



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

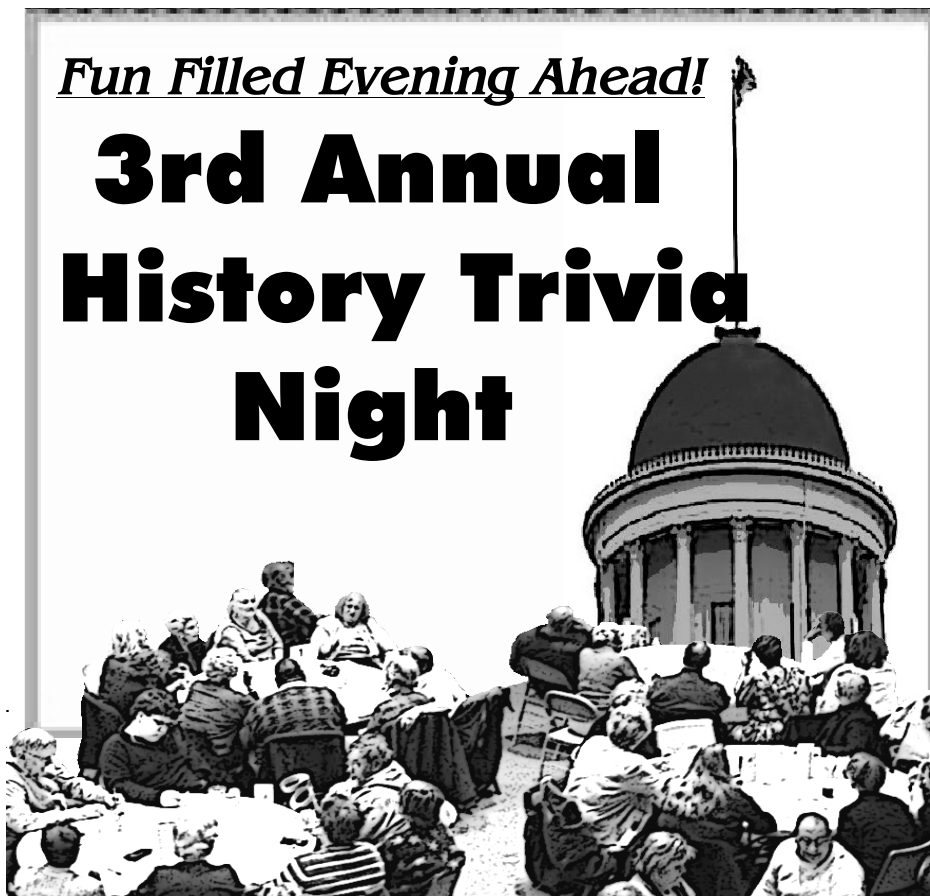
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*Fun Filled Evening Ahead!*

## 3rd Annual History Trivia Night



Will you be among the Sangamon County Historical Society members playing History Trivia on Saturday, March 21 at the Old State Capitol?

Only if you move quickly to get a seat at one of the Society's tables of 10 as it gets challenged by history buffs (and just some good Trivia players) from history organizations and individuals from around Sangamon County.

This fun night out, in an unusual setting, benefits the Lincoln Troubadours, a group of local high school students who don period costumes and perform Civil War era music a cappella for free at historic sites across Central Illinois throughout the summer.

The students, under the direction of Lincoln Land Community College music chair Sue Hamilton, get a small stipend from the state. Last year, History Trivia Night raised over \$3,000 to help supplement their costs. The Troubadours will perform during the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Register for Members-Only Tour of Edwards Place

On-line registration is now open for a free, *SCHS members-only* preview tour of the newly restored Edwards Place historic home on Tuesday, April 7 starting at 5:30 p.m. The historic home, owned and operated by the Springfield Art Association, has been closed for first-floor renovations for

nearly a year. It will reopen to the general public on April 11. You can also register by calling the Society at 217-525-1961.

Built in 1833 and restored to reflect the time immediately following an 1857 remodeling, it was the home of attorney Benjamin Edwards, youngest

son of Governor Ninian Edwards and brother-in-law of Mary Lincoln's sister Elizabeth. In the years before the Civil War prominent citizens such as Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas were entertained there at lavish dinner parties and receptions.

