



Historico

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

September, 2006

September 12, 5:00 PM

Board Meeting

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room South

- Officers**
- President**
Taylor Pensoneau
- Vice President**
Carolyn Moore
- Past President**
Dr. Virgilio Pilapil
- Secretary**
Sally Cadagin
- Treasurer**
Nancy Chapin
- Directors**
- Directors to 2007**
R-Lou Barker
John Huther
Janice Petterchak
Mary Jo Potter
Gary Vitale
- Directors to 2008**
Carol Andrews
David Brady
Phyllis Brissenden
Robert Davis
Carolyn Oxtoby
- Directors to 2009**
Jack Billington
Dan Buck
Al Eck, Jr.
Susan Hammond
Steve Leonard
- Honorary Director**
William Hughes Diller, Jr.
- Committee Chairmen**
- Book Sales**
Sue Wall
- Constitution & Bylaws**
Curtis Mann
- Finance**
John Huther
- Historico Editor**
Nancy Chapin
- Membership**
Carolyn Moore
- Nominations**
Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil
- Programs**
Taylor Pensoneau
- Project Awards**
Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil
- Publications**
Curtis Mann
- Publicity**
Janice Petterchak
- Webmaster**
Karen Everingham

September 19, 7:00 PM

Program

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room North

CWLP—A History of Trailblazing

Phillip M. Gonet

Pioneering developments in the history of Springfield's City Water, Light and Power—achievements that had far-reaching implications—will be discussed by Phillip M. Gonet, the general manager of CWLP from September 1998 to April 2003.

A look at the history of Springfield's municipally owned electrical generating complex and water purification system reveals a record of trend-setting advances in water purifying and in other areas under the wing of CWLP. Established as an alternative to the private power industry, CWLP attracted national attention virtually from its start for providing water and electricity at low rates to consumers. Further light on these matters will be shed by Gonet, who received high marks for his stewardship of the utility.

Prior to his stint at CWLP, Gonet served in Illinois state government for 23 years. Among his jobs, he was deputy chief of staff to former Governor Jim Thompson, executive director of the Illinois Commerce Commission and assistant director of the Department of Central Management Services. After his departure from CWLP, he became president of the Illinois Coal Association, the Springfield-based trade organization responsible for the promotion of Illinois coal. In addition, he and his wife Cathy are co-owners of Cold Stone Creamery, which opened earlier this year in downtown Springfield. Gonet received a bachelor's degree in political science from Merrimack College in Massachusetts and a master's degree in public administration from Penn State University.

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Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting, held at the Sangamon Club on June 20th drew a large turn out. Following the Treasurer's report, Curtis Mann brought the proposed Constitution change to allow for the election of an Honorary Director to a vote; which passed unanimously. John Paul then introduced the slate of Officers and Directors for 3 year terms to end in 2009, and proposed that William Hughes Diller, Jr. be elected an Honorary Director. (Their names now appear on the sidebar on the first page of this issue.)



President Pilapil then presented the remarks printed below before introducing incoming President, Taylor Pensoneau. President Pensoneau then introduced Janice Petterchak, our speaker for the evening. Her talk was delightful, but you don't get a synopsis of it because we have published it in a booklet and would rather you get the full story there.



The traditional raffle followed, with some wonderful prizes. Chairman Mann saw to it that this year's raffle was a bigger success than last year's by adding \$1 to bring the grand take to \$217.00!

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005-2006

On this last day of my presidency, and my last dinner with you as president, I would like to say that I am privileged to have served our Society in the capacity you have elected me. I hope that we in the Board have been successful in our efforts to promote Sangamon County history to you and the community. I will continue to urge you to research and write even just one piece of your personal, family or other Sangamon County-related history. If every single member of this Society will do just that, can you imagine how much history we will save from being lost just from the single work of the present group? I will leave it up to your imaginations to know the worth of what I have just said! . . .



Our term of office lasted a full year of 365 days, from June 21, 2005 to June 20, 2006. We had 13 speakers giving 10 separate presentations during our monthly program meetings including this one. One of these meetings was underscored by the only severe hurricane visitor of our city since the founding of our historical society. We also had 3 special events, in two of which we collaborated with Iles House which I would like to think is a sister organization, and the other with the Lincoln Colloquium which we have specially supported particularly during its early years. In addition, we had our annual cemetery walk at Oak Ridge Cemetery and a tour of Lafayette Funk's 1865 Prairie Home & Funk's Grove in Shirley, Illinois. And for the first time, we held two interesting dinner-time book reviews and publish our 45th Anniversary Society Directory after a 21-year lapse. We have re-established the position of Society historian since the death of the first one, Dr. Floyd S. Barringer, now assumed by Curtis Mann. And today, we are electing Board member Wm. Hughes Diller, Jr. as our first *Honorary Director* in recognition of his long and worthy service to the Society.

Having said all that, I would now like to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of our Board and Committees for their support and cooperation, and for their willingness to work as hard as they did and still carry a pleasant and happy essence around them. I consider that a reflection of their great attitude that should continue to inspire every one of us here in our Society to do the same. And so, to all of them and to all of you members who continue to support and participate in our activities, I say

Report cont >

Around Town

September 2-3 10:30 AM—4:30 PM
 Old State Capitol
 A storytelling festival featuring
 Mama Edie Armstong, Dan Keding,
 and Lucinda Flodin.

