



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

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Join Us for a September 14 Box Supper at Clayville As SCHS Opens a New, Exciting Meeting Season



See the Historic Site's New Look, Chat With Our Grant Winners!

Members and some special guests of the Sangamon County Historical Society will be able to celebrate the start of the organization's fall meeting season on Tuesday, September 14 with an in-person outdoor/indoor reception starting at 5:30 p.m. that will accommodate everyone yet adhere to state and federal Covid regulations.

The season opener will be held on the sprawling grounds, barn and pavilion of the Clayville Historic site in Pleasant Plains, with its newly refurbished indoor and outdoor seating and dining options. Tickets are \$17 per person and include a box supper created by Nelson's Catering. Dinner choices and reservation information and instruc-

tions by mail or e-mail are detailed on page 7. A cash bar will be available for beverages.

"We continue to be super-conscious of the safety of our Society members as we begin a return to normal program scheduling," notes SCHS president Stephanie Martin.

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Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk October 3: New Faces, New Sites, New Rules

When the Sangamon County Historical Society's annual Oak Ridge Cemetery walking tour returns on Sunday, October 3 after a pandemic-prompted year's hiatus, you can expect some changes. "That year off has given us a lot of time to evaluate everything from when and what to see, to traffic control, script

(Continued on page 4)



Words of Welcome, With Lots to Look Forward To

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Sangamon County Historical Society year.

No matter what comes this year, I believe that we will have engaging programming and *Historico* and *SangamonLink.org* articles and provide meaningful grants to preserve and promote Sangamon County history.

We will be contributing to county bicentennial projects for the rest of the year, so be on the lookout for that!

We are also still celebrating the Society's 60th anniversary this year. It's an honor to contribute to the Society's legacy. Thank you for your support of local history!

Missed a Meeting? No Problem! You Can Catch Up at Your Leisure

If you missed any of the terrific on-line programs we've offered over the past several months — or want to see and hear it again — don't fret.

You can catch up simply by grabbing the beverage of your choice and a snack (optional of course), sit down in front of your computer and tune in.

Here's how to access each from your computer arm chair:

1. Go to the Society's website. sangamonhistory.org.
2. At the top of the page, go to the menu and tap **BOOKS & VIDEOS**
3. On the **BOOKS & VIDEO** page, you will find links-- by month and year: November 2020, January 2021, February 2021, March 2021, April 2021, and May 2021.
4. Hit the iconic "Skip the Ad" button that's part of YouTube unless you like commercials.
5. Enjoy!

May 2021 *A Pictorial History of the Construction of the Vachel Lindsay Bridge*.

Kansas City-based Lance Warren, Research Librarian/Archivist with Burns McDonnell, provides a pictorial and in-depth look at this iconic Springfield landmark and the story and people behind its creation and Lake Springfield.

April 2021: Virginia Eifert: Springfield Native, Prolific Naturalist. Learn about the life and legacy of Virginia Eifert from re-

searcher John Hallwas and the Illinois State Museum's Tracy Pierceall. Eifert, a naturalist, author, and artist, worked at the Museum where she created, wrote and edited its *The Living Museum* magazine and publications on Illinois flora and fauna, rivers, people, and history. In 2019, Hallwas who specializes in "forgotten voices from Illinois history," provided the cover story on

Curtis Mann and Robert Mazrim provide details from their new book and the story-behind-the story that motivated them to take a closer look at a public project that helped shape Springfield's future.

February 2021: Shine A Light Project: Historic Preservation and Interpretation on Springfield's East Side. Preservationists Sue Massie and Kathryn Harris take a look at efforts to preserve the John Taylor House, the Lincoln Colored Home and Fire House No. 5 and how each site contributed to the lives of African-Americans here.

January 2021: In The Beginning: A Look at Sangamon County 200 Years Ago. Using maps, illustrations and a knowledgeable voice-over, Curtis Mann, head of the City of Springfield Lincoln Library's Sangamon Valley Collection, provides an illustrated look at both the people and geography that played into the development of Springfield.

