



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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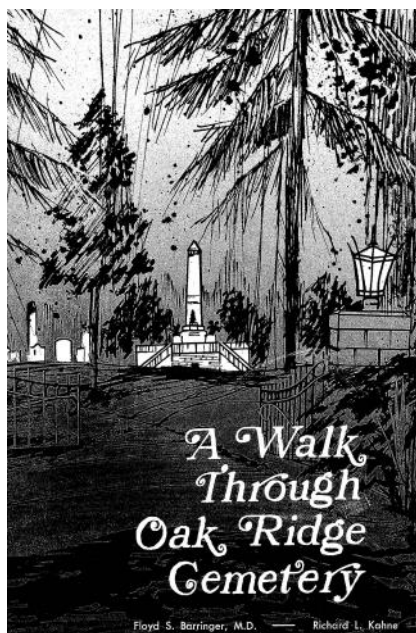
VOLUME 57 NO. 2

October 2020

A Special Message: Keeping You, But Not History, at a Distance

Until the crisis is passed and we can resume a normal meeting schedule, *Historico* will serve as one vehicle for our monthly programs, putting the experts at your fingertips along with visuals you would normally see on the meeting room screen. *Historico* is also posted online at sangamonhistory.org if you wish to view it on your computer.

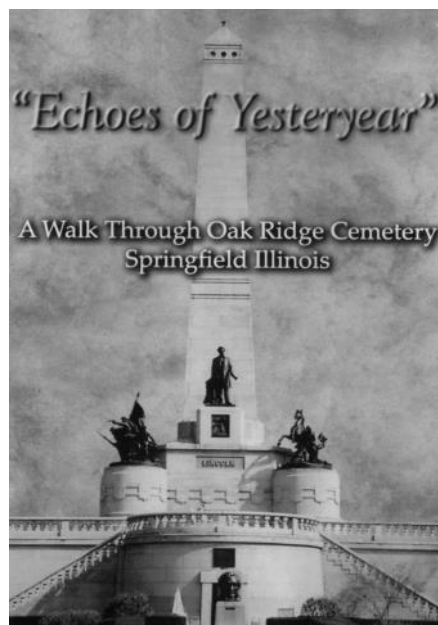
Sangamon County Historical Society and Oak Ridge Cemetery



October is our usual month for the Annual Cemetery Walk. Since we canceled it this year let's look back on the ways the Sangamon County Historical Society has been involved with Oak Ridge Cemetery over the years.

In 1967, the Society published *A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery* by Floyd Barringer and Richard Kahne. It inspired multiple in-person tours including the Society's costumed interpreter "Echoes of Yesteryear" tour, which started in 1996 and ran through 2008.

In 2005, Dean Williams Productions released the *Echoes of Yesteryear* DVD including six portrayals of people from the tour.



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In this issue I look back on the Society's involvement with Oak Ridge Cemetery. I enjoyed searching through the newspaper, historical society publications, past issues of *Historico*, and our photo archive. Most of all, I relished talking with our board members about past grants and visiting the cemetery to confirm details in person. Compiling all this information reminds me how impressive the Society's contribution to Oak Ridge is. It is valuable work to help tell the stories of the people that rest there. I encourage you to visit and see some of them for yourself. The process has made me even more excited for next year's cemetery walk.

Program planning is underway for 2020-2021, with our first video presentation in November. We will also provide content on the topics in *Historico*.

I would like to thank Lincoln Land Community College's Academy of Lifelong Learning for providing our members free access to their online programming. (See Page 6) We are also working with

them for a spring program as part of their Big Read events.

I would also like to thank Curtis Mann and Michael Burlingame for their contributions to this issue.

If you have not renewed your membership to the Society, the form is on the back of the *Historico*. You can also renew online. Since our membership year calendar (June-May) can be confusing, if you've renewed twice for 2020-2021 we have put your second payment toward your 2021-2022 membership.

Upcoming Events

November 12 Q&A with Mark Flotow, author of *In Their Letters, in Their Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write Home*. ALPLM. Facebook Live. Noon.

November 24 "History Hunters: Edwards Trace" by Dave Brady through the Academy of Lifelong Learning. Zoom. 1pm.

December 3 "Societal Norms: Then and Now" UIS Lunch & Learn. Zoom. Noon.

