



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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MAY 2022

May 17: Saving Local History by



COVID 19 and its frequent mutations continue to have a profound impact on our daily lives, a circumstance not unnoticed by historians here as elsewhere.

The Society's Tuesday, May 17 program meeting will bring together representatives from three major area history organizations who will provide a behind-the-scenes look at how they are compiling that information for future generations.

The program will be held in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326

S. Seventh Street, starting at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Panelists will include Sangamon

signed to record and preserve the personal experiences of students, faculty, and staff during the Corona Virus outbreak.



RIGGENBACK



MOSLEY



BRYDEN

Amanda Riggenback, Project Manager for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, will detail its "Tumultuous 2020" oral history project and a third panelist, Amanda Bryden, Registrar for History and State Historic Sites for the Illi-

nois State Museum, will provide insight into the state agency's "Illinois Stories-COVID" collection. UIS history "Covid19 Project" de-

tion.

INSIDE:

<i>From the President's Desk.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Time to Renew. Here's How</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Ceremony With Deep Roots.....</i>	<i>4</i>

**SCHS
ANNUAL
DINNER
REGISTRATION**



.....PAGE 7



Stephanie Martin

Local History Community Has Lots to Celebrate!

There is so much activity going on in the local history community.

Congratulations to all recipients of the Illinois State Historical Society's "Best of Illinois Awards."

Local recipients include: Mary Barringer, *Lifetime Achievement*; Jodi Mitts, Lincoln Magnet School, Springfield, Olive Foster, *Teacher of the Year Award*; *Have Violin, Will Travel: The Louis Persinger Story* by Raymond Bruzan, *Certificate of Excellence*; and *The Mysterious Bard of Sangamo*, written by John Hallwas and featuring Victor Holstein, *Superior Achievement*.



The Illinois State Archives recently made accessible their digitized collection of Eddie Winfred "Doc" Helm's photographs from his career as the state photographer from 1941-1992. See the March 31, 2022 edition of the *Illinois Times* for the feature article. Here is the link to the photograph collection: <http://www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/DocHelm/search/>

I'm having so much fun browsing the collection because it features the Illinois State Fair, governors, the state armory, and Springfield scenes.

In April I visited a public history class at UIS. Sangamon Valley Collection Manager and City Historian Curtis Mann and I talked about the work we do at the library and I shared the activities of the historical society. Thank you to Dr. Devin Hunter for the invitation. I enjoy engaging with students about local history and the different places it can take them.

The Sangamon County Bicentennial Committee created a digital time capsule of stories from residents. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library recently received a laptop with the videos and will care for them so it can be "opened" and viewed in 50 years on the county's Semiquincentennial (250th year) celebration. To view "*Sangamon Stories*" now go to: <https://co.sangamon.il.us/i-want-to/learn/sangamon-stories>.



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

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor.

Cinda Klickna, Mike Kienzler, contributors

Renewal Notices Will Be In The Mail As Society Gets Set For 2022-2023

When you get a letter in the mail from the Sangamon County Historical Society this month, open it quickly!

If you've already sent in your dues for 2022-2023, it will include our thanks and a guarantee you're headed for another year of great programs. And if you're a Life Member, it will include a special thanks for your long-term support.

Membership has its privileges, most importantly the right to vote on officers and directors who will be running the Society in coming years. You dues must be received by

Wednesday, May 31 to be eligible to vote in the Society's annual election on Tuesday, June 21, the organization's annual election.

"Despite the meeting issues facing us because of Covid-19, our membership has remained strong. We're happy we were able to put most of these programs on-line and that we are now moving into a return to in-person meetings like the one this past April, our May program, and of course, our annual dinner to be held in June at Clayville," noted Society president Stephanie Martin. "We've

Continued on page 4)



2021-2022 OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

Term Ending June 2022

Jennie Battles
Kathy Dehen
Mary Schaefer
Larry Stone
Angela Weiss

DIRECTORS

Term Ending June 2023

Sarah Adams
Vincent Chappelle
Peter Harbison
Mary Mucciante
Ruth Slottag

DIRECTORS

Term Ending June 2024

Mary Alice Davis
Kathy Hoffmann
Cinda Klickna



FOURTH STREET, anchored by Susan Lawrence Dana's 35-room mansion (with Dana at left) designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, helped define the Springfield neighborhood that drew the city's movers and shakers. The Society's April program took attendees for a virtual trip through the neighborhood that in the early 1900s was once Springfield's best address. The presentation was held at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library.



