

Ornament or Coin
Minimum suggested
donation of
\$10 each

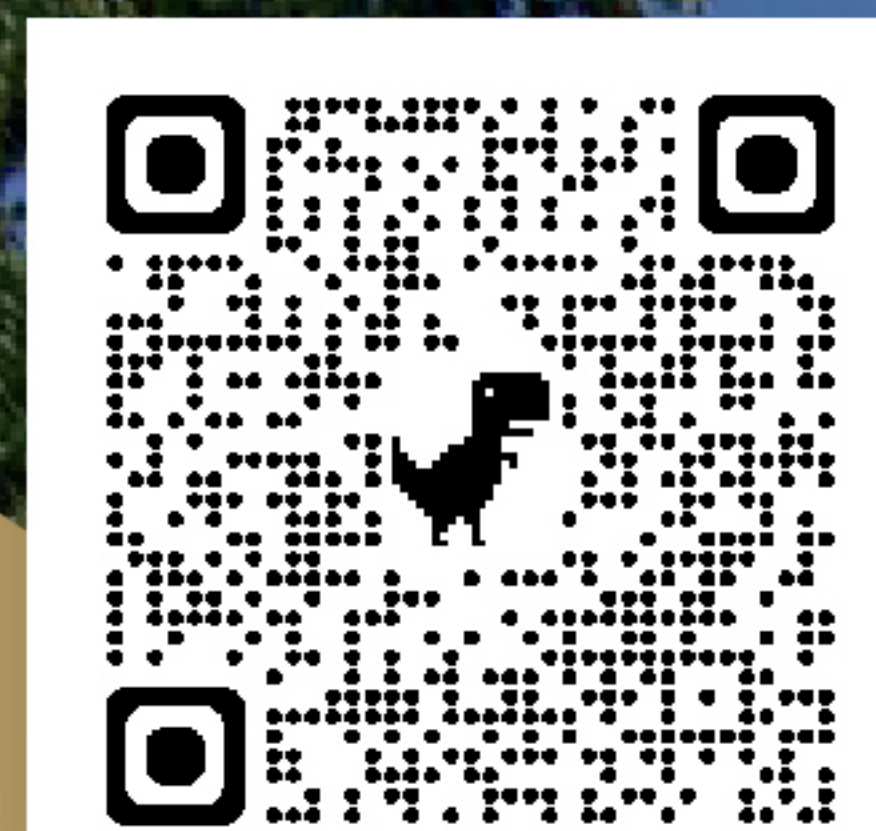


HANCOCK COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTIBLES

This limited edition ornament and coin were commissioned to honor 200 years of Hancock County. This once untouched wilderness within the Northwest Territory, originally inhabited by the Sauk and Fox nations, was ceded to the United States on March 1, 1784, with European-American settlers taking to the area increasingly after the War of 1812.

The county was named by an act of the Illinois General Assembly on January 13, 1825 and had less than 350 inhabitants when it was formed. The county was named in honor of John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence and prominent figure of the American Revolutionary period.

The coin and ornament are available at the Hancock County Historical Society (HCHS), a non-profit organization located inside the Kibbe Hancock Heritage Museum, a vast collection of artifacts relating to the history of the county and western Illinois that the public is invited to tour.



Hancock County Historical Society
306 Walnut St, Carthage, IL
(217) 357-0043 | hancockcountyhistory.com

*Events and times are subject to change.
Scan the code above or follow us on
Facebook for the latest updates.*



Bowen Chronicle parade float at the Bowen Corn Carnival parade (circa 1914).



La Harpe Fourth of July parade float (1910)

**ENJOY A
VARIETY OF
HAPPENINGS
CELEBRATING
THIS MILESTONE
IN 2025!**



HANCOCK COUNTY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

JAN
THRU
FEB

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students from eight elementary schools (*Carthage, Dallas City, Hamilton, LaHarpe, Nauvoo, Southeastern, Sts. Peter and Paul, Warsaw*) and four high schools (*Hamilton, Illini West, Southeastern, Warsaw-Nauvoo*) will learn about county history and participate in contests. Winning entries will be displayed at the county courthouse from March 17th to the 31st.

