

brought to you by:



Tremont Winning  
Communities



## Pearl Street (Illinois Route 9) Improvement Project Set to Start



After years of planning and preparation, the Village is pleased to announce that the Route 9 improvement project through Tremont is set to begin construction the week of June 23.

Cullinan Construction (UCM) of Tremont, in cooperation with the Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT), will begin work next week focusing on the western portion of the project in front of the high school initially although traffic control devices and signage may be in place at other locations as the construction begins.

**Route 9 will remain open throughout the process.** That said, there will be multi-staged closures of one lane periodically. Traffic control devices and/or personnel will be in place at varying points during differing segments of the re-surfacing of the roadway and installation of underground infrastructure to insure safety and the smooth flow of through traffic.

Please exercise increased caution and awareness when using Route 9. Allow extra time when accessing the state highway. Initially, we expect the construction to extend into the spring 2026 season. Updates will be provided periodically to keep residents informed of progress.

## Extended Deadline for Phase 2 of the Sampson St. Pavers



Wednesday, July 16 is the deadline for Phase 2 of the Sampson Street pavers that will be located in the seating area cutout on the 200 block of South Sampson across the street from Perdue's.

If you are interested in participating in this Winning Communities fundraiser, forms can be picked up and/or dropped off at the Village Hall or found [online](#). The cost is \$125 for a brick with your personalized engraving that will be placed in the landscaped area. Funds raised by this initiative aid in the completion of this project and assist with the annual maintenance of all recently completed beautification cutouts along the 100 and 200 block of S. Sampson downtown.

You may have noticed some of the benches on the new seating areas have been purchased as memorials. Several benches remain for sponsorships by families, businesses, or for memorials and cost \$1800. If interested, please make a note on the paver form and someone from the Winning Communities Board will reach out.

Sponsorship Form

## *Last Call* - Outstanding Alumni Nominations Sought

Nominees for alumni association recognition are being accepted in 3 categories:

- 1). **Distinguished Alumni** – outstanding accomplishments and contributions post high school in any field.
- 2). **Athletic** – outstanding athletic accomplishments at Tremont High School.
- 3). **Service** – Alumni recognized in this category generally provide time and service to a variety of organizations in and around the Tremont community post high school.

Nominations may be sent by mail or dropped off at the high school to:

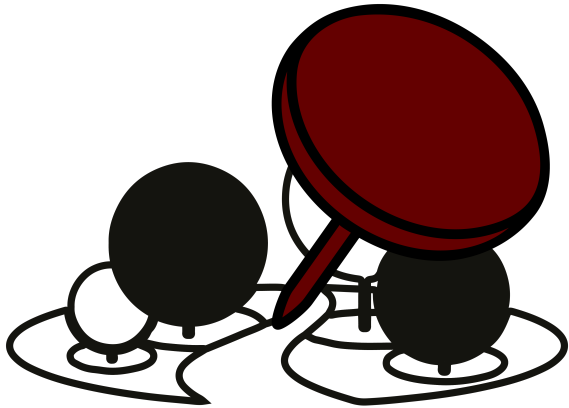
*Superintendent Sean Berry*  
*400 W. Pearl*  
*Tremont, IL 61568*

Nominating letters should include:

- The name and years in high school of the nominee.
- Category of nomination (distinguished, athletic, service)
- Brief narrative and description as to why the nominee deserves recognition

Nominations accepted on behalf of any THS graduate who has been out of school at least 10 years and are due by June 30!

## Organization Updates

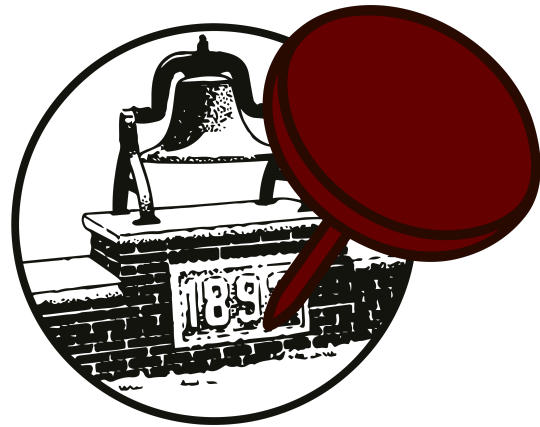


### Village of Tremont

#### **Village Board Meetings**

The Tremont Village Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Meetings are held at Village Hall and public attendance is welcomed. All previous meetings' minutes can be found on the village website.

