



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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DePue

Post Veterans Day Salute

Historian Mark DePue to Share War Veterans Oral Memories

Members and guests of the Sangamon County Historical Society will learn what veterans had to say about the battles they fought in a special post Veteran's Day presentation November 19 with Mark DePue, head of the Oral History Program at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

The program, at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, is free and open to the public, resuming the Society's regular monthly program schedule.

DePue's talk and Powerpoint presentation will focus on the memories of Illinois veterans of World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Gulf War, and the

War on Terror as captured in interviews collected for the Oral History program's "Veterans Remember" series.

A native of Decorah, Iowa, DePue holds a bachelor of science degree from West Point and Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Iowa. He was an Army officer for 25 years. He joined the faculty of Lincoln Land Community College from 2001 to 2005 as an adjunct professor and freelance writer.

DePue served as a senior analyst at the Headquarters of the Army National Guard in Arlington, Virginia before being named Oral Historian for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library in 2006.

Time to Make Reservations for Society's Annual Holiday Party

The first flakes of snow have already fallen, and if that isn't a clue enough that the holiday season is fast approaching, here's another: it's time to make your reservation of the Sangamon County Historical Society's annual holiday party set for Tuesday, December 10.

"The gathering, in an informal setting conducive to conversation, music, and good cheer, caps the Society's fall season," notes Society program co-chair Mary Alice

Davis. "As usual, our regular monthly programming will begin in January."

As last year, the party will run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Springfield



**Party
Reservation
Form**

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area home of Roger and Vicky Whitaker. Partygoers will be able to choose from a

selection of hors d'oeuvres and delicious desserts, accompanied by wine or soda..

Tickets are \$29 for members, \$34 for non-member guests of members.

Directions to the Whitaker residence will be e-mailed or sent directly to ticket holders. Reservations and payment can be made by filling out the form on page 7 and mailing it with your check. All reservations forms and payment must be received no later than Tuesday, November 26.

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HISTORICAL re-enactor Roni Betts plays her part in the Society's annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk. For a look back at the October 6 event:

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We're Heading into a Busy Holiday Season

We needed that one whoosh of snow on October 31 to remind us that winter is around the corner. The holidays are coming too, and with that a couple of major activities for Society members.

But before we get ahead of ourselves, may we point out that this month we will be saluting out veterans in a post Veterans Day talk by someone who has spent a good portion of his life focused on their fates: Mark DePue, head of the Oral History section of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

DePue has been in the forefront of bringing the story of our World War II veterans to the public, most notably through a series of special programs that began this past June in conjunction with a special Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library exhibition, *In This Great Struggle, the Greatest Generation Remembers World War II* that extended to a half-dozen related activities ranging from a "Superheroes Boot Camp" family event at Union Square Park in conjunction with the Illinois State Military Museum to an analysis of World War II themed movies and how they fare in the face of history, even a Rosie the Riveter session where youngsters could learn more about the World War II icon of women in the workplace.

This month, DePue will be providing Society members with a Powerpoint presentation that offers insight into how and why he has been assembling the compelling stories woven from the experiences of veterans that represent a cross-section of conflicts including Korea, Viet Nam, the Gulf War and other contingencies.

You may want hear from some of these veterans directly and can do so November 7 at 6:30 p.m. when DePue hosts a special program in the Museum's Union Theater with three veterans of World War II. It's free but reservations are recommended. See the details

on page 3.

And don't miss seeing the Museum's display (which runs through January 12) that in addition to audio and videos of those who landed at Normandy, survived Pearl Harbor, worked in an aircraft factory or discovered Nazi death camps, has a remarkable collection of artifacts including Eisenhower's helmet, a World War II motorcycle and forged papers given to a downed pilot by the French Resistance.

* * *

As usual, the Society takes a brief respite from its program meetings in December, but that doesn't mean we stop working on our 2020 offerings. You'll hear more about what's ahead when *Historico* resumes publication in late December.

In the meantime, we hope you'll join us for our annual holiday party on December 10, a convivial social evening filled with conversation, finger food and delicious desserts in an informal setting.

We also hope you'll have time to stop by the Festival of Trees and see this year's Society entry, a red, white, and blue salute to our nation. The Festival runs from November 23 through December 1 in the Orr Building on the State Fairgrounds.

* * *

Oh, and about that Halloween snow.

It's an early reminder that bad weather may be just ahead. The Society has an inclement weather policy when it comes to meetings and events. We'll be publishing it in our January issue and posting it on our website, sangamonhistory.org.

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

World War II Stories On Tap November 7: A Sampler of What's Ahead November 19

Society members can get a sample of what's in store for them on November 19 by hearing first hand on November 7 from 26 tail gunner who flew 61 missions over Europe; and Betty Wrigley, a "Rosie the Riveter" who work in the Naval shipyard at Bremerton, Washington.



DePue will be overseeing the presentation of personal stories of bravery, sacrifice and even humor as 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Union Theater, 212 North Sixth Street, Springfield.



FULL HOUSE: Lincoln historian Timothy Good (right) chats with well-known Ulysses S. Grant reenactor Larry Werline (left) following Good's presentation October 22 to the Society on the eyewitness reports of Lincoln's assassination. Werline was among a full house of history buffs on hand for the talk at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library that heard Good dispute some of the post-shooting reports. Good is Superintendent of the Lincoln Home in Springfield and was assigned to Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. early in his National Park Service career, inspiring the research that resulted in his book.



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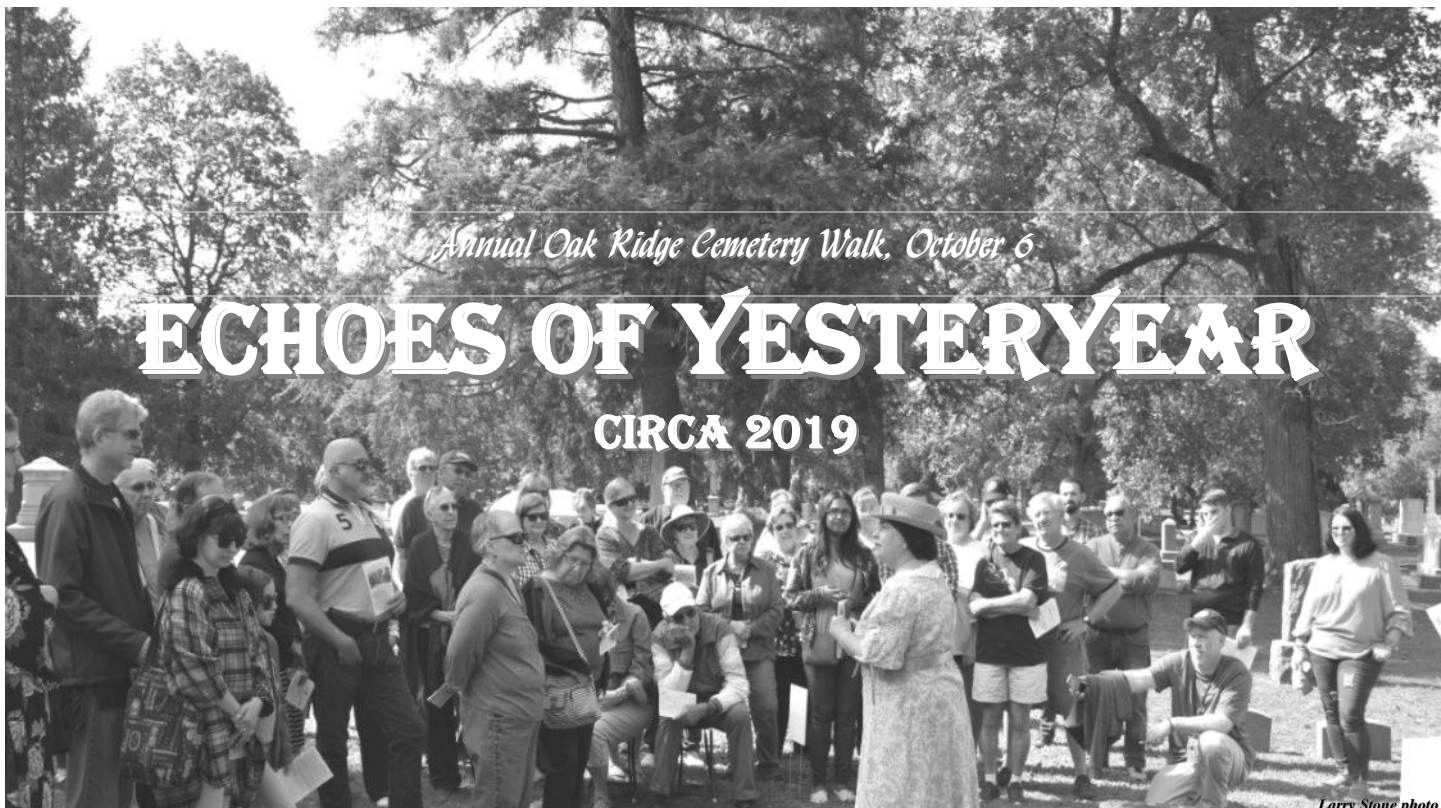
NOVEMBER 2019 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Society is pleased to welcome new members Herb Higgs, Patty Higgs and Kristina Griffin-Kynaston.

Annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk, October 6

ECHOES OF YESTERYEAR

CIRCA 2019



Larry Stone photo



Kathy Dehen photo

WITH A BOOST from Mother Nature who provided excellent touring weather, the Society's 2019 Echoes of Yesteryear Oak Ridge Cemetery walk drew close to 700 participants on Sunday, October 6. Portrayed by re-enactors in historical dress, this year's walk focused on the lives of six prominent community figures whose names are forever linked to area public schools—James H. Matheny, Elijah Iles, Jesse Dubois, Jacob Bunn, William Butler, and Nicholas H. Ridgley—and a seventh, Mary Logan Morrison, who in 1911 was one of the first two women elected to the Springfield School Board. Providing their acting talents were Linda Schneider, Tracy Petro, Mary Diseler, Roni Betts, Dennis Rendleman, Pat Foster and Andy VandeVort.



Jane Boehler photo



Kathy Dehen photo



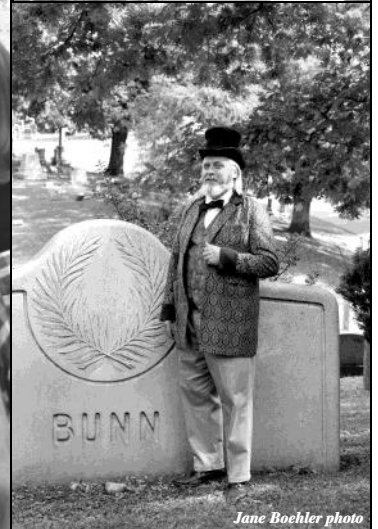
Kathy Dehen photo



Jane Boehler photo



Larry Stone photo



Jane Boehler photo

For Local History Organizations, Christmas is Around

Area history organizations and sites are gearing up for the fast-approaching winter holidays. In some cases, they need additional volunteers to help with public events that capture the spirit of the season from late November through mid December.

Both the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and the Springfield Art Association which operates the Edwards Place Historic Home, are seeking tour guides on Saturdays during the holiday season.

Lincoln Home volunteers will need to furnish their own period outfits. Call 391-3221 for details. To volunteer for Edwards Place events, contact Sarah Adams at 523-2636.

Whether you have the time to volunteer or just need to mark some dates in your calendar, here's what's in the works:

***Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Candlelight Tour**, December 11 and 13, 6 p.m. **Location:** 413 South Eighth Street, Springfield.

***Downtown Holiday Walk**, starting November 30 and continuing on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Springfield.

Downtown Springfield Inc. is coordinating a number of events with both historic sites and its business partners. Activities range from holiday workshops, visits with Santa, a tree lighting, parade, an 1850s carol sing, story hours, and tours

Check the DSI website (downtownspringfield.org) for locations, dates, time, and admission fees where applicable or visit organization websites.

***Festival of Trees**, November 23 through December 1, The Sangamon County Historical Society will be among hundreds of community groups and individuals participating in the Memorial Health System's annual Festival of Trees. This year's tree SCHS will feature a traditional and patriotic sparkling red, white and blue design. For hours and ticket information, see memorialmedical.com **Location:** Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield.

***Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 5th Annual Fun Frosty Friday**, November 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The free event features fun for the entire family including trains, face painting, balloon art, a life-sized candy land adventure and a photo opportunity with Santa and an Ice Princess. Reservations not required.

