



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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JUNE, 2012

Peter Cartwright Returns to Pleasant Plains, Clayville Your Next Stop

Society's Annual Dinner A Two-Fold Treat: See and Hear a Piece of County History, Then Dine in a Unique Setting

The Sangamon County Historical Society will hold its annual dinner meeting on Thursday, June 21 in two segments, the sites of which will give you a flavor of what life was like in Sangamon County in the mid-1800s.

The Society's annual dinners traditionally include remarks by the person who served as president 10 years earlier. Sally Cadagin, who led the organization from 2001 to 2002, will this year be hostess of this special two-phase event that will begin at the Cartwright Methodist Church in Pleasant Plains at 5:30 p.m. where you'll learn more about this colorful, traveling preacher who became a political thorn in Abraham Lincoln's life. The church has a special Cartwright exhibit that you'll be able to view.

Don't be surprised if you hear Rev-

erend Cartwright give one of his hell-fire and brimstone-- albeit short-- sermons. He's scheduled to appear at 5:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. to "save our souls." When Cadagin later speaks at the annual meeting, she'll provide some additional insights into Cartwright's world.

At 6 p.m., you can start heading over to Clayville for refreshments and a view of silent auction items before sitting down to dinner at the historic Broadwell Inn. A buffet, prepared by Carol Frasse, begins at 7 p.m. followed by the annual meeting.

It is suggested that members drive out the Old Jacksonville Road and go through Berlin (Old) to the four way stop a mile west at the Pleasant Plains Road (County Road 10) and turn north. Proceed north about seven miles to the

Pleasant Plains cemetery (the road curves around the cemetery) and enter



BROADWELL Inn at Clayville.

for the Cartwright memorial site. An interpreter will be at the gravesite. Then proceed on to Pleasant Plains and turn left for one block on Church Street to the Peter Cartwright Methodist Church on the right.

After the sermon again proceed north on County Road 10 to Route 125. Turn right and go east about one mile to Clayville.

Members to Vote on New Officers, Board at Annual Meeting

Members of the Sangamon County Historical Society will be voting on new officers and board members at the organization's annual meeting on Thursday, June 21 in Clayville.

The proposed slate of offi-

cers is: **Roger Whitaker**, president; **Claire Eberle**, vice-president; **Mary Alice Davis**, secretary; and **Richard Hern-don**, treasurer.

Whitaker, a resident of Jerome, is completing his third

year on the board. He served as chairman of the Finance Committee for the past year and previously served on the Program Committee. He is a Life Member of the Society.

An electronics engineer, he

is a native of Virginia, Illinois and holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri. Whitaker served on the board of the Illinois Foundation for Frontier Studies and

(Continued on page 5)

INSIDE

- On-Line Directory in the Offing.....3
- History Through the Arts II Taking Shape.....6
- Revealing Edwards Place Secrets.....8



Lincoln History for Power Farms Tour Takers
Page 4



Saluting Springfield's Lithuanian Community
Page 6



NANCY

Time to Say Thanks and Look to a Bright Future

As this will be my last note, I would really like to say thank you to those who have helped me figure out how to do lots of things I had no idea how to do when I started out in 2002 as the *Historico* editor.

At the time I knew very little about the society or of newsletter editing. Then board member Barbara Mason, now deceased, had talked me into taking on the *Historico* and was a super support those first years.

It was she who suggested that she and I continue on with the cemetery walks when the board decided they no longer wished to support them. And I give Barbara the credit for talking me into putting together the program booklets for her to sell in addition to the Barringer booklets she was already hawking.

She was a super salesman, and her concept of our making our own was great - publications brought in over \$3,000 this year!!

Kathryn Harris and Pat Davis put in long hours preparing a special production of the play, "Having Our Say" for us to use as a fundraiser. I had absolutely no knowledge of how to market such an endeavor, and was most grateful to Katie Spindell for her help in seeing that we got that job done.

Then we somehow found ourselves putting out a book featuring stories written by descendants of those buried at Oak Ridge in support of their 150th anniversary. It would really have been an impossible task to put all those disparate stories together into a coherent form without the untiring support of Janice Petterchak who edited them for us, or Gil Pilapil who was totally responsible for keeping us straight on where we were on that project!

Those challenges were fun, but the challenge to the society created by losing the support of Curtis Mann and of Mary Marada and Theresa Power of Robinson's has been difficult to overcome.

I believe we have, however, and are on the verge of a really bright and stimulating future! Our Executive Coordinator, Sam Wheeler has proved to be an enthusiastic and innovative force and the new web site, with the capability for maintaining our records and keeping our membership informed and active, is exciting.

Your help will be needed often and in new ways, at this exciting juncture.

Many thanks to you all for your support!!

Nancy



Historico, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, www.sangamonhistory.org.

Event updates also can be found on our **Facebook** page (www.facebook.com) and **Twitter** (www.twitter.com). Log in and search for *Sangamon County Historical Society*.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor

Society's New Website a Focal Point for Events, Membership; Members-Only Online Directory to be Introduced This Month

Have you signed in and signed up to use the Society's new website, www.sangamonhistory.org?

"We are hoping as many of you as possible will sign on to the website and use it to renew your membership, sign up for events, etc. The website will be a great asset to us, *if* people will use it," notes Society president Nancy Chapin. "You can pay for memberships, events and make contributions easily if you will just establish your membership profile by creating a password."

And, she points out, "You can make payments with any credit card or a PayPal account if you have one. The records of all transactions that occur on the site are wonderfully detailed for our accounting records and therefore a great help to the Society. It will be a tremendous help to our Treasurer if you will renew online and sign up

and pay for the annual meeting online."

If you have an e-mail address and have not received any e-mails from the Society lately, it is likely that we do not have your correct e-mail address. If that is the case, please e-mail schsmembers@gmail.com using the e-mail account you wish us to use. "But we do have to tell you that if you do not have an e-mail address or absolutely refuse to try our website's capabilities, we do still want you! There is a form on the insert in this issue of *Historico* where you can renew, donate and make a reservation for the annual meeting," Chapin says.

When the new website was being established, someone indicated that there must not be any member information on it available to anyone. However, now that the site is up and running, we realize that membership information availability to members is one of the site's most valuable capabilities. If you have not yet signed on to the website, you have not been made aware of the existence of a members' button, but once you:

- 1) fill in your email address.
- 2) click on 'forgot password'
- 3) follow the instructions to establish a password, you will be able to access members' names and send them an e-mail.

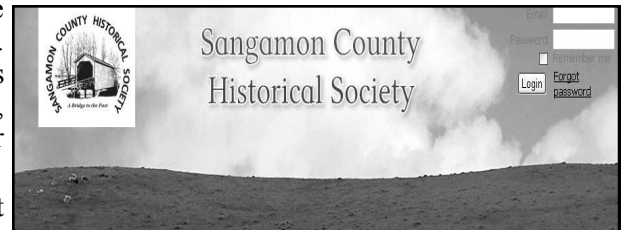
Currently the only contact you have with any other member is to send them an e-mail, if they have one. However it has become apparent that board and committee members often need to contact each other and various members for one reason or another. Therefore the board has voted to provide addresses and phone numbers of members on the site that will be available only to other members.

If there is any member uncomfortable with having their address and phone number available to other members of the Society, please 'opt out' by e-mail to: schsmembers@gmail.com or leave a message on the answering machine at (217) 525-1961 **prior to June 15** after which addresses and phone numbers will be made available to members.

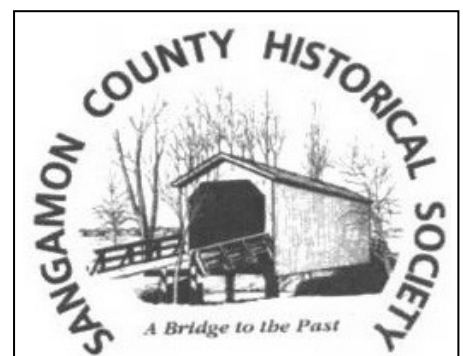
JUNE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Sangamon County Historical Society is pleased to add the following new regular members to its ranks:

- Bryon Andreasen**
- Dave and Jan Brady**
- Craig Farmer**
- Dan Usherwood**
- Joan Walters**



NEW LOOK: The Society's new website offers members greater flexibility to register and pay for events and membership. A membership directory is also coming online this month. See story for details.



OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

Term Ending June 2012

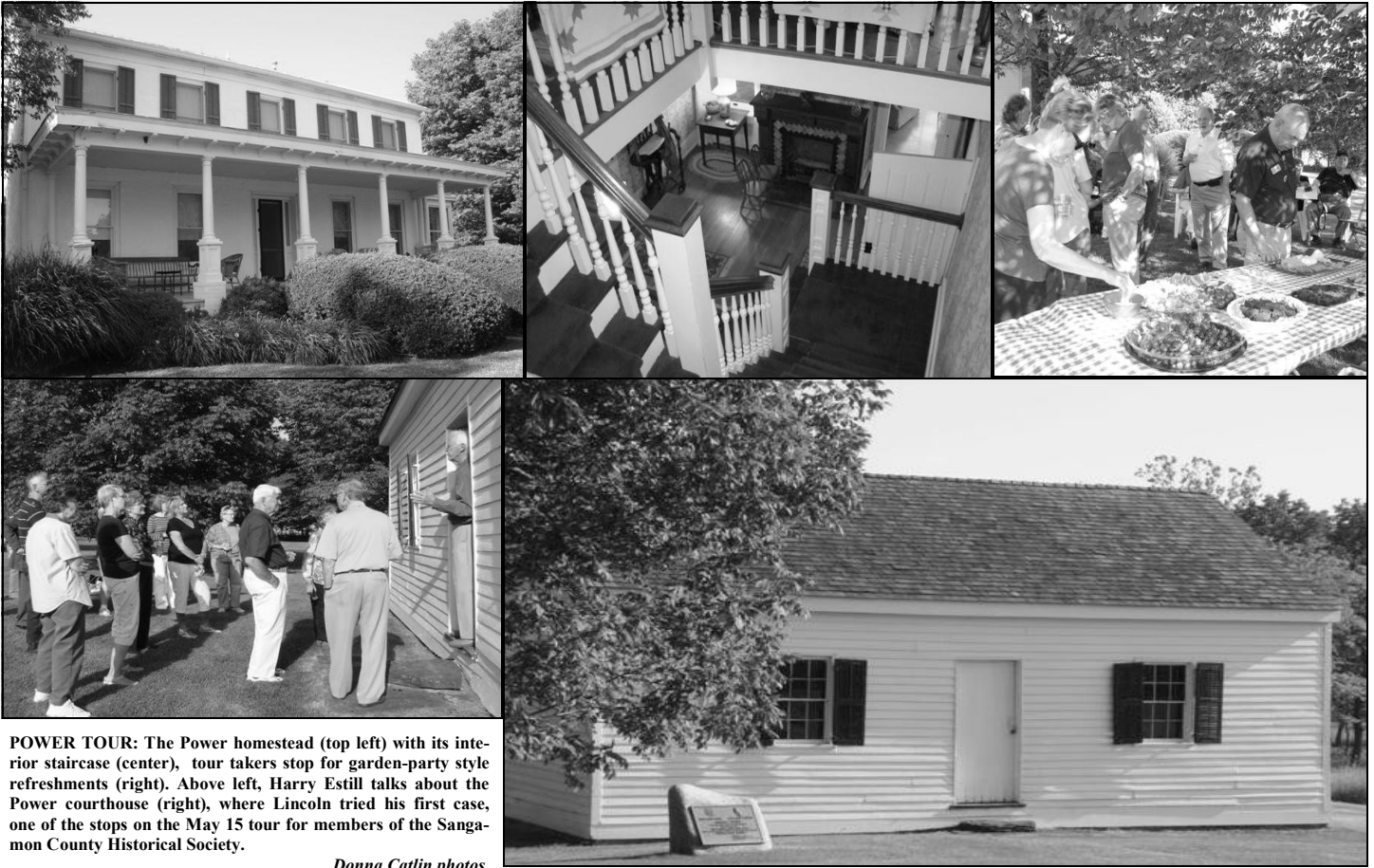
- James H. Beaumont
- Donna Catlin
- Jacqueline Jackson
- Ruth Slottag
- Roger Whitaker

Term Ending 2013

- Linda Bee
- Bruce Beeman
- Claire Eberle
- Elaine Hoff

Term Ending 2014

- Mary Alice Davis
- Patricia Davis
- Kathy Hoffmann
- Brenda J. Holmes
- Doug Polite



POWER TOUR: The Power homestead (top left) with its interior staircase (center), tour takers stop for garden-party style refreshments (right). Above left, Harry Estill talks about the Power courthouse (right), where Lincoln tried his first case, one of the stops on the May 15 tour for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Donna Catlin photos.

Power Farms Tour Participants Get First-Hand Look at Agricultural, Political Past

Nearly 200 years and five generations ago, George and Nancy Wilcockson Power created a Sangamon County farm to withstand time.

It has.

Members and guests of the Sangamon County Historical Society can attest to that after being treated to an exciting evening tour of the Power Farms near Cantrall on May 15. The current owners, Harry and Suzy Estill, invited the Society to visit their farm and to learn many interesting facts about its historical operation.

