



# 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)

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## Special Projects Competition Gets Underway

If you're hoping to win one of the Sangamon County Historical Society's Special Projects Grants, April 26, 2019 is the date to remember. That's the deadline for the annual competition whose winners will be announced in June.

"Ingenuity, resourcefulness, impact and hard work can accomplish awesome results," says Special Grants program chair Elaine Hoff of the previous winning projects that won up to \$1,000 each. "We anticipate this year's competition to be equally challenging."

Last year the Society gave grants to four organizations and individuals representing a broad spectrum of projects, noted Hoff. The winners, introduced and presented with checks at the Society's annual dinner last June, were Sarah Jones (\$1,000) to digitize and thus preserve blueprints of the Sacred Heart Chapel (1895) and the Ursula Hall Mu-

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Trove of Rare Photos Fair's The Fare In This Unique Look at History

Members and guests of the Sangamon County Historical Society will get a opportunity to see the Illinois State Fair from a perspective that's both old and new on Tuesday, February 19.

In a powerpoint presentation, former Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation historian and past board member Tom Fitch will be sharing and discussing a rarely seen trove of once forgotten and now recovered photos of the Fairgrounds in its earliest days that he cop-

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## March 23 Trivia Night Tables Going Fast

With just over six weeks to go, table reservations are coming in for the Society's seventh annual Trivia Night set for Saturday, March 23. Doors open at 6 p.m.

The event, which benefits the Society's Special Projects Grant program, will be held in the Parish Hall at Christ the King Church, 1930 Barberrry Drive, Spring-

field. Early birds have an incentive to reserve a table of 10 (\$100) or an individual seat (\$10). They'll be at one of a

**TICKET ORDER FORM PAGE 7**

dozen tables closest to the screen, the judges table, and the refreshments.

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**TOUR TAKER:** Society member Elaine Hoff listens as Edwards Place docent Arlene Cooney gives an on-site explanation of the historic site's most recent renovations.

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## Your Support Can Make a Big Difference

We're always amazed by how fast time goes by. Turn around and it's February, breathe in and it's March. And before you know it, summer has arrived.

That's how it is for the Sangamon County Historical Society as it heads into the second half of its meeting season. Programs and events that seemed distant in September are now about to take center stage. It probably comes as no surprise that we are well into planning programs, tours, and special events for the 2019-2020 season including next fall's Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk.

But for the moment, I'd like to turn your attention to March and our annual Trivia Night. Despite its name, there is nothing trivial about it. For the Society, it is our major fundraiser for the year, an event that shapes one of our most valuable history preservation efforts: the annual Special Project Grant program.

It's amazing to look back at the many projects this program has underwritten and their long-term impact on both on present and future generations of Sangamon County residents and visitors. The wonderful pathways and historic plantings at Clayville, for example, are interpreted by permanent signage made possible in part, from a Special Projects grant. Visitors to Williamsville are learning more about the community thanks to informational displays that also were created with financial support from the Special Project Grant program.

The Society will not have a general program on its regular third Tuesday in March in order to put all its efforts into making this year's Trivia Night the most successful in its seven year his-

tory. If you've never been to a Trivia Night, now is the time to join in, have fun, and support the work of the Society at the same time.

Bring nine of your friends, family members, or co-workers or sign-up to play yourself. We'll seat you with fellow Society members, a guarantee you'll have a good time!

\* \* \*

The turn of the year brought some unhappy news.

The Society lost two Life Members, Dr. Virgilio Pilapil and Madelyn Bogue. In addition, board member Peter Harbison's father, radio legend Shelby Harbison also passed away last month.

Dr. Pilapil served as president of the Society from 2005 to 2006 and in 2007 chaired a joint committee that published *In Lincoln's Shadow: Oak Ridge Cemetery Chronicles* that marked the cemetery's 150th anniversary. A native of the Philippines, Dr. Pilapil wrote essays in English and Tagalog on the provinces of Cavite and Pampanga history, and a number of books including one on the legacy of the 1904 World's Fair with special attention to the Philippine exhibit, and another on the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon marking the 50th anniversary of the Rees' cultural legacy to Springfield. He is survived by his wife Elena and family.