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## ***Paying Forward to Support Local History Efforts***

The terrific turnout for the Society's general meeting last month on Oak Ridge Cemetery served to confirm what we instinctively knew: that there's huge interest in this priceless piece of local history whose impact is national in scope.

The cemetery's executive director Michael Lelys's fascinating presentation only whetted the appetite for more and the Society will fulfill that come October when it resumes the popular Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk on October 11

Many of those who attended the February 17 session indicated they wanted to work on the project and they will be contacted. If you want to work on some aspect of the event, please call the office or contact me through our website. Committees will be forming over the next several weeks. We have a lot of work to do but are confident it will be a great success!

\* \* \*

The Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk is one of many long-term projects that your Society sponsors, underwritten by your

membership fees, our annual dinner silent auction, and donations.

This spring, when we send out our dues notice to those who pay annual dues ( and in a similar fashion, an update letter to Life Members), we will be asking you to consider the concept of "paying forward" to support the work that we do.

What that means is to think about making a donation in addition to your dues, or including an endowment to the Society in your estate planning so that in the long-term, we can continue to supplement our major efforts.

These include proving the financial underpinnings for such things as the operation of the Sangamon Valley Collection at the city library that we helped create; our Special Projects Fund that provides helps underwrite small but significant local history projects; our *SangamonLink.org* on-line and searchable encyclopedia of county history, and many more history-related efforts that need your financial support now and in the future.

*Mary Alice*



*Historico*, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, 2013 Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, [sangamon-history.org](http://sangamon-history.org) or [sancohis.org](http://sancohis.org). Send event announcements to [historicoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:historicoeditor@gmail.com).

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Donna Catlin, *Photographer*

# Society Grant Competition Opens, Application Deadline April 20

The Sangamon County Historic Society's Special Projects Committee is now accepting applications for the Society's annual grant program to help underwrite individual and group projects that preserve and promote interest Sangamon County History. Filing deadline is April 20.

Over the past two years, the Society has given Special Projects grants to a variety of projects such as the Clayville Historic Site for permanent flora and fauna markers for its new nature trail; the Village of Williamsville to help underwrite public signage that links the community to the historic Interurban railroad; the Springfield Boys & Girls Club to participate in activities mark-

ing the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation; and for a National Public Radio series on WUIS-FM on Sangamon history.

Individuals and groups can apply grants of up to \$1,000 each. An application form and related material can be found on-line at the Society's website, [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org). Completed forms can be submitted online or mailed to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Special Projects Committee, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.

Award winners will be announced at the Society's annual dinner in June.



## OFFICERS

**President**.....Mary Alice Davis  
**Vice-President**.....Ruth Slottag  
**Secretary**.....Sue Massie  
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**Past President**.....Roger Whitaker

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### Term Ending 2017

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 Genevieve Kaplan  
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**Finance:** Patricia Davis, Doug Polite,  
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**Programs & Special Events:** Mary Alice Davis, Vicky Whitaker

## Staff

Dr. Samuel Wheeler, **Executive Coordinator**  
 Mike Kienzler, **SangamonLink.org Editor**

## What's New on SangamonLink.org Neighborhood Support, Demo Plan, Old Library, Out With Todd, Gay Bar



The Society's new on-line and searchable county history encyclopedia provides a wide slice of local history this month, from testimony by a former Springfield Mayor supporting federal creation of the Lincoln Home neighborhood to why we shouldn't use Todd in Mary Lincoln's name.

The site, edited by veteran journalist and Society member Mike Kienzler, was launched last June and will eventually contain thousands of entries about the people, places, and events that have shaped the history of Sangamon County. Segments of the encyclopedia are published twice a month in the **State Journal Register**. Individuals and area organizations can contribute information to the site or expand on existing entries

Here's a peek at some of the newest items. You'll have to go to the website to get all the details:

■ What was it that Nelson Howarth—with only a week to go in final term as mayor of Springfield—told a the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation that resulted in the Lincoln Home neighborhood being designated as a National Historic Site in 1971?

■ Postponed maintenance, repair crises and general dilapidation have been recur-

ring problems at the Illinois Executive Mansion – most recently in 2014 and 2015, when a leaky roof and mold in the basement became critical. But the mansion, completed in 1855, probably faced its biggest crisis in 1963, when the Illinois House of Representatives sought to tear it down, sell the site, and build a new mansion in Springfield. What event in New York State prompted the action?

