



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744, Phone: 217-525-1961,  
e-mail: schsoffice@gmail.com web: [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org), [SangamonLink.org](http://SangamonLink.org)

VOLUME 53 NO. 3

FEBRUARY 2017

*A Timeline...and Timely View*

## THE 1908 SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT

### Timeline Offers Close Look at Historic Event

With some parallels to Springfield Race Riot as current times and racial captured in a unique power-tenor, the Sangamon County Historical Society's Tuesday, February 21 program meeting will look at the 1908

Springfield Race Riot as captured in a unique power-point narrated by Kathryn Harris, president of the Abraham Lincoln Association. Harris, the retired chief

librarian of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, is a past president of the Society. The program, in recognition of Black History Month,

will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library Carnegie Room North and is open to the public.

(Continued on page 6)

#### **INSIDE**

- From the President's Desk.....2
- Special Projects Competition .....3
- Saving History.....4-5
- Calendar .....7

**SIGN UP NOW  
FOR MARCH 18**

Details.....Page 3





## February, March Busy Months For Society

As the calendar brings us into the month of February, we can't help but think of the numerous historical observances this month. Most notably, the birth of two great U.S. presidents – our country's first president, George Washington on February 22, and our sixteenth president and one of Illinois' favorite sons, Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is February 12.

In recent years, both birthdays have been celebrated nationally on Presidents' Day on the Monday between both birthdays. Although in Springfield a number of Lincoln birthday celebrations are held on his actual birthday. Some of those events, sponsored by our partner history organizations, are listed in the *Historico* calendar on page 7.

African-American History Month will be observed with a number of activities held in February including our Society's monthly program on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Library's Carnegie Room South. A PowerPoint presentation will be narrated by Kathryn Harris, retired library services director at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

The program is one you won't want to miss because it will share information about the 1908 Race Riot in Springfield that shocked the nation and led to the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It will provide a unique visual look at how and why the riot developed, what caused it, and its impact immediately afterwards and even today.

If you missed our program last month, Rich Saal, photography editor at the *State Journal-Register*, shared a great pictorial history showing Springfield's past from the early 1900s to present. His PowerPoint presentation featured many beautiful photos of former Springfield landmarks including the Orpheum Theater and Reisch Brewery, former Presidents' visits, and local soldiers who served in World War I and II. The

photos brought back memories for a number of attendees, many of whom had questions and comments about days gone by.

Coming up in March is the Society's fifth annual Trivia night which will be our monthly program. The date is Saturday, March 18 at Christ the King Parish Hall. This event is one of only two fundraisers the Society holds to help continue bringing programs and events to keep local history alive in our community and to educate the public of all ages about our rich heritage. Most of our programs and events, including the Oakridge Cemetery Walk, are made available to members and the public at no cost. We hope you will come join the fun and support the Society! Better yet, bring a table full of your friends and participate in the trivia challenge together. And you or your business can sponsor a round of questions, or volunteer to help with the event. (See page 3 for more details).

Many of you have asked about the video of last October's Oakridge Cemetery Walk. The video, which is an abbreviated version of the cemetery walk, is now completed and can be viewed from the Society's website [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXywdWjV\\_B8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXywdWjV_B8&feature=youtu.be). Or go to [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org), scroll down the left side column and click on 2016 Cemetery Walk.

We sincerely thank Mayor Jim Langfelder, City of Springfield Communication Director Julie Fevert and City Videographer Gregg Nevitt for making this video happen for us. Be sure to take a look at it because it is a beautiful tribute to a few of our community's ancestors and a look into their lives and times.



*Historico*, published 10 times a year (except July & December), is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

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

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor

## Ready to Test Your Trivia Skills? Society Trivia Night March 18

It starts with a T, is fun to play, and could win you big bucks. That's more than a clue!

It's an invitation to join fellow Sangamon County Historical Society members and their guests at our fifth annual Trivia Night set for Saturday, March 18 at Christ the King Parish Hall, 1930 Barberry Drive, Springfield.

Sign up for a table early on-line and guarantee yourself a table of 10 (at \$100) or reserve an individual seat (\$10 per person) and we'll sit you with other enthusiastic trivia players for an evening's worth of testing your knowledge on a wide variety of topics. The table that comes up with the most right answers will win \$200, with second and third prizes of \$100 and \$75 to the runners up.

Well-known Trivia Master Al Gietl is assembling the questions and will oversee the evening's game. Emmy award-winning

public television host and producer Mark McDonald will emcee the evening's events.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the game starting at 7 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Tickets and tables can be purchased on-line at the Society's website, *sangamonhistory.org*. Round sponsorships are also available at \$100. For additional information, call 525-1961.