Madelyn Bogue and her husband Jim, who survives, joined the Society in 2005 and became Life Members in 2011.

*Vicky Whitaker*



*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.sangamohistory.org](http://www.sangamohistory.org) or [sancohis.org](http://sancohis.org). Send event announcements to [historicoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:historicoeditor@gmail.com).  
Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Photos by Kathy Dehen, Larry Stone



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**ALL IN THE FAMILY:** Illinois State Museum Curator of Art and History Erika Holst (above, right) will lead two back-to-back one-hour introductory workshops on family history on Wednesday, March 13 starting at 6 p.m. with "Family History 101" followed at 7:15 p.m. with a session on "Dating Old Photographs by Clothing." Pre-registration is required. Call 782-6044 for information. Fee for both workshops is \$20 for non-museum members, \$15 for members or \$10 and \$15 respectively, for one session.

**Society to Get a Look at Rare Fair Photos**

*(Continued from page 1)*

ied and has now preserved in a digital format.

Fitch, a graduate of Springfield Junior College and Illinois State University, holds a bachelor of science degree in education. A mathematics major with a minor in chemistry, he worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation for 34 years, retiring in 1997 as a Standards Engineer. He has served as a computer instructor for the Third Age Living Computer Center and was a volunteer field announcer and statis-

tician for the Lincoln Land Community College baseball team. He currently volunteers with the Sangamon Valley Collection at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library.

The meeting will be held at the Library's Carnegie Room North, starting at 5:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the Public.



**Fitch**

**FEBRUARY 2019 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT**



*The Society is pleased to welcome new member **Phil Fukenbusch** and to extend its appreciation and thanks to **Mary Blumle and Kathleen Hoffmann** for their donations.*

Please make note of our official mailing address:

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

*Upstairs at Edwards Place*

# Society Members Check Out Historic Site's Second Act



**ON VIEW:** Nancy Chapin (left), Stephanie Martin (center) and Kathy Hoffmann take a close look at some of the clothing and furnishings installed on the recently restored second floor of this historic Springfield manse owned and operated by the Springfield Art Association.





**TOUR TIME:** Snow and chilly weather didn't stop Society members from getting a close-up tour of the second floor renovations to Historic Edwards Place in Springfield on January 15 with the aid of docents like Pam Van Alstine (above) and Laura Reyman (right) dressed in period costumes. The tour followed presentations by Sarah Adams, the site's Curator of Collections and Interpretations (below) and historic window treatment expert Susan Day who designed the drapes and curtains based on research of the period. Day's talk included rare video footage of the manufacturing process used to produce the period fabric patterns used in the renovation.



# Special Projects Grant Competition Opens

(Continued from page 1)

sic Conservatory (1895) designed by William Conway, Springfield's first architect; the Rochester Historic Preservation Society (\$500) for signage at the Rochester Historic Park; Oak Hill Cemetery, Clear Lake (\$500) for a Donner Party memorial plaque and landscaping; and the Rochester Sesquicentennial Committee (\$500) for a plaque marking the grave of Rochester's first settler, James McCoy who is buried in the 1800s pioneer section of the Rochester Township Cemetery.

In previous years, the Society's Special Grants Program helped underwrite

numerous local history projects including research for and an exhibit at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum on early African American families in Springfield; furnishings for a replica of an 1800s one-room log cabin school house at the Pleasant Plains Historical Society's Clayville Historic Site; an exhibit of archeological artifacts of an early 19th century kitchen at the Springfield Art Association's Historic Edwards Place; and a grant to the Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation for bronze donor plaque honoring contributors to the restoration of its handwritten interment books. Special Grant awards

have also paved the way for markers along a historic nature walk at Clayville and history signage in Williamsville. Funds for the Special Projects Grants come from monies raised at the Society's annual Trivia Night.