■ Remember Springfield's Carnegie Library? Opened in 1904, demolished in 1974, and replaced in 1977, it had features that ultimately made the building unsuitable as a library. There are only two public reminders of the old building in the current city library.

■ Until her sister Ann was born, she was Mary Ann, and after that, she was Mags. In Springfield in 1839, she was Mary Todd, Miss Todd, or Molly, a pet name and when she married Abraham Lincoln in 1842, she became Mary Lincoln. So don't call her Mary Todd Lincoln.

■ Smokey's Den, was the first bar in Springfield that openly catered to gay men and women. When it closed in 2003, after nearly four decades in business, it was thought to be the oldest gay bar in Illinois history.

## MARCH 2015 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*The Society welcomes new members:*

Pat Baska, Christopher Lelys, Mary Ann Lelys, Mike Lelys, Eugene Walker

Please make note of our official mailing address:

**SCHS**  
**Box 9744**  
**Springfield, Illinois,**  
**62791-9744**

# Members Only Tour of Edwards Place Restoration April 7

(Continued from page 1)

The 4,500 square foot mansion, at 700 North 4th Street in Springfield, features nine rooms restored to their mid-19th century appearance, complete with original and local furnishings.

Included in its collection of historic treasures are a rare piano which belonged to a colorful early Congressman, important portraits of 19th century Springfield residents, and artifacts from Abraham Lincoln's in-laws, including the "courting couch" on which Lincoln and Mary Todd sat during the early days of their romance.

Restoration work, which began last May, included structural repairs to the plaster, updated electrical systems, refinished walnut trim, faux walnut graining on the pine trim, refinished chandeliers, reupholstered furniture, and the installation of period-appropriate wallpaper, carpeting, and window treatments.

In two instances, the wallpaper patterns were reproduced from original 1850s fragments found during the restoration process.

The restoration project cost

\$490,000. The bulk of the funds were raised through private donations which were matched by a \$150,000 challenge grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation of Wisconsin.



**REOPENING:** Edwards Place, which reopens to the public next month after being closed for nearly a year for renovations.

## At Brookens Auditorium

### UIS Symposium to Explore Public's View of Lincoln's Life, Death

The University of Illinois Springfield will host a scholarly symposium on Thursday, April 30, in collaboration with the Lincoln Funeral Coalition and with support from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

*"Mourning Father Abraham: Lincoln's Assassination and the Public's Response"* will feature three Lincoln scholars who will describe the way the public viewed Abraham Lincoln in life and death, including the variation in personal responses to his assassination. Lincoln's call for black suffrage and the challenges of reunion will also be discussed.

Speakers will include Dr. Michael Burlingame, Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies, UIS; Dr. Martha Hodes, Professor of History, New York University; and Dr. Louis Masur, Distinguished Professor of American Studies and History, Rutgers University.

The event, at 7 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium, is free and open to the public. No reservation required. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Seating is first come, first seated, with overflow seating provided. A re-

ception and book signing will follow. The live webcast can be viewed at <http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html>. For more information: <http://cspl.uis.edu> or call 217- 206-7094.



**EXPERT TRIO:** Rutgers University Distinguished Professor of American Studies Dr. Louis Masur (left) and New York University history professor Dr. Martha Hodes (right), join the University of Illinois at Springfield's Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies Dr. Michael Burlingame on April 30 for a scholarly symposium focusing on the way the public viewed Lincoln in life and death. The 7 p.m. event, at the University's Brookens Auditorium, is free and open to the public.



**FULL HOUSE:** With the history of Oak Ridge Cemetery as his topic, the site’s executive director, Michael Lelys (right) , drew a full house to last month’s general meeting at the City of Springfield’s Lincoln Library. His talk included a power-point presentation on some of the cemetery’s unique monuments and the stories behind them, as well as a lively question and answer session. The program provided background for the Society as it moves ahead with plans to reintroduce the Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk next October.



## March Events A Primer for Lincoln Funeral Re-Enactment

With the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Lincoln’s funeral in Springfield a few weeks away, events kicking off the May procession are already underway.

