



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

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## It's Trivia Time!



That's right! And if you haven't squared away a seat at the Sangamon County Historical Society's Eighth Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, March 21, don't fret...but don't wait.

You can be part of the play simply by mailing in a check with the form on page 7 or signing up on-line by following the Trivia Night links on the Society's website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org).

"We think this will be the biggest and best one yet," says event chair Mary Alice Davis, who has coordinated the fundraiser since its inception.

"The players are always enthusiastic and share the fun of coming up with the right answers as they compete to be among the winning tables."

Up to 300 players can test their general

knowledge, answering 10 questions in 10 categories of questions posted on a large screen on one end of the Parish Hall at Christ the King Church, 1221 Barberr



Drive, Springfield (above).

"Anyone can play," Davis says. "The subject matter is broad and when you're at a table of friends, family or new acquaintances, it makes the competition that much more fun.

The doors open at 6 p.m., the game begins at 7 p.m. Chilli prepared by champion chilli-maker Les Estep will be on sale

throughout the evening, along with beer, wine, soda, water and desserts.

Well-know trivia guru Al Gietl will be providing the questions, paired with popular former WICS-TV meteorologist Joe Crain who will serve as emcee for the evening. (Do we see a *Code Red* category in the making)? Crain now directs public programs for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

A panel of celebrity judges will review each table's answers while a tally-team keeps track of the scores. At the end of the evening, one table of players will share the \$200 first prize, a second table the \$100 second prize and \$75 to the third top table of players.

Tickets are \$10 per person, \$100 for a

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JOURNALIST Logan Jaffe shares results of her investigation of Illinois Sundown Towns for Society members and guests at the February 18 meeting. More on page 5.



## Looking Back, Looking Ahead in 2020

It's hard to believe we're going into the final stretch of the Society's fiscal year which ends on May 31. We, of course, still have some significant programs and events planned until then as well as a lot of annual housekeeping.

Right now our treasurer, Jerry Smith, is in the midst of preparing the Society's budget for 2020-2021, polling committee chairs, board members and officers on their projected financial needs in the year ahead.

The Special Project Grants committee is gearing up for discussions it will hold in May to determine the winners of this year's competition, financed from the proceeds from this month's Trivia Night fundraiser. (Consider that a gentle hint to reserve a seat for the Saturday, March 21 event).

Our vice-president, Stephanie Martin, is already working on plans to continue to build our membership. You'll be getting a letter from her, most likely in April or early May, reminding you that your membership needs to be renewed. (New members who joined since the first of the year get an automatic extension through May 2021).

The transition to a new website earlier this year continues to be a major but worthwhile and on-going effort. It includes transitioning our publications to a free download, a step that involves redesigning them to reflect our new technology. Ditto for the process of creating an off-line data base of our membership. It is a time-consuming process but has given us a more secure environment for the information you provide to us when you join the Society.

Our other committees are at work, looking at programs that will take us into 2022, activities such as our annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk in the fall that represents months of pre-planning, new avenues to support the future growth of the Society and social events designed to integrate our newest members into the Society's activities and leadership.

And speaking of leadership, we are delighted to announce the addition of Cinda Klickna to our board, to fill the remainder of a vacant a two year term ending in 2021.

If you attended last month's program, you know that she was one of the four journalists who were part of a lively discussion on the "back stories" local history.

Klickna, a free-lance writer whose work frequently appears in *Illinois Times*, holds a bachelor's degree in English Education from the University of Illinois, Urbana, and a Master's in Literature from the University of Illinois, Springfield.



She taught English in the Springfield School district for many years and held several positions with the Illinois Education Association as well as the National Education Association. She retired in 2017 after serving six years as President of the Illinois Education Association.

Klickna is a member of the boards of the Dana Thomas House Foundation, the Illinois State Museum Society and the Illinois State Historical Society. She also served as a trustee of the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System from 2003-2019 and is on the board of the Illinois Educators' Credit Union and the United Way Education Vision Council.

Having lots of community ties and leadership roles is not unusual for the nearly two dozen volunteers who make up our board, officers and committee chairs. Like Klickna, their leadership skills and experience is what propels the Sangamon County Historical Society forward. It's a dynamic that works for us.

*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

## Deadline Set for Special Project Grants, Applications Now Available On-Line

Applications are now available for downloading from the Society's website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) for individuals and organizations interested in applying for the Society's annual Special Project Grants.

A link on the **Grants** section of the website will take you to the application form.

The deadline for applying for a grant is April 30. The Special Project Grants committee, headed by Society board member Elaine Hoff, will review the applications in May. Winners announced in June at the Society's annual dinner to which the recipients will be invited.

The grant program provides financial underpinnings for small but significant Sangamon County history projects proposed by individuals and organizations who can complete their work within a 12-month period.

