



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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JUNE 2014

Annual Dinner, Elections, Auctions June 17

Members of the Sangamon County Historical Society will gather for dinner and much more on Tuesday, June 17, the organization's annual meeting. The event will be held at the historic Sangamo Club.

Tickets, at \$30 per person, must be purchased in advance, no later than Friday, June 6, using the reservation form in the May issue of *Historico* or through the Society's website, sangamonhistory.org. Tickets will not be available at the door.

A cocktail hour, with a cash bar, will run from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner. The Sangamo Club is located at 227 East Adams Street. On-site parking adjoins the building.

Keynote speaker will be the Society president from a decade

earlier, Kathryn Harris, Director of Library Services for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (formerly the Illinois State Historical Library).

Members will also elect a slate of officers for 2014-2015 as well as six directors who will serve terms of from one to three years.

The proposed slate includes executive board members Mary Alice Davis, president; Ruth Slottag, vice-president; Richard Herndon, treasurer; and Sue Massie, secretary. Outgoing president Roger Whitaker will also serve

on the executive board.

Director nominees for three-year terms ending in 2017 are Genevieve Kaplan, Amy Henrikson, Jerry Smith, Sarah Watson and Troy Gilmore. Vicky

Whitaker, who filled a two-year term in 2012, is the nominee for the one-year term remaining for the board seat being vacated by Davis.

Keynoter Harris, a native of Carbondale, is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and the University

of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Urbana.

Harris joined the ISHL staff in 1990 as Supervisor of Reference and Technical Services and was named ISHL Director in 1996. With the opening of the ALPL in 2004, Harris assumed her current title. Harris' previous library experience includes positions at the Illinois State Library, the SIU School of Medicine Library, Florida International University, and the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library.

In addition to heading the Sangamon County Historical Society from 2003-2004, she has served on numerous boards including the Rolling Prairie Library System, the Illinois

(Continued on page 5)



DAVIS

HARRIS

Society Revvs Up for Start of Fiscal Year, Membership Drive

If you're a member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, chances are you heard from Membership Chair Claire Eberle last week.

One of your friends, business associates, or neighbors may have gotten a letter from Eberle too. That's because this year's renewal season also extended to more than 50 non-members who have attended our

meetings, expressed interest in joining or were simply recommended by a Society member.

"Each person on our potential member list received a special invitation to join the organization for 2014-2015," explained Eberle. "Most of our general meetings draw close to 100 people, not all of them members. We made a special effort this

year to collect names and addresses of these guests. We've seen many of them come back to more than one meeting but sometimes it takes a special invitation to have them enjoy the full benefits of membership. We're

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EBERLE

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It's Been a Really Great Two Years

That old saw, *time flies when you're having fun*, is true, especially when you get to work with a dynamic and hardworking group of people. That's been the case for me for the past two years as president of this organization. They've made leading the Society a wonderful experience.

As a board, we have accomplished a lot over the past 24 months, some of which were alluded to in the letter each of you recently received as part of our annual membership renewal drive. There have been standouts:

□ *As the result of our efforts, seeing the state legislature unanimously toughen laws to punish and fine those who would damage historic properties.*

□ *Funding some important local historical projects like signage for the new nature*

liamsville. They're part of an on-going Special Projects Grant program to assist history organizations and individuals with small history projects that make a big difference.