Please make note of our official mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744

Annual April 15 Event

Society Has Deep Roots to Lincoln Death Day Wreath Ceremony

When Sangamon County Historic Society board member Mary Mucciante represented SCHS at the "Lincoln Death Day" wreath-placing ceremony at Lincoln's Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery on April 15, she was helping carry on a long-standing tradition for the Society and other participants in the annual memorial observance.

Like the Lincoln Death Day Association Inc., the organization that has run the event since 1957, the Society has a special connection to the man behind its creation, the late George Cashman.

Cashman was the fifth and final custodian of the Lincoln Tomb, appointed to the position by Governor Adali E. Stevenson in 1950, a post he held until his retirement in 1957.

In those years, Cashman played a significant role in the local history community in addition to being instrumental in the formation and leadership of the Lincoln Death Day Association that still oversees the annual observance.

After Cashman retired, the State of Illinois reorganized the tomb's administration, dissolving custodian position.

Cashman was a founder of the Springfield Civil War Roundtable and in 1961, served as temporary secretary at the organization meeting of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Cashman and his wife Dorothy, who shared her hus-



WREATH BEARER Mary Mucciante with the Society's wreath for the Lincoln Death Day observance on April 15.

band's interest in history, were both members of the Society's first Board of Directors, Mrs. Cashman

serving as its first membership chair. Mrs. Cashman died in 1974.

The Cashmans lived on the grounds of Oak Ridge in the custodian's cottage, where they read and wrote about Lincoln and the tomb. Mrs. Cashman was an authority on Lincoln history in her own right. She was a staunch advocate of Mary Todd long before it became historically fashionable, and personally lectured and answered questions for many years within the burial chamber. In 1963, the Cashmans were highlighted in an ABC television show entitled "*They Live With Lincoln.*"

Today, the Lincoln Death Day Association Inc. is operated by a small group of Lincoln history devotees who plan the details of the annual event that include a luncheon, held this year at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield. The luncheon included a presentation by General Ulysses S. Grant re-enactor Larry Werline who spoke on "Lincoln and Grant End the War." For more information about the Association, contact Ron Clark at suvcw4@yahoo.com

Start of 2022-2023 SCHS Fiscal Year is Approaching Rapidly

(Continued from page 3)

buoyed by the enthusiasm and support our members have shown over this difficult time, We look forward to resuming our traditional meeting schedule and special events in the fall, already in the planning stage."

Unlike many organizations, the Society's fiscal year runs for June 1 to May 31, a reflection of the structure and timing that came into play when the organization was formed in 1961 with its first organizational meeting in June. "After these many years, we've adapted to it, and since we usually do not meet in July and August, it has worked for us."

The membership letter has provisions to let us know of any anticipated changes in address, an up-

grade in membership level or to make a donation.

"Our membership levels are family oriented and include children 16 and over living at the same address. If your children are headed off to college in the fall, you can give them a separate gift of membership for just \$20 a year, with *Historico* sent to them at their campus address.

"This time of year also brings to mind the need to give us advance notice if you plan to winter in a warmer climate for an extended period. We can have *Historico* mailed to you at your vacation home address by just sending a note or e-mail to the Society before you depart," she adds. Address changes should be sent to schsoffice@gmail.com.

Reservations Open for Society's Annual Dinner; Sign-Up On Line or Register by Mail by June 10

The menu is set, the beautifully-decorated tables will be waiting on Tuesday, June 21 when the Society returns to the historic Clayville Historic Site pavilion for its annual dinner.

"Even though we had to postpone last year's dinner from June to September because of Covid 19, we had a great turn-out and expect one once again," said Dinner chair Mary Alice Davis.

"Everyone loved the site, the pavilion and informal and comfortable dining area that we decided to go back to Clayville once again."

The menu will be similar to last year's offering, an up-scale boxed dinner with three choices plus a vegetarian option. "We thought Nelson's Catering did a wonderful job last year, so we turned to them once again," noted Davis.

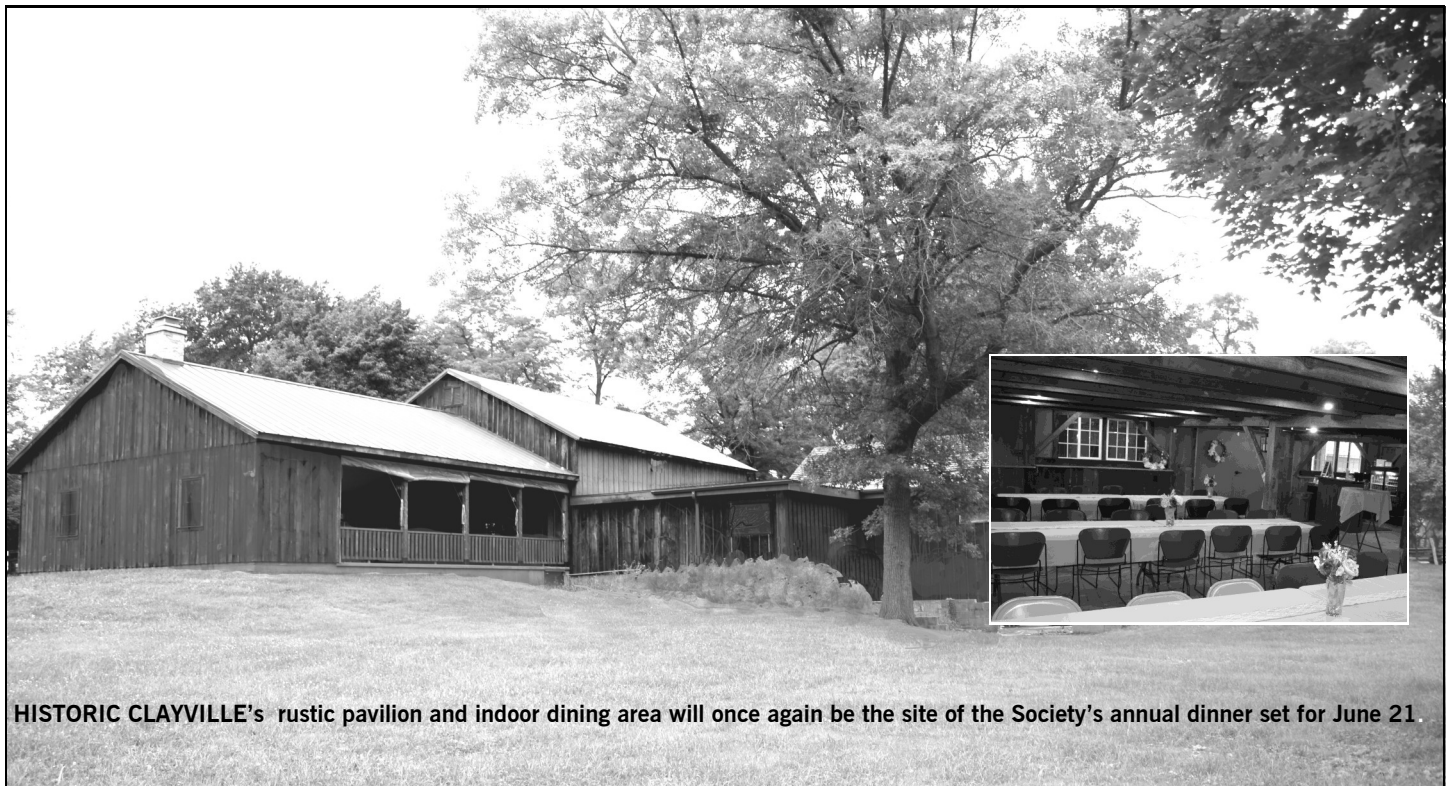
Dinner-goers must choose and make a paid reservation in advance either on-line (at sangamonhistory.org) or mail a check with the form on page 7 that reaches the Society no later than Monday, June 10. "Members can bring guests, but there can be no dinner "walk-ins," Davis added. All dinners are \$22 per person.

Attendees will need to pre-choose from one of three box dinners or order an all-vegetarian version. The three include a smoked turkey breast sandwich on wheat berry bread that includes Swiss cheese, leaf lettuce and sliced tomatoes.

You can also choose "The Club" consisting of smoked turkey breast, honey ham, bacon, cheddar cheese, leaf lettuce and sliced tomatoes on a buttery croissant. The Chicken Caesar Wrap consists of Nelson's grilled chicken breast, thinly sliced and topped with parmesan cheese, romaine lettuce and sliced tomatoes with a Caesar dressing.

Each dinner will be served in an attractive container with condiments, cutlery and napkin. Dinner includes salad and dessert and complimentary ice tea and water. A cash bar will be in operation throughout the evening.

In addition to elections and an annual financial report, dinner-goers will hear details of project plans from individuals and organizations who were named winners of the Society's annual Special Projects Grant Program.



HISTORIC CLAYVILLE's rustic pavilion and indoor dining area will once again be the site of the Society's annual dinner set for June 21.

SCHS ON-LINE PROGRAM GUIDE

When the Corona virus prevented the Society from having face-to-face meetings back in early 2020 and through most of 2021 and the start of 2022, we did the next best thing: videoed our programs and put them on-line. We returned to a live format with the March meeting, but you can still catch those earlier on-line meetings. Just follow the instructions below:

HERE'S THE BASIC HOW-TO:

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.
4. If you're watching it on YouTube Hit the iconic "Skip the Ad" button [that's part of the YouTube experience unless you like commercials.]
5. Enjoy!

February, 15 2022: *Black Experiences in Education.* The Sangamon County Historical Society marked Black History Month on Tuesday, February 15 with an on-line presentation focused on education that looked at the experiences of two Black female educators—one in the 1870s, the other in the 1950s, who overcame prejudice in their careers and at the history and fate of the Ambidexter Industrial and Normal Institute for Black students established in 1857 in Springfield and almost erased from the history books when the building in which it was housed was twice threatened by razing, once in 2013 and again in 2018. Catch the full presentation on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0G96IRHE9k>.

January, 2022: *History of Springfield's Movie Theater Industry.* It's a Powerpoint available both as a downloadable PDF and on YouTube and just like the silent movies it includes, there is no sound, but if your computer has an extra drive, you might want to add a little background music, you might want to pop in "*The Very Best of Ragtime.*" To download it, go to https://sancohis.org/PDFs/THEATER_PDF.pdf or watch it on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTAV7maS-sE>.

November, 2021: *The Mysterious Bard of Sangamon,* can be found on Vimeo (a video sharing website), at <https://vimeo.com/626671152/daae07f0cc?m0>

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 researcher 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 Eifert for *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 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": An 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



SCHS JUNE 21, 2022 ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a seat, mail the form below with your check for \$22 per person to SCHS, Box 9744 Springfield, Illinois, 62791-9744. If you prefer, you can register, make your meal selections and pay on line by following the link on our website, sangamonhistory.org.

ALL MAIL AND ON-LINE RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, JUNE 10.

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

A Vegetarian Box Supper is also available.

Each dinner will be served in an attractive container with condiments, cutlery and napkin. Dinner includes dessert and complimentary ice tea and water.

A cash bar will be in operation throughout the evening.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMBER NAME</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>E-MAIL ADDRESS _____</p> <p><u>DINNER CHOICE:</u> A B C OR VEGETARIAN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>YOUR GUEST'S FULL NAME</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>E-MAIL ADDRESS _____</p> <p><u>DINNER CHOICE:</u> A B C OR VEGETARIAN</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMBER NAME</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>E-MAIL ADDRESS _____</p> <p><u>DINNER CHOICE:</u> A B C OR VEGETARIAN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>YOUR GUEST'S FULL NAME</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>E-MAIL ADDRESS _____</p> <p><u>DINNER CHOICE:</u> A B C OR VEGETARIAN</p>

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Sangamon County Historical Society 2022-2023 MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. 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:
<i>Choose Your Level of Membership:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (\$30) <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer (\$100) <input type="checkbox"/> Settler (\$250) <input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer (\$500) <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$700 one-time fee) <input type="checkbox"/> College/University Student (individual) (\$20)
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a GIFT (Name of recipient, mailing and e-mail address):
<input type="checkbox"/> I am adding a donation to the Society in addition to my membership in the amount of \$ _____

MAY 2022 MAY 2022 MAY 2022 MAY 2022 MAY 2022 MAY 2022