The Illinois State Museum was first in last month with the opening in late February of *“Remembering Lincoln,”* a free exhibition of rarely seen objects that honor the memory of Lincoln including a hair work necklace worn by the wife of Lincoln’s bodyguard on the funeral train from Washington, D.C. to Springfield; a life-size sculpture of the president by Lorado Taft; and a mysterious painting of the president bearing a cross on his forehead. *“Remembering Lincoln”* will be on display in the Illinois State Museum’s newly renovated second floor gallery through May 10. The Museum, at 502 Spring Street, is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from Noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Several related events will be held in March.

The Museum will host a free Sunday, March 1 lecture in the Thorne Deuel Auditorium on the lower level at 2 p.m. by Julia Marsh, Curator of Community Engagement for the Allentown Museum of Art of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown, Pennsylvania. She’ll discuss *“Looking at Lincoln:*

*Pictures and Persuasions,”* providing an overview of contemporary depictions based on the early still photographs of Lincoln and what they tell us about the man and ourselves. The presentation is part of a Prairie Humanities Lecture Discussion Series that will include two others in March, both at the Illinois State Military Museum at 1301 North MacArthur Boulevard, Springfield.

The first of the two, on Sunday, March 15, is entitled *“An Illinois Regiment Winds Down the Civil War: Final Fights, Marches, and Mustering Out and Heading Home.”* Historian John Alexander will explore what can be learned about 1860’s thought from the diaries, letters and memoirs of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Illinois infantry, soldiers from Macoupin, Montgomery, Madison, Green, Jersey and Sangamon counties.

The free presentation begins at 2 p.m. It will be followed on Sunday, March 22, with historian Michael Burke looking at *“Surrender! The Ends of the Civil War”* in its many forms and interpretations. That session also begins at 2 p.m.

For a complete schedule of all events leading up to and including the re-enactment in May, go to [lincolnfuneral-coalition.org](http://lincolnfuneral-coalition.org).

# History Trivia Night Coming Up, Time to Reserve A Seat

(Continued from page 1)

evening.

The event, for which doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m., is co-sponsored by the Society and the Old State Capitol Foundation but has the support through time and effort of virtually every history organization in Sangamon County. The March 21 event will be in place of the regular monthly general membership program meeting.

Tickets are \$10 a person (which will get Society members a seat at one of the official Society tables), but you can also take a table of your own and fill it with 10 players for \$100. Trivia Night is limited to 130 players (13 tables) and last year was sold out two weeks before the event, so if you want a table or a ticket, go to the Society website at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) or mail a check immediately to the Society at Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. Ticket deadline is March 9, but tables and seats will be on a first come, first basis. Tickets must be paid for in advance either through our website or by mail.

The game will be played in the Old State Capitol's Foundation Hall on the lower level building which you can enter directly from the underground parking garage that will remain open after ours to accommodate the event. Usual underground parking fees apply. You can also park on the street, but should enter either through the elevators and stairs from the

south plaza above or from street level through the south entrance of the building.

Unlike most trivia nights, players cannot bring their own food to the site, a reflection of the need to protect the historic nature of the building. There will be snacks, however and players can once again purchase regular and vegetarian chilli prepared by nationally-known chilli champion Les Eastep, a member of the SCHS board. Desserts will also be available.

Anyone can play trivia. It's fun and easy and you don't have to be part of a team of nine other players to be part of a table. SCHS individual members will be seated at a Society table or where space

is available at an undesignated organization table.

The game is played in 10 rounds, each with 10 questions. A table usually works as a team, sharing written notes with what they think is the correct answer (to avoid being overheard by nearby tables). One person at the table is in charge of writing the correct answer on a score sheet that is turned into the judges at the end of each round.

The team with the highest number of answers at the end of the game will share a cash prize, as will second and third place winners. In many cases, winning tables donate all or part of their prize back to the beneficiaries of the fundraiser, which was the case last year.



**BREAKING INTO SONG:** Some of the troubadours entertaining at last year's Trivia Night.

Are you a snow bird who spends enough time in the winter or early spring to have your mail temporarily forwarded to your vacation address?

Wonder why you didn't receive your last copy of *Historico*?

