



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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MAY 2018

Chicago-Springfield Links

Historian Andrew Call to Provide Look at Those Who Shaped Illinois

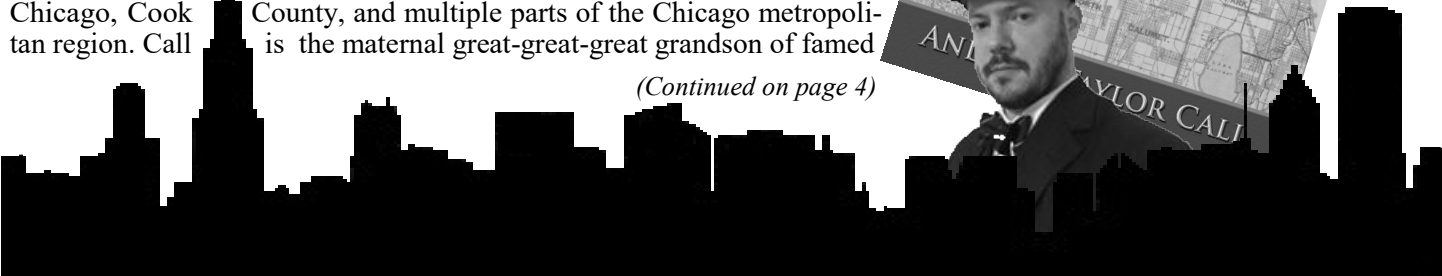
Chicago may be 200 miles away, but it may be a lot closer to Springfield and the surrounding area in terms of the people who shaped its history.

You'll learn how close when Chicago attorney and historian Andrew Taylor Call discusses his new book, *Chicago: A Civic, Industrial and Familial History* when he speaks to the Society on Tuesday, May 15.

The meeting, free and open to the public, begins at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Sixth Street.

Call's family helped with the founding of the state of Illinois, Chicago, Cook County, and multiple parts of the Chicago metropolitan region. Call is the maternal great-great-great grandson of famed

(Continued on page 4)



G. Cullom Davis to be Honored

Slate Named as Society Prepares for Annual Meeting June 19

The Sangamon County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and dinner on Tuesday, June 19, this year honoring historian and educator G. Cullom Davis with its first Lifetime Achievement Award. The 5:30 p.m. event, to be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, is open to members and non-members.



Davis

Dr. Davis, who served as president of the Society from 1991 to 1992, will be recognized for his role in creating an oral history program at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) that since the 1970s has given researchers and others an opportunity to hear first-hand—albeit through recorded interviews and

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DON'T MISS OUT on the many wonderful Society programs, tours and special events coming in the months ahead. If you haven't yet renewed for 2018-2019 do so today. We need to hear from you by May 31 to be on the 2018-19 membership roster. To renew or join, use the form on PAGE 8.



There's Lots to Do, See and Hear in May for History Buffs

May brings some exciting history activities to Sangamon County this year. Several Bicentennial events listed below will be held this month.

You won't want to miss the Society's May program featuring Andrew Call. He will discuss his new book, *Chicago: A Civic, Industrial and Familial History* on Tuesday, May 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Library. The book is about Jacob Bunn who once lived in Springfield. (See article on page 1.)

Bicentennial News

A new Bicentennial exhibit, *From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama*, is now on display at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum through December 31. It explores the lives of the four U.S. presidents who called Illinois their home. Through fascinating photos, rare documents and unique artifacts, you'll see how these men wound up in Illinois, how their experiences here helped lead them to the White House and what traits they had in common.

To hear what happened on this day in Illinois history, be sure to listen to the daily Bicentennial Minute on WMAV Radio through this year. It gives a historical fact that occurred on that particular day. You can find the podcast at www.wmay.com.

