



Historico

The newsletter of the Sangamon County Historical Society
308 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701
www.sancohis.org 217.522.2500



NOVEMBER, 2008

Old Man, Old Books, Old Stories

November 18, 7:00 pm Lincoln Library Carnegie Room

John Paul and Your Books

In a presentation entitled "Old Man, Old Books, Old Stories," John Paul will be speaking November 18 on book collecting. After Paul discusses book collecting briefly, he will concentrate on assessing the value of books and paper collectibles. Audience members are encouraged to bring in old or collectible items for appraisal or discussion.

John Paul is a displaced zoologist. After years of schooling, teaching at the University of South Florida, and functioning as Curator of Zoology at the Illinois State Museum, he abandoned all sense and became a bookseller. Starting Prairie Archives as a mail order business in 1971 and opening a shop in 1973, he joined the business full time in 1977. Despite an obvious lack of judgment, he has survived in the nether world of dirty books.

SCHS Welcomes New Board Member

Paul Mueller has agreed to complete the term of Sally Cadigan who has resigned from the Board for personal reasons.

A Springfield native, Mueller attended St. Joseph School, Ursuline Academy, and Springfield College in Illinois. He graduated from Sangamon State University (UIS) in 1988. Mueller has been a cemetery assistant at Oak Ridge Cemetery since January, 2008. Before that he owned and operated a residential and commercial cleaning service.

Mueller was the driving force behind the recently dedicated memorial to the widows and children from Home for the Friendless who are buried in Oak Ridge. After reading *A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery* by Floyd Barringer, he took a self-guided tour of the cemetery and developed an interest in the unmarked graves of the orphans and widows. Through his efforts, historical facts were compiled and money was raised for the memorial as well as for future maintenance of the site.

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Saved in the eighties by a decent vacuum cleaner, he has cleaned up his act and attempts to be a legitimate business these days. The current location of the shop, on the south side of the Old State Capitol plaza, is the third (and final) location of the business. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, the mantra of the book trade. JP



Society Holiday Party 6 PM December 16 at Temple B'rith Sholom

The Sangamon County Historical Society Holiday Party will be held December 16 at 6:00 pm at Temple B'rith Sholom. We will join the congregation in celebration of its 150th anniversary. Rabbi Datz will talk about the congregation's history, and there will be wine and hors d'oeuvres. The cost of the party, members only, is \$10.00. To make reservations, complete the form found on page 3. Reservations will be limited.

Nominating Committee request

The Nominating Committee is collecting names for possible future board and committee members. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please send name and contact information to: carmor@comcast.net or call: 522-2500.

Note from Nancy

October 5th was a gorgeous day for our 12th Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery! Though overall attendee numbers were down about 25% over the number attending a few years ago, we seem to have attracted many newcomers this year, and their enthusiasm was evidenced by not only nice comments but generous contributions! We are grateful for the contributions which will enable us to sponsor more programs for the community!

You might recall that earlier in the year we had the Strawbridge/Shepard house on the calendar as the site of our holiday party in December. Unfortunately it has fallen behind its restoration schedule, leaving it more habitable for animals (who think it is absolutely a delight just the way it is) than people. Now we are going to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of B'rith Sholom with a party at the Temple. Holiday parties are for members only, which is just one more reason to make sure that your membership has been renewed!! *Nancy Chapin*

October Program Explored Statehouse Statuary

Our Pied Piper Roberta Volkmann led us around the multiple impressive statues on the Statehouse grounds. Beginning with the white tailed deer made of chrome car bumpers greeting visitors, she proceeded to circle the Statehouse complex counter-clockwise, telling both fact and legend about various statues, monuments and plaques. Perhaps the most unknown but impressive was the *Ride to Remember 9-11*, the 9/11 memorial dedicated in 2005. The etchings of the Pentagon, the twin towers, firefighters at Ground Zero, and the Pennsylvania crash site are beautifully done and help create a really moving memorial. This memorial needs to be seen "in the flesh" and is located at the edge of the parking lot just north of the Museum.

The Everett Dirksen statue, its Republican

elephant and Democratic donkey arms entwined (with fingers crossed), was a surprise to many who had only viewed it from afar. It was intriguing to learn that the Stephen A. Douglas statue had once been placed next to the Lincoln statue on the north facing 2nd street but was moved to stand closer to the Capitol in 1935.

Roberta was able to add to the information on many of the monuments found in the Volkmann book *Springfield's Sculptures, Monuments and Plaques*, but noted that they had been able to add even more information on their website: www.springfieldsculptures.net.

The tour was absolutely delightful and, thanks to Tony Leone, ended with refreshments on the patio of the Pasfield House. We look forward to future such tours! NLC

County History Request

As mentioned before, we are contemplating the possibility of putting together a new County History for the county's bi-centennial in 2021, but we need input on whether or not it really should be done. Please give us your ideas on the following:

1. Why should we put time, energy and money into creating a new county history?
2. Of what use or benefit would a new county history be to business?
3. Of what use or benefit would a new county history be to the community?
4. Of what use or benefit would a new county history be to organizations such as the universities or hospitals?

Please respond with email answers to schs@sancohis.org as your responses may be vital to how we proceed. Without good reasons for a new county history for business, the community and community organizations, there is very little incentive to become involved, either cooperatively or financially, and your reactions will make a big difference in how we proceed from here.

Board Meeting

November 12, 2008, 5 PM
Lincoln Library Carnegie
Room South

OFFICERS

President

Nancy L. Chapin

Vice President

David Scott

Past President

Carolyn Moore

Secretary

Curtis Mann

Treasurer

John Huther

Directors to 2009

R-Lou Barker

Dan Buck

Susan Hammond

Tim Krell

Sarah H. Thomas

Directors to 2010

Elaine Birtch

Kim Efird

Carol Schwend Smith

Sue Wall

Martha Wolters

Directors to 2011

Jack Alexander

Connie Locher Bussard

Paul Mueller

Jack Navins

Jane Vetter

Honorary Director

William Hughes

Diller, Jr.

HISTORICO CONTRIBUTORS

Charles Adams family

Dan Buck

Donna Catlin

Nancy Chapin

Bill Minder

John Paul

Carl Volkmann

Roberta Volkmann

WEBMASTER

Terry Cameron

LAST CHANCE

For the convenience of the members who have not yet renewed this year, we are printing a Renewal Form below. If you have not sent us your check, please do so TODAY. Don't miss out on future issues of the *Historico* as well as special programs for members only!

SCHS Membership Renewal Form

To join up a friend or to renew your membership for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, simply fill out the form below and mail it in. If you want to give a gift membership, fill in name, address and telephone number of new member(s), sign your name as Donor, and don't forget to include that total on your check. A letter announcing the gift will be sent to the recipient including the donor's name.

Individual - \$17.50
Family - \$25.00
Sustaining - \$50.00

Individual life - \$250.00*
Family life - \$400.00*
*One time payment

Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Gift membership donor _____

If you would like to volunteer for Society activities, please indicate your interest: _____

Would you be willing to provide refreshments for one of the monthly programs? _____

If you would be willing to serve on a committee, please indicate your interest: _____

Total enclosed _____

Make your check payable to: The Sangamon County Historical Society
and mail to: 308 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Holiday Party 6 pm December 16 Reservations
Please make reservations for _____ guests at \$10 each Total enclosed _____
Name _____
Make your check payable to: The Sangamon County Historical Society
and mail to: 308 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701



Pawnee

Pawnee has an interesting history dating back to 1818 when the first white settlers arrived. It received its name in 1854 from a Springfield postmaster rather than a tribe of Indians as is generally believed.

Pawnee was incorporated in 1891. In 1888, prior to incorporation, the town's farmers and businessmen were farsighted in building their own railroad named *The Pawnee Railroad*. Although originally conceived to transport farm products and livestock, the discovery of large deposits of coal in the area greatly enhanced its importance. It later became part of the current *C&M Railroad* system.

In the early 1900's Pawnee also had its own coal mine, *The Peabody Coal Company Mine # 5*. The *Peabody Company* built "company houses" for the immigrant miners who came from Ireland, Italy, Britain, Russia, Slovakia, and Lithuania to work in the various *Peabody* mines. Some of those houses still stand in Pawnee.

During the subsequent mining "boom years," a few houses in Pawnee were ordered from the *Sears and Roebuck* catalog. The order contained blueprints and all pre-cut materials (including nails, shingles, wiring, and kitchen and bathroom fixtures) needed to build the house. The houses were shipped three at a time in railroad boxcars.