December 8 "History Hunters: Just Around the Corner, A Look at Springfield Street Scenes" by Curtis Mann through the Academy of Lifelong Learning. Zoom. 10am.

December 15 "Chicago Holiday Lights & Sights" by Hillary Marzec through the Academy of Lifelong Learning. Zoom. 7pm.

The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum reopened on August 27th with new hours: Thursday and Friday 12pm-4pm, Saturday 10am-5pm. Call ahead (217) 391-6323 for an appointment.

The Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7th St. is open for research Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10am-5pm and Wednesdays 10am-7pm. Call (217) 753-4900 ext. 5634 for an appointment.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N 6th St. is open for research M-F 9am-4:30pm. Call 217-524-6358 to make an appointment.

Fashioning Illinois: 1820-1900, exhibit, is open now through May 2021 at the **Illinois State Museum**, Springfield. Tuesday-Saturday 10-4

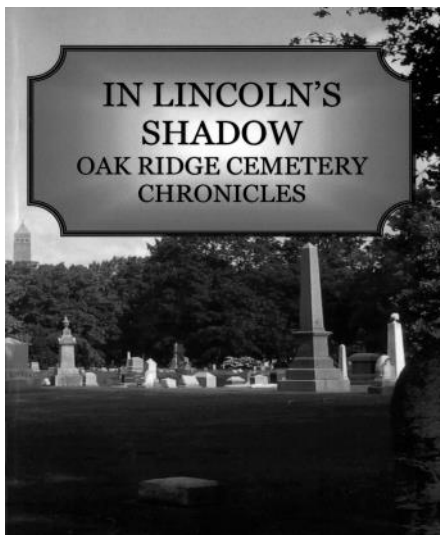


Historico, published 10 times a year (except July & December), is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.* You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, www.sangamonhistory.org or sanchois.org. Send event announcements to SCHSoffice@gmail.com.
Stephanie Martin, *Historico* Editor

Sangamon County Historical Society and Oak Ridge Cemetery

Continued from page 1

In 2006, the Society sponsored a Family History Writing project in conjunction with Oak Ridge Cemetery's 150th anniversary celebration. The contest encouraged people with a family member buried in Oak Ridge to submit an essay on a topic such as their family history, their first ancestor in Illinois and/or Sangamon County, a favorite ancestor, an ancestor with a special or unique accomplishment, a life-changing family experience, or a family event in Illinois/Sangamon County. That contest resulted in the publication of *In Lincoln's Shadow: Oak Ridge Cemetery Chronicles* in 2007.



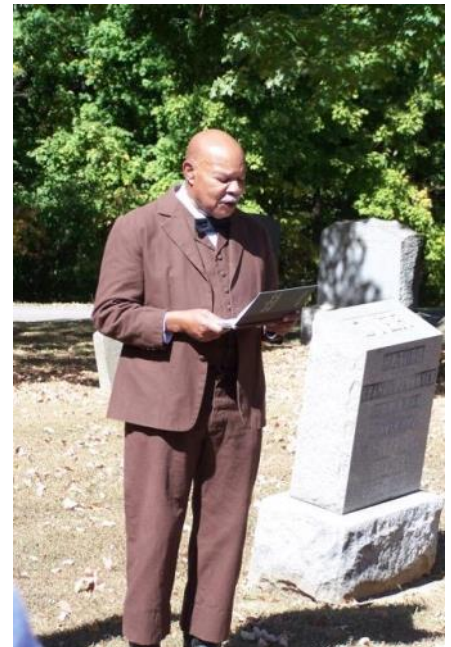
The cemetery walk was revived in 2015 and has continued. Also in 2015, the Society awarded one of its grants toward the replacement of the controller in the bell

tower. Replacement of the controller let the bell resume tolling on the hour and half hour. In 2016, the Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation used a grant from the Society to create a bronze plaque on the bell tower with the words of the original dedication since the words carved on the tower had become worn and illegible.



In 2017, the Society's grant was used for a plaque on the display case to recognize the donors who contributed to the restoration of two Oak Ridge Cemetery interment books. These books include burial information for Abraham and Mary Lincoln.

After a new third street entrance arch was erected for the Funeral Reenactment, the older arch (circa 1900) was refurbished and is now located near the bell



tower. In 2019, Oak Ridge received a grant for an interpretive marker near the refurbished arch explaining its story.

Over the last few years, members of the Sangamon County Historical Society have participated in Lincoln's Death Day celebration and Memorial Day wreath layings at the cemetery.

In 2020, the Veterans Memorial Foundation received a Society grant for an interpretive plaque at the 1895 GAR Mound in the cemetery.

The Society's Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk will be back October 3, 2021.

New Members

Sandy Baksys, in memory of Nancy Chapin and Donna Catlin
Anne Moseley
Vincent "June" Chappelle

Author Mark Flotow to Present Society's November Program Online

The Society's November program will be "I think that we will Soon Be in Springfield" Illinois Civil War Soldiers' Quotations about Sangamon County from their Personal Letters, by Mark Flotow, author of *In Their Letters, in Their Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write Home*. Through read aloud quotes from letters, Flotow will highlight soldiers' experiences in Sangamon County during the Civil War. The Society will release the

video on Tuesday, November 17 on Facebook, YouTube, and the Society's webpage. If you have a question, you can submit it on Facebook, YouTube, or email SCHS.

On November 12 at noon Mr. Flotow will be on Facebook Live for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum to discuss his book. This program will provide background for the Society's video.



Sangamo Road Trip Takes Viewers Across the County

Anne Moseley, Sangamon Experience's Director, shares videos on Wednesdays and Fridays on Facebook and YouTube of her travels to towns in Sangamon County. She interviews local historians and residents, and visits museums, historic sites, and homes. Photos and maps are also included. The series includes trips to Chatham, Auburn, Virden, Pawnee, Rochester, Riverton, Spaulding, Buffalo Hart, Sherman, Williamsville, Cantrall, Salisbury, Pleasant Plains, Berlin, New

Berlin, Loami, Curran, and Springfield.

Sangamon Experience is an initiative of the University of Illinois Springfield that presents

the history of the Sangamon region of central Illinois through an on-campus exhibition space, online projects, and community collaborations.



New Organization Created to Preserve the French and Early American Legacy of Illinois

By Curtis Mann

The Strawbridge-Shepherd House, on the campus of the University of Illinois at Springfield, is the new home for the Foundation for Illinois Colonial and American Studies (FICAS). This organization was established in 2019 to preserve, record and promote the French and Early American legacy of Illinois.

FICAS is focused on the archaeological and archival studies of colonial and early American settlement in Illinois (circa 1670-1840). A new publication series, consisting of richly illustrated books, will examine previously unpublished or unexamined archaeological sites dating to the 18th and early 19th century, and affiliated with Native American, French Colonial, and American

frontier communities across the state. The first of these books is expected to be published next year.

FICAS has also become a partner with the Sangamon Experience project at UIS and will help with creating displays using artifacts currently curated by FICAS. FICAS also makes periodic postings about ongoing archaeological and historical studies on its Facebook page.

A (K)not So Lengthy Discussion

A Brief History About the Rope Making Industry in Springfield

By Curtis Mann

The manufacture of rope and cordage is one industry not often associated with Springfield.

However for a time in the mid to late 19th Century, the city had a small factory located on West Reynolds Street that operated for nearly 30 years. Two other operations were started in the 1870s but did not fare as well. All three were located in the northwest section of the city but not for any apparent reason.

The first of these companies was the Springfield Rope Factory which began operation in 1849. This company was organized by Jacob Bunn and Jacob Schilling. Mr. Bunn, a merchant and later banker, apparently handled orders and sales. Mr. Schilling, the rope maker, was in charge of production. The new enterprise manufactured different kinds of hemp cordage and rope including twine for nets, bed cords and plow lines. The main part of this operation was a rope walk which is a long building or piece of ground where rope is made. The Springfield rope walk was described as being 460 feet in length by 14 feet in breadth. This

description from 1849 does not indicate if the walk was a building or not. Early maps of Springfield do not show a building on the property which was located on the south side of West Reynolds Street between Rutledge and Walnut streets. Maps from the 1870s do show a structure there. An 1871 description of the factory stated that Jacob Schilling had been manufacturing rope for over twenty-three years. Schilling used imported hemp from such faraway places as New Zealand, Italy, the Philippines and Missouri. Jacob Bunn is not mentioned in the 1871 description but did own the land the factory stood on by the mid-1870s. Springfield newspapers did not report much about the operation of the factory but did note the death of Coley, a 37-year-old horse that worked at the rope walk. The rope factory remained in business until the death of Schilling in 1877.

The second rope making operation was started in 1870 by George Enghauser. The factory was located west of the Kun Brewery on land owned by George W. Shutt on the outskirts of Springfield. Today the site would

have been located somewhere north of Jefferson near MacArthur Boulevard. This rope walk was 250 feet long by 11 feet in breadth.

Another man named Leo Enghauser was later noted to be owner of the rope factory. This business was short-lived as it lasted just one year before being destroyed in a fire. The building, machinery and ropes were burned. The cause of the fire was noted as being arson.

The last venture in rope making, the American Cordage Company, was incorporated in January 1874 by Alexander Starne, O.R. Baker, John McConnell and C.E. Lippincott. The new firm intended to make rope and cordage from the Indian mallow fiber also known as "Stamp Weed". The plant was described in the newspaper as growing in large quantity in Sangamon County. By the fall of 1875, the company, deeply in debt, was placed in receivership. The experiment of manufacturing rope from Indian mallow was a failure. The two-story mill building and twenty acres of land located north of the city was sold in October 1878.



Rope walk as depicted in the 1876 Map of Springfield.

Trivia and Cemetery Walk Supporters

Thank you to the following sponsors who gave donations to the Sangamon County Historical Society this year for our annual Trivia Night and Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk. Unfortunately we were unable to hold these events due to COVID-19, but we are very grateful for your donations this year.

Thank you to:
Buraski Builders, Green Family Stores, Elaine Hoff, Illinois National Bank, Kathleen Hoffman, Landmark Automotive Group, Maddox Dentistry, Marine Bank, Alderman Joe McMenamin, Tony DelGiorno/Rammelkamp Bradney Attorneys at Law, Kevin Timony/Troxell Insurance Scheels,

Massie Massie and Associates and Butler Funeral Homes.
We also thank those who purchased tables for Trivia Night:
Kathy Dehen, Mary Dissler, Terry Cameron, Elaine Hoff, Cinda Klickna, Angela Weiss, and Jenny Battles.

ALL Gives Access to Programming to SCHS Members

The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College is sharing access to their online programming with Sangamon County Historical Society members for free.

On Tuesday, November 24 at 1pm, SCHS member David Brady will present “History Hunters: Edwards Trace.” After publishing his book, “Divernon, Its Place in Time,” and receiving the Illinois Humanities Council’s Studs Terkel award, David decided to concentrate on little or unknown areas of early Illinois history. Earlier, David had ordered the R. Paul map of the War of 1812 from the Library of Congress; it showed a historic trail called the Edwards Trace running north and south through Divernon Township. Thus began research that resulted in the Illinois State Historical Society designating a marker at Lake Park on Lake Springfield.

David continues to search with Luke Moore from Kentucky and Tracy Garrison, a Sangamon County surveyor, for the Trace and for Fort Russell, near Edwardsville. Forces led by Ninian Edwards, territorial governor of Illinois, marched north from Fort Russell during the War of 1812 to attack Native American villages thought

to be allied with the British. His articles include “Documenting the Edwards Trace” with Luke Moore and Tracy Garrison, in *Rediscovery*, published by the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology.

To register, call LLCC Registration at 217-786-2292 and use guest course code LLL 103-36.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96897396810>

Dial in by phone: 312-626-6799

Zoom Meeting ID: 968 9739 6810

On Tuesday, December 8 at 10am Curtis Mann, city historian, will present “History Hunters: Just Around the Corner, A Look at Springfield Street Scenes” and share a collection of photographs of many areas of Springfield taken over the years. See a downtown Springfield that looks somewhat the same yet changed with commentary that helps us learn more about our community, past and present.

To register, call LLCC Registration at 217-786-2292 and use guest course code LLL 103-39. Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94482167565>

Dial in by phone: 312-626-6799

Zoom Meeting ID: 944 8216 7565

On Tuesday, December 15 at 7pm, Hillary Marzec of Inside Chicago Walking Tours will present “Chicago Holiday Lights & Sights” a fun, holiday-themed stroll down memory lane. Using an engaging virtual presentation with rare photos from the past and colorful photos from the present, Hillary will present her popular tour and teach you about the various winter holiday traditions in Chicago and around the world.

