



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

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## Mark Your Calendar, Reserve a Spot

### October Line-Up: Edwards Place in Springfield, “Old Settlers Day Revisited” at Pioneer Park

Members of the Sangamon County Historical Society are in for a double treat this month, with two nearly back-to-back meetings—Tuesday, October 18 and Saturday, October 22—bound to whet ones interest in local history.

The Tuesday, October 18 program, at 7 p.m. will be held at historic Edwards Place, headquarters of the Springfield Art Association. Erika Holst, curator of Association’s collections, will discuss the building’s colorful history including the result of recent archeological studies. Holst has been researching the history of Edwards Place, the oldest home in Springfield on its original foundation.

The October 18 program is free. Attendees will be able to take a brief tour of the Edwards Place house which was built in 1833 by Thomas Houghan. It was bought by Benjamin and Helen Dodge Edwards in 1843.

Benjamin Edwards was the son of Ninian Edwards, the first territorial governor of Illinois. His older brother, also named Ninian, was married to Elizabeth Todd, the older sister of

Mary Todd Lincoln. The Lincolns were occasional visitors to the house. Eventually enlarged by the Edwards to contain 15 rooms, the house and its



**MEETING SITES:** Edwards Place (above) and Pioneer Park) will host the Society’s October meetings.

grounds were the site of numerous political and social events during the Lincoln era.

The Edwards family occupied the home until Helen Edwards's death in 1909. Four years later, Alice Edwards Ferguson donated Edwards Place to the newly-formed Springfield Art Association for use as gallery and classroom space.

Edwards Place is located at 700 North Fourth Street, Springfield.

The second Society program, “Old Settlers Day Revisited,” is slated for Saturday, October 22, starting at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Park at the Sugar Creek Covered Bridge. The event, which draws its inspiration from an Old Settlers Society celebration that started in 1859, will include dinner, music, an old-fashioned dessert auction and a presentation by Dick Hart about the early pioneers of Sangamon County. Pioneer Park is about 4.5 miles south of Chatham off Covered Bridge Road. (See map, page 6).

The dinner, provided by Secret Recipe, is \$15 for members, \$18 for guests (checks must be received no later than October 15) or \$20 for all at the gate. (See page 7 for a reservation form).

Traditional patriotic music and wine will welcome event-goers, with dinner music provided by Bill Furry

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**PRIZE WINNER:** The Society’s own board member, Donna Catlin (right), won third prize for her photo skills in last month’s *History through the Arts* art competition that drew nearly three dozen entries to the September 9 and 10 event. Like the other winners—first place recipient Tracy Maras of Dawson and second prize winner William Crook Jr. of Springfield—Catlin’s work was displayed at the Old State Capitol through October 15. For more photos of the event, all snapped by Catlin, see page 5.





NANCY  
CHAPIN

You'll read elsewhere about the success of the Art in History events, but I want to take this opportunity to **thank** those who really stepped up and made it work!

Vicky Whitaker was invaluable throughout and a source of great help and of great counsel! Roger Whitaker, Bette Franke, Katie and John Huther manned the art competition; Lisa and Paul Mueller, Claire Eberle and Sharon Miner, Mary Blumle and Jackie Jackson manned the SCHS table, and Susie and Charlie Hammond, Mary Alice Davis, Margaret Van Meter, Veronica Betts, Bob and Pat Davis all took on special assignments, while Marion Leach even took a "tour" of Decatur as part of her contribution! Thanks to all of you!!

You'll find some of Donna Catlin's fantastic pictures of the event on our Facebook page. Check them out and vote on which ones you really like! You can view the award winners in the State Library at the Old

State Capitol through October 15.

You may have noted that we have lined up double programs this month. We had planned on featuring the just the "Old Settlers Day" picnic as the "return to our roots" segment of our 50th Anniversary celebration. But then we learned of a program featuring both the past and perhaps the future of Edwards Place and felt that it was important enough to put on the schedule immediately. I hope you will come and bring your friends to the Edwards Place on the 18th of October!

But don't miss the "Old Settlers Day" picnic! Don Springer and his committee have put together a wonderful program of music, an auction, supper and speeches to commemorate our roots. You won't want to miss that either! So we look forward to seeing you twice this month!

## Nancy



**MEMORIES:** Members of the Sangamon County Historical Society turned out in force back in 1964 for the dedication of Pioneer Park. Located near the Sugar Creek covered bridge, the seven acre park was created by the Society near the site of a cabin built in 1817 by Robert Pulliam, Sangamon County's first settler. In 1858, Pulliam and other early settlers became the focus of an Old Settlers Day picnic that included speeches and music. The Society will be recreating that event when it gathers at Pioneer Park on Saturday, October 22 as part of its 50th anniversary celebration.