September 9, 2:30 PM
 Vachel Lindsay Home
 "Poets in the Parlor" featuring Lorrie
 Farrington

Publications list

In the adjoining column is a list of the books that the Society has published since its inception. While most of the earlier books and booklets are sold out, two have been reprinted and used copies are occasionally available at Prairie Archives.

Utopian Socialism, *Ursuline Sisters* and *The Bunion Derby* are new and will be available for purchase at the monthly meetings and at the Cemetery Walk. The DVD of the 9th Annual Cemetery Walk will also be available. Copies are also available at Robinson's, 308 E. Adams.

Author	Title		Year pub	Mem/nonmem
Blankmeyer, Helen	<u><i>The Sangamon County</i></u>	Sold Out	1965	
Heath, Caroline R.	<u><i>Four Days in May</i></u>	Sold Out	1965	
Krohe, Jr., James	<u><i>Summer of Rage (reprinted 2000)</i></u>		1973	\$3 -4.00
Bunn, Jr., George W.	<u><i>The Old Chatterton</i></u>	Sold Out	1974	\$3 -4.00
Howard, Robert	<u><i>A New Eden</i></u>	Sold Out	1974	
Russo, Edward J.	<u><i>Helmie & Helmie</i></u>	Sold Out	1974	\$3 -4.00
Skoczynski, Christine	<u><i>The Best of All Possible Worlds</i></u>	Sold Out	1974	\$3 -4.00
Cooke, Sister M. Francis	<u><i>Doors That Never Close</i></u>	Sold Out	1975	\$3 -4.00
Krohe, Jr., James	<u><i>Midnight at Noon (reprinted 2005)</i></u>		1975	\$5 -6.00
Krohe, Jr., James	<u><i>A Springfield Reader</i></u>	Sold Out	1976	\$15.00
Simmons, Mark W.	<u><i>1876, The Centennial Year in Springfield</i></u>	Sold Out	1976	\$3 -4.00
Kwedar, Melinda Fish	<u><i>Unsung Heroines</i></u>	Sold Out	1977	\$3 -4.00
Iles, Maj. Elijah	<u><i>Early Life and Times</i></u>	Sold Out	1995	\$3 -4.00
Chapin, Charles A	<u><i>CC Brown</i></u>		2002	\$3 - 4.00
Hart, Richard A.	<u><i>Springfield's Early African-Americans</i></u>		2002	\$3 - 4.00
Pokorski, Douglas	<u><i>Frank Zito</i></u>		2002	\$3 - 4.00
Pokorski, Douglas	<u><i>The Illinois Watch Company</i></u>		2003	\$3 - 4.00
Brady, David	<u><i>Hero or Hellion?</i></u>		2005	\$3 - 4.00
Kelley, Boston	<u><i>Utopian Socialism in Sangamon County</i></u>		2006	\$3 - 4.00
Fulgenzi, Sr. Darlene	<u><i>Ursuline Sisters in Springfield, Illinois</i></u>		2006	\$3 -4.00
Petterchak& Mann	<u><i>Vignettes from Walks through OR Cemetery</i></u>		2004	\$5 - 6.00
Petterchak, Janice	<u><i>Bunion Derby, The 1928 Trans-Contintal Foot Race</i></u>		2006	\$5 - 6.00
	Notecards		2001	\$5.00
Pokorski, Doug	<u><i>Springfield Stories (SJ-R anniversary edition)</i></u>		2006	\$20.00
DVD	<u><i>9th Annual Cemetery Walk</i></u>		2005	\$15-20.00
Note: Barringer books privately printed and donated to SCHS by the Barringer family				
Barringer, Floyd S.	<u><i>A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery</i></u>		1967	\$5 - 6.00
Barringer, Floyd S.	<u><i>Tour of Historic Springfield</i></u>		1971	\$5 - 6.00
Inventory				

President's report continued
 thank you. Thank you very much.

And lastly, I would like to give a small token reminder to our Board members and chairs of committees who served the Society in the past year, a token that is certainly inadequate to serve as a prize for a job well done, nor be worth anything in gold, but a token that was meant and I hope will serve, as a reminder to them to pry open the hidden vaults of history in Sangamon County where ever they may be and to write and preserve them so that the future generations will get to know what the people in our county did to make it great and a source of pride for us all. Thank you everyone and a special thanks to my wife, Elena, for her support and for being very understanding of what I do.

Virgilio R. Pilapil, M.D.