Applications for the 2019 competition can be downloaded from the Society's website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org). (Click on "Grant Program").

Completed forms should be submitted online to [grants@sangamonhistory.org](mailto:grants@sangamonhistory.org) or mailed to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Special Projects Committee, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.



(Continued from page 1)

Some 300 trivia players filled the room last year, challenged by a range of questions devised by Trivia Night guru Al Gietl before bringing their table answer sheet to a panel of judges for scoring. "As last year, 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," says event chair Mary Alice Davis.

*Illinois Stories* 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 (including chilli prepared by champion chilli maker Les Estep) and drinks will be available for purchase.

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 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 also another way to 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 your table is playing the Balloon Round Game, you and your tablemates must answer that question correctly. If you don't, you must pop the balloon immediately. You 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.

The event will be held in place of the Society's regular monthly; meeting which will resume in April.

# TRIVIA NIGHT TABLE, TICKET, ROUND SPONSOR ORDER FORM

Register on line at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) or use this mail-in form. Advance table and individual reservations sent by mail must be received by March 18.

## TABLE RESERVATIONS:

Enclosed is my check. Sign me up for \_\_\_\_ tables of 10 for the Saturday, March 23 SCHS Trivia Night @\$100 per table.

## INDIVIDUAL TICKET RESERVATIONS:

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_ seats. Society members and their guests who purchase individual tickets (at \$10 per person) in advance will be seated at designated Sangamon County Historical Society tables.

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

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

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made payable to SCHS and mailed to SCHS,  
P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.*

## ROUND SPONSOR

Companies, organizations and individuals are welcome to sponsor individual rounds at \$100 per round. The name of the company, organization or individual will appear on the screen at the start of the round. You will need to furnish any art work associated with your sponsorship along with your payment no later than **March 10**. Please indicate if you wish to be contacted to discuss any technical details.

Please contact me at: e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## CALENDAR OF AREA HISTORY EVENTS

**Tuesday, February, 19: *Lost & Found: Early Photos of the Illinois State Fair***, 5:30 p.m. Tom Fitch, president, Illinois State Fair Foundation & Museum, will be our guest when the Sangamon County Historical Society returns to its usual meeting place, Carnegie Room North at the city of Springfield's Lincoln Library.

**Friday, February 22 "Museum After Hours,"** 5 p.m.-8 p.m., opening reception for the new "We are Illinoisians" exhibit (details below). Tickets are \$15, \$10 for Illinois State Museum members.

**Friday, February 22 Through Monday, June 3: We Are Illinoisians.** This newest Illinois State Museum exhibit focuses on immigration from the 18th century to today. Fifteen immigrants to

Illinois from a variety of countries and time periods are profiled. In addition, photos of immigrant ancestors submitted by the public will be featured.

**Wednesday, March 13: *Family History Workshops, Illinois State Museum.*** Registration is underway for two hour-long workshops, *Family History 101*, at 6 p.m. and *Dating Old Photographs by Clothing* at 7:15 p.m. at the Illinois State Museum led by history curator Erika Holst. Fee is \$15 for one, \$20 for both (\$10 and \$15 respectively for ISM members). For resitration information, contact Sarah Davis at [events@illinoisstatemuseum.org](mailto:events@illinoisstatemuseum.org) or call 782-6044.

**Saturday, March 23: SCHS Annual Trivia Night.** 6 p.m. (See story page 1).

**Sangamon County Historical Society**

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**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 — except Business/Corporate and college/university students — cover adults and children 16 and over at the same address. Be sure to include their names.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Status**

\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ 2018-2019 GIFT of Membership from:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**2018-2019 Membership Levels**

Except for business and college/university student membership, all levels listed below cover adults and children 16 and over *living at the same address*. **Please list their names in the space below.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Regular Membership - \$30
- Pioneer Level - \$100
- Trailblazer Level - \$500
- College/University Student (individual) -\$20.
- Settlers Level - \$250
- Lifetime Membership - \$700 (one time fee)

I am adding a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Business /Corporate Membership - \$200