Mother Nature cooperated by providing perfect weather for the tour and the lovely garden party amidst the southern mansion setting and beautiful Victorian porches. The group split into about three smaller groups touring different areas of the property, with the Estills sharing many facts about their previous generations operating this large farm.

In 1820 Harry Estill's ancestor, George Power married his wife Nancy Wilcockson in Bath County, Kentucky. In the fall of 1821 they moved to the now Sangamon County area of the country to join their English family members who had begun

settling in this area. Power built the present home in 1855 where one of the three tours began, among them Society member and photographer Donna Catlin who took the photos on this page.

"Harry and Suzy shared many facts about their previous generations operating this large farm," noted Catlin. "George Power served in the Black Hawk War and later studied law. In 1828 Governor Ninian Edwards appointed Power as a justice of the peace. He was reappointed by four subsequent governors and none of his cases were ever reversed by a higher court," Catlin learned.

George Power also was a friend of Abraham Lincoln. Around 1835, Lincoln represented a client in front of justice of the peace George Power in the same small two room house that the members of SCHS toured. This house today is known as the "Power Courthouse" or sometimes the "Lincoln House." It is one of the remaining historical buildings from the Abraham Lincoln era. A plaque outside the building explains its significance.

"Just seeing the Power Courthouse

would have been the highlight of the evening, but our hosts shared even more surprises with us giving us a lovely tour through the Power home and out buildings.

The views from the Victorian porches were breathtaking. Inside the home we were in awe of the construction, fireplaces, the beautiful floors and some of the furniture that remains from days gone by," said Catlin, adding that "the design of the Power home is wonderful. The lane going back to the homestead was truly an adventure to travel. Just imagine riding horseback through these beautiful meadows and woods." The group also learned that in 1860 Senator Stephen A. Douglas stopped overnight at the Power Farms.

"The George and Nancy Wilcockson Power Family has truly played a major part of history in Sangamon County and the members of SCHS on this tour were given the opportunity to learn just a small bit of the importance of their role our local history. We can each be grateful that the Power Family decided on moving to Sangamon County in 1821 rather than remaining in Bath County, Kentucky," Catlin pointed out.

Society to Elect New Officers, Board Members

(Continued from page 1)

is a member of several history-related organizations including the Illinois State Historical Society, the Cass County Historical Society. He is also on the committee developing the Society's Sangamon County On-Line Historical Encyclopedia and serves as Cass County, Illinois manager for genealogy-trails.com.

A ham radio operator and a 55-year member of the American Radio Relay League, Whitaker served as a radio operator aboard Project Hope's hospital ship in Tunis, Tunisia and is in his third year as vice-president of the Sangamon Valley Radio Club. He has worked as a commercial radio engineer and professional photographer and for the past six years, designed and provided entertainment area sound services for the annual Festival of Trees.

Claire Eberle **vice-president**

A resident of Springfield, Eberle recently retired as deputy director of the Illinois General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. She had been with JCAR since 1987. On the Senate president's staff from 1976 to 1978, she was a member of the legislative intern class of 1975. Last year, she was inducted into the Samuel K. Gove Illinois Legislative Internship Hall of Fame.

Mary Alice Davis **secretary**

Davis holds a bachelor of arts degree from Denison University, Ohio and taught for four years before co-owning a children's clothing store for 10 years. She has also co-owned a chain of fast food stores for 35 years. She served on the board of the Old State Capitol Foundation, is chair of the Illinois State Museum Society Board and a past vice-president of the Land of Lincoln Girl Scout Council board.

Richard Herndon **treasurer**

Herndon, of Springfield, has historical connections in Springfield dating back to the European settlement in the area

notably including Washington Iles (brother of Elijah Iles), Sarah Hanley Keyes (the first casualty of the Donner and Reed expedition), Obed Lewis (carriage maker of Abraham Lincoln), and Henson Robinson (founder of Henson Robinson Co., fabricator of tinware for Civil War troops). He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Lawrence University in Wisconsin and a masters in business administration from Washington University in St. Louis. Herndon worked for SIU School of Medicine for 30 years, most recently as Pharmacology Department Business Manager. He enjoys local history architecture and is a proficient amateur photographer.

BOARD NOMINEES:

Donna Catlin

Though born in Springfield and raised in Sherman, in 1961 Catlin made the first of what would become several moves across the nation and around the world as the wife of a career Navy man. Throughout those years Sherman and its history stayed close to her heart. When she returned 20 years ago, she plunged into researching the area's history. Today she is the Village of Sherman's official historian. A skilled and award winning photographer, Catlin is active in many community organizations including the North County Teen Court. Elected to the Society board in 2010 to fill a one-year vacancy, her new term will run through 2015.

Les Eastep

A resident here since 1937, Eastep has traveled extensively in Asia, Israel, Mexico, Central and South America and Canada. He served as a board member of Sparc, Lincoln Land Community College Foundation, Temple B'rith Shalom, and Springfield Jewish Federation. He is currently involved with Academy of Life Long Learning at LLCC, Habitat for Humanity and is Deputy State Coordinator and instructor/trainer for AARP Driver Safety Program. He will serve a three-year term on the board, through 2015.

David Grimm

Raised in Washington, Illinois, Grimm, a resident of Sherman, is a graduate of Illinois State University with a bachelor and master degree in English. He taught English and history at Mason City High School and later at Illini Central High School from 1972 until his retirement in 2000. He serves on the board of the Sherman Public Library and is a volunteer at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Logan McMinn

A career Army officer, McMinn spent 22 years traveling world-wide before returning to his Springfield roots. A 1962 graduate of Springfield High School, McMinn earned a bachelor of science degree from Iowa State University in 1967, majoring in forestry before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served about 16 months in Vietnam as a public affairs and combat photographer. After 22 years of Army service, he retired with the rank of Sergeant Major, turning to work as a television production director with Gardy-McGrath Television Productions in Fairfax, Virginia from 1990 to 2001. He did free-lance still photographer from until his retirement in 2007. A Sustaining Member of the Society, he will fill a vacancy on the board, a two-year term ending in 2014.

Ruth Slottag

Slottag, of Springfield, has more than 20 years experience in the public relations and communications industry and currently works at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Public Affairs Office. Previously she was Public Relations Director of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and Community and Media Relations Manager at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Slottag chairs the Springfield Commission on International Visitors, is on the Family Service Center board and is a past president of the Central Illinois Public Relations Society of America. She is a member of Illinois Women in

Leadership, Daughters of the American Revolution and formerly on the Springfield Area Arts Council. Elected to the Society board in 2010 to fill a one-year vacancy, her new term will run through 2015.

Francie D. Staggs

A resident of Springfield since 1988, Staggs holds a bachelor of arts in history from Sangamon State University and a master of arts in history from the University of Illinois. In 2011 she received the University of Illinois Alumni Humanitarian Award for significant contributions of leadership to improve the lives of others and the welfare of humanity. Staggs volunteers her time on behalf of numerous organizations including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Old State Capitol Historic Site, Elijah Iles House, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and the University of Illinois Alumni Association. She is a member of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. She will serve a three-year term on the board, ending in 2015.

Vicky Katz Whitaker

A New York City native, Whitaker moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1999, retiring as State University of New York at Stony Brook's chief spokesperson. A former daily business reporter and later managing editor of New York State's largest weekly newspaper chain, she holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Hofstra. Whitaker was on the Society of Professional Journalists national board for 10 years, was president of the Press Club of Long Island and vice-president of the Deadline Club, New York City. In Springfield, she was on the Springfield Area Arts Council board and the Association of Women Journalists. A member and past chair, Sangamon Auditorium Advisory Board, she also co-chairs the Festival of Trees entertainment committee. A Life Member, Whitaker is editor of *Historico*. She will fill a vacancy on the board ending in 2014.



UNVEILED: At left, Illinois State Historical Society executive director Bill Furry (right rear) gets a hand in revealing a new ISHS marker (photo, at right) that tells the story of Springfield's Lithuanian community whose center of activity during the early part of the 20th century was at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in Enos Park. The church closed in 1971 and was later demolished. A tour of homes in the historic area followed the dedication ceremony.

History Through Arts Event September 7,8

*Emmy Award Winning
Producer to Speak*

Summer may be officially around the corner, but for the committee planning the Society's "Sangamon County History Through the Arts II" celebration, September is coming up fast. The two-day event, Friday, September 7 and Saturday, September 8 at the Old State Capitol, will help kick off the Society's fall meeting series.

The Friday night ticketed event last year featured best-selling author Steve Berry and a pre-public preview of entries in an art competition focusing on the county's historic sites. This year, the Friday evening program will include screening "*Lincoln, Prelude to the Presidency*" produced by Emmy award-winning documentary maker Alison Davis Wood, who will be on hand to discuss her work as part of a post-show panel of experts discussing documentary filmmaking.

Wood, a Springfield native, has been producing nationally acclaimed documentaries for more than a decade. A reception, catered by Carol Frasse, will include prize presentations to winners of the art competition. Members of area historical organizations will be invited to attend the Friday program that will be jointly hosted by the Society and the Old State Capitol Foundation.

On Saturday, the committee, headed by co-chairs Mary Alice Davis and Vicky Whitaker, will mix local artisans, musicians, and performers with displays by local history organizations, mini workshops, children's activities, and the art exhibit. The free, family-oriented Saturday program, indoors, will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Marker Dedicated to Lithuanians of Springfield; For Society Member, Event Has Special Meaning

Sangamon County Historical Society member Donna Catlin was among those attending a special ceremony in Springfield on May 19 for the unveiling of a historic marker erected by the Illinois State Historical Society and dedicated the "Lithuanians of Springfield."

The new marker, between Seventh, Eighth and Enterprise streets in the historic Enos Park residential area, is near the original site of St. Vincent De Paul's Catholic Church that for 63 years was the focus of Lithuanian language and identity in Springfield. Several thousand Lithuanians arrived in masse at the turn of the 20th century during Sangamon County's coal boom, fleeing political and religious repression, conscription, poverty and a total ban on their language in the Czarist Russian Empire. By 1917, the church had 1,200 Sunday worshippers. It closed in 1971 and was later demolished.

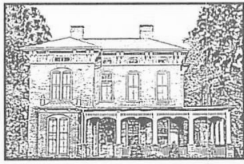
Catlin, whose aunt was a member of the congregation, called the event "truly a grand day of celebration." The ceremony, which drew a large crowd, included singing the Lithuanian national hymn and remarks by Ted Gietl, representing the Lithuanian-American Club of Central Illinois; Springfield Mayor Mike Houston; U.S. Congressman John Shimkus; Leslie Sgro, Springfield Park District president; and Stuart Fliege, ISHS trustee. Sangamon County Historical Society member Bill Furry, Executive Director of the Illinois State Historical Society, coordinated the event.

"Lithuanian families have played such a major part in Springfield and Sangamon County," Catlin noted. "At the end of the program, guests were invited to place a flower at the marker in memory of a deceased Springfield Lithuanian-American friend or relative," she added.

"After the dedication, we were invited to take a special tour of the lovely homes in the Enos Park, an area that at one time was known as the '*Jewel of Springfield*'. Steve Combs, President of the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, was our guide along with students from Robert Morris College who prepared Podcasts to follow along with the history on the walking tour. We learned many interesting facts about the St. Vincent de Paul Lithuanian Catholic Church that was formerly located at the corner of 8th and Enos Streets.

"We were transported back in time to the 1800s and later learning of area families such as the Hatch, Dr. Jayne, Enos, Kerasotes, Vredenburg, Reisch, General McClernand, Edwards and other residents who had resided in the Enos Park area," Catlin said.

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Anonymous

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And I Love History**



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Youngsters to Get Taste of History in New Summer Camp Program Spread Across Area Sites

Registration is now underway for a Springfield History Camp to be held July 16-20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at historic sites in Springfield. The camp, for students entering the third or fourth grade this fall, is being co-sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the National Park Service, the Springfield Art Association, and the Iles House Foundation.

Students will visit a different historic site each day and go behind the scenes to learn about life in the past through hands-on activities. The sites include Edwards Place, Lincoln Home, Elijah Iles House, Vachel Lindsay Home, Old State Capitol, and Lincoln Tomb. Registration at \$100 per child may be made only through the Springfield Art Association by calling (217) 523-2631. Space is limited, and registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Through Thursday, August 3

Springfield Photographs: Images from the Illinois State Journal Glass Plates assembled by Rich Saal, Photography Editor. Second floor, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street, Springfield.

Tuesday, June 5

Thomas Houghan's Secret Past: An Early Springfield Scandal. 5:30 p.m. at Edwards Place, 700 North Fourth Street, Springfield. Edwards Place curator Erika Holst talks about the prominent physician and original owner of Edwards Place—from 1833 to 1843 known as Houghan House—and the secret that erupted around him in the 1860s.

Thursday, June 21

Sangamon County Historical Society Annual Meeting, Pleasant Plains and Clayville, Illinois. Program hostess Sally Cadagin, Sangamon County Historical Society president, 2002. (See story, page 1. Register online or mail using the enclosed flyer).