Bicentennial Events

◆ *The Birth, Death and Rebirth of Downtown: Marrying Development, Preservation and Workforce*, will be presented Tuesday, May 8 at 5:30-7 p.m., at Lincoln Library. Speakers are Curtis Mann and Stephanie Martin of the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library. This is part of the Bicentennial Town Hall Series of the Springfield Bicentennial Working Group.

◆ *Binding Our State Together: Canals, Railroads, Postal Services and Roads*, will be presented Sunday, May 20 at 2 p.m. at the Illinois State Museum. The Speaker is Dr. Norman Moline of Rock Island. It is part of The Culture and Heritage of Illinois Bicentennial Series.



Historical Facts

May 28, 1859 - More than 60 Sangamon County residents, including Abraham Lincoln, call for an Old Settlers Convention, designed to recognize all surviving settlers who lived in Sangamon County prior to the "winter of the Deep Snow" in 1830-31. The proclamation led to formation of the Old Settlers Society, whose giant picnics annually attracted thousands of county residents to a giant picnic. The last Old Settlers picnic was in 1942. <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=10176>

May 19, 1863 - The last Confederates left the Camp Butler prisoner-of-war compound near Riverton. Remaining behind were more than 800 of their comrades in the prison cemetery, victims of inadequate facilities, poor sanitation, and disease. <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=10239>

May 12, 1921 - When a newsboy stiffed Mayor Charles Baumann out of 2 cents change, Baumann ordered city police to dismantle every news stand in downtown Springfield. But the newsboys had allies of their own – the newspapers, of course; an influential group of civic-minded women; and the reading public. Baumann allowed the stands to reopen two days later. But the offending newsboy did refund the mayor's two cents. <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=10118>

May 27, 1933 - The Mill, one of Springfield's most popular dining spots for nearly 40 years, opened at 906 N. 15th St. at the site of what had been a grocery and meat market. A short newspaper article announced the new nightspot. "Tonight, Harry L. Cusick's Mill Tavern will make its formal bow to the Springfield public. A fish fry and special entertainment have been planned for tonight, including orchestra music." <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=9779>

Find these stories and more at the Society's on-line and searchable encyclopedia of Sangamon County History, www.SangamonLink.org, edited by Mike Kienzler.



Historico, published 10 times a year (except July & December), is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, www.sangamohistory.org or sancohis.org. Send event announcements to historicoeditor@gmail.com.
Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor

Edwards Place Opens Second Floor; Area Historic Sites Gear Up for Season

It may have snowed in April, but with the help of Mother Nature, that won't be the case in May and ensuing months with the return of warm weather allowing local historic sites to rev up for the season.

Among them will be the Edwards Place Historic Home in Springfield which opens its newly restored second floor to the public on May 1.

Funded by a challenge grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation and from private donors, the restoration of the second floor to its 1860s appearance



TOUR takers will be able to view the refurbished second floor of Edwards Place starting May 1.

included wiring, plaster repair, key furnishings and installation of period appropriate carpet, wallpaper, and window treatments. The first floor was restored to its Lincoln-era appearance in 2015.

Built in 1833 and remodeled in 1857, the Italianate mansion was the home of attorney Benjamin Edwards, youngest son of Governor Ninian Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, Mary Todd Lincoln's older sister.

A center for social activity in Springfield, it was a gathering place for prominent citizens and politicians such as Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, David Davis, and numerous governors, judges, lawyers, and politicians who were entertained at lavish dinner parties. Its grounds played host to many summer picnics and political rallies.

The Edwards Place Historic Home, at 700 North Fourth Street, is owned and operated by the Springfield Art Association, which marked its centennial anniversary in 2013. One-hour tours are offered Tuesdays through
(Continued on page 5)



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MAY 2018 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT

The Society is pleased to welcome new members Sarah Adams, John Alexander, Jeff Davis, Theresa Davis, George Doering, Sharmin Doering, Lance Garrison, Mike Motor, Blake Ross, Sara Ross, Jan Sables, Roger Sables, Sue Scherer, Suzann Spada, Thomas Spada, Aleta Sunley, Bill Sunley, George Sweat, Andy Volpert. Mike Zimmers and Nancy Zimmers.

And expresses appreciation to the following for donations to the Society: Mark and Jackie Hansen in memory of Dr. Floyd Barringer; and to Charles Boyce, John Joyce, Janice Joyce, Joseph Dombrowski, Rebecca Dombrowski, Patricia Boyce, Jan Staggs, Francie Staggs, Pamm Collebrusco, Mark Collebrusco, Ron Tucker, Ann Tucker, Tom McSwiggin, Sharon McSwiggin, Sherri Boner, Rick Grimes, Richard Kerhliker, Judith Barringer, and Richard McLane.

Please make note of our official mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744

Book on Chicago History Has Links to Local Area

(Continued from page 1)

industrialist Jacob Bunn, and has very deep roots in Springfield, Sangamon County, Morgan County, and Cass County.

Born in south Florida, raised in Virginia in a Civil War Era home, and educated in Virginia and Chicago, Call holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Virginia, a Juris Doctor from the Appalachian School of Law, two L.L.M. (Master of Laws) degrees from The John Marshall Law School of Chicago. He will receive a Master of Arts Degree in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University this summer.

Earlier Work

His latest book was preceded by an earlier work, *Jacob Bunn: Legacy of an Illinois Industrial Pioneer*, completed and published in 2005, during his first year of law school. It was based on his Fourth-Year History Thesis at the University of Virginia. The book was: *Jacob Bunn: Legacy of an Illinois Industrial Pioneer*.

Interested since childhood in world history, genealogy, family history, American history, and geography, Call moved to Chicago in 2007, and after finishing the two L.L.M. degrees, started extensive research into the history of the Midwestern states that his family came to from New York, New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and directly from Europe.

The different sides of his maternal family were among the founders of Chicago, and the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio, as well as the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, region during the 18th and 19th centuries.

East Coast Ties

Prior to their migrations to the newly-developing Midwest, his mother's families were founders and builders of New York City

and New Amsterdam, New Jersey, and many New England states, cities, and towns during the 17th century.

Call's paternal family were among the founding families of Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Pittsburgh metropolitan towns and counties of Allegheny and Butler, during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Both his maternal and paternal families have contributed to the industrial and civic development of Chicago and Cook County. Both sides of the family were heavily involved at all levels with industry and civic organizations.

Call says the more he learned, "the clearer it became that the early history of Illinois was tied to my ancestors and their activities. From Fort Dearborn, the railroad development of Chicago, and the 1893 World's Fair, to iron and steel, container companies, banks, and many manufacturing companies, as well as many diverse civic organizations, my ancestors helped create Chicago over a period of two centuries."

Active in Civic Life

Since 2006, Call has been a member of more than 100 civic and professional organizations in Chicago and Cook County. These organizations include civic boards of directors, advisory boards, committees, and auxiliary boards, in addition to many general memberships. "I am deeply committed to the civic life of the area," he says.

Call also has been a member of many such organizations in Pittsburgh, and in Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia and Florida. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and Federal Bars in Wisconsin and Illinois,

17-Year Study

Chicago: A Civic, Industrial, and Familial History represents the culmination of more than 17 years of work for Call who began in 2001 the journey of search, research, collection, analy-

sis, annotation, assembly, and preparation that would constitute this book.

Tied Together

Representing a tremendously diverse range of material and information, the book comprises the synthesis of civic histories, political histories, economic histories, organizational histories, and genealogies, all of which are tied together with detailed and extensive comment, analysis, explanation, and insight.

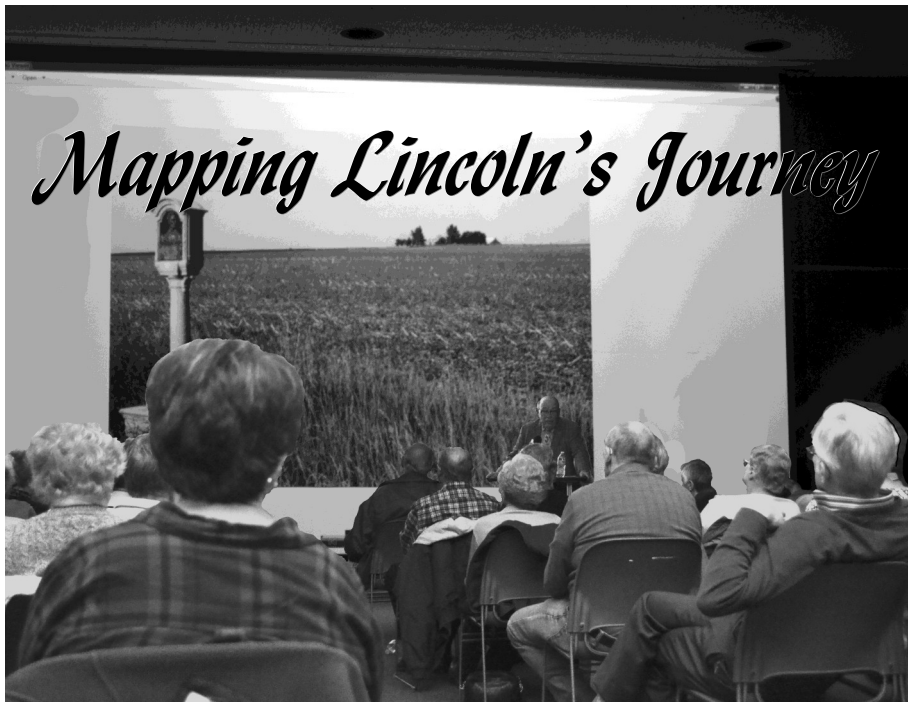
"I wanted to produce and analyze a unique, largely untold, and rediscovered history of the civic and economic development of Chicago, from the foundation of a vast, diverse, and macro-genealogical Chicago family history and to narrate the combined and interlocking family histories of some of the most historiographically obscure and in some cases, almost entirely unknown yet superlatively important people to have resided in and contributed to Chicago and the metropolitan region," Call says of his effort.

Forgotten History

"The book focuses on the lost and forgotten history of Chicago and the metropolitan region, and seeks to present to the world a narrative of a colossal, overwhelmingly unknown, framework and network of civic and industrial leadership that uniquely defined Chicago and the metropolitan region," he adds.

While the book tells a history of Chicago, Cook County, and the metropolitan region from the foundation and perspective of the author's own family history and genealogy there, the book contains the histories of an immense number of people unrelated to the author, but who were somehow connected to the author's family, Call notes.





Fraker to be Guide

Lincoln Land C.C. Eighth Circuit Tour Set for September 7

Lincoln Land Community College's Community Education arm will host a day-long air-conditioned bus tour of the Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit detailed last month by historian and author Guy Fraker when he spoke to the Sangamon County Historical Society on April 17.

Fraker, a retired attorney and author of two books about Lincoln and the judicial circuit he rode on horseback, will narrate the tour open to the public.

His Society powerpoint presentation focused on his newest book, *A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit*, a modern-day driving guide to the route Lincoln took between 1847 and 1853, during which the Circuit consisted of 14 counties and 10,000 square miles. The trip took ten to 12 weeks by horse until rail service arrived in 1853. Fraker's first book, *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: The Eighth Judicial Circuit*, was published in 2012.

The Friday, September 7 bus trip, which departs from the J.C. Penney parking lot on Dirksen Parkway and South Grand Avenue, Springfield, leaves at 8 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m. Stops will be made at Middleton, Metamora and Clinton. A box lunch will be provided.

Reservations are \$75 plus a \$5 on-bus fee and must be made by August 1 by calling 786-2432, using registration code CEW 120-01.

HISTORIAN Guy Fraker provided Society members and guests with a visual tour and commentary on April 17 of Lincoln's stops along the Eighth Judicial Circuit that extended over a 14 county territory and helped build a base that would eventually lead to the Presidency. Some historic markers of the journey, like the one in a field (above) still stand. The program, which drew a full house to Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, included guests (photo, bottom left) Bob Willard, president of the Abraham Lincoln Association (left) with Fraker (center) and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Chief Operating Officer Michael Little. Fraker (photo right) also signed copies of his new book that provides a modern driving guide to Lincoln's historic route.

Area Historic Sites Opening for the Season

(Continued from page 3)
Fridays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturdays from Noon to 2 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, children 10 and under are admitted free.

Also open:

◆The Clayville Historic Site in Pleasant Plains operated by the Pleasant Plains Historical Society opened April 1. Constructed by the

Broadwell family as a stage-coach stop between Springfield and Beardstown in 1824, the Inn is the oldest brick building in Sangamon County.

Listed on the National register of Historic Places, the Inn is surrounded by numerous other historic buildings from central Illinois that were moved to Clayville in

the 1960s to recreate an early frontier pioneer village.

Public tours are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays.

◆The Grand Army of the Republic Museum at 629 Seventh Street, Springfield, opened April 5.

Its collection can be viewed 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursdays through Sundays.

◆Elijah Iles House at 628 South Seventh Street, Springfield opened on April 7, kicking off a celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

Iles House is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from Noon to 4 p.m.

Tributes, Awards, Voting to Cap Annual Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

and transcripts--the recollections of people who served or participated in activities, events, or decisions that events, or decisions that helped shape Sangamon County.

Among the speakers reflecting on his efforts will be Illinois State Historical Society executive director William

mote the history of Sangamon County. with grants of up to \$1,000 each.

Past recipients have included the Central Illinois African American History Museum to research and prepare an exhibit about early African American settlers in the area, the Pleasant Plains Historical Society to furnish a replica of a one room school house at its Clayville Historic site and to the Village of Williamsville for historic signage.

Funds for the awards come from monies raised at the Society's annual Trivia Night.

Election of Officers

The annual dinner will provide an opportunity for members to chose officers and board members for the coming year.

The proposed slate consists of Vicky Whitaker, president; Angela Weiss, vice-president; Kathy Dehen, secretary; and Jerry Smith, treasurer. Dehen and Smith are running for a

third term. Whitaker is the current vice-president. Weiss joined the board in 2017. Ruth Slottag, who has served as president for the past two years, will remain on the executive board for another year as past-president.

In addition to the executive board, Society members will be voting to fill positions on the 15-member board of directors.

Up to five board members are elected each year to fill rotating three year terms and to fill shorter term vacancies where they have occurred.

Nominated for three-year terms ending in 2021 are: Sue Massie, Doug Polite, Kathy Hoffman and Mary Alice Davis

Nominated for a two year term ending in 2020 to fill a vacancy is Roger Whitaker.

Nominated for a one year term ending in 2019 to fill a vacancy is Larry Stone.

Profiles of each of the candidates will appear in the June issue of *Historico*.



PROVIDING PERSONAL insight into the work of oral historian G. Cullom Davis — who will receive the Society's first Lifetime Achievement Award—will be State Historical Society executive director William Furry (left), Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library director of Oral History Mark DePue, (center) and John Lupton (right), executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission.

Furry, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Director of Oral History Mark DePue and Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission executive director John Lupton.

Tickets for the dinner are \$29 per person for members, \$31 for non-members.

A mail-in reservation form appears on page 7 or you can order and pay for tickets on-line at the Society's website, sangamonhistory.org. Reservations and payment must be received no later than Saturday, June 9.

Special Project Winners

In addition to honoring Davis, the Society will also announce the winners of its annual Special Projects Grant program and hold election of officers and directors for 2018-2019.