That's because the post office does not forward bulk mail and *Historico*, your monthly Society newsletter, is sent out that way each month to save on postage. But when you don't tell us you're out-of-town, the newsletter comes back to us, stamped "temporarily away" and we are charged the full first class rate for its return in addition to the initial mailing cost. We'd like to avoid that.

You can resolve the problem and help us keep our mailing costs down by either letting us know three weeks in advance so we can temporarily take your name off the list, or have your mail sent to a local address. Thanks!



## Spring Around the Corner, Weather Another Story

Spring may be a couple of weeks away, but it doesn't mean we can't get a late winter snowfall or ice-covered roadways on the day of an SCHS event.

If weather conditions call for it, the Society meeting could cancel a meeting. And if that happens, an announcement to that effect will be posted by **3 p.m.** of the day of the meeting/event several different ways.

Notices initially will be posted on our main website, [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org) and on our phone, **217-525-1961** by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting. This should give you ample time to change plans.

Where possible, we will also post any cancellation notices on media websites and request that they be broadcast through local radio and television outlets.



# Calendar of Historical Events



**Saturday, March 21: 3rd Annual History Trivia Night** for benefit of the Lincoln Troubadours, Old State Capitol, Springfield. Doors open 6 p.m. Order tables of 10 or individual tickets on-line (preferred) or by mail no later than March 9. until all seats are filled. (See form below).



**Thursday, April 9: Civil War Sesquicentennial Series: Appomattox Court House**, 6:30 p.m., Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Union Theater. Speaker, Dr. Mark DePue. Free but reservations required.



**Thursday, April 2: Evening With the Creators Series, Bob Rogers**, 6:30 p.m., Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. The second in a series of lectures from the creators of the Museum. Rogers, founder and chief creative officer of BRC Imagination Arts, spent six years creating Museum's exhibits. Tickets :\$12.50

**Thursday, April 30: Symposium: Mourning Father Abraham: Lincoln's Assassination and the Public's Response**, 7 p.m. Free. Brookens Auditorium, University of Illinois at Springfield. (See story, page 4).

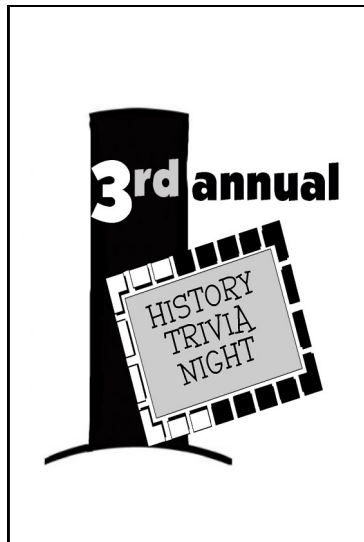


**Tuesday, June 23: SCHS Annual Dinner**, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield. 5:30 p.m.



**Tuesday, April 7: SCHS Members Only Pre-Public Private Tour of Edwards Place** renovations, 5:30 p.m. Free but pre-registration required. (See story, page 1).

**Sunday, October 11: Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk** sponsored by the Sangamon County Historical Society.



## Here's How to Guarantee a Seat or Table at the 2015 HISTORY TRIVIA NIGHT on MARCH 21

**GO TO [www.sangamoncountyhistory.org](http://www.sangamoncountyhistory.org) NOW** and follow the March 21 Trivia Night reservation/payment instructions. You can order a table of 10 for \$100 or buy individual tickets at \$10 per person...or use the form below to order by mail:

### 2014 TRIVIA NIGHT TICKET/TABLE ORDER FORM

**MAIL IN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK.** Make checks payable to SCHS and mail to the Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. Checks must be received no later than **MONDAY, MARCH 9.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Table(s)      \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets      \_\_\_\_\_ Round Sponsor (\$100)

**Sangamon County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 9744,  
Springfield, IL 62791-9744  
*Return Service Requested*

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 777  
Springfield, Illinois

**Sangamon County Historical Society MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form**

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. You may also join or renew on line by going to [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org). Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Status**

New Member

Renewal

Gift of Membership from:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels**

- 01 - Regular Membership - \$25
- 02 - Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 (Must show proof of status).
- 03 - Student Membership - \$10. (Must show proof of status).
- 04 - Educator, \$15. (Must show proof of status).
- 05 - Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 06 - Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 07 - Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 08 - Lifetime Membership - \$700