November 2020: "I Think That We Will Soon Be In Springfield: Illinois Civil War Soldier's Quotations About Sangamon County from their Personal Letters. Author Mark Flotow brings the Civil War to its grass roots, in a program that illustrates the letters home by including audio readings of some of these moving stories provided by Sangamon County Historical Society members.



Eifert for the Illinois State Historical Society's *Illinois History Magazine*, whose archives are housed at the Western Illinois University Library.

March 2021: Lake Springfield In Illinois: Public Works and Community Design in the Mid-Twentieth Century. The perfect primer for the Society's May meeting, historians



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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. Catch us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. Send event announcements to historicoeditor@gmail.com.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor.

Cinda Klickna, Mike Kienzler, contributors

Fall Festival Returns to Clayville September 18 & 19: Music, Tours, Crafts, Food, Drink...And Abe, Too!

Society members may get the jump on Clayville's new upgrades next month, but that doesn't mean they can't step back in time a few days later for the historic site's big, annual outdoor Fall Festival, Saturday and Sunday, September 18 and 19..

The free family event, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, will include a full round of music, food, children's activities, crafts, artisans, reenactments, tours and more.

Among the returnees will be singer/songwriter Chris Vallillo who will perform on Saturday on his six-string and bottleneck side guitars, weaving original, contemporary and traditional songs and narratives into a portrait of the history and lifestyles of



Vallillo



Randy Duncan as Abe



Mike and Lisa Templeton

the Midwest. The duo of Mike and Lisa Templeton will also be making music both days. The acoustic American Roots duet play Folk, Traditional Bluegrass, and Old Time music on a clawhammer (frailing) style fiddle, bass guitar, ukulele and spoons, whipping up their versions of traditional standards like *Sloop John B*, *Oh Susana*, *Trouble On*, *Fisher's Hornpipe*, and, *Are You Missing Me*.

Sunday morning will start with an old-fashioned church service provided by well-known Civil War chaplain reenactor Randall Cheatham. Abe Lincoln will be on hand too on Sunday afternoon with reenactor Randy Duncan walking the site, greeting visitors and posing for camera shots.

Rendezvous and Civil War camps, a medicine show and a magic show, period arts and crafters are part of the weekend event that will also offer inside looks at some of the historic buildings on the site including the Broadwell Inn and Tavern, Battered cabin, Kohl's cabin, a schoolhouse, blacksmith shop

and agricultural museum. Concessions and beverages will be available.

The Clayville Historic site is located at 12818 State Route 125 in Pleasant Plains.



2021-2022 OFFICERS

President.....Stephanie Martin
Vice-President.....Susan Helm
Secretary.....Elaine Hoff
Treasurer.....Jerry Smith
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Term Ending June 2022

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Doug Polite

Please make note of our official mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744

Society Ready for October 3 Return of Annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk

Continued from page 1 writing and casting, transportation and more," the behind-the-scenes planning that goes into creating one of the most popular and free public events at one of the nation's most popular national cemeteries, says Cemetery Walk chair Mary Alice Davis. "Our concern over the continuing Covid pandemic has shaped how we will be operating this year."

The October edition of *Historico* will provide maps, parking information and more. "We think everyone will be pleased...and safe as they see this local and national historic treasure first-hand," Davis said.

