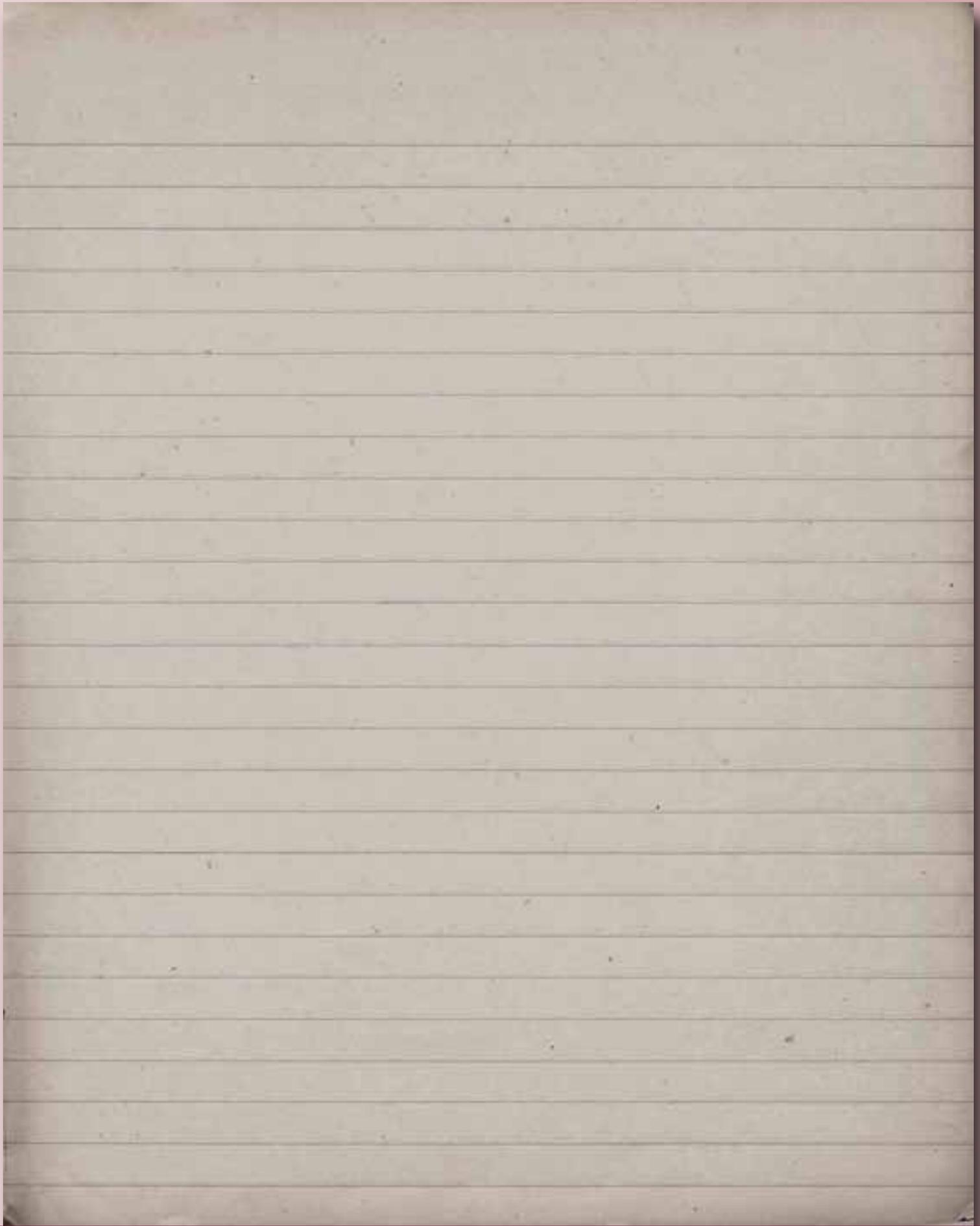
Other

Coal Creek Bible Church - London Mills 309-486-3416

Table Grove Community Church - 204 N. Broadway St., Table Grove 309-758-4706



Enjoy your visit to Fulton County!
Notes...



EMIQUON PRESERVE

Just north of the mouth of the Spoon River is home to a place called Emiquon, one of the most ambitious floodplain restoration projects in the country. Here, where the Spoon and Illinois Rivers meet, The Nature Conservancy and its partners are working to return more than 7,000 acres of corn and soybean fields to a mosaic of wetlands, forests and prairie. The restored lands and waters once again will nurture rich plant and animal life, providing people recreational and educational opportunities.

For the latest information visit nature.org/emiquon



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Fulton County Visitor's Guide

c/o Dickson Mounds Museum
10956 N. Dickson Mounds Rd.
Lewistown, Illinois 61542



For More information call 309-547-3721
www.fultonco.org

 ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.