



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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Register By May 16

Tour to Focus on Dana As Suffragette Leader

Taking a cue from suffragist Susan Lawrence Dana, the Sangamon County Historical Society will step ahead of the curve on Tuesday, May 21, with a specialized, members-only tour of Dana Thomas House focusing her role in the women's right to vote movement which in 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment.

Pre-registration is required (at sangamonhistory.org or by calling 725-1961 by May 16) for the 5:30 p.m. event that will kick-off at the site's Carriage House, with tours in small groups to areas of Dana Thomas House specific to her suffragist activities led by docents who will discuss that part of Dana's life.

Tour takers should park in the Dana Thomas House parking lot west of the site between Lawrence Avenue and

(Continued on page 4)

STARTING POINT: Tour takers should park in the Dana Thomas lot between Lawrence and Cook Street and enter the complex through the site's former Carriage House on S. 3rd Street on the west side of the building .



Annual Dinner, Elections June 18 at Clayville Historic Site

With a proposed slate in hand, winners of the 2019 Special Projects Grant selected, and a keynote speaker designated, plans are moving ahead for the Society's annual meeting, elections, and dinner to be held

at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18 in the newly expanded Cunningham Barn at the Clayville Historic Site in Pleasant Plains. You can guarantee yourself a seat by filling out the reservation form on page 7

and returning it with your guests. check by Monday, June 10. You will also be able to reserve seats on-line starting May 17, at the Society's website, sangamonhistory.org. Tickets are \$29 for members, \$31 for

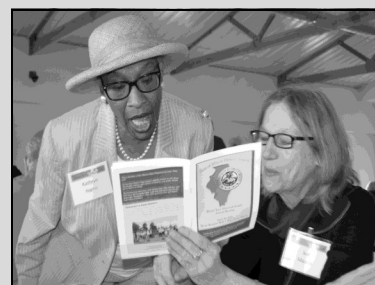
The proposed slate for 2019-2020 consists of nominees for officers and directors ranging from one to three year terms.

(Continued on page 6)

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HISTORY gathering:
SCHS members Kathryn Harris (left) and Sue Massie (right) share a moment at the ISHS meeting. More on the event on PAGE 2



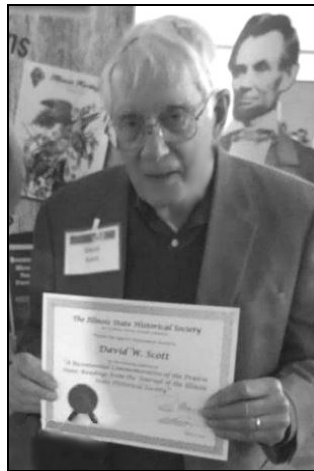


What Happens When History Lovers Get Together

We had the good fortune to join several members of the Society, professional historians and just plain history buffs from around the state for the Illinois State Historical Society's annual dinner on April 26, this year held in Petersburg. It's always a nice event that serves not only to honor those who have made significant contributions to state history, but also to provide a social opportunity to meet, talk with, and acknowledge the work that is being done in across the state in terms of broadening knowledge of local history.

The State Society, which is headquartered in Springfield, gave out nearly three dozen awards for a cross-section of history related activities, notably to several historians from this area including one of our past presidents, David Scott, who will be keynoting our annual dinner in June. Scott was cited for his work as editor of *A Bicentennial Commemorative of the Prairie State, Readings* culled from the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, a 424 page volume published in 2018. Also among the other local honorees were University of Illinois at Springfield history professor Michael Burlingame, the Illinois State Museum's Erika Holst, and John Lupton, executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission. Our congratulations to all of this year's winners.

The event also provided an opportunity for another of our past presidents, Kathryn Harris, to make a pitch



CITED; David Scott with the award he received last month from the Illinois State Historical Society at its annual meeting.

for statewide financial support to make needed repairs to the Lincoln's New Salem Historic site, whose condition she and others find shocking. Harris and another well-known historian and SCHS member Guy Fraker, co-chair a special Abraham Lincoln Association New Salem Project that will be hosting a special event at the site that's free to all, but with hope that by attending, you will be moved to make a contribution to help underwrite its repairs and restoration.