The game is played in 10 rounds, each round with 10 questions that may be visual or audio. One player at each table oversees an answer sheet that reflects the consensus of that table's players. After each round, each table has a few minutes to fill in any blanks or change its answers, after which their answer sheet is brought over to a panel

(Continued on page 5)

## Special Projects Competition Opens, April 12 Deadline for Filing Applications

Want to move forward on a small but significant local history project but don't have the funds to do it? The Sangamon County Historical Society's Special Projects Fund may be able to help. The filing deadline is April 12.

"The Society is now taking applications for funding new historic projects within the county that carry out our mission to preserve and promote interest in the history of Sangamon County," explained Special Projects Fund committee chair Elaine Hoff in announcing this year's annual competition. "Groups and individuals are invited to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 for projects which must start after July 1, 2017 and be completed by June 30, 2018." The Society awards up to \$3,000 for such projects each year.

Special Projects grants have been used to repair the Oak Ridge Cemetery bell controller and repair a weathered, interpretive Bell Tower marker that explained that a marble slab inlaid on the Tower was the one upon which the remains of Abraham Lincoln were first placed in the cemetery's receiving tomb. A Special Projects grant also helped purchase equipment to establish a tree ring analysis laboratory at the Illinois State Museum, and for a National Public Radio series on WUIS-FM on Sangamon history. Previous grants also have underwritten permanent historic flora and fauna markers for a nature path at the Clayville Historic Site.

Applications are available on-line at [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.

### **FEBRUARY 2017 MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS REPORT**

The Society welcomes the following new members: *Tyler Curry, Patrick Foster, Donna Lerch, Steven Rowold, and Laurena Rowold* ...and thanks *Doug Polite* for his generous donation.



### **OFFICERS**

**President**.....Ruth Slottag  
**Vice-President**.....Vicky Whitaker  
**Secretary**.....Kathy Dehen  
**Treasurer**.....Jerry Smith  
**Past-President**.....Mary Alice Davis

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **Term Ending 2019**

Jennie Battles  
Terri Cameron  
Mary Schaefer  
Elaine Hoff

#### **Term Ending 2018**

Larry Stone  
Roger Whitaker  
Sue Massie  
Carol Phillips

#### **Term Ending 2017**

Troy Gilmore  
Doug Polite  
Sue Helm  
Eugene Walker  
Cathy Mosley

### **Committee Chairs**

**Legal:** Bruce Beeman  
**Finance:** Doug Polite, Larry Stone  
**Nominating:** Mary Alice Davis  
**Hospitality:** Marion Leach  
**Publicity and Marketing:** Ruth Slottag, Susan-Helm  
**Publications:** Roger Whitaker  
**Programs & Special Events:** Mary Alice Davis, Vicky Whitaker  
**Social Media Chair:** Mary Schaefer  
**Special Projects:** Elaine Hoff

### **Staff**

Mike Kienzler, *SangamonLink.org* Editor

Please make note of our official mailing address:

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

S  
A  
V  
I  
N  
G  
H  
I  
S  
T  
O  
R  
Y



**LOST AND FOUND:** *State Journal Register* photo editor Rich Saal (lower right) gave Society members and guests a rare look at the area's history and how it has been saved both on glass plates and modern-day photographic equipment January 17 in a Powerpoint presentation that blended both a seasoned photographer eye and an historian's sense of the past. Saal, who holds a masters degree from the University of Illinois, Springfield, projected images culled from some of the glass plate negatives taken for the *Illinois State Journal* between 1929 and 1935 by Raymond Hodde and Ernest T. Pearson using hand-held Speed Graphic cameras. The glass plates were donated to the Sangamon Valley Collection by the *State Journal Register* in 1989 and were used in a book Saal edited in 2012, *Springfield Photographs, Images from the Illinois State Journal Glass Plates, 1929-1935*. Copies of the book were made available to those attending the event for a free-will donation whose proceeds went to the Society. Saal showed how some modern-day technology was used to restore old photos taken on glass plates such as the one taken of President Herbert Hoover when he and his wife Lou Henry Hoover, visited Springfield on June 17, 1931. The deteriorated image (upper left) was revitalized (upper right) through digital imaging technology that made it valuable to historians and researchers. Photos continue to provide us with a look into our past, such as the demolition of the landmark Orpheum Theatre (center) in 1965. Saal also talked about his more recent photo project focusing on vanishing mom-and-pop stores in Illinois and Missouri over the past 35 years. Begun as a documentary in the early 1980s, he returned to the project last summer. At lower left, Society member Pat Baska chats with Saal's wife, Dana, who gave out copies of her husband's book. Additional copies are available upon request by contacting the Society at [schsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:schsoffice@gmail.com).