***Dana Thomas House Holiday Walks**, November 30, December 4, December 11 and December 18. Reservations are encouraged for this popular series of 45-minute evening tours of the historic mansion designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and decorated for the holiday season. The walks begin at 5:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. No reservation are needed to see its annual **Luminaria Display** on December 15 from 5



p.m. to 8 p.m. in which hundreds of luminaria line the home's walks and ledges. You may wish to make reservations for any or all of several other holiday tours starting later this month and running through December including a series of Holiday Design Tours with members of the Springfield Civic Garden Club, December 12, 23 & 14 at 5:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. For reservations and information, call 782-6776. **Location:** 301 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield.

***Clayville Historic Site "Christmas at Clayville"**, December 7.



Bring the kids...and the grandkids to this free event running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pleasant Plains Historical Society's recreated frontier village originally constructed by the Broadwell family as a stagecoach stop between Springfield and Beardstown in 1824.

In addition to the Broadwell Inn, the oldest brick building in Sangamon County, the site includes other historic buildings from Central Illinois. The holiday event will give youngsters an opportunity to visit with Santa, listen to songs sung by children, sip cocoa with cookies and shop in its Christmas store. For information call 481-4430. **Location:** 12828 State Route 125, Pleasant Plains.

***Iles House Christmas Candlelight Open House**, December 7 & 14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For information, see ileshouse.org. **Location:** 628 S. Seventh Street, Springfield.

***Illinois Governor's Mansion, Holiday Open House**. December 7, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations not required.

For information call 782-6450. **Location:** 410 East Jackson Street, Springfield.

***Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, Christmas Open House and Opening of Local Artist Art Exhibit**, December 7, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Celebrate the season and view works by Rhonda Cook, Korbin King, John Crisp, Gladys Blackwell, E. Vern Taylor, Alyssa Williams, Tracey Maras, and photographer Ginny Lee. **Location:** 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield.

***Clayville Historic Site Candlelight Christmas Tour**, December 14 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tour the site decorated for Christmas and warm up in front of the Cunningham Barn pavilion's massive stone fireplace while you enjoy a glass of wine, coffee or other beverages available for a fee. The event is free but donations are welcome. For information call 481-4430. **Location:**



(Continued on page 7)

the Corner: Talent, Time..and Your Support is Needed

(Continued from page 6)

12828 State Route 125, Pleasant Plains.

*Edwards Place Historic Home, Christmas Times Holiday Tea, December 14 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Travel through the ages with your hostesses, while enjoying a cup of tea and tea treats in an historic setting from Copper Pot Cooking Studio. Entertainment will include Christmas carols and a tableau vivant. Wear clothing from any period if you wish! American Christmas traditions will be discussed. Tickets are \$25 per person for

members of the Springfield Art Association, which owns and operates Ed-



wards Place, and \$30 for non-members. To reserve a seat, call 523-2631 or register on line at edwardsplace.org. Location: 700 North Fourth Street, Springfield.

*Historic Pasfield House: Christmas Tree Display and Open House. December 22. Take a pre-Christmas break and head over to Pasfield House for a

look at a series of trees decorated with White House ornaments, Springfield City Ornaments (including the 2014 Pasfield House ornament, the first in color) and those reflecting the Lincoln era. You'll also be able to view antique Civil War era



Santas from innkeeper Tony Leone's personal collection. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Light refreshments. Free. Location: 525 S. Pasfield Street, Springfield.



2019 HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATION FORM



Please fill out and mail in this form with your check for the Tuesday, December 10 Annual Sangamon County Historical Society Holiday Party. The party runs from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the home of Roger and Vicky Whitaker. Tickets are \$29 per person for members, \$34 for non-member guests of members. Checks should be made payable to SCHS and be received by Tuesday, November 26. Please indicate if you need directions to the Whitaker residence by mail or e-mail.

Your Name: _____

Other SCHS members covered by your reservation/payment: (Please print):

Names of your non-member guests: (Please print)

Amount of Your Check: _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____ Send Me Directions

Make checks payable to and mail this form to SCHS, Box 9744, Springfield, 62791-9744. Payment must be received by November 26.

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.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership - \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> College/University Student (individual) - \$20. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Level - \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Settlers Level - \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer Level - \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership - \$700 (one time fee) |

I am adding a donation of \$ _____.

Business /Corporate Membership - \$200