□ *Raising the visibility of the area's "jewel-box" museums for our members and the general public.*

□ *Launching www.SangamonLink.org, the first on-line and searchable encyclopedia about Sangamon County history. (You'll be hearing more about this at the annual dinner).*

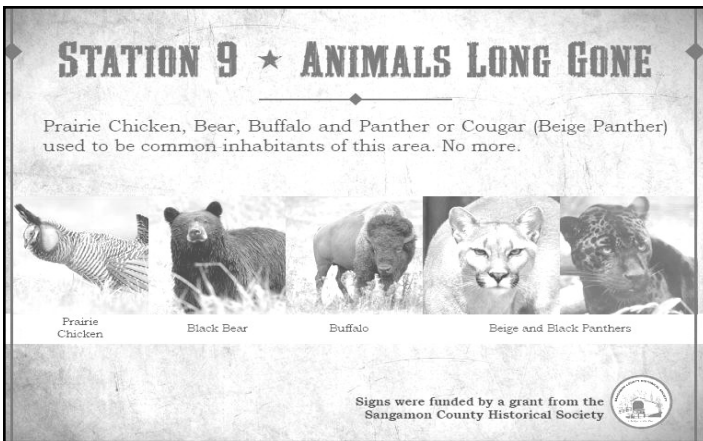
□ *Bringing you programs of broad historical interest, from the history of weather to everything you've always wanted to know about the State Fair but didn't!*

Our programs and events continue to draw packed houses and sell-outs, a measure of our success in keeping the broader community attuned to the history of the place in which they work or reside.

The Society board and its committees have worked together these past two years and our continued growth reflects it. We look forward to the new board members who will be joining our team. Like their soon to be peers, all are well qualified, experienced, and enthusiastic. That bodes well for the Society.

We were sorry to hear that one of our most popular Life Members (and a former board member), the ever energetic Bette Franke, is laid up with a broken hip! We wish you a speedy recovery!

Roger



ONE of a series of permanent signs underwritten by the Society that have been installed at a new nature trail at the Clayville Historic site.

trail at Clayville and informational signs on the history of the Interurban in Wil-



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 or sancohis.org. Send event announcements to historicoeditor@gmail.com.

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

Circle Your Calendar: Tambora Explodes On the Springfield Scene on July 23!

The Sangamon County Historical Society moves to summer footing at the end of this month and that usually means no *Historico* till September and no general meetings.

But not always.

Since you won't be getting a monthly newsletter until the fall season begins, you might want to mark down July 23 on your calendar right now!

That's when the Society teams up with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the Illinois State Historical Society, and the Old State Capitol Foundation to co-host a special presentation by University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign English professor Gillen D'Arcy Wood on his new book, *Tambora, the Eruption That Changed The World*.

The free program, starting at 6 p.m., will be held at the Old State Capitol, Springfield. You can park in the garage below the site if you want (at regular rates). It will be staying open late that evening for this pro-

gram.

Wood will be introduced by long-time Society member and history researcher David Brady of Springfield who has spent years studying the impact of the 1815 volcanic eruption that though half-way around the world, had an economic impact on Illinois.

Brady first detailed his research in a presentation to the Society in 2006 and followed up in greater detail in a talk in 2009. His original presentation, *The Panic of 1819, Its Cause and Effects in Illinois History*, was published by the Society and later caught the eye of Wood who contacted Brady as a resource.

The Springfield presentation will be the first time Wood will be discussing his work since the book came out in April. He has been on sabbatical in his native Australia.

Wood's book has already won favorable reviews from *Publisher's Weekly*, *Nature*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Illinois State Historical Society Seeking Nominees For 2014 Illinois Centennial Business Recognition

Know a business that has been in business for 100 years or more? How about a non-profit, a municipality, or a public library?

They might qualify for recognition from the Illinois State Historical Society provided they get an application in by Monday, June 30. Awards will be presented at a luncheon on Saturday, August 16 in Edwardsville.

The ISHS Centennial Awards program has been in existence since 1984 and in that time, has saluted more than 1,300 businesses and non-profits across the state including banks, mon-and-pop operations, cemetery associations, libraries, private util-

ity companies, country clubs, funeral homes, newspapers, union organizations and municipalities including several in Sangamon County.

For the 2014, it is partnering with the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Manufacturers Association, the Illinois General Assembly and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn in hosting the special "guests only" luncheon at Clark Community College in Edwardsville where the awards will be presented.

Applicants will need to submit a non-refundable check for \$50 covering administrative fees which help support the work of the ISHS. Awardees will receive a framed official certificate signed by the Governor and ISHS president Russell Lewis, a free ticket to the luncheon and the right to use the Centennial Awards logo on their company letterhead.

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Awardees will receive a framed official certificate signed by the Governor and ISHS president Russell Lewis, a free ticket to the luncheon and the right to use the Centennial Awards logo on their company letterhead.

For more information about the Centennial Awards, call the ISHS at 525-2781, visit its website at historyillinois.org or email ishsmembers@sbcglobal.net.



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

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David Grimm
Mary Alice Davis
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Term Ending 2016

Rebecca Cisco
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Bruce Beeman
Legal Chair
Claire Eberle
Membership Chair

SCHS Executive Coordinator

Dr. Samuel Wheeler

Please make note of our official mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744

JUNE 2014 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Society welcomes the following new members:
Pete and Patricia Bolt

A TRIP BACK IN TIME

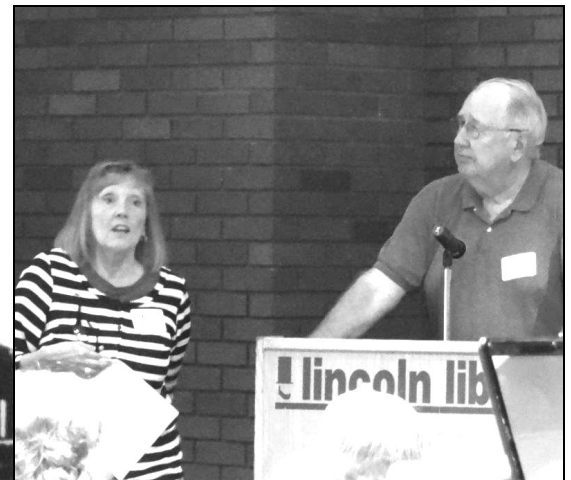
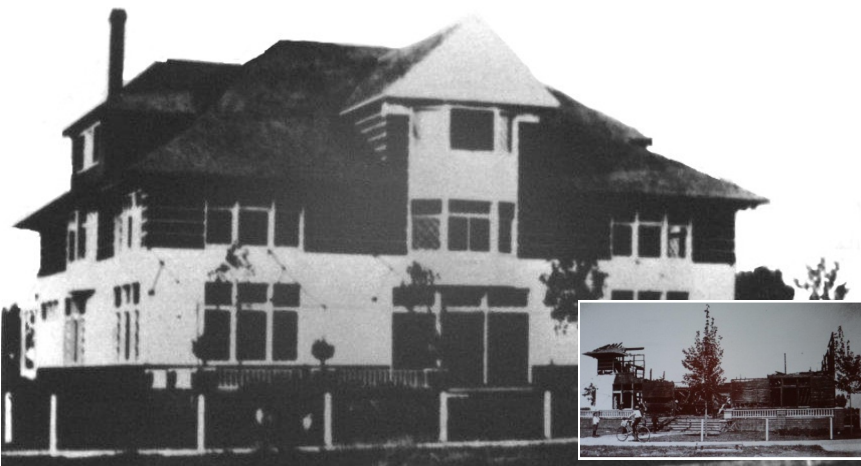


Dome Building - built in 1895



THAT'S WHAT audience members took last month when representatives of the State Fair Museum Foundation provided a visual look back at the 161-year-old event's history for members and guests of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Speaking to a filled to capacity Carnegie Room North at the Springfield's Lincoln Library on May 20, the presenters, Foundation board members Pam Gray and Tom Fitch (bottom right) showed and talked about the growth of the Fair complex, the history of the myriad of buildings and facilities that went up and sometimes burned down or were removed to make way for newer versions over the years. The massive Dome Building, which could hold 10,000 spectators, featured the world's second largest iron and glass dome, beaten in size only by the Great Cathedral at Leningrad. Purchased from the Chicago World's Fair and reconstructed in Springfield in 1895, it burned down in 1917. So did the Women's Building, bottom left, which despite its relatively contemporary lines, was built in the 1899 but destroyed by fire in 1901 (see inset). The Foundation operates a Museum at the Fair that is open for its run and at other times during the year. Check out this month's calendar on page 7 for more about a coming fundraiser to support their efforts.

Donna Catlin photos



Kathryn Harris to Keynote Society's Annual Dinner June 17

(Continued from page 1)

the Illinois Library Association, the Illinois Humanities Council, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, and the Abraham Lincoln Association. In February, 2014, Harris was elected ALA vice-president.

The multi-talented Harris has appeared on stage as Sadie Delany in local productions of "Having Our Say," the best-selling oral history of Delany the African-American educator and civil rights pioneer, and her sister, Elizabeth "Bessie" Delany. Harris has also portrayed Elizabeth Keckley in "The Last of Mrs. Lincoln" A former slave who became a successful seamstress, civic activist, and author in Washington, D.C., Keckley was a personal seamstress and confidant of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Both performances have been presented in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's Union Theatre.

In addition, Harris frequently portrays abolitionist, humanitarian and Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman for school and community groups. In September 2012, she portrayed Tubman in a performance for participants at the Congressional Black Caucus's Annual Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. She repeated the role in September, 2013, for the Mentoring Summit sponsored the National Alliance of Faith and Justice in Washington, D.C.

Also on the Program

In addition to Harris, the evening will include brief remarks from President Roger

Whitaker and the presentation of several awards.

The elections of officers and board members for 2014-2015 will be conducted by Nominating Committee chair Brenda Holmes.

In seeking the presidency, Davis will be giving up the remaining one-year term left as a member of the board of Directors. She also previously served as board secretary. For the past two years, she has co-chaired the Society's Special Events/Programming committee.

Davis, who is also vice-president of the Old State Capitol Foundation, holds a bachelor of arts degree from Denison University, Ohio and taught for four years before becoming the co-owner of a children's clothing store for 10 years. She has also co-owned a chain of fast food stores for 35 years.

A Life Member of the Society, she was elected to the board in 2010. She is past president of the Illinois State Museum Society Board and a past vice-president of the Land of Lincoln Girl Scout Council board.

Other Officer Nominees

For nominees **Ruth Slottag** and **Richard Herndon**, this will be the second term as vice-president and treasurer, respectively.

Slottag, who holds a master's degree in communications from the University of Illinois at Springfield and a bachelor's degree in



speech communication, has more than 20 years experience in the public relations and communications industry. Recently retired from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Public Affairs Office, she previously served as Public Relations Director at the Illinois Association of Park Districts and Community and Media Relations Manager at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Slottag is a past chair of the Springfield Commission on International Visitors. She is a past president of the Central Illinois Public Relations Society of America and a member of Illinois Women in Leadership and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Herndon has served as treasurer of the Society for the past two years. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Lawrence University, Wisconsin and a masters in business administration from Washington University, St. Louis. Herndon worked for SIU School of Medicine for 30 years. A member of the board of the Iles House Foundation,

Secretary Nominee **Sue Massie** joined the board in 2012. She is president and senior landscape architect for Massie, Massie and Associates, Springfield and is also president of the Iles House



Foundation. She is a 1974 graduate of the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. She will succeed Elaine Hoff who joined the board in 2011 and became secretary for 2013-2014

Directors Nominated

Nominated for the Board of Directors for three year terms ending in June 2017 are **Jerry Smith**, **Troy Gilmore**, **Amy Hendrikson**, **Genevieve Kaplan** and **Sarah Watson**. Nominated to fill the one-year term for the seat to be vacated by Mary Alice Davis is **Vicky Whitaker**.

Vice-president of the Pleasant Plains Historical Society which owns and operates the Clayville historic site, **Smith** is a Springfield native.

After graduating from Springfield High School, **Smith**, he attended Springfield College in Illinois and went on to Southern Illinois University.



In 1972 he married Kay Thread. His first paying employment was as a houseman, helping to open the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge South-East in 1966 and for almost 35 years traveled the United States opening and managing various hotels in Florida, Colorado, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, Montana, Maryland, Alabama, and finally back to Springfield

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Renewal Notes, Thank-You Letters, Invitations to Join Launch New Season

(Continued from page 1) hoping that will happen."

"We've had a very successful year as far as membership goes, with new people joining virtually every month. We now have over 500 members," a reflection, she said, of a diversity in programs and special events of interest to a broad range of Sangamon residents. The Society also has

members in more than a dozen states.

In addition to letters to potential members and normal renewal notices, Eberle sent letters to each of the Society's Life Members bringing them up to date on some of the activities and events that have taken place over the past year and also thanking them on behalf of the Society for their continuous support.

"One has been a Life Member for 50 years and several others have been Life Members for several decades."

What also surprised Eberle were the more than four dozen members who sent in next years dues or paid on line before even being asked to do so. "We sent them a thank-you note too," she said.

Society to Vote on Officers, Board Members; Auction Bids a Tradition

(Continued from page 5)

to retire. After returning "home" in 2006, he managed the conversion of the Springfield Renaissance Hotel to the independent President Abraham Lincoln Hotel for three years. Since that time he also has been an active volunteer at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

A Museum Education and Interpretation Consultant for museums and cultural organizations throughout the United States, **Genevieve Kaplan** grew up in Springfield, and obtained her bachelors degree in History and French from Illinois State University.

Since earning her masters degree in Museum Studies from The George Washington



University she has worked for several institutions including the National Museum of Dentistry, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the National Building Museum, Banneker-Douglass Museum and the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and National Air and Space Museum. After living in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore, Maryland area for several years, Kaplan returned to Illinois in 2013.

She is currently working for the Center for Digital Initiatives within the Papers of Abraham Lincoln to digitize the Richard Yates Papers and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's music collection.

She also volunteers with the Curatorial Division at the Lincoln Home including developing an exhibition on Julius Rosenwald and serving as a speaker for the 2014 George L. Painter Looking for Lincoln Lecture.

Kaplan has worked on a variety of museum education and exhibition projects during her museum career with special

emphasis placed on museum/school/community collaboration.

Troy Gilmore serves as Assistant Site Superintendent for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's State Historic Sites at Springfield.

For the past 11 months he has overseen the Old State Capitol State Historic Site and assisted managing the Lincoln Herndon Law Office, Vachel Lindsay Home, and Dana-Thomas House State Historic Sites.

Prior to working for IHPA, Gillmore worked as Lead Carpenter for Dream-Maker Bath & Kitchen for the nine years. Prior State service was earned with the



Illinois Department of Natural Resources planning and implementing teacher workshops throughout Illinois with the E.N.T.I.C.E (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) Program.

Gillmore's first job in Springfield was as the Education Curator of Henson Robinson Zoo in 1995. He and his wife, Michelle, moved to Springfield from Manhattan, Kansas where he obtained his Bachelors in Park Resource Management with an emphasis in Interpretation. He has also been involved in Civil War re-enacting with the 114th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry Reactivated for the past 16 years. He enjoys gardening, carpentry, and serving at West Side Christian Church.

The Gillmore's 17-year-old daughter, Maisie, will be a senior at Pleasant Plains High School in the fall.

Sarah Watson is the executive director of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, which is the coordinating entity for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. She holds a bachelor of science degree in Education from the University

of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and a masters in Workforce Development from the University of Illinois, Springfield.



Watson brings 30 years of experience to Looking for Lincoln. Over the course of her career, she has worked in the public sector, including education (community college and local school district administration), government (senior staff for the Governor of Illinois), and social services; and in the private sector in human resources with both very large and small organizations.

Married, she is the mother of two grown children.

Amy Hendrikson holds master of arts in Public History from California State University, Sacramento and a Ph.D. in American History from Arizona State University.

Her special interests include rural history, the history of technology, local and oral history, and working with small museums. She has taught at the university and community college levels, and worked in small museums and history coalitions.

New to the Springfield area, she moved to Sherman three years ago with her husband, Tom, and son, Alex, who attends Williamsville Junior High.

Vicky Whitaker, a New York City native, moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1999, after taking early retirement from State University of New York at Stony Brook's chief spokesperson to wed her husband, Roger, the Society's president.

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 served on the national board of the Society of Professional Journalists for 10 years, was president of SPJ's Press Club of Long Island and vice-president of the Deadline Club, New York City chapters. She also served as the organization's regional director for the northeast and later Illinois-Indiana and Kentucky.

In Springfield, she has served as vice-president of the Springfield Area Arts Council and on the board of the Association of Women Journalists and the Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club.

She is a past chair of the University of Illinois Sangamon Auditorium Advisory Board and for the past 10 years has chaired/co-chaired the Festival of Trees entertainment committee. A Life Member, Whitaker has been editor of *Historico* since September 2009. She also serves as co-chair of the Special Events and Program Committee.

The Whitakers have five children and 10 grandchildren.



Silent and Live Auction Too

In keeping with tradition, the annual dinner will also feature both a live and silent auction filled with historic books, vintage magazines, collectibles, decorative pieces, special holiday items including a White House Tree ornament, dolls, and more.

For the second year in a row, the live auction will include a gift certificate for a personalized tour of the Illinois State Military Museum that was hotly bid last year. Also on the live auction block will be a pristine and hard-to find boxed set of World War II cartoons by artist Bill Mauldin and a photograph by Alexander Hesler of Abraham Lincoln taken at the Old State Capitol on June 3,

CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 17: Sangamon County Historical Society Annual Dinner, Elections and Live and Silent Auctions, 5:30 p.m. (cocktails), 6:30 p.m. (dinner), Sangamo Club, 227 East Adams Street, Springfield. Tickets, at \$30 per person, must be purchased by **Friday, June 6**.

Friday, June 28: 2nd Annual Historic Marbold Farm Antique Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. Admission \$5. Country primitives, furniture, textiles, pottery and Americana will be featured at this fundraiser for restoration of the historic site at 21722 State Highway 29 in Greenview. For information, call 968-5808 or go to www.historic-marbold-farmstead.org.

Saturday, July 12, 2014 Annual Corn Dog Kickoff, 5:30 p.m. benefitting the Illinois State Fair Museum, Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield. Tickets \$25 includes Fair Food Grazing (food, beer, soda, wine). Children 12

and under free when accompanied by an adult. For tickets, call 414-0727 or see info@illinoisstatefairmuseum.org.

Friday, July 4 through Sunday, July 6: Prairie Dreams: The Story of Clay-

nois frontier. Performances will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 4, 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 5 and 3 p.m., Sunday, July 6. Tickets are \$13.50 for adults, \$11.50 for senior citizens, and \$8.50 for children 12 and under at the Clayville Trading Post or through the Sangamon Auditorium Ticket Office or by phone sat 206-6160.



ville and Its People, Clayville Historical Site, Pleasant Plains. Jane Brownback directs this original play written by Tara McClellan McAndrew that captures what life was like on the Illi-

Tuesday, July 23: "Tambora: The Eruption that Changed The World." 6 p.m., Old State Capitol. Author Gillen D'Arcy Wood discusses his new book of the same name in this joint program co-sponsored by the Sangamon County Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Society, the Old State Capitol Foundation and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Free. (The Old State Capitol underground parking facility hours will be extended for the duration of this program at normal hourly parking rates).

sangamon county historical society friends and sponsors

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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. 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

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