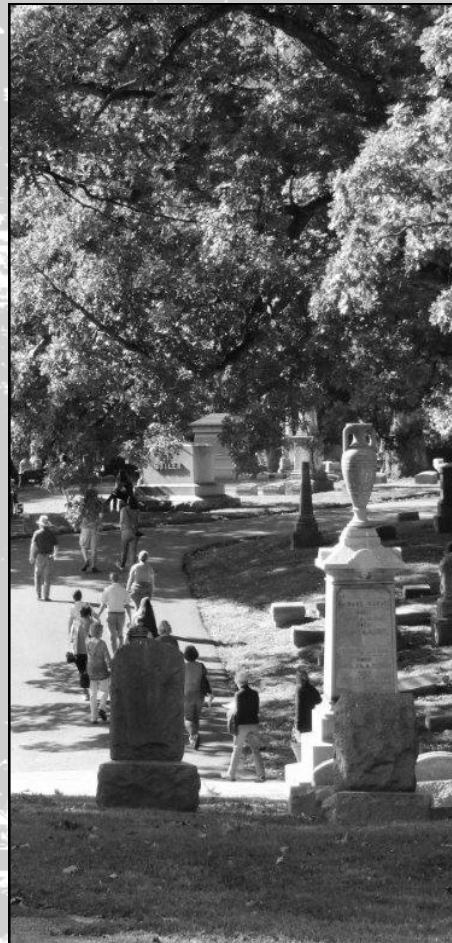
This year there will be seven stops, with actors in period costumes portraying men and women associated with Springfield's growth as a community and commercial center. They will be at the graves of:

Harriett Knudson (1883-1969), a driving force behind the creation of Lincoln Memorial Gardens.

Harriet Palmer Crabbe (1857-1948) and **Gertrude Wright Morgan** (1861-1931). Palmer Crabbe was the daughter of the fifteenth Illinois Governor. Her close friend, Wright Morgan, was the first African-American student to attend a white school in Springfield and became a teacher in St. Louis.

Richard Dodds (1851-1921), owner and operator of a Springfield landmark drug store on the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets known as Dodds' Corner, which became a *de facto* city meeting place near street car routes.

Thomas Rees (1850 -1933) was the long-time publisher of the *Illinois State Register* and Illinois State Senator. Upon his death, he left funds to build the carillon in Washington Park that bears his name.



Salome Paddock Enos (1791-1877) was the wife of Pascal Enos who opened the first land office in the Springfield District. He died at a young age, leaving her to manage his sizable land holdings. In 1837 she donated \$3 million worth of property for a new State Capitol.

William A. Northcott (1854-1917) served as Illinois Lieutenant Governor and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Illinois. He later became Head Consul of Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal Life Insurance company that erected his monument.

William Carpenter (1787 -1859) an early settler who owned a ferry operation along a stagecoach line. The settlement was known as "six-mile house." He later served as Springfield postmaster and had extensive real estate holdings.

The cemetery walk, co-sponsored by the Society and Oak Ridge Cemetery, was held annually for twelve years from 1996 to 2008 and returned in 2015 by popular demand. It was held every year since, until 2020 when the pandemic spread of Covid halted major activities here and around the nation.

The 365-acre Oak Ridge Cemetery is bordered on the west by North J. David Jones Parkway (North Walnut Street) and North First Street on the east in Springfield. It is the largest municipal cemetery in Illinois and is the second most visited cemetery in the United States after Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

At the walk, attendees will be able to purchase refreshments provided by the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. While admission is free for the event, the Sangamon County Historical Society will gladly accept donations from participants.



For Oak Ridge Exec a Place for Reflection

Lashonda Fitch, executive director of Oak Ridge Cemetery, never envisioned herself running a cemetery.

Fitch grew up in Wisconsin and later lived in the Joliet area. She and her husband moved to Springfield 11 years ago. Her resume before she was appointed Oak Ridge director in October 2019 included jobs in retail banking, market-

ing and management. She says she hasn't run into any surprises at Oak Ridge, but adds, "there have been a lot of ah-ha moments."

For one thing, as a woman with an urban background "I look at trees a lot differently now," Fitch says. "It never occurred to me that they could be uprooted after a single storm."

When Fitch wants to

combine a little exercise with time for thought, she often walks through the area in the southeast corner of Oak Ridge that will be the focus of the 2021 SCHS Cemetery Walk.

"I love to stroll around where the historic tour is going to be," Fitch says. "There are some beautiful areas where I can have a moment to reflect." - Mike Kienzler



SCHNEIDER/ENOS DARLING/NORTHCOTT DISSELER/CARPENTER DAVIS/MORGAN PETRO/KNUDSON

Oak Ridge Cast Getting Ready to Share Stories

Some are newbies, some are seasoned pros, but no matter what, this year's cemetery walk goers are in for a great story-telling treat as a cast of eight period-dressed actors (including three from one family--see story below). Here's the skinny on the others:

Linda Schneider, who will portray *Salome Paddock Enos* has depicted numerous local historic figures for the Cemetery Walk over the years, is a member of the Walk Planning Committee, and recruited this year's acting

team. An office administrator at the University of Illinois Springfield, she is active in local community theater.