JAN
13

COURTHOUSE TOURS & PROCLAMATION

The Hancock County Courthouse will open for tours throughout the day with a 1:00 pm announcement, given by a County Board representative, recognizing the county's founding on this date. Many local, county, and state officials will be in attendance.
🕒 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
📍 500 Main St, Carthage, IL

FEB
15

THE STATEHOOD OF ILLINOIS & COUNTY FORMATION

Reg Ankrom, Quincy, IL native, Vietnam era U.S. Navy veteran, and historian provides this Hancock County Historical Society (HCHS) program at the Carthage Community Center.
🕒 7:00 pm
📍 301 E. Main St., Carthage, IL

MAR
29

CARL SANDBURG'S LINCOLN: A LIVING PORTRAIT

Steve Duchrow, spoken word performer and musician, portrays Sandburg telling intimate stories at The Legacy Theater about why Lincoln still matters. Sandburg's biography "returned him to the common people" and explains how his words can revive people toward reclaiming the American promise.
🕒 6:00 pm
📍 1160 Buchanan St, Carthage, IL

APR
THRU
AUG

PUBLIC LIBRARY ROAD TRIP

Visit the eight public libraries (*Augusta, Bowen, Carthage, Hamilton, LaHarpe, Nauvoo, Plymouth, Warsaw*) between April 7th and August 30th. Pick up a passport booklet and have it stamped at each for entry into a prize drawing held in September.

APR
04

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION GALA

Celebrate milestone anniversaries for the foundation and hospital at Lake Hill Winery, with event funds raised going to the MHF endowment fund to benefit local healthcare in the future. Visit mhtlc.org for details.
📍 1822 E Co Rd 1540, Carthage, IL

APR
19

JOHN HAY: A COUNTY CONNECTION TO PRESIDENTS

Chuck Scholz, former Assistant Attorney General, Mayor of Quincy, and Chairman of the State Board of Elections will present on the extraordinary life of John Hay, who grew up in Hancock County and became Abraham Lincoln's trusted confidant and Teddy Roosevelt's Secretary of State.
🕒 7:00 pm
📍 301 E. Main St., Carthage, IL

JUL
04

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The Hancock County courthouse square in Carthage, IL will host a 9:00 am parade with a full day to follow of food, fun, live entertainment and fireworks display.

JUL
4-6

HOMETOWN TEAMS

This Museum on Main Street exhibit at the Carthage Community Center celebrates the history and legacy of county sports' teams, individuals, community leagues and schools.
🕒 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
📍 301 E. Main St., Carthage, IL

JUL
05

JAIL TOURS

Tours will be held from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Historic Carthage Jail (310 Buchanan St), 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Carthage Jail on the Square and noon to 3:00 pm at the Hancock County Jail (98 Buchanan St).

JUL
05

NAUVOO PAGEANT BAGPIPE BAND

The Legacy Theater will host these main characters of the Nauvoo Pageant experience, which represent Scottish converts sharing a rich cultural heritage through beautiful performances.
🕒 2:00 pm
📍 1160 Buchanan St, Carthage, IL

JUL
19

REFLECTIONS ON COUNTY LIFE & CULTURE BY EARLY POETS

Dr. John Hallwas, WIU Distinguished Professor Emeritus, author and editor of over two dozen books about the Midwest, provides an HCHS program on works from Thomas Gregg, Eliza Snow and John Hay.
🕒 7:00 pm
📍 301 E. Main St., Carthage, IL

SEP
27

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Enjoy a day of fun, food, and activities on the hospital campus with bounce houses, games, music, notable speeches, and an evening concluding with a beautiful water lantern festival. Visit mhtlc.org for details.
📍 1454 N County Rd 2050, Carthage, IL

OCT
18

PIONEER WOMEN

Arlis Dittmer, a retired health science librarian and former president of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, presents a sample of stories of pioneer life told through the lens of the women who lived it.
🕒 7:00 pm
📍 301 E. Main St., Carthage, IL

NOV
08

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Dona Herr and Debbie Callaghan share the story of the Sauk and Fox nations in Hancock County, exploring their locations, culture, and interactions with white settlers. It is anticipated that descendants of Chief Keokuk will be in attendance.
🕒 7:00 pm
📍 301 E. Main St., Carthage, IL

DEC
04

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Enjoy various holiday sights, characters and festivities around the Hancock County courthouse square in addition to the popular miniature train display at the Kibbe Museum.

DEC
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TIME CAPSULE DEDICATION

A container preserving significant items will be sealed for future discovery. Follow the HCHS Facebook page for additional details to be announced later.