The Society usually sets aside a total of \$3,000 a year for the Special Projects Grant program whose winners are determined by a committee. If less than \$3,000 is awarded in any given year, the additional funds are applied to the overall total the following year or kept in reserve. Funds for the program are raised through the Society's annual Trivia Night, the eighth year of the event to be held on Saturday, March 21.

Since the program began in 2013, the

Society's Special Projects Grant program has funded 25 projects ranging from signage programs that help communities better understand their local history to underwriting research for a museum display on early African-American pioneers who settled in Sangamon County and surrounding areas in Central Illinois.

Special Project grant funds have also been used to digitize and preserve blueprints of Sacred Heart Chapel and Ursula Hall Music Conservatory in Springfield designed by William Conway, Springfield's first architect.

Last year, Special Project grants went to five organizations: Central 3 Community First Project for signage associated with the preservation of Springfield's first black firehouse and its role during the 1908 race riot; the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum to help fund an exhibit on national Negro League players from Springfield and Central Illinois; and construction funds for the Pleasant Plains Historical Society to rebuild wheel chairs ramps at its Clayville Historic Site. Also winning grants in 2019 were Oak Ridge National Cemetery for an interpretive marker about its former third street entrance sign; and the Springfield Art Association's Historic Edwards Place for a traveling history trunk program to bring history into the classroom.

## It's March: Bad Weather Still Can Roar In

Mother Nature can be finicky, especially in March. If weather conditions warrant it, the Society will cancel a meeting or special event and hopefully reschedule it. Such is the nature of the wilds of winter as we head into spring.

A cancellation notice will be posted no later than 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting/event several different ways:

- on our website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) and our Facebook page.
- on our phone, 217-525-1961.
- radio and television outlets that normally announce weather cancellation notices.



### OFFICERS

President.....Vicky Whitaker  
 Vice-President.....Stephanie Martin  
 Secretary.....Mary Mucciante  
 Treasurer.....Jerry Smith  
 Past-President.....Ruth Slottag

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#### Term Ending 2020

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 Sue Helm  
 Eugene Walker  
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 Elaine Hoff

#### Term Ending 2021

Mary Alice Davis  
 Kathy Hoffmann  
 Sue Massie  
 Doug Polite  
 Cinda Kluckna

#### Term Ending 2022

Jennie Battles  
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Finance: Doug Polite, Larry Stone

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Oral History Project: Angela Weiss

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](http://SangamonLink.org) Editor



**PLANNING AN EXTENDED VACATION?** Please let us know in advance if you're planning to forward your mail to a vacation home or other address. The Society is charged extra postage for issues of *Historico* that are returned by the Post Office because the recipient is "Temporarily Away." If it happens twice in a row, we normally remove those addresses from our mailing list so as not to incur future fees. We will restore sending *Historico* to you when you let us know you're back. While you're away, you can view the latest issue of *Historico* on line at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org).

Please make note of our official mailing address:

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

# Are You Ready for a Fun(d Raising) Night of Trivia?

(Continued from page 1)

table of 10.

Proceeds from the event singularly benefit the Society's Special Projects Grants Fund that underwrites local history projects. "We've supported more than two dozen history projects since starting the Special Project Grants program in 2013 that has resulted in the creation and placement of important historic markers across the county, youth and education programs, history broadcasts and so much more," noted Elaine Hoff, chair of the Society's Special



Hoff

Project Grants committee. "We give a lot of thought to those projects we select each



year, both for their ability to enrich our knowledge of Sangamon County and the long-lasting significance to the community."

All monies raised from Trivia Night, be it through ticket sales, food, and Round sponsorships, go directly into the Special Projects Grant fund, Hoff adds. "That's why it is so important to us that it be successful. An event like this reaches across all interests and ages and benefits us all."

## TRIVIA: What You Need to Know About the Game...and More

Never played Trivia? Anxious about it?

Not to worry.

It's easy and it's fun and if you're coming to the game by yourself, don't worry. By the end of the game, you'll have a bunch of new friends!

Here's how it's played:

Trivia is composed of 10 rounds on a general subject such as movies, music, famous people, events, etc. Each round has 10 questions that may be visual or audio that are projected on the screen. Before the game begins, one player at each table takes care of recording an answer 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. The table with the most correct answer wins the round, but the score is cumulative. The tables with the highest scores at the end of the evening with the top prizes.

Sometimes no one is sure of the right answer. A table can

leave a blank space...or use a "Mulligan"--a free pass, so to speak--that is counted as a correct answer in the final tally. Of course, you can only one Mulligan per round. The Mulligans--special stickers you can past on the answer sheet, are sold to tables before the game starts (10 Mulligans for \$10), usually with everyone chipping in a dollar.

Before the trivia game officially begins at 7 p.m., each table will be able to purchase

There are some universal rules about playing Trivia. You can't use a cell phone, computer, or tablet to look up the answers, for one. In fact, all those electronic gadgets must be out of sight during the course of the evening. That goes for all other reference materials except, of course, the savvy of you and your fellow

tablemates. Be sure to put your cell phone on silent mode. If you get a call in an emergency, please step out of the room to complete your conversation. There's no smoking in the building.

And in case you forget, the Rules and an explanation of



Rules and an explanation of how Goodgold and Carlinsky started organizing trivia contests and parlayed their avocation into writing a series of trivia books (the first, Trivia, published by Dell, hit the New York Times Best Seller list). The book was followed by several more that brought the pair fame if not fortune. Carlinsky went on to become a wellknown magazine journalist, author, and literary agent. Goodgold was the first manager of the singing group, Sha Na Na, members of a Columbia University a cappella group. Four years later, he co-authored "Rock 'n' Roll Trivia" just as he and the William Morris Agency began steering Sha Na Na's career. Goodgold retired as assistant to the Dean of New York University's Partnership School Program in the mid 1990s.

Trivia has been a popular pastime since the 1960s, although many people think it dates back to the introduction of the Trivial Pursuit board game by Selchow and Richter in 1982. Actually, the game we play today was developed in the



Investigating Sundown Towns:  
**An Overlooked Legacy of Racism in Illinois**



“At Auburn, Thayer, Virden, Girard, Pawnee, Spaulding, Buffalo, Riverton, Pana, Edinburg, Taylorville, Pleasant Plains, and a score of other places in central Illinois a Negro is an unwelcome visitor and is soon informed he must not remain in town.”

— *Illinois State Register* via *Sundown Towns*



- Akron, Ohio (1900)
  - Evansville, Ind. (1903)
  - Joplin, Missouri (1903)
  - Springfield, Ohio (1904, 1906, 1908)
  - Springfield, Ill. (1908)
  - Youngstown, Ohio (1917)
  - East St. Louis, Ill. (1917)
  - Omaha, Nebraska (1919)
  - Knoxville, Tenn. (1919)
  - Tulsa, Oklahoma (1921)
  - Johnstown, Penn. (1923)
  - Lincoln, Nebraska (1929)
- Race Riots



Historical societies and community history organizations have a responsibility.

Tell the truth about the past.

People are more curious than you think.



**HISTORY LESSON:** Speaking to members and guests of the Sangamon County Historical Society and the program's co-sponsor, the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum on February 18, Chicago-based journalist Logan Jaffe detailed the steps she took in researching and writing *"The Legend of A-N-N-A: Revisiting an American Town where Black People Weren't Welcome After Dark,"* jointly published this past November by *The Atlantic Monthly* and Pro-Publica Illinois. Anna, a small (population 4,000) community in southern Illinois, mirrors many of its counterparts across the state and around the nation as a former "Sundown Town" that from the post Civil War period through the mid 1900s either by legislation, signage, or practice, threatened African Americans with harm if they entered or stayed in the community after sunset. Springfield, whose 1908 race riot became a rallying cry for similar events through the 1920s and beyond, was surrounded by small communities who gave no haven to those fleeing the riot, Jaffe noted in a series of slides that illustrated the wide-spread racism in Illinois that extended to news reports, real estate, public policy and more and shaped the demographics of communities in the decades that followed. Jaffe, who joined to ProPublica by way of *The New York Times* and Chicago Public Media (WBEZ), emphasized the important responsibility historical societies and community history organizations have in telling the truth about a community's past. "People are more curious than you think," she said, in detailing her experience talking to Anna residents ignorant of their community's racist past.

Larry Stone photos

# Happy Birthday and a Sneak Peak at a New Exhibit

A special treat is in hand for those who make a reservation to stop by Elijah Iles House in Springfield on Saturday afternoon, March 28.

Not only will they be part of a party celebration to mark the 224th birthday of Elijah Iles, but they'll also get a special sneak peek of the site's new exhibit for 2020, *Saga of a Springfield Family*.

Reservations for the \$35 per person event must be made by Friday, March 20. Proceeds will assist programs at the historic site. For reservation information call Kay Smith at (217) 691-9401 or at [aksmith3@att.net](mailto:aksmith3@att.net).

Festivities start at 4 p.m. with refreshments, hors d'ouvres and live music by Wild Columbine until 6 p.m. In addition to the birthday treats, party goers will get a chance to see recent acquisitions of art, furniture and fine china from the late Phyllis Herndon Brissenden, a descendant of Washington Iles, Elijah's brother. Brissenden died on December 17 at age 86.