You need to make a reservation by e-mail by May 10 (see more on page 5) because there will be refreshments and they need an accurate head count. Every dollar you give will make a difference. Don't miss this opportunity to guarantee that there still will be a Lincoln's New Salem for our children, our children's children and their children to see in the future.

Unfortunately, the problems at Lincoln's New Salem are not unfamiliar to historic sites around Illinois and elsewhere, be they run by the state, historical societies, or in private hands. Money is always an issue and support always a problem, something the Sangamon County Historical Society realized long ago when it decided that the best role it could play is to keep its physical costs to a minimum and support efforts of local history organizations and history researchers by grants, encouragement and publicity for their events and efforts wherever possible. It's one of the reasons we do not have a physical office and one of the key reasons we have an annual Special Projects Grant program, for which the winners of the 2019 competition will be announced at our annual dinner. It's our job. It's our duty to keep local history in the forefront of the community, so that these valuable historic sites around the county and beyond, will be there for all to visit in the future.

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 or sancohis.org. Send event announcements to historicoeditor@gmail.com.
Vicky Whitaker, **Historico** Editor, Photos by Kathy Dehen, Larry Stone

Springfield's Horseshoe Sandwich Earns A Place in History with New Guide Book

A new book on the history of Springfield's celebrated horseshoe sandwich that debuts nationwide this week is expected to sell like hotcakes...uh, horseshoes.

Penned by freelance writer Carolyn Harmon and Pasfield House innkeeper and historian Tony Leone, a Life Member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, *Springfield's Celebrated Horseshoe Sandwich* offers everything you wanted to know about Springfield's legendary dish including a trip down horseshoe memory lane focusing on long-gone Springfield eateries that had horseshoes on their menus. It also has 101-page guide to just about every restaurant in Illinois and nearly a dozen other states as far away as Arizona and Florida where you can order a Springfield inspired Horseshoe, the recipe exported by former Springfielders who missed their favorite food, speculates Leone.

The book, published by American Palate, a Division of Arcadia Publishing's The Historic Press, is available on Amazon and Barnes and Nobel as well as local bookstores.

Harmon and Leone have already been through several pre-publication media interviews and will be doing book signings around the area as word among foodies gets around. Harmon tracked down Leone after seeing his name come up in association with the horseshoe in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Illinois Times* where Harmon's articles frequently appear. She already had a deal to produce a book on the horseshoe with Acadia when she approached Leone and suggested they write it together.

The volume is heavy on history, reflecting Leone's personal collection of horseshoe memorabilia and photos that tie in to George Pasfield, namesake of Pasfield House. "George Pasfield was the



HORSESHOE SAVVY: Authors Carolyn Harmon (left) and Tony Leone (right) provide are providing a comprehensive look at the history and permutations of Springfield's legendary and celebrated fare, the Horseshoe Sandwich, in their new book.

president of the Leland Hotel and it was in the Leland Hotel that the horseshoe was invented by chef Joe Schweska," he points out. Leone was able to put Harmon in touch with the Schweska family, adding to the material that Leone had assembled over the years.

The horseshoe "sandwich" started out as a dish composed of ham and wedge potatoes placed the edge, resembling the shape of a horseshoe and the "crucial item," the welsh rarebit cheese sauce, Hansen said in a recent Illinois channel interview with the authors. Bread was added later and today, you can find numerous variations of the horseshoe, most of which are described in the book.



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Term Ending 2021

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 Nominating: Mary Alice Davis
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 Publicity/Marketing: Ruth Slottag, Susan Helm
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Staff

Mike Kienzler, SangamonLink.org Editor

Please make note of our official mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744



MAY 2019 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT

The Society is pleased to welcome new members Jesse Boehler, Jane Boehler, Devin Hunter, June Hunter, Linda McCaffrey, Gabrielle Mesko, Clara Kopke, C. Richard Coon, Patricia Coon, Michael Sgro, Margaret Sgro, and Brian White.