To register, call LLCC Registration at 217-786-2292 and use guest course code LLL 113-02. Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92342968087>

Dial in by phone: 312-626-6799

Zoom Meeting ID: 923 4296 8087

ALL is a group of Adults (50 and greater) devoted to the lifelong pursuit of learning. With 10 to 12 opportunities available each month, the Academy provides enjoyable experiences in learning with a variety of opportunities to develop new friendships. History Hunters is one of the special interest groups.

Their website:

<https://www.llcc.edu/community-education/academy-lifelong-learning/>

Abraham Lincoln Association's Lincoln's Springfield Cottage Project



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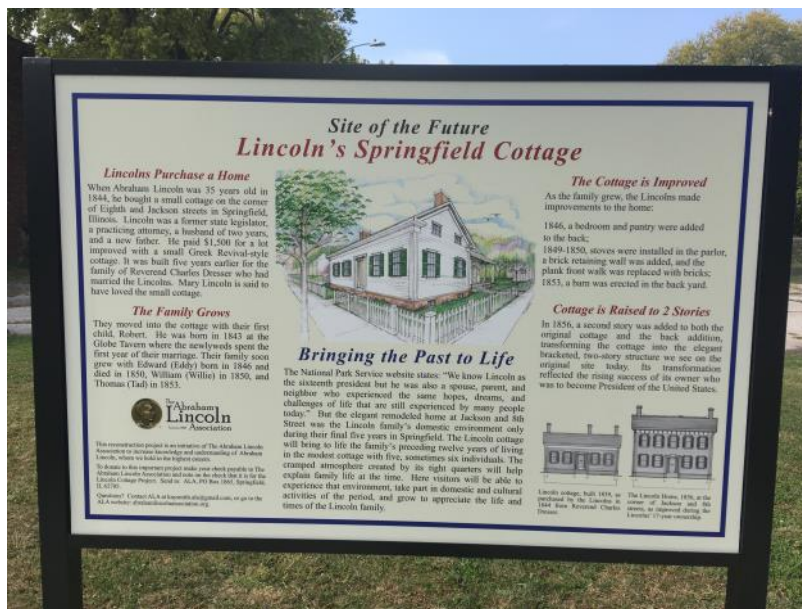
The Abraham Lincoln Association is grateful to the Sangamon County Historical Society for its generous support of the ALA's special project, "Lincoln's Springfield Cottage," which aims to create a replica of the Lincoln Home as it existed during the first twelve years that the Lincoln family lived at Eighth and Jackson. Visitors to the Home receive a misleading impression of what life was like for the family during most of the time they lived at that location, for the current Home is a spacious 12-room structure. When Lincoln bought it in 1844, the house was a modest six-room cottage; in 1856, the second floor was added, doubling the number of rooms.

A former park ranger told us that when he worked at the Home, "at least half of the people who toured the place every day entered and immediately expressed their shock (and a little dismay) that Lincoln, who they had learned was a simple prairie lawyer, actually was 'so affluent' and lived in such a grand home. Of course, part of the interpretation of the Home, and Lincoln's life in it, was to explain that people were seeing it as it looked in

1860, and then to describe how the Lincoln Cottage originally looked and was expanded. I thought, even back then, that if visitors could see the original six-room Cottage and understand the Lincolns' life within that context as well as within the 1860 twelve-room Home context, they would have a much more complete picture of the Lincolns' actual life in Springfield."

The ALA's project has proceeded apace since receiving your grant, and thanks to you and other contributors, we are nearly two-thirds of our way to achieving our goal of raising \$400,000. We have acquired an option to buy the site upon which the replica of the Cottage will be built, right next to the current Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and have employed an architect, who is working closely with the archeologist of the Lincoln Home, Floyd Mansberger, on plans for the replica. We hope you can attend the gala opening, which we hope will take place in the near future.

-Michael Burlingame, ALA President



The ALA used the SCHS grant for this sign on 8th Street.

Please make note of our official mailing address:

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

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This is a GIFT for: (Name of Recipient, Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)) _____

I am adding a donation of \$ _____.

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