



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, SangamonLink.org

VOLUME 57 NO. 5

February 2021

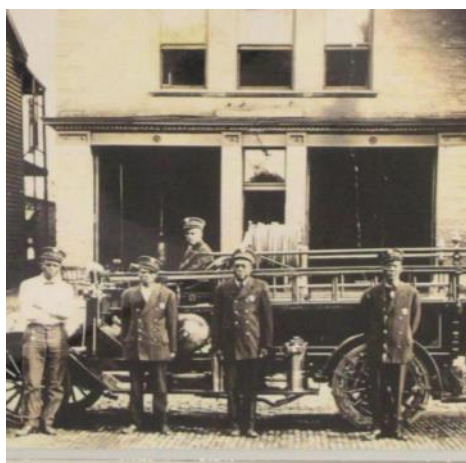
A Special Message: Keeping You, But Not History, at a Distance

Until the crisis is passed and we can resume a normal meeting schedule, the Society will continue to post video programs online and feature them in *Historico*. *Historico* is also posted online at sangamonhistory.org if you wish to view it digitally.

Shine a Light Project:

Historic Preservation and Interpretation on Springfield's East Side

The Society's February video program "Shine a Light Project: Historic Preservation and Interpretation on Springfield's East Side" features Kathryn Harris and Sue Massie discussing the background of the project, the sites that they are highlighting, what they have learned through the process so far, and what's next. Ken Page with Firehouse No. 5, Erica Harris with the Lincoln Colored Home and Tim Rowles of the Springfield Project and Sue Massie landscape architect with the Judge Taylor home, Kathryn and others came together about a year and a half ago to "shine a light" on the properties and their histories. They plan to create a brochure and tour to get more Springfieldians aware of their importance. **Continued page 2**



INSIDE:

From the President's Desk	2
In Memoriam Tony Leone.....	2
March Program: Lake Springfield Book.....	3
Special Projects Grants.....	3
Big Read Sangamon County.....	3



In a year where Zoom meetings have become the norm, I have been impressed with the video programming that has filled the gap left by in-person programming. We have never before seen so much online local history programming done so well. The great programming from the Sangamon Experience is just one example. I'm eager to see what will come out over the next several months. I include all such programs on the sancohis.org calendar. Organizations can submit their events for inclusion on the calendar by emailing sangamonhistory@gmail.com.

In the February 18th issue of the *Illinois Times* I was quoted in the article about the Big Read Sangamon County. I'm excited for this community event, and glad that we can be a partner and highlight Springfield native, naturalist, and author Virginia Eifert (1911-1966). Just as we are contributing a local history pro-

gram, the are other partners are also adding their specialties to the programming. There will be many great events for a variety of interests. There is more info on page 3.

I've been running the Society's Twitter for about a month, and I'm enjoying this method of keeping the community updated. I tweet our events, articles about local history from the newspaper, and news from other history organizations. This month I've tweeted content from the "Pictorial Souvenir Central Illinois 1912." This booklet features African American citizens from Springfield, Bloomington, Jacksonville, and other central Illinois towns. In addition, it highlights their businesses. Check out our Twitter [@sangamonhistory](https://twitter.com/sangamonhistory) for more content.

Stephanie J Martin

Shine a Light

Continued from page 1

Firehouse No. 5 located at 1310 E Adams was the city's first all black firehouse. The Society provided Central 3 Community First Project Inc. a \$1,000 grant for a sign describing the firehouse's history and role in the 1908 race riot. Eva Monroe ran the Lincoln Colored Home for black orphans and elderly for over 30 years. Mary Lawrence helped fundraise for the cur-

rent building at 427 S. 12th St. which was build in 1904. The Judge Taylor home at 12th and Cass became the Ambidexter Institute, which was an industrial school based on the Tuskegee Institute.

Kathryn Harris's interest in the sites started since she lives across from the firehouse. She used her librarian skills to research that building and the Lincoln Colored Home. Sue Massie's connection is

through the work she did with the Judge Taylor home.