And extends its thanks to Laurie and David Farrell and Tom and Sharon McSwiggin for their donations.



May 21 Tour to Focus on Susan Dana, Suffragette

(continued from page 1) Cook Street, just west of the railroad tracks. The entrance to the Carriage House, on the east side of the tracks, faces the parking area. Expect to do a lot of walking.

"Susan Lawrence Dana left a large imprint on Springfield, not the least of which was the 35-room, 12,000 square foot mansion designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright whom she commissioned in 1902 to "remodel" her deceased father's home," notes Society program co-chair Mary Alice Davis.

Appointed legislative chair of the Illinois branch of the National Women's Party in 1923, her home was an early hub for political activism.

In a profile on Dana, Society member and writer/historian Cinda Ackerman

Klickna noted that in 1909, Dana held a luncheon at her home for over 100 suffragists from Chicago including famed social reformer and

activist Jane Addams. "The luncheon tables were decorated in the suffragist color of yellow. Yellow tulips were scattered around and

with one at each place setting, and large candles with yellow shades lit the otherwise darkened room. The women left wearing a tulip."



SOCIALITE AND SUFFAGETTE Susan Lawrence Dana (left) turned her unique Frank Lloyd Wright home into a gathering place for supporters of voting and equal rights for women. Among her guests was famed Chicago-based social welfare activist/reformer Jane Addams (right), who in 1931 became the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

New Salem to Mark Deed Centennial May 22

William Hearst's Role in State Site to be Celebrated

The 100th anniversary of the conveyance of the land upon which Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site in Petersburg sits, will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 22 with a free 5:30 p.m. reception to which you are invited.

But if you bring cash, credit card or checkbook and want to make a donation to restore the site to its former glory, no one will turn you down.

Reservations are required by May 10 to savenewsalem@gmail.com. Include your name, phone number, number of guests for the ceremony and the number of guests who would like to take an optional 4 p.m. tour. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to see the site and see how we can work together to restore it to its former glory," explains Kathryn Harris, who with fellow historian Guy Fraker, co-chairs the Abraham Lincoln Association New Salem Committee bent on making that happen. "The site is in need of lots of repair, inside and out," says Harris, a former president of the ALA and a past president of the Sangamon County Historical Society of which Fraker is also a member.

State Wide Invitation

The Committee's goal was underscored by Harris late last month when she invited attendees at the annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society at the Roots Banquet Hall in Petersburg to head back to the area on May 22 for the ceremony. The ISHS gathering, which draws historians from around the state, included an afternoon tour of Lincoln's New Salem.

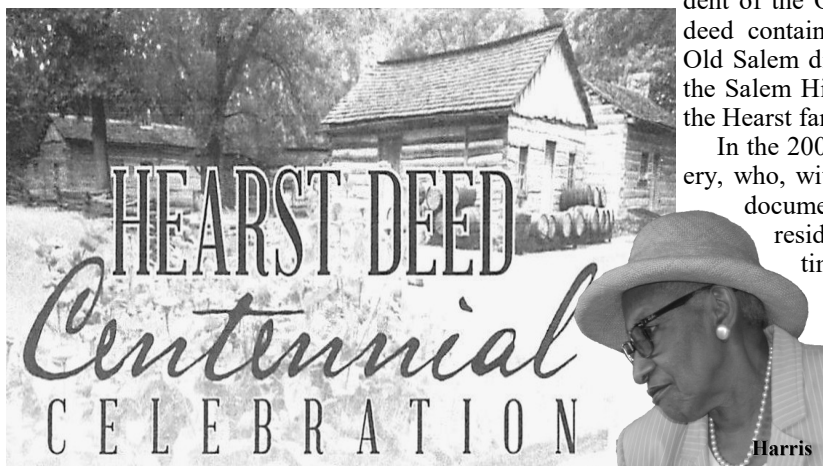
In addition to Harris and Fraker, speakers at the event will include historian Michael Burlingame who will talk about *New Salem in Lincoln's Time*, Mark Pohlman on *New Salem Restoration*, Colleen Callahan, Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Rich Adkins, president of the New Salem Lincoln League.

Chatauqua Link

The history of the Lincoln's New Salem State Historic site, a reconstruction of the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his

early adulthood, is entwined with Petersburg's former role as home to the Old Salem Chautauqua assembly that flourished there from 1889 through the early 20th century. Chautauquas were family-oriented summer camps that brought lecturers, performances, politicians, preachers, and more to rural American audiences around the country.

The Old Salem Chautauqua in Petersburg was established in 1889 by the Sangamon Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which purchased 54 acres



about a mile and a half southeast of Petersburg. In its heyday, it drew thousands of participants to its grounds.

Seeking Out Hearst

In their comprehensive book, *A Chautauqua to Remember, The Story of Old Salem*, authors Raymond H. Montgomery and the late Katharine Aird Miller make note of the fact that some of those directly involved in the creation of the Petersburg Chautauqua were equally interested in seeing reconstruction of Lincoln's New Salem on a nearby 60 acre site, Salem Hill, which by then was a cow and hog pasture whose dips in the ground were the only evidence of where the original village's cellars and buildings once stood.

In 1905, they reached out to Illinois Congressman Henry T. Rainey to get the ear of deep-pocketed fellow Congressman and publisher William Randolph Hearst.

"In 1906 Hearst was a wealthy New York congressman who owned several newspapers and had hopes of becoming president," noted writer and researcher Tara McClellan McAndrew in a 2009 *Illinois Times* article backgrounding Hearst's

role in New Salem's lucky twist of fate.

On August 17, 1906, Hearst stopped to speak at Petersburg's Old Salem Chautauqua while traveling back to New York from his childhood home of San Francisco, where he had been helping victims of that April's catastrophic earthquake and fires. He was introduced to the audience by Congressman Rainey.

After finishing his speech, Hearst surprised the audience by presenting the deed for the 60 acre Salem Hill site that he had bought that day for \$12,000, to the president of the Old Salem Chautauqua. The deed contained a clause stating that if Old Salem did not live up to its charter, the Salem Hill site would revert back to the Hearst family or its heirs.

In the 2009 interview with Montgomery, who, with his co-author, researched documents and interviewed area residents who lived during that time, he offered a theory about Hearst's motive.

"First, Hearst was a philanthropist who helped many groups. Second, he could afford the \$11,000 or \$12,000 pricetag. But most importantly," Montgomery believed, "he thought it would help his presidential aspirations," by getting Rainey's support in Congress and for a presidential bid. "Plus it would win the hearts of Illinoisans, which wouldn't hurt in a national campaign," Montgomery speculated. In their book, the researchers noted that the deed's revisionary clause put a damper on the effort to create a New Salem for a decade.

In their compendium of local Chautauqua history, the authors noted that if two major disasters that halted the operation starting in 1915—a flood and a typhoid epidemic in Illinois—had "not hit the area and had the Chautauqua not remained closed in 1916, it is speculated that there would be no further effort toward restoration of New Salem." But that changed in 1917 by a local effort to preserve Salem Hill and make it a focal point of a 1918 Statehood Centennial Celebration. The success of that event was enough to get Hearst's written consent to convey the site to the state of Illinois. In approving the step, he indicated that he wanted the park "to be forever free," Montgomery said.

Reservations Underway

Historic Clayville to Host Society's Annual Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

Nominees for officers are Vicky Whitaker, president; Stephanie Martin, vice-president; Mary Mucciante, secretary; and Jerry Smith, treasurer, all one-year terms.

Nominated for Director for a three year term ending in 2022 are: Jennie Battles, Kathy Dehen, Mary Schaefer, Larry Stone, Angela Weiss. Nominated to fill a one-year vacancy on the board ending in 2020 is Elaine Hoff. Profiles of the candidates will appear in the June issue.

Keynote speaker will be David Scott, a Society past president who will be providing new details in his ongoing research on the history of Illinois.

Scott is also a past president of the Illinois State Historical Society and received one of its Lifetime Achievement awards in 2018. His most recent project, "A Bicentennial Commemorative of the Prairie State," composed of articles he culled as editor of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, was published for the ISHS last fall by Southern Illinois University Press.

The annual dinner will give attendees an opportunity to see the new indoor/outdoor pavilion (mid right) added to the air-conditioned barn this past summer. In warm weather, the sides roll up for added reception space. The dinner and buffet will be in the enclosed portion of the building, but pre-dinner drinks from a cash bar can be sipped in the new wing that houses a hand-



HISTORIC SETTING: Clayville's 150-year old Cunningham barn complex will be the setting for this year's annual dinner. New this year is the indoor/outdoor pavilion built last summer that expands the building's otherwise air conditioned dinner and reception area. Its seasonal walls open to the outdoors in summer weather, providing a unobstructed view of the site's sprawling grounds. Clayville houses the Broadwell Inn, the oldest brick building in Sangamon County. Built in 1824, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



some floor to ceiling stone fireplace.

The Clayville Historic site is located at 12828 State Route 125, 15 miles west of Springfield. In June you still may experience some driving delays past the traffic light turn-off to Route 97. A highway improvement project (right) is underway, including tree removal from that point west for eight miles,



SCHS Annual Dinner Registration Form



The annual meeting/dinner will be held at the Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, on Tuesday, June 18 starting at 5:30 p.m. Members: \$29 per person, Non-member guests \$31.

Name of Member(s) attending:

* Full Name(s) of Non-Member Guests: (Please Print)

*for name tags.

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744 or sign up online at sangamonhistory.org. Payment must be received by June 10.

CALENDAR OF AREA HISTORY EVENTS

◆ **Saturday, May 4: *Forgotten Illinois***. 5:30 p.m. SCHS members and area historians Kathryn Harris and Tara McClellan McAndrew team up to present a second program on "Slaves, Indentured Servants and Free Black Leaders in our 'Free State, 1818-1860' " at the Springfield and Central Illinois African-American History Museum starting at 5:30 p.m. Harris will provide insight on Mother Priscilla Baltimore and Brooklyn, Illinois and McAndrew will provide New Stories of Slaves and Indentured Servants in 'Free Illinois.' " The program is free and open to the public but pre-registration is requested at 786-2432.

◆ **Saturday, May 18: *First Annual Benjamin P. Thomas Civil War Conference***, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Schewe Library, Illinois College, 1101 West College Avenue, Jacksonville. The conference, with speakers focusing on various elements of the Civil War, is sponsored by the Schewe Library, the Paul Findley Congressional Office Museum and the Benjamin P. Thomas Memorial Fund to augment the college's Benjamin P. Thomas Civil War Memorial Library. Donation for the conference is \$25. For information or to register, call Samantha Sauder at Illinois College, 245-3595 or send an email to archives@ic.edu.

◆ **Tuesday, May 21: *Ahead of the Curve: Susan Law-***

rence Dana, Suffragist. The Sangamon County Historical Society provides a salute to Susan Lawrence Dana with a special program at 5:30 p.m. and related *members-only* tour at Dana Thomas House in Springfield. Pre-registration is a must and is available on-line or by phone. See page 1 for registration details.

◆ **Tuesday, June 18: *SCHS Annual Dinner***, Clayville, 5:30 p.m. See story, page 6, Register on line or use form, above.

◆ **Now through December, 2019: *Exhibit of Photos by Michael Bracey, Photographer***. Works by Author and documentary photographer Michael J. Bracey are now on display at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American Museum, 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield. Maywood, Illinois based Bracey's work has been published worldwide. The exhibit includes works from his books, *Africans Within the Americas* and *Caras Lindas de Columbia* (Beautiful Faces of Columbia) published in Juen 2018. For exhibit hours and information, call 391-4323,



BRACEY

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. 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

___ 2019-2020 GIFT of Membership from:

Phone _____

2019-2020 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