The 'token': A handsome painted wood duck letter opener



Memorials gratefully received

*In memory of
Dr. Floyd Barringer*

Dr. Mark K. and Jackie Hansen

In memory of Barbara Mason

Kathryn Harris

In memory of John Chapin

Michael & Jean Kienzler

We welcome new members:

Life members

Karla Krueger
Brenda June Holmes
Don Tracy

Sustaining Memberships

Madelyn & Jim Bogue
Julie Cellini
Barbara Weitekamp Diller
Alfred & Kay V. Hattoon Hofmann
Mr. & Mrs. Richard McLane

Regular & Family Memberships

Jack & Sue Ellen Billington
Mary Blumle
Michael D. Brophy
Terri Cameron
Bill & Karen Camille
Mr. & Mrs. Denis J. Conlon
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Crome
Albert & Nancy Eck
Phyllis Eubanks
Bryan & Mary Lou Johnsrud
Deborah S. Krohe
Denise & Robbie MacDonald
Lawrence & Elizabeth Reisch
SCI History Club
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Stern
Daniel Stowell

Website hosting change

We have recently changed the company that hosts our website to Network Solutions. Not only will it be much less expensive to maintain the website, but our new host will provide us with up to 50 email accounts under our domain name.

At this juncture we are unsure as to how best to utilize all of those email accounts, but you will note on the footer of this issue that we have one listed for contacting the Society; on our website there is a [re-search@sancohis.org](mailto:research@sancohis.org) for those with research questions that will go directly to Curtis Mann at the Sangamon Valley Collection; the webmaster, Karen Everingham, who has worked diligently to make this changeover seamless, has an address for questions pertaining to the website; and we will establish others as the need arises.

One possibility for the future is to reserve an email account to enable members to have access pictures from our various activities.

Phone book listing

The Society will have a listing in the Springfield telephone directory when the new books come out this fall. The number, 522-2500, will reach Theresa or Mary at Robinsons Advertising, and they will then direct the calls to the appropriate person if unable to answer them.

Membership renewals

While it is wonderful to have such an extensive list of new members, and members who have 'upgraded' their membership, we still have too many of you who haven't renewed your membership for the current year.

Next month will be the last issue of the Historico that non-renewed members will receive. In it we will have a complete list of current members, so please renew now and have your name included.

While you are thinking about membership, consider giving a membership to friends and/or family who might be interested in learning more about the history of the area. We have a wonderful list of programs scheduled for this year!

Just thought you ought to know -

The tip of the flagpole atop the Capitol Building is 405 feet above the ground. Without the flagpole, the Illinois capitol is seventy-four feet taller than the nation's capitol in Washington, D.C.

Honest Abe's
Honest Almanac

Family History Writing Project

As most of you are aware, Oak Ridge Cemetery has been celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. Over those 150 years there have been some 70,000 burials there, and undoubtedly many a story about why people came to this community; how they fared; their triumphs and disappointments; and the legacies they left behind. The burials include not only a president

and several governors but also those who have built this community. Some were well known, and to some extent their stories are recorded, but most came, lived, contributed and died with no one but their closest family knowing their story.

This project is an effort to gather many of the stories from those

who have family buried at Oak Ridge.

Virgilio R. Pilapil has volunteered to be in charge of this project, and we hope that many of you will contribute some of your family history. If you have any questions, you may contact Dr. Pilapil 494-2386 or Gilpini46@yahoo.com.



**The SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
And
OAK RIDGE CEMETERY BOARD OF MANAGERS
Invite you to participate in a
Family History Writing Project**



In conjunction with Oak Ridge Cemetery's 150th Anniversary Celebration

1. Participation is open to anyone with a family member buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery.
2. Suggested topics include:
 - Your family history;
 - Your first ancestor in Illinois/Sangamon County;
 - A favorite ancestor;
 - An ancestor with a special/unique/unusual accomplishment;
 - An interesting or life-changing family experience;
 - A family event in Illinois/Sangamon County.
3. Each essay is limited to 1,500 words. More than one submission is permitted.
4. Please include your name, address, telephone number and/or email address with your submission as a point of contact.
5. Submissions will not be returned, so participants are encouraged to keep copies of their essays.
6. Each participant agrees that the submission may be filed for research use at the Lincoln Library Sangamon Valley Collection and may also be edited for inclusion in a Sangamon County Historical Society publication.
7. Submission deadline is November 30, 2006. Send to: SCHS (Sangamon County Historical Society), Attention: "Family History Writing Project," 308 E. Adams, Springfield, IL 62701.

Sangamon County Historical Society
308 E. Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701



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Fall program Schedule

All programs to be held at 7:00 PM Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room North, unless otherwise indicated

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| October 17 | <i>The Panic of 1819—Its Cause and Its Significance in Illinois History,</i> | David Brady |
| November 21 | <i>Revitalizing Union Station and Union Square Park,</i> | Anthony Rubano |

10th Annual Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery - October 8th!!!



Remember the date for this year's Cemetery Walk! It promises to be special as it is the wrap up to Oak Ridge's 150th anniversary celebration! Featured will be the original lay out of the cemetery and its first recorded burial; Mayor Conkling, who gave an address at the dedication; orphaned sisters who came from Arkansas to be housed at the Home for the Friendless; a celebrated fireman who died in a fire at the Chicago World's Fair in 1892; and a conductor on the underground railroad.

The Historama will feature not only a wonderful concession stand, but SCHS books and authors with their own books; a 19th century undertaker demonstration and children's games.

There will be a trolley to take people from the parking lot to the start of the walk, and then back up to the parking lot from the Historama, