



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

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## **History Trivia Night March 22; Tickets Available at Website**

With a limit on 130 players, prizes, great food and drink, it's no surprise that there has been a run on reserving tables and seats for the second annual History Trivia Night.

The Saturday, March 22 event at the Old State Capitol, co-sponsored by the Sangamon County Historical Society and 12 other local history groups and sites was close to being sold out when *Historico* went to press.

Society members can still go on line at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org), the Society website, and purchase tables of 10 (at \$100) or individual seats (\$10) if available for the special event designed to raise funds for The Lincoln Troubadours.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with game time at 7 p.m. in Foundation Hall on the lower level of the Old State Capitol building. Entrance will be through the lower level, or via elevators and stairs from the plaza above. The site's underground parking facility will remain open afterhours to accommodate the event. Usual underground parking fees apply.

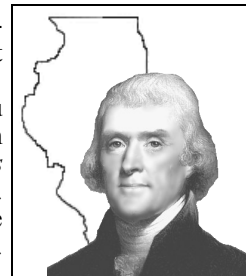
Because of the historic nature of the building, players cannot bring their own food to the site, but can purchase regular and vegetarian chilli prepared by nationally-known chilli champion Les Eastep, a member of the SCHS board.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **Getting In Shape: Expert to Look At Jefferson's Impact on Illinois**

It may be Lincoln's hometown, but Thomas Jefferson had a lot to say about the way this area and the rest of Illinois took shape.

Springfield native Robert E. Church will give you the hows and whys when he speaks to the Society on Tuesday, March 18 on "*Establishing Borders: Thomas Jefferson and the Shape of Illinois.*" The 5:30 p.m. meeting, open to the public, will be held in Carnegie Room North at Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7th Street.



Church, a veteran surveyor who served as executive director of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association for 34 years, will detail Jefferson's Public Land Survey System for areas west of the original 13 colonies that today accounts for almost 1.5 billion acres divided into townships and sections. Church will explain how the system worked and its long-term impact on Illinois. He will also display some surveying instruments.

A Springfield native, Church is responsible for several key surveying exhibits, working with numerous historical agencies, community, and business groups on major history projects. He also served as Deputy Mayor of Springfield from 1986 to 1995.

## **Three Win Society Special Project Grants**

Funds for a new nature trail at the Clayville historic site, signage in Williamsville detailing more about the community's historic past, and underwriting for a new radio program about Sangamon County history that will be aired on public radio were the winning proposals in the second round of the Society's 2013-2014 Special Grants Program approved by the SCHS board last month.

The three were among eight applications for funding made to the Soci-

ety from individuals and organizations across the county.

The 2013-2014 recipients are:

The Pleasant Plains Historical Society, \$750, to help construct a Nature Trail at its Clayville, Historic Site, a restored mid 19th century complex west of Springfield that includes the Broadwell Tavern and Inn, once a stagecoach stop for travelers

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### *The Language of Love in the Lincoln Era*

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## Planning to Go to History Trivia Night? Take A Bow!

We hope you've been assembling your mental tidbits, those small dollops of data that stick in your head and wind up becoming extremely useful when you sit down to play a game of trivia.

Such will be the fate of some 130 history buffs when they gather later this month at the Old State Capitol in a game whose consequences will be more than just putting the right answer down on a piece of paper.

Their ticket fees to a night of fun—along with proceeds from a silent auction and sales of refreshments—will help a hard working group of very talented high school and college age students—the Lincoln Troubadours—enrich the community's knowledge of history, in this case through song. You will not want to miss their performances this coming summer at the Old State Capitol and numerous other history laced venues around the area.

As one of the more than a dozen history organizations and sites working on this project, the Sangamon County Historical Society is delighted to be part of this broader effort to support our young people and heighten everyone's interest in local history. If you're going to be playing the game on March 22, good luck and thanks for your participation!

\* \* \*

Our Society continues to grow and with it some headaches most organizations would dare not be unhappy about. Our regular meetings often draw about 90 to 100 participants, our special events like our holiday party and annual dinner, well more than that. Over the

years, we've tried to tie to history the venues for our meetings and events. It's not by accident, for example, that many of our general meetings are at Springfield's Lincoln Library.

Its Carnegie Room North, where we hold many of our public meetings, is an excellent venue for our larger programs. The Library is also home to the history rich Sangamon Valley Collection that the Society helped create and has, over the years, provided needed financial support.

Because we are growing, some sites and special events with a historical tie have gotten too small to accommodate our numbers in a single visit. This is especially true of venues not built, staffed, or equipped to handle large numbers or that do not normally permit large groups in their facilities, especially after regular working hours.

When we run into such situations, we ask our members to pre-register on-line, something, in fact, that you will be asked to do for the April 15 tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

The first 50 people who sign-up will get a spot on the tour. As we did with our visit to the State Supreme Court, we will try to accommodate those who missed the initial opportunity by scheduling a second tour at a later date.

These special sites and jewel box museums are worth the extra effort. We hope all our members will have an opportunity to see them if not on the first try, than certainly on the second.

*Roger*



*Historico*, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Winner, 2013 Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, [sangamon-history.org](http://sangamon-history.org) or [sancohis.org](http://sancohis.org). Send event announcements to [historicoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:historicoeditor@gmail.com).

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Donna Catlin, Photographer

## Illinois State Historical Society Headquarters Moving to Strawbridge-Shepherd House

The Illinois State Historical Society is moving from downtown Springfield to the historic Strawbridge-Shepherd House on the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield. The building is operated by the Elijah Iles House Foundation which partnered with UIS in 2006 to prevent its demolition and restore the site.

The Society will be in its new quarters this month.

Strawbridge-Shepherd House is located five miles south of downtown Springfield at the southern edge of the UIS Springfield campus. In 1841, the site was on an open prairie just west of Sugar Creek, now Lake Springfield. The Iles House Foundation has raised over \$200,000 to preserve and restore the site and has worked to find a compatible use for the property.



“Our dreams have literally been fulfilled,” noted Sue Massie, Iles Foundation president. “The Illinois State Historical Society is the perfect fit and we look forward to their occupying the house.”

ISHS executive director Bill Furry said the new location would not only give the organization more space at one of the most historic farmsteads in Central Illinois, but also would allow it “to develop and hold historical programs on the UIS campus.”

The Society is moving from offices on the second floor of a building overlooking the Old State Capitol Plaza at 521 East Washington that previously housed Abraham Lincoln’s National Museum of Surveying which closed just over a year ago.

### Society Preps for 2014-2015 Membership Drive, Elections

It may be March, but for Society membership and Nomination committee chairs, the coming weeks will be busy as the Society looks ahead toward its annual meeting, elections, and membership renewals that tie into the start of its 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Membership renewal notices will be going out in late April through early May, with dues due by June 30. The renewal notices also will provide members with an opportunity to update information such as e-mail addresses and related data as well as provide the Society with program and trip ideas that will be passed along to committees dealing with these areas.

The Nominating Committee will be putting together a slate of officers for 2014

-2015 in addition to seeking nominees for the board. Board members serve three year terms unless they are filling a vacancy.

#### ***When Bad Weather Strikes***

If bad weather prompts a meeting or event cancellation, an announcement to that effect will be posted by 3 p.m. of the day of the meeting/event several different ways including our websites ([www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org), [www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org)) and on our phone, 217-525-1961.

Where possible, we will also post any cancellation notices on media websites and through local media outlets.



### OFFICERS

President.....Roger Whitaker  
Vice-President.....Ruth Slottag  
Secretary.....Elaine Hoff  
Treasurer.....Richard Herndon

### DIRECTORS

#### Term Ending 2014

Patricia Davis  
Kathy Hoffmann  
Brenda Holmes  
Doug Polite  
Vicky Whitaker

#### Term Ending 2015

Donna Catlin  
Les Eastep  
David Grimm  
Mary Alice Davis  
Francie Staggs

#### Term Ending 2016

Rebecca Cisco  
Kathy Dehen  
Sue Massie  
Cathy Mosley  
David Scott

#### Presidential Appointees To Board

Marion Leach,  
*Membership Relations Chair*  
Bruce Beeman  
*Legal Chair*  
Claire Eberle  
*Membership Chair*

#### SCHS Executive Coordinator

Dr. Samuel Wheeler

Please make note of our new mailing address:

SCHS  
Box 9744  
Springfield, Illinois,  
62791-9744

### MARCH 2014 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*The Society welcomes the following new members:*

Al, Karen, and Zack Gietl

# Tables, Tickets Going Fast for History Trivia Night

*(Continued from page 1)*

Wine, beer, soda and dessert also will be available for a small fee. In addition to the game, there will be a Silent Auction in the lower level lobby.