**Historico**, published 10 times a year, is the monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Back issues are always available on-line in PDF format at our website, [www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org). We are in the process of redesigning our website. Look for more information in the future. Event updates also can be found on our **Facebook** page ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) and **Twitter**. ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)). Log in and search for *Sangamon County Historical Society*.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor



## *Jobs, Desserts, a Good Buy...and a Goodbye*

### **Volunteers needed**

Some of you have been great about putting your name on a general volunteer list, but now we are asking for volunteers for a couple of specific jobs: we need volunteers to be on the Hospitality Committee, of which Linda Bee is chair, and to provide refreshments for a program meeting some time between now and next April; and we need volunteers to serve on the book selling part of the Publications Committee who would be willing to be book sellers at some meeting or another between now and next April. If you are willing to serve on one or both, please call the office: schsoffice@gmail.com or call 217-525-1961...and many thanks in advance!

### **Desserts for Old Settlers' Day**

We need delicious looking desserts for two people to be brought to the Old Settlers' Day picnic on October 22 at Pioneer Park. We have Bill Gaule, auctioneer extraordinaire, to auction off the desserts (just like they did in the musical, *Oklahoma!*) We don't need whole pies worth of desserts; only half pies, as no one is trying to feed a big family, but we do need desserts that will feed perhaps two and make everyone else want to bid on them. We assume no beau (even if married 50 years) would want someone else to outbid him for his 'girl's' dessert, so we think this will be fun. If you have questions, please call or email the office! Desserts will need to be on hand at the picnic by 4:30 p.m. so they can be admired and cause mouths to water!

### **What a Deal!!**

During the month of October we will be selling copies of *Springfield Memories II* for just \$15 each!! This special price will be good only for the month of October. After that the price will return to the \$30 members/\$40 non-member level. The final book in this series, to be entitled *Springfield Memories*, is scheduled to be available in November. Copies of *SM II* can be picked up at the office, but please call before coming: 217-525-1961.

### **Membership**

Unfortunately we still have about 100 members who have not renewed their membership this year. Our by-laws limit us to carrying them for just four months, and that period is up. This is the last *Historico* non-renewed members will receive. If there is a red, mark on page 7 with message that your dues are due, our records indicate you haven't yet paid your dues for the current year, which began in June. If there is no red stamp on your page 7, our records indicate you have paid, and we thank you.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President**.....Nancy Chapin  
**Vice-President**.....Vicki Megginson  
**Secretary**.....Carolyn Moore  
**Treasurer**.....Paul R. Mueller  
**Past President**.....David Scott

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **Term Ending June 2012**

James H. Beaumont  
 Donna Catlin  
 Jacqueline Jackson  
 Ruth Slottag  
 Roger Whitaker

#### **Term Ending 2013**

Linda Bee  
 Bruce Beeman  
 Claire Eberle  
 Elaine Hoff  
 Carolyn Oxtoby

#### **Term Ending 2014**

Mary Alice Davis  
 Kathy Hoffmann  
 Brenda J. Holmes  
 Doug Polite

### **OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP/ DONATIONS REPORT**

*The Society welcomes the following new members:*

**Sandy Pecori  
 Marge Deffenbaugh  
 Veronica and James Betts**

*And extends its appreciation to the following donors:*

**Caroline Oxtoby  
 Wally and Brynn Henderson  
 Doris Prather  
 Sue and Kent Massie**

### Mayor's Awards for Historic Preservation October 10

Springfield's Historic Sites Commission holds its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Awards for Historic Preservation celebration on Monday, October 10 at historic Edwards Place, headquarters of the Springfield Art Association, 700 North Fourth Street. The event begins at 5:30 with the awards ceremony at 6 p.m. For reservations, call Steve Meyers at 217-747-0019 or purchase tickets at the door for \$15 per person.

### Historic Preservation Fundraiser October 13

The Historic Preservation Fund of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln will hold a fundraiser on Thursday, October 13 to continue to build the Fund endowment that started a few years ago. The event will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Inn at 835 at 835 South Second Street, Springfield. The suggested minimum contribution is \$25. For tickets, call board member Karen Conn at 217-523-4466. The organization, headed by Paul O'Shea, hopes to make its first grant distribution in 2012 to assist nonprofit organizations, businesses and individuals engaging in historic preservation projects in Springfield. The grants could be used for the rehabilitation, renovation and upkeep of historic properties or for properties with certain historic, economic development or community value. In addition to O'Shea and Conn, members of the board are Justin Blandford, Bruce Ferry, and Carolyn Oxtoby.