Kathryn and Sue emphasize the power of collaboration, awareness, and signage for the sites. The Society looks forward to their tour (hopefully) in the spring.

Tony Leone (1950-2021)

Life member Tony Leone passed away in early February. He was a local author, historic preservationist and history enthusiast. Leone co-authored the book *Springfield's Celebrated Horseshoe Sandwich*. The Springfield Historic Sites Commission named him the 2011 Historic Preservationist of the Year. He was involved in the Roman Cultural Society in Springfield. Tony was a regular at Society programs. The Society had their holiday party at his beloved Pasfield House in 2016.



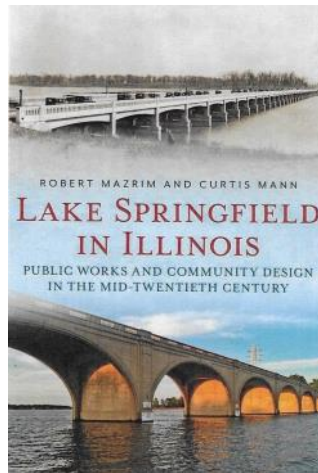
Historico, published 10 times a year (except July & December), is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

You can download back issues of **Historico** in PDF format by going to our website, www.sangamonhistory.org or sancohis.org. Send event announcements to SCHSoffice@gmail.com.

Stephanie Martin, *Historico* Editor

March Program Will Feature New Lake Springfield Book

The Society's March video will feature Robert Mazrim and Curtis Mann talking about their new book *Lake Springfield in Illinois: Public Works and Community Design in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. This pictorial history covers the construction and development of the lake as well as the community that grew up around it. The video will be posted on the Society's Facebook, YouTube, and website on March 16th.



OFFICERS

President.....Stephanie Martin
 Vice-President.....Susan Helm
 Secretary.....Elaine Hoff
 Treasurer.....Jerry Smith
 Past-President.....Vicky Whitaker

SCHS is Taking Grant Applications and Donations

The Society is excited to announce it is now taking applications for its annual special projects grant program. Since 2013, the Society has provided funds to museums, cemeteries, history organizations, and other groups for projects that have produced markers and signs, exhibits, and programs. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2021. Grantees will be announced in the summer. For more information: https://www.sancohis.org/schs_grant_program.htm

Trivia night has funded the special projects grants. Unfortunately, in 2020 and 2021, the Society has not been able to hold the trivia night. Members will receive letters asking for a donation to support the grants in lieu of the trivia fundraiser. The Society hopes you consider supporting this important work.

Big Read Sangamon County

The Society is excited to be a partner in the Academy of Lifelong Learning's Big Read Sangamon County. The Big Read is a National Endowment of the Arts program in which a community reads the same book and hosts events around it. The book for the local Big Read is *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. The art, science, medical, nature, library, and history communities have come together to provide events for all ages in March and April. The book will

be available for free at select locations and events. There will be book discussions and even a virtual event with the author! The Society's video program released on April 20 will be "Virginia Eifert: Springfield Native, Prolific Naturalist" For information about the programs and how to get a book: <https://www.llcc.edu/community-education/academy-lifelong-learning/nea-big-read-sangamon-county/>

DIRECTORS

Term Ending 2021

Mary Alice Davis
 Kathy Hoffmann
 Sue Massie
 Doug Polite
 Cinda Klickna

Term Ending 2022

Larry Stone
 Kathy Dehen
 Mary Schafer
 Angela Weiss
 Jennie Battles

Term Ending 2023

Sarah Adams
 Vincent Chappelle
 Pete Harbison
 Mary Mucciante
 Ruth Slottag

Please make note of our official mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744

Sangamon County Historical Society
P.O. Box 9744
Springfield, IL 62791-9744
Return Service Requested

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 777
Springfield, Illinois

2020-2021 SCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please Print)

SELECT THE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

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

Your Name _____

Spouse/Significant Other Name (where applicable): _____

Spouse's Maiden Name (where applicable): _____

Full Names of others included in your membership: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone: _____

Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

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

I am adding a donation of \$ _____.

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744

FEBRUARY 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

FEBRUARY 2021