[Board Meeting Minutes](#)



### District 702

#### **Athletic Schedule**

Our student athletes are officially off for the summer! Check back in early August for a schedule of events.

## **Did You Know?** *Tremont, in History*

Brought to you by the Tremont Museum & Historical Society

### **Tazewell County Sheriff's Deputy Henry Pratt and the Infamous Berry Gang**

Have you ever noticed this large tombstone in Mount Hope Cemetery? Quite a story is behind the death of Henry Pratt, the man who was laid to rest there. In the 1860s, Tazewell County residents were terrorized by the Berry Gang, a group of brothers and their accomplices. They were ruthless horse thieves, robbers, and murderers. This gang of brothers lived in Circleville, a long-forgotten community southeast of Pekin. All but one brother was involved in the gang.

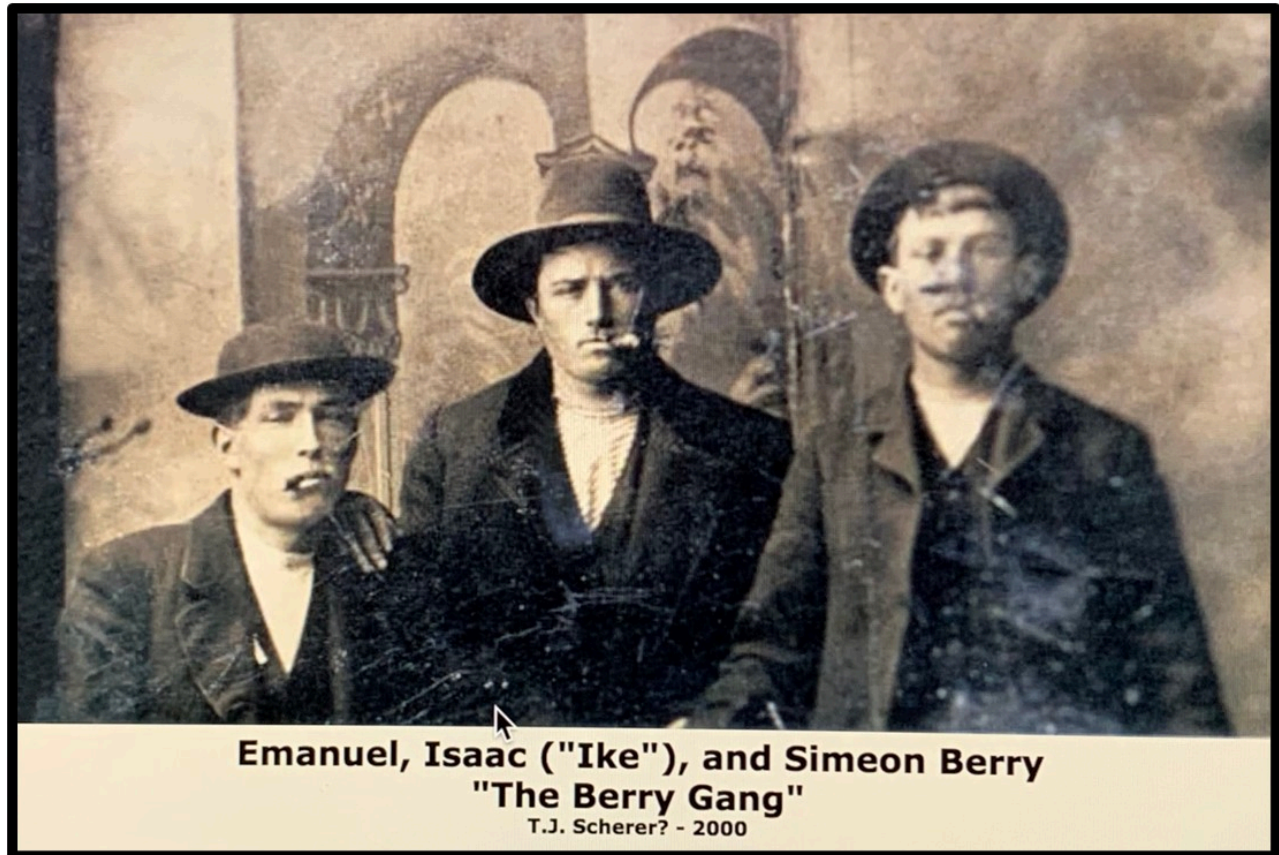
On Friday, July 30, 1869, Tazewell County Sheriff Deputy Henry Pratt, who grew up in Tremont, led a posse of men to Circleville to serve warrants for the arrest of two of the gang members. Just before dusk, they saw the gang coming out of a saloon. They ordered the gang to halt, but instead they began running and shooting. Ike Berry knelt behind a split rail fence and shot Pratt at point blank range, killing him. Another deputy was shot and wounded as well. In trying to save him, the gang escaped.