### Centennial Awards to Two Sangamon County Institutions

Two Sangamon County entities, both in Springfield, were among 40 Illinois profit and non-profit businesses and organizations honored last month by the Illinois State Historical Society. The annual Centennial Awards reception was held on September 24 at the Executive Mansion in Springfield. The awards recognize businesses and for the first time, agencies, that have done business in the state for 100 years or more. The two Sangamon County honorees were City Water Light & Power, Springfield which was created in 1911 and St John's Hospital School of Nursing, Springfield, which was founded in 1886. "One hundred years ago on a frigid January day, the citizens of Springfield approved a special referendum that changed the course of the city's history. On that day, voters elected a commission form of government that created the Department of Public Property-later the Department of Public Utilities-the public utility now known as City Water, Light & Power," "noted William Furry, executive director of the 113-year-old historical society. "Led by visionary commissioner Willis Spaulding, the city developed a progressive, publicly owned municipal water and electrical company that successfully battled lawsuits and droughts, and provided safe water and electricity to thousands of citizens in Springfield and Sangamon County. Today CWLP continues to be a leader in the utility business, making efficient and environmental improvements to its power plants, and finding alternative ways to provide low-cost energy to its customers." In 1886, the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis founded St. John's Hospital School of Nursing.. Initially the school was created as a two-year diploma program to educate members of the founding religious order. In 1912, St. John's accepted the first lay women, and that same year received formal licensing from the state of Illinois. A liberal arts program was added, and affiliations with DePaul University, Quincy College, and Springfield College in Illinois followed. Today St. John's College graduates earn the Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing, and wear the pin of the oldest, Catholic, hospital-based school of nursing in the nation. The ISHS Centennial Awards program began in 1984 as a way to identify and recognize Illinois corporations that were founded here and continue to operate in the Prairie State.

### Attendance Doubles

## Arts Through

The Sangamon County Historical Society's celebration of "The Arts Through History Event" on September 9 and 10 at the Old State Capitol was a great success!

"Some 145 people attended the opening reception on Friday night to congratulate the winners of the art competition and hear author Steve Berry, who turned out to be a super star speaker!, noted Society president Nancy Chapin.

About 600 people came through the Old State Capitol on Saturday, about double what they might expect on Saturday in September, Old State Capitol representatives reported, "so from beginning to end we deemed the new endeavor a success," Chapin said.

"The art community seemed to embrace an opportunity to explore a new venue. There were 35 entries in the art competition and another 30 artisans demonstrating their talent on Saturday throughout the Old State Capitol," she added.

The Old State Capitol and the OSC Foundation are excited about a repeat for next year, "but for that to come to fruition we need some real leadership from the historical society," Chapin pointed out.

"We need someone to be responsible for the art competition; someone to be responsible for the artisans; someone to coordinate the not-for-profit organizations and someone to be responsible for our end of the reception. This is in addition to sponsorships, publicity reservations, volunteers and a host of other details. These are all fun and rewarding jobs, but someone needs to step up and take responsibility for each of them." If you would be willing to take on one or more of them, please call the Society office.

# History a Success, Repeat Depends on You



THERE was lots to see and do at the Old State Capitol on Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10 including viewing the entries in the Society's History Through the Arts competition in the downstairs gallery (at left), listening to author Steve Berry discuss his work in a presentation in the same room where Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech, (below left and center) and manning the Society's information table on Saturday as artisans from around the area demonstrated their skills. Attendance at the Old State Capitol doubled that of a typical September Saturday. Below, works by the three winners of the art competition that are on display at the Old State Capitol Library through October 15. For a look at more entries in the competition, visit the Society's Facebook site and let us know which ones you like!



*Photos by Donna Catlin*

# Two Major Programs Set For October

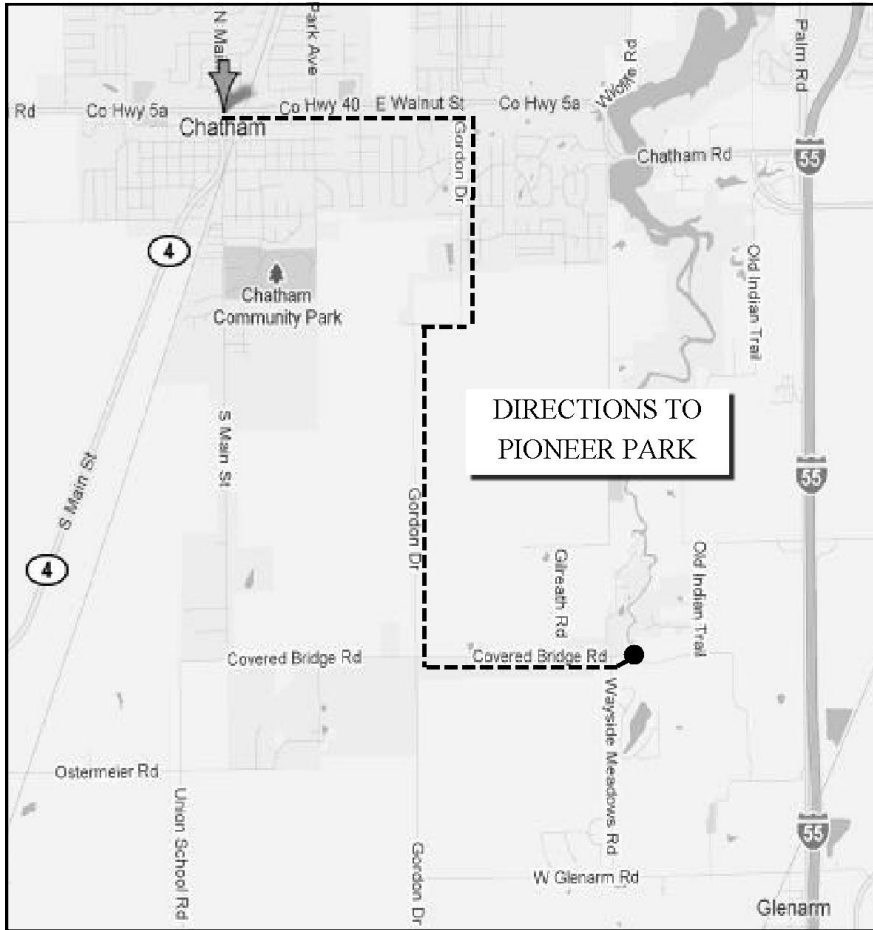
(Continued from page 1)

and his trio.

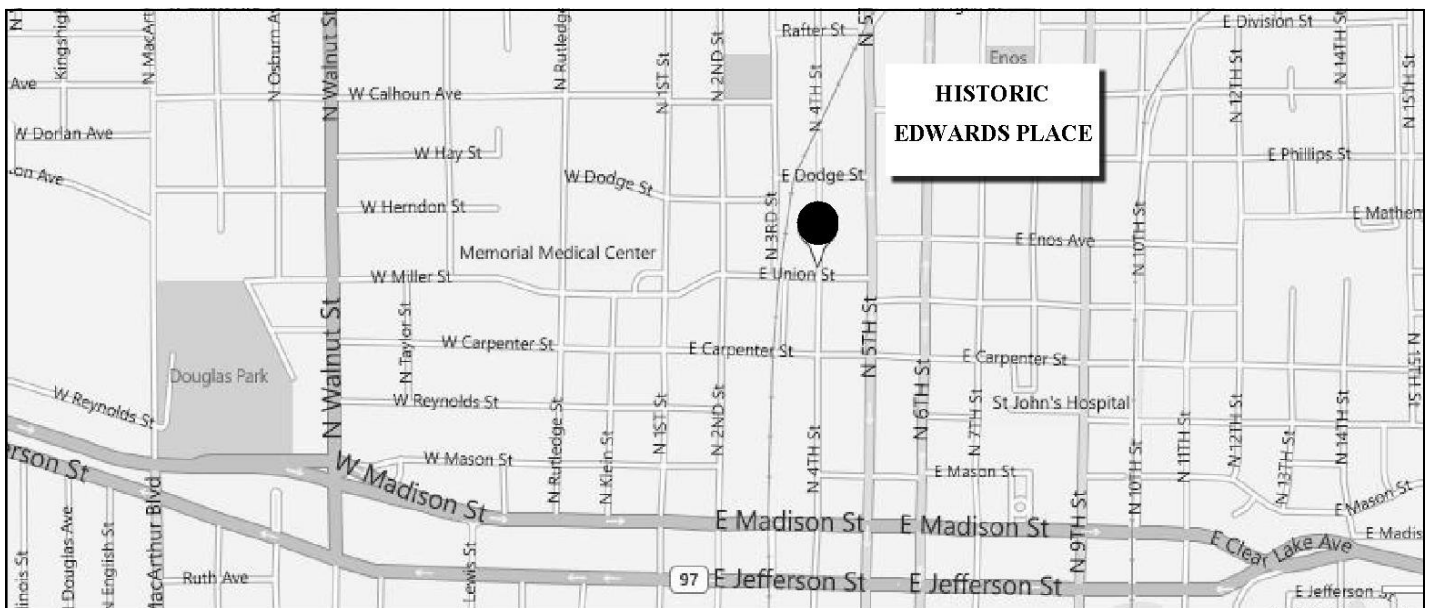
The "Old Settlers Day Revisited" site is close to where Sangamon County's first settler, Robert Pulliam,

chose to raise a cabin in 1817. That the Pulliam cabin.