Dennis Darling who will be capturing the story of *William A. Northcott* is a semiretired musician, songwriter, and entertainer. A Springfield native, his father and grandfather were both active in city politics in their time.

Mary Disseler as *Margaret Carpenter* will talk about the achievements of her husband, William, an early settler. A retired State Worker, Dissler volun-

teers at historic sites as a living history reenactor.

Patricia James Davis is a historical re-enactor of African American heroines and will be portraying *Gertrude Wright Morgan*. Davis lives in Springfield with her husband of 51 years

Tracy Sitton-Petro who will portray *Harriet Knudson*, lives in Chatham, is a Clinical Research Project Manager at the American College of Radiology. She has participated in the last five cemetery walks.

...And for One Talented Family, Cemetery Walk Acting Will Be A Group Effort!

It's going to be a family affair for the Van DeVoorts.

Andy, his wife, Deb, and older brother, Dave, will all be actors in the October 3 cemetery walk. Andy says, "We were all together in plays in high school in Plainfield 50 years ago."

Both Andy and Deb were teachers. Andy taught music and band in Springfield. Deb was a special education teacher in Virden. "We really didn't have money for summer vacations so we participated in shows during the summer."

Dave had gone into theater as a major at Illinois State University but then switched to business. His career was in HR consulting which didn't leave time for theater. Andy tried to get Dave involved in acting over many years but didn't have much success - until Linda Schneider called Andy to ask him to play a part in the Sangamon County Historical Society Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk!

It just so happened that the brothers were together.

Andy immediately told Linda yes to portraying Richard Dodds. Deb agreed to portray Harriet Palmer Crabbe. Andy says, "I was hoping Dave would agree too, and then I saw the picture of Thomas Rees. I told Dave he looks like him. Dave agreed to portray the part."



FAMILY CAST CALL (from left) Andy, Deb and David as Dodds, Crabbe and Rees.

Taking a part in the cemetery walk is much different than acting in a play. There aren't days of rehearsals; it requires each actor memorizing a script and doing a performance on one day. Since Dave lives in Naperville, that makes it easier for him to get back into acting. Andy says, "Having Dave involved again is nice, and it will be fun having the three of us together." --Cinda Klickna

SCHS Season to Kick Off September 14 at Clayville Historic Site

(Continued from page 1)

"We believe the Clayville environment will allow attendees to socialize along the distance and masking guidelines we have all been asked to follow. Similar rules will apply to the annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk in October and to future monthly meetings in Carnegie Room North at the city of Springfield's Lincoln Library for which dates and programs have been set for the remainder of 2021 and into 2022."

The Society has held several major events at Clayville over the years including annual dinners and special programs. In addition, the historic site has been a past winner of several of the Society's Special Project grants among them one to identify with permanent plaques the site's historic walkway plantings, and another to outfit supplies for a one-room school house built on the site.

The September 14 gathering will include brief informal presentations by representatives or the individuals who received this year's Sangamon County Historical Society Special Project grants. The grants are given each year to organizations or individuals for whom such financial assistance or seed money will help them make a unique contribution to promoting or preserving local history. The winners were publicly

announced earlier this summer.

The awards range from \$500 to

Oak Ridge Cemetery, \$500 on the burial site of Olive Price, sister of Eva Carroll Monroe who was the matron at the Lincoln Colored Home. Price helped Monroe at the home and later lived there.

The Mysterious Bard of Sangamo, \$750 awarded to the Illinois State Historical Society for a two-act play showcasing the works of the poet John Hancock. The grant will help defray expenses for production and staging costs.

The Colored Section Exhibit, \$1,000 awarded to the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. The grant will fund a permanent exhibit highlighting the history of early African Americans buried in the "Colored Section" at Oak Ridge Cemetery and will include an interactive map with information about persons buried there.

Tree Project, \$500 awarded to the Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation. This grant will allow the Foundation's Tree Committee to identify and provide permanent markers for select trees with historic significance.

The Clayville Historic site is located at 12818 State Route 125 in Pleasant Plains, about a 25 minute drive west of Springfield. Parking is free in and around the building.



TALKING POINT. William Furry, (bottom left) executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society, will be on hand at Clayville on September 14 to detail an ISHS performance project being funded by the Society through a Special Project Grant. Above, actor Victor Holstein rehearses on the set of "The Mysterious Bard of Sangamo," a play about early Springfield and the poetry of John Hancock, a well-traveled educated Englishman who made Springfield his home in the 1830s and '40s. Hancock, like another well-known local resident, published his poems in the *Sangamo Journal*. The play, written by author, educator, and Illinois historian John Hallwas, commemorates the 200th anniversary of Sangamon County.

\$1,000 for:

Purchasing and Placing a Gravestone for Olive Price at



SCHS September 14 Dinner Mail-In Reservation Form

(See below for on-line registration instructions)



To reserve a seat, mail the form below with your check for \$17 per person to SCHS, Box 9744 Springfield, Illinois, 62791-9744. If you prefer, you can register, make your meal selection and pay on line by following the link on our website, sangamonhistory.org.

All mail and on-line reservations must be received by Tuesday, September 7)

Box Supper Choices:

A Smoked Turkey Breast Smoked turkey breast topped with Swiss cheese, leaf lettuce, & sliced tomato on Wheat Berry Bread

B The Club Smoked turkey breast, honey ham, bacon, cheddar cheese, leaf lettuce, & sliced tomato on buttery croissant

C The Vegetarian Wrap Lettuce, tomato, cucumber, red onion, red and green peppers served in a spinach flour tortilla.

D Chicken Caesar Wrap Nelson's grilled chicken breast, thinly sliced and topped with parmesan cheese, romaine lettuce, sliced tomatoes, Caesar dressing.

Each dinner, served in an attractive container with condiments, cutlery and napkin, will also contain a salad and dessert.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DINNER CHOICE: **A B C,D**

NAME _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DINNER CHOICE: **A B C,D**

NAME _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DINNER CHOICE: **A B C,D**

NAME _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DINNER CHOICE: **A B C,D**

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$ _____

New Dana-Thomas Neighborhood Walking Tour Guide Now Available

Tired of staying home? Want to get some fresh air...and a little local history under your belt?

Just don your walking shoes and take a self-guided, one-mile, walking tour of the Historic Dana-Thomas House Neighborhood. The mapped route and a new booklet filled with information is now available in person and on-line from the Dana-Thomas House Foundation.

You can pick up a copy from the Foundation office at 302 East Lawrence, during normal business hours, or

download it directly from the organization's website, dana-thomas.org

With it, you can visit 15 sites, learn about the area's people and history while following along in the colorful booklet and map. Among the national historic landmarks you'll see are the Dana-Thomas House, Hickox Apartments, Governor's Mansion, and Vachel Lindsay home, as well as a home where Charles Lindbergh stayed and houses of Susan Lawrence Dana's neighbors.

Sangamon County Historical Society
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Sangamon County Historical Society 2021-2022 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 cover adults and children 16 and over at living at the same address. Be sure to list their names.

Your Full Name _____ Spouse/Significant Other First Name _____

Spouse's maiden name where applicable _____ Your e-mail _____

Your address _____ City, State , Zip _____ Phone _____

Full Names of other family members included in your membership:

Choose Your Level of Membership: Regular (\$30) Pioneer (\$100) Settler (\$250) Trailblazer (\$100)
 Lifetime (\$700 one-time fee) College/University Student (individual) (\$20)

This is a GIFT (Name of recipient, mailing and e-mail address:

I am adding a donation to the Society in addition to my membership in the amount of \$ _____

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021