Elaine Hoff, chair of the Special Projects Grant program, will announce the winners of the annual competition that helps underwrite up to three local history projects that preserve or pro-



HISTORIC Westminster Presbyterian Church 's Fellowship Hall will be the site of the Society's 2018 Annual Dinner on June 19. Tickets can be ordered using the form on page 7 or on-line at [Sangamon history.org](http://Sangamonhistory.org).



SCHS Annual Dinner Registration Form



The annual meeting/dinner will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield on Tuesday, June 19 starting at 5:30 p.m. **Members: \$29 per person, Non-member guests \$31.** Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744 or sign up online at sangamonhistory.org. Payment must be received by June 9.

*Name of Member(s) attending _____

*Full Name(s) of Non-Member Guests: _____

Your Address: _____ City/Zip _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

* for name tags.

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Calendar of History Events

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

◆ **Wednesday, May 2: *Courting Controversy: In Search of Central Illinois' Contentious Monuments and Memorials***, 7 p.m. UIS Assistant Professor of History Devin Hunter imagines which local heritage sites might serve as flash points in today's renewed culture wars. Thorne Deuel Auditorium, Illinois State Museum, Springfield. Free.

◆ **Tuesday, May 8: *The Birth, Death and Rebirth of Downtown: Marrying Development, Preservation and Workforce***. 5:30 p.m. Curtis Mann and Stephanie Martin of the Sangamon Valley Collection at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, team for this presentation, the fourth in a series of Springfield's Illinois State Bicentennial Town Hall Series that runs through next November. City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street. Free and open to the public.

◆ **Tuesday, May 15. *Chicago, A Civic, Industrial and Familial History***. 5:30 p.m. Chicago lawyer and historian Andrew Taylor Call discusses his new book, *Chicago, A Civic, Industrial and Familial History* in a presentation for SCHS members and guests. Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield's Lincoln Library of Springfield, 326 South Seventh Street. Free and open to the public.

◆ **Sunday, May 20: *Binding Our State Together: Canals, Railroads, Postal Services and Roads***. 2 p.m. Illinois State Museum Bicentennial Illinois Speakers Series, Thorne Deuel Auditorium, Illinois State

Museum, 502 S. Spring Street, Springfield. For information call 782-0979.

EXHIBITS & SPECIAL EVENTS

◆ **Sunday, May 6: *Grand Opening, Early African American Pioneers of Central Illinois***. 4 p.m. This new exhibit, in the gallery of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, explores and illuminates African American families who moved to Central Illinois in the 1800's and who still have descendants in Springfield. The exhibit is the result of research and interviews done by Elizabeth Alexander and Patricia Davis sponsored and funded by a grant from the Sangamon County Historical Society. The Museum is located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield. No charge but donations are welcome. For information call 391-6323.

◆ **Thursday, May 31: *Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum Annual Membership Meeting***. 5 p.m. Open to all museum members, their family, friends, and sponsors. The Museum is located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield. For information call 391-6323.

◆ **Tuesday, June 19: *Sangamon County Historical Society Annual Dinner and Elections***. 5:30 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 533 South Walnut Street, Springfield. The Society will be honoring historian G. Cullom Davis with its first Lifetime Achievement Award and will be announcing winners of its annual Special Projects Grants.

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. Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. All memberships — except Business/Corporate and college/university students — cover adults and children 16 and over at the same address. Be sure to include their names.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone: _____

Cell: _____ E-mail: _____



Status

___ New Member

___ Renewal

___ 2018-2019 GIFT of Membership from:

Phone _____

2018-2019 Membership Levels

Except for business and college/university student membership, all levels listed below cover adults and children 16 and over *living at the same address*. **Please list their names in the space below.**

- Regular Membership - \$30
- Pioneer Level - \$100
- Trailblazer Level - \$500
- College/University Student (individual) - \$20.
- Settlers Level - \$250
- Lifetime Membership - \$700 (one time fee)

I am adding a donation of \$ _____.

Business /Corporate Membership - \$200