event was initially acknowledged in the event of rain, "Old Settlers Day Revisited" will be held at the Old Settlers Society gathered to Pawnee Village Covered Pavilion in the spring of 1859 when members of Day Revisited" the Pawnee village square off Route 104, a few miles east of Route I-55.



**THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS to get to Pioneer Park observes event chairman Don Springer, who with committee members Elaine Hoff, Terry Jones, Don Polite, and Dick Hart, planned the October 22 event. He recommends taking Route 4 (Veterans Parkway) south from Springfield to Walnut Street (Route 40) in Chatham. Make a left onto Walnut and proceed east to Gordon Drive. Make a right on Gordon and head south approximately 2.7 miles to the stop sign. At that point you will meet Covered Bridge Road. Make a left and head east on Covered Bridge Road 1.3 miles to Pioneer Park.**





*Join in Our Continuing 50th Year Celebration!*

RESERVE NOW FOR

# OLD SETTLER'S DAY REVISITED

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 4:30 P.M.

PICNIC AT PIONEER PARK

FOOD, FUN, MUSIC, HISTORY PLUS A DESSERT AUCTION!

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_ TICKETS (at \$15 for members, \$18 for guests).

Your check **MUST** be received no later than October 15. Tickets purchased after that date or at the door will be \$20 per person.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society and mailed to the Society at 123 South Seventh Street, Suite 402, Springfield, IL 62701.

## 2011-2012 Membership Renewal Form

*Please renew my membership for 2011-2012 in the Sangamon County Historical Society.*

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

**Category of Membership: (Please circle)**

*Household: \$25 Sustaining Household: \$100 Life Membership Household (one-time payment of \$700)*

*Not-for-Profit Organization, \$20 Corporate (Please contact us for details).*

Checks should be made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society and mailed to the Society at 123 South Seventh Street, Suite 402, Springfield, IL 62701.

**Sangamon County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 1834,  
Springfield, IL 62705  
*Return Service Requested*

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

## SCHS CALENDAR

**Tuesday, October 18, 7 p.m. *Historic Edwards Place.*** Springfield Art Association. Erika Holst, curator of Association's collections, will discuss the building's colorful history including the result of recent archeological studies. Refreshments and a tour will follow. Free.

**Saturday, October 22: "Old Settler's Day Revisited"** Picnic, Program, and Music. Pioneer Park, Chatham, 4:30 p.m. See page 7 for reservation form. See page 6 for rain location.

**Tuesday November 15, *Talk & Tour,*** Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, Springfield, 5:30 p.m. Illinois Audubon Society exec director Tom Clay on the post settlement history of the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary and Margery Adams and her ancestors. Details in the November *Historico*.

**Tuesday, December 13: *50th Anniversary Gala Celebration,*** Strawbridge House, Springfield. Details in the November *Historico*.

## Lectures, Halloween Fun for Local History Fans

The Society encourages our members to support local historical associations in their efforts to promote the area's rich history. To that end, here's some other history-related events coming in the weeks ahead:

**October 13: "Lincoln and the Civil War."** 7 p.m., Brookens Auditorium at the University of Illinois, Springfield, free. Dr. Michael Burlingame, the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at UIS and Dr. Lucas E. Morel, Lewis G. Term Professor of Politics and Washington and Lee University, will be guest speakers

at the event, the 2011 Lincoln Legacy Lecture. The program is sponsored by the Center for State Policy and Leadership at UIS in cooperation with the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair

in Lincoln Studies. For more information call 206-7163

**October 14-15 "Clayville Carnival of Carnage, Haunted House and Hayride,"** 8 p.m. to 11

p.m. Admission \$5 for Haunted House, \$5 for Haunted Hayride or \$8 for both. For additional information about scare-free activities for children (lights on, no active scaring) on **October 14, October 22, and October 29,** go to <http://www.clayville.org>.

**October 21-22 "Clayville Carnival of Carnage, Haunted House and Hayride,"** 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

**October 28-29 "Clayville Carnival of Carnage, Haunted House and Hayride,"** 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

**December 10, *Clayville Christmas.*** For information, go to <http://www.clayville.org>