The evening will feature multi-media questions assembled by Al Gietl, a Society member well-known in trivia game circles for his professional style trivia productions in Central Illinois and Missouri. A panel of distinguished judges will check out the answers. Dave Blanchette, Governor Pat Quinn's Springfield spokesman and former deputy director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, will be the evening's guest host.

The Troubadours, an *a capella* group of talented and competitively selected area high school and college singers, perform Civil War era music for free at local historic sites throughout the summer. Trained by Lincoln Land Community College vocal coach Sue Hamilton, they receive a very small stipend from the state for their performances. As it did last year, proceeds from the History Trivia Night will go to these talented teens to help them save for or pay for college expenses.

Twelve history-related organizations are co-sponsoring the event in addition to the Sangamon County Historical Society. They are: the Old State Capitol Foundation, the Iles House Foundation, the Clayville/Pleasant Plains Historical Society, the Rochester Historical Preservation Society, Pasfield House, Looking for Lincoln, the Vachel Lindsay Foundation, the Illinois State Military Museum, the Illinois State

Historical Society, the Springfield African American Museum, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and Edwards Place/

Springfield Art Association. Representatives from each of the groups have planned the event since late last year.



**LAST YEAR'S History Trivia Night was held on two floors in the Old State Capitol including the Legislative Chamber (above). This year, the event will be held in Foundation Hall on the lower level, a move to consolidate the play, make judging and tracking scores easier and add to the conviviality.**

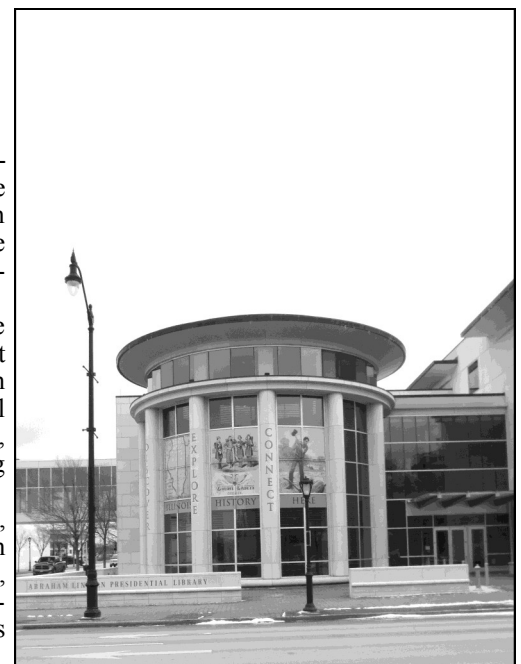
*Donna Catlin photo*

## ***SCHS Members-Only Behind-the-Scenes Presidential Library Tour Set for April 15***

Members of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library will get a guided after-hours tour of the complex on Tuesday, April 15, but on-line pre-registration will be required. Seating is limited. The program will begin at 5:30 p.m., led by Lincoln Curator James Cornelius, and Kathryn Harris, Director of Library Services. The Library is located at 112 North Sixth Street, directly across from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

The 98,000 square foot Library, which opened in 2004, serves as home to the Illinois State Historical Library and its famed Henry Horner Lincoln Collection. It has more than 12 million books, documents and artifacts, 52,000 of which are from the Lincoln Collection, the world's largest. The collection includes an original copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery, the Gettysburg Address, and Lincoln's presidential briefcase that are on rotating display at the museum.

The library also includes a 33,000 square foot state-of-the-art storage facility, approximately six miles of shelves, reading rooms, archival facilities, microfilm and manuscript collections, classrooms, a multi-purpose conference space, offices, interactive displays, exhibits, and meeting and special event areas. Its Illinois history collection includes items from the 1700s to the 1900s including original copies of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the earliest newspaper published in Illinois.