Pawnee's population has tripled in size to 2,700 since the 1950's. Rather than growth in its business and agricultural areas, growth is attributed to its outstanding school system and public library, five churches, a friendly small town atmosphere, and a low crime rate. Many residents choose to reside in Pawnee and commute to their employment in other communities.

By Bill Minder

"Echoes of Yesteryear" A Success

On Sunday, October 5, 340 people came to Oak Ridge Cemetery to hear seven actors portraying representatives of the Abraham Lincoln Association and of the 1908 race riots reflect on their feelings at the time they lived. Additionally, the guests were entertained by the Prairieland Dulcimer Strings and the Springfield International Folkdancers at the SCHS 12th annual cemetery walk.

Under the leadership of Nancy Chapin, chair of the event, thirty-five volunteers and Rochester Boy Scout Troops #40 and #58 directed the guests on their journey through time. Paul Mueller organized the Historama where 6 historical organizations and 2 authors displayed their wares. Marion Leach managed the concession stand. Tim Townsend, historian at the Lincoln Home, designed the program, and Dave and Doug Barringer were responsible for printing and folding the 750 copies.

Special thanks to the following sponsors: Apple Barn, Carver's Westside Power Equipment, County Market, Del's Popcorn, Meijers, St. Joseph's Church, Sam's Club, Shop 'n Save, Target, U. S. Bank, and Walmart.



DONATIONS

Polly Poskin
Dr. & Mrs. Virgilio Pilapil
Elmore Snyder

Memberships

Sustaining:

Frances Armstrong
Norman & Vicki Megginson
Carolyn Oxtoby
Cathy Schwartz & John Shafer

New Members:

Mary D. Disseler
Kris & Ida Johnson
Patrick Phillips Family

The Sangamon County Genealogical Society is offering 50% off selected publications through December 31, 2008.

For complete list of titles and order blank see:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilscgs2/sale.htm
or call 529-0542

Key to Collage on Page 5

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Charles Adams as Reverend Lyman Hubbard | K. Leona Edwards as Melinda Jones Bunn |
| B. Springfield International Folkdancers | L. Terry and Phyllis Steinhour |
| C. Gary Vitale | M. Ida Hubbard Johnson with Wrather Adams, Kris Johnson, Katria Seals, Chris Seals, and Charles Adams |
| D. Don Schneider as Dr. William Jayne | N. The cast |
| E. Erick Schroeder | O. Linda Schneider as Mary Douglass Hay Funk |
| F. Phyllis Jones and Chris Chastain | P. Susan Hammond |
| G. Perry Hall | Q. Charles Call, Erin Keys, Kaila Townsend, and Cindy Busby |
| H. Wrather Adams as George Richardson | R. Prairieland Dulcimer Strings |
| I. Bruce Davidson as Benjamin Franklin Caldwell | S. & T. Billy Washington as Charles Lee |
| J. Dan Buck and Nancy Chapin | |

Memories of "Echoes of Yesteryear," 2008 Cemetery Walk



See Key to Collage on
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308 E. Adams Street
Springfield IL 62701



Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
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NOVEMBER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

7	“Paint it Red,” original production of dramatic monologues capturing the emotion and tragic injustice of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot presented by Springfield College in Illinois.	8 pm Hoogland Center for the Arts; free admission; information at 525-1420 x290 or dlogan@sci.edu
8	Vachel Lindsay’s 129th birthday party	9 am to 4 pm Vachel Lindsay home
	Robert Irwin’s 200th birthday party	11:30 am to 4 pm Elijah Iles House
	“Paint it Red”	See November 7
12	SCHS Board meeting	5 pm Lincoln Library Carnegie Room
15	Beautiful Hats presented by The Tea Ladies, Inc.	2 pm Presidential Library Lincoln Reception Room – Ticket information 217-558-8934.
18	Third of <i>Central Illinois: Patchwork of People</i> Lunch and Learn series: “ Topic: “What They Built” (see September <i>Historico</i>)	11:30 am to 1:30 pm UIS Public Affairs Center Rooms C/D; 206-7395
	SCHS monthly program: “Old Man, Old Books, Old Stories” (see page 1) Bring old or collectible items for appraisal or discussion.	7 pm Lincoln Library Carnegie Room
19	The Sister Cities Association of Springfield will present the Gettysburg Address speech and essay contest winners from Springfield’s Sister City, Ashikaga, Tochigi, Japan	TBA Hall of Representatives Old State Capitol; contact jzerkle996@aol.com