Deputy Pratt's body was brought to Pekin, and the citizenry was outraged at the murder. A group of 500 men searched the county and brought five members of the gang (excluding Ike Berry, who was arrested weeks later) into the jail before nightfall. William (Bill) Berry happened into town that day, and, though he knew nothing about the events of the night before, was arrested simply because he was the gang's leader.

Sometime before this, Bill Berry had gruesomely killed a young man from Delavan named George Peppers. Bill was arrested, but acquitted of the crime based on self-defense. Peppers' friends were furious at the verdict and sought to avenge his killing.

After the murder of the deputy, rumors flew that Peppers' friends, as well as a few of Pratt's friends from Tremont and vicinity, planned to lynch Bill for the deaths of Peppers and Pratt that night. When the Tazewell County Sheriff's office heard the rumors, they quickly swore in and armed many special deputies in case there would be trouble.



*This tintype is the only known picture of The Berry Gang (Minus Bill.) During remodeling, it was found in the ceiling joists of a home in Pekin that was owned by a distant cousin to the Berry Gang in the 1940s.*

*- From the Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society*

It was a quiet night when, around 11:00, three men came out of a Pekin saloon near the county courthouse, walked to the steps of the jail door, and clapped their hands three times. Immediately, 2-300 men who had been hidden in the shadows swarmed and surrounded the jail. The newly sworn-in deputies fled, as the mob broke the door down, as well as the door to Bill Berry's cell. Berry had a knife and deeply cut at someone holding a lantern. The lantern fell and extinguished, allowing Bill to wildly slash his way through the crowd. He was shot three times and, near death, hanged from a tree near the courthouse. All of the gang members were convicted. The actual murderer, Ike Berry, was later found guilty and sentenced for life but received a pardon after 17 years.

If you ever pass by his marker in Mount Hope Cemetery, you might want to pause and pay

your respects to Sheriff's Deputy Henry Pratt, a Civil War hero who was a corporal with the 11th Illinois Regiment and a sworn protector of Tazewell County.

Tremont Museum and Historical Society  
Lori Fuoss - 2025

*Pratt headstone photo taken 2020.*

## The Share Closet Connection



The Share Closet continues to welcome all area seniors to join us for lunch every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This is a no-cost meal that allows for community connection and conversation. We eat at the Tremont Community Center at 11am. Email [scsoulmanager@gmail.com](mailto:scsoulmanager@gmail.com) or call our store for more information.

Visit us on [Facebook](#)

Phone: (309) 929-7095

The Share Closet - 227 S Sampson St, Tremont, IL 61568



If you no longer wish to receive mail from us, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Tremont Winning Communities, 211 S Sampson St, Tremont, IL, 61568, United States, <https://www.tremontil.com>

Unable to view? Read it [Online](#)