## LANGUAGE OF THE FAN:

- ❖ Half-closed fan pressed to the lips: You may kiss me
- ❖ Dropping the fan: We will be friends
- ❖ Fanning slowly: I am married
- ❖ Carrying an open fan in the left hand: Come talk to me
- ❖ Twirling the fan in the right hand: I love another
- ❖ To open a fan wide: Wait for me

### *Language of Love in the Lincoln Era*

From the flick of a fan to the color of one's wedding gown, Antebellum life for singles in Springfield had its traditions, Sangamon County Historical Society members and guests learned last month. Providing the instruction at the February 18 meeting was Ericka Holst, curator of the Springfield Art Association's historic Edwards Place, who spent two years researching the social customs, especially courting and marriage, of Springfield's singles during the Lincoln era. The session, at Springfield's Lincoln Library, included a powerpoint presentation like that above (with Holst at the microphone) and right that captured the customs and dress of the period. Holst, who has written a book on the subject, also detailed the types of activities and preparations young singles like Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd—who would become his wife—would have engaged in here in during the courting process and marriage ceremony.



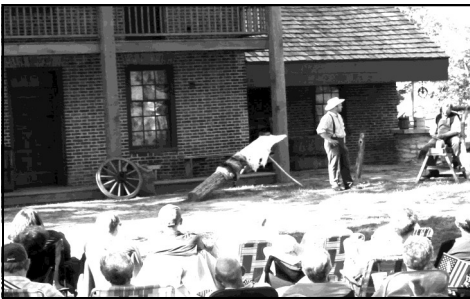


# Three Awarded Society Special Project Grants

(Continued from page 1)

on the bustling stage coach route from Beardstown to Springfield. Named after 19th century statesman and Whig presidential candidate Henry Clay, it is home to the Broadwell Inn and Tavern along with a log cabin built in 1817, a large barn and several other structures. The Inn, built in 1834, is the oldest brick building in Sangamon County and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Clayville property was originally acquired in 1961 by Dr. Emmet F. Pearson, a prominent Springfield physician and student of history, who restored the site



**NATURE TRAIL AHEAD:** Clayville, back in form as a popular history event site drawing audiences like that above, will get a new nature trail with SCHS funding.

and later donated it to Sangamon State University. Dr. Pearson, who died in 1996, served as president of the Sangamon County Historical Society from 1966 to 1967. The Pearson Medical Museum at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield is named in his honor.

In 1973, Sangamon State opened the site to the public as the Clayville Rural Life Center. It quickly became a popular destination for educational programs, music, craft and heritage festivals, picnics, car shows, and more.

When state finances grew tight in 1992, Sangamon State sold the property to a private buyer, followed by years of neglect, in which the site became overgrown by weeds, vines and other forces of nature as well as vandalism.

A citizen effort led by the Pleasant Plains Historical Society in 2009 rallied the community to help purchase and restore the site to a prairie showplace. Volunteers stepped forward and today Clayville has once again become a popular tourist and community attraction, drawing thousands of visitors to the site, especially for its spring and fall festivals and other major events.

The new Nature Trail will make a three

-quarter mile loop around the perimeter of Clayville, bringing visitors to several stops along the way. Signage will identify native species of plants, trees and animals found in the area, period herb gardens and more, all detailed in a set already completed plans for the project.

"We hope to have it partially ready by the Clayville Spring Festival," said Pleasant Plains Historical Society president Dan Usherwood, alluding to the annual two-day event this May. Some additional time will be needed to fully complete the project, which is being help in part through the efforts of a local Eagle Scout, Usherwood added.

The second grant recipient, historian and author Tara McClellan McAndrew, was awarded \$500 to help underwrite a program of short stories about the history of Sangamon County that will be aired on **WUIS-FM**, the University of Illinois at Springfield public radio station.

McAndrew has been writing about history for several years, her work appearing in the **State Journal Register** and **Illinois Times**.

A full-time writer whose roots here reach back at least five generations, her most recent book, **Stories of Springfield: Life in Lincoln's Time**, was published in 2010. She has also penned plays including "*The Lighter Side of Springfield History*" performed both at Lincoln's New Salem and the Hoogland Center and "*Prairie Dreams*" that debuted in 2011 to kick off Clayville's fall season. A prolific writer, her work has appeared in more than 35 publications including the **Chicago Tribune Magazine** and **Illinois Issues**. She has also produced or helped produce radio pieces for National Public Radio, Christian Science Monitor Radio and the BBC.



**McAndrew**

Also receiving funding was a signage project advanced by the Village of Williamsville, that is helping tell the community and its visitors more about the area's historic significance.