Dating back to 1837, Iles House has survived intact for 182 years and is the oldest such structure in Springfield. The Greek revival cottage, built by Elijah Iles, one of the four men who founded Springfield, is little changed

since the day he moved in.

The house was moved from its original location near Sixth and Cook Streets in 1910 to make room for a

National Register of Historic Places. In 1998, the timber framed three-level structure that sits on a brick foundation, was moved to its present location



**PARTY AND MORE:** Guests at Iles House will mark the 224th birthday of Elijah Iles (right) and preview a new exhibit.

new church and in 1977, refurbished and modernized with the installation of electricity, plumbing and radiator heating, the same year it was listed on the

at 628 South Seventh Street and the corner of Cook Street, a block from its original location. Restoration was completed in 2005.

## Exhibit to Explore African-American Baseball, Links to Hispanic Culture

The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum will host a traveling exhibit. "Negro Leagues Beisbol," from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri from April 11 through June 23.

The exhibit profiling significant baseball players, a timeline of American and Hispanic baseball history and detailed baseball histories of several countries, will be presented in both English and Spanish.

In June, the Sangamon County Historical Society awarded AAHM a \$1,000 Special Projects Grant to help underwrite the cost of bringing the exhibit to Springfield.

For decades following the end of

the Civil War, African Americans were forced by racism to create their own baseball leagues in order to play the game professionally or semi-professionally. All-black professional baseball teams operated from the early 1920s to 1960 but the color barrier was broken in 1947 with the hiring of Jackie Robinson by the Brooklyn Dodgers, the first African American player in Major League Baseball.

Despite his talent and success as a player, Robinson faced tremendous racial discrimination throughout his career, from baseball fans and some fellow players. Additionally, Jim Crow laws prevented Robinson from using the same hotels and restaurants as his teammates while playing in the South.

The exhibit at the AAHM will include the history of Josh Johnson of Springfield who played in the Negro Leagues as well as highlights of events and games played in Springfield and Central Illinois. Stories of athletes with ties to the United States will be featured including Minnie Minoso, Willard Brown, Oscar Charleston, Ray Dandridge, Martin Dingo, Rube Foster, Josh Gibson, Panco Herrera, Monte Irvin, Jose Mendez, Emilio Navara, Buck O'Neil, Sachel Paige, Alex Pompez, Pat Scantlebury, Pedro Sierra, Luis Tuant Sr. and Willis Wells.

AAHM is located at 1440 Monument Avenue. For information about exhibit hours, call 217-391-6323.

# 2020 SCHS TRIVIA NIGHT TABLE, TICKET, ROUND SPONSOR ORDER MAIL-IN FORM

*Advance table and individual reservations sent by mail must be received no later than March 10. Checks should be made payable to SCHS and mailed to SCHS, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.*

**TABLE RESERVATIONS:** Enclosed is my check. Sign me up for \_\_\_\_\_ tables of 10 for the Saturday, March 21 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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

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



## On The Calendar

The *Historico* Calendar of Area History Events includes not only the dates and information about the Sangamon County Historical Society meetings, special events and, where applicable, registration deadlines or filing dates, but also, as space permits, information about events being sponsored by other local history organizations. All area history organizations are welcome to post their events on the Society's website at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) by sending your notice to [sangamonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:sangamonhistory@gmail.com).

**Saturday, March 21: 8th Annual SCHS Trivia Night,** Association which operates the historic site. For tickets call Parish Hall, Christ the King Church, 1221 Barberry Drive, Springfield. Doors open at 6 p.m., game begins at 7 p.m. 523-2631 or stop by Edwards Place at 700 North Fourth Street, Springfield. Food and drinks available. Tickets are \$10 per person, table of 10, \$100. Round sponsorship is \$100. Purchase tables, tickets, round sponsorships on-line at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) or use the form on this page You can also download a PDF mail-in form from the website .

**Wednesday, March 25: "Casting A Historic Vote: Suffrage in Illinois.** Historian Jeanne Schulz Angel speaks on the history of the Women's Right to Vote Movement in Illinois. 6 p.m. Chatham Area Public Library, 600 East Spruce Street, Chatham. Free. For information call 217-483-213.

**Saturday & Sunday March 21-22, Civil War Era Actors and Costume Workshop.** Edwards Place brings in two nationally known re-enactors and costumers, Kay Gnagay and Karen Duffy, for this day-and-a-half workshop on Civil War era women's fashion and comportment that's open to the first 60 people who register for the \$90 course. Included is a Saturday lunch provided by the Springfield Art field.

**Saturday, March 28: Celebration of Elijah Iles 224th Birthday and a Sneak Preview of "Saga of a Springfield Family."** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets \$35 per person. Reservation deadline Friday, March 20, (For reservation details, see page 6). Iles House, 628 South Seventh Street, Springfield.

**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

\_\_\_ 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.