**IN THE GAME:** Last year's Trivia Night drew a room full of players. You could be among them this year!  
*Donna Catlin photo*

## Trivia Night Tables, Tickets On Sale, As Society Readies for March 18 Event

*(Continued from page 3)*

of judges who review the answers and give each table a score from zero to 10. And there's a way for a table to leave a blank space if they don't know the answer, without hurting their score: the *Mulligan!*

Before the trivia game officially begins at 7 p.m., each table will be able to purchase a strip of 10 stick-on Mulligans, stickers that they can paste on the answer sheet in place of one of the ten answers in each round.

With a Mulligan in place of a blank space for question you and your tablemates couldn't answer, you'll get credit for the question as if you answered it correctly. A strip of 10 Mulligans will cost \$10 per table. (While its origin is uncertain, the best known use of a Mulligan is in golf, in which a player is informally allowed to replay a stroke, even though

this is against the game's formal rules).

There's another way to also come home with a prize: A table can purchase a balloon for \$10 for the Balloon Round Game. When you look at the score sheet, you will see that in each round, one of the 10 questions is clearly designated as the "Balloon Round" question. That means that if you are playing the Balloon Round Game, you must answer that question correctly.

If you don't, you must pop the balloon immediately upon hearing the correct answer. If your table is participating in the Balloon Round Game, it can't use a Mulligan on a Balloon Round question.

The table with the last balloon standing wins the game, the glory, and half the money collected to play it. If there is a tie after the balloon round question in the 10th round, the tied tables will split the prize.



**GAME SITE:** Christ the King Parish Hall in Springfield, site of the March 18 Trivia Night.





**IN THE AFTERMATH:** The 1908 Springfield Race Riot left death and destruction in its path. A violent mob left homes of black residents and businesses in ruin. This photo, part of the February 21 Powerpoint timeline presentation, is in the collection of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

## February 21 Program to Put New Focus on 1908 Race Riot

(Continued from page 1)

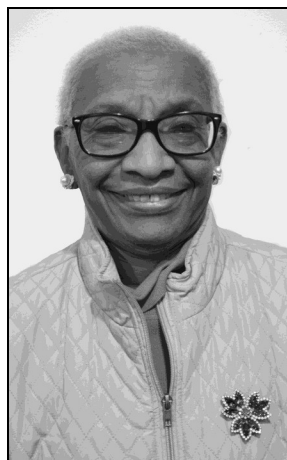
A Carbondale, Illinois native, Harris holds a bachelor of arts degree in French/education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

She moved to Springfield in 1971 after being hired immediately after graduation by the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library as Reference Librarian, the first African American on the staff with a professional degree in library science.

Harris stayed in the post for about nine months before being lured away by Sangamon State University to serve as an instructional services librarian, a post she held until 1974 when she married and moved to Florida. There, she was quickly hired by Florida International University as circulation librarian.

She returned to Springfield in 1981 where she joined the Illinois State Library as head of its Reference Department, a post she held until 1990 when Harris

moved over to the State Historical Library, then located on the lower level of the Old State Capitol. She served as Supervisor of



**SPEAKER:** Kathryn Harris, president of the Abraham Lincoln Association and a past president of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Reference and Technical Services until 1996 when she was named Director of the State Historical Library. Harris helped oversee its move to its new home and name change to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library com-

plex in downtown Springfield.

Harris retired from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in 2015 but continues to play a role in the community. She serves on the board of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum and is also well-known for her portrayals of historic figures including Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian and civil rights activist who guided slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad during the Civil War; Elizabeth Keckley, Mary Lincoln's confidante and dressmaker; Jarena Lee, the first African-American woman to have an autobiography published in the United States and the first woman authorized to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and Sadie Delany, an educator who was one of the subjects of the best-selling oral history "*Having Our Say*." Harris also portrayed Phoebe Florville, wife of William Florville, Lincoln's friend and barber, for the Society's 2015 Oak-Ridge Cemetery Walk.

### A WORD ABOUT WEATHER

We may have gotten a break from Mother Nature so far this winter, but now that February is upon us and with March holding the potential of coming in with its legendary roar, weather is very much on the Society's radar. If weather conditions call for it, the Society could cancel a meeting or a special event. 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, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) and on our phone, 217-525-1961 by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting or event. 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 History Events

## Now Through July 30: "The Story of New Philadelphia."

The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum exhibit showcases the first town in the United States platted and registered by an African American in 1836, former slave Free Frank McWorter. McWorter purchased his freedom and that of his wife and 13 family members, leaving Kentucky for Pike County, Illinois in 1830 where six years later he founded New Philadelphia which he thought would benefit from the commerce along the planned Illinois and Michigan Canal (which was never built).



The town was integrated. Before the Civil War, New Philadelphia had become one of the stations along the Underground Railroad for shepherding escaped slaves to Canada. With emancipation, more settlers arrived in New Philadelphia. Its population peaked at close to 160 shortly after 1865. Bypassed in the construction of the Hannibal and Naples Railroad in 1869, the population drifted away and the town dissolved in 1885. The subject of extensive archeological research that began in 2004. The New Philadelphia site was added to the National Historic Register of Historic Places in 2005 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2009. Artifacts excavated from New Philadelphia, provided by the Illinois State Museum, are among the items in the new exhibit. The Museum is located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield. Museum hours are Noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

**Thursday, February 16, Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum Open House,** 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The public is invited to drop in and view the new Museum's exhibits including the recently installed New Philadelphia exhibit. Guests will be able to talk with Museum members, board members, volunteers, visit with old friends, and make new ones. Light refreshments will be served. The Museum is located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield.

**Tuesday, February 21, The 1908 Race Riot: A Timeline,** 5:30 p.m. Kathryn Harris, speaker. Free and open to the public. Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Library, 326 South Seventh Street, Springfield.

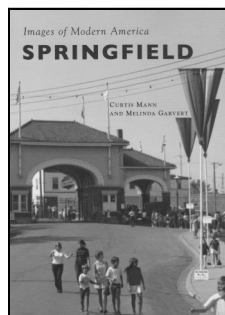
**Saturday, February 25, "New Philadelphia." 3 p.m.** University of Illinois professor Dr. Gerald McWorter, a descendent of Free Frank McWorter, founder of New Philadelphia, IL, will be the keynote speaker in this special presentation in conjunction with the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum exhibit, "The Story of New Philadelphia." The Museum is located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield.

**Friday, March 10 (Opening Reception) through Saturday, April 1: Shifting Sands: Springfield's Architectural Legacy, Part 2.** The Springfield Art Association and the Sangamon Valley Collection of the Lincoln Library provides a sequel to their popular 2015 *Shifting Sands: Springfield's Architectural Legacy* exhibition with an additional 40 photos of Springfield's historic buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries, along with the stories of how these buildings were built, used, and restored or destroyed. The exhibition opens with a March 10 reception, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with a gallery talk at 6 p.m. by the show's curators Erika Holst, Curtis Mann, and Stephanie Martin. A wide variety of buildings will be featured: 19<sup>th</sup> century mansions such as the Lanphier House (right), mansions-turned-businesses such as Norb Andy's, nostalgic buildings such as Thrifty Drug, and imperiled buildings such as the YWCA. The exhibit will be in the Art Association's Martin M.G. Nelson Family Gallery of Art, 700 North Fourth Street, Springfield. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.



**Saturday, March 18: Fourth Annual SCHS Trivia Night.** Don't miss the fun! Doors open 6 p.m., game starts 7 p.m. Christ the King Parish Hall, 1930 Barberry Drive, Springfield. Tables of 10, \$100. Individual tickets \$10 on line at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org). Snacks and drinks available.

**Tuesday, April 18: Talk and Tour, 5:30 p.m.** Authors Curtis Mann and Linda Garvert discuss their latest book, *Images of Modern America: Springfield*, just published by Arcadia. For the book, Mann and Garvert assembled and described 1960s and 1970s photos, many in color, that illustrate how Springfield changed in that era. Mann oversees the City of Springfield Lincoln Library's Sangamon Valley Collection and serves as Springfield City historian. Garvert recently retired from the Sangamon Valley Collection as a librarian. Following their presentation, attendees will be able to tour the newly expanded Sangamon Valley Room, a few days short of the 48th anniversary of its opening. Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street, Springfield.



**Tuesday, June 13: SCHS Annual Dinner,** Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains. Keynote speaker will be Carolyn Moore who headed the Society in 2007. Check future **Historicos** for ticket information.

**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 June 1 to May 31. All memberships cover adults and children 16 and over living in the same household. Be sure to include their names.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**Status**

- New Member
- Renewal
- GIFT of Membership from:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels**

- Regular Membership - \$30
- Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20
- Student Membership - \$10 (Must show proof of status).
- Pioneer Level Membership - \$100
- Settlers Level Membership - \$250
- Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500
- Lifetime Membership - \$700

ALL MEMBERSHIPS COVER ADULTS AND CHILDREN 16 AND OVER LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD. PLEASE INCLUDE THEIR NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_