In this, the initial year of the Special Projects grant program, awards were made in two phases, one this past fall, the other now. In the initial round, Williamsville was awarded funds to help launch its signage program, one that resulted in the creation and erection of an attractive display in downtown Williamsville that details its involvement in the Interurban, an early

mass transportation system. The Society's logo appears on the sign, underscoring its assistance in creating what was the first of a series of such installations.

The three winning proposals were among eight submitted to the Society. Funds for the grants come from \$9,000 raised three years ago in a special fund drive advanced by then president David Scott, now a board member who chairs the Special Projects Committee. The special campaign was the first in the Society's then 50 year history. After the funds were raised, the board voted not to spend more than \$3,000 per year so as to extend the life of the effort seen as a way to provide funds for start-up and small history projects. Unsolicited donations to the fund totaling more than \$600 allowed the board to approve slightly over \$3,000 for this year's projects.

The Society plans to launch a special campaign this spring and will also encourage Special Projects Fund donations during its annual membership drive and renewal season that begins in late April.

"We're delighted to be able to provide some funding for these three projects," noted SCHS president Roger Whitaker. "With eight requests on the table, I know the Special Projects Committee had a difficult time choosing between so many worthwhile proposals. We hope future funding efforts will make it possible to do more."

With its first year of the selection process under its belt, the Society will be making some revisions to the application process, Whitaker added. The application rules and requirements for 2014-2015 will be announced after the Society's fiscal year begins on July 1. In addition, the board voted to make grants totaling \$3,000 just once instead of twice a year.



**COMING SOON:** Williamsville will get more historic signage with assistance from the Society which helped underwrite the first sign, above. *Donna Catlin photos*

# CALENDAR

**Tuesday, March 18: *Establishing Borders: Thomas Jefferson and the Shape of Illinois.*** Robert Church, Guest Speaker. 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Library. (See story, page 1).

**Saturday, March 22: *Second Annual History Trivia Night,*** 6 p.m., Foundation Hall, Old State Capitol, Springfield. Sponsored by area history organizations for benefit of the Lincoln Troubadours. Well-known Trivia master Al Gietl will be handling the evening's competition. To purchase a table (\$100) or reserve a

seat, go to [www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org). Seating limited. See story, page 1.

**Sunday, March 30: *Civil War Fashion Fair at Edwards Place.*** 2 p.m. Stroll through the Springfield Art Association's Edwards Place to view displays of bonnets, undergarments, accessories, ladies' handcrafts



and more and then stay for the show as local Civil War re-enactors and historical interpreters show off and interpret their reproduction clothes, from work dresses to undergarments, to uniforms, to ball gowns. Tickets are \$15 per person. For information, call the Association at 523-2631 or go to [springfieldart.org](http://springfieldart.org).

**Tuesday, April 15: *Members Only Tour, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library,*** 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration required via the SCHS website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org), starting April 1.

## sangamon county historical society friends and sponsors

**Jack Rooney**  
President  
[jack@cap-strategies.com](mailto:jack@cap-strategies.com)

2413 Heather Mill Court  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
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**If you are a volunteer or staff member at a local tourist site, consider these LLCC offerings to kickoff the tourist season!**



**For information, call  
786.2432. To register,  
call 786-2292.**

#### LOOKING FOR LINCOLN (AND MORE) TERRITORY • Thurs., 5/1/14

With May comes an increase in visitors at all local sites, whether a museum, historic site, zoo or garden/nature center. Share energy and stories in an inspiring start to summer tourism, with words of inspiration, entertainment and refreshments.

#### THE RIGHT BEGINNING • Fri.-Sat., 5/2/14-5/3/14

Introducing the necessary concepts of guest services, connect the visitor experience to a site/resource and bring home to a guide or docent what visitors actually take back to their own home.

#### MINING FOR THE MESSAGE • Thurs., 5/15/14 and 5/22/14

If you are an interpreter or want to be, learn tools that help you compose successful scripts with the right details to deliver key messages.

***Sangamon County Historical Society***  
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**Sangamon County Historical Society 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](http://sangamonhistory.org). Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Status**

\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ Gift of Membership from:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels**

- 01 - Regular Membership - \$25
- 02 - Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 (Must show proof of status).
- 03 - Student Membership - \$10. (Must show proof of status).
- 04 - Educator, \$15. (Must show proof of status).
- 05 - Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 06 - Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 07 - Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 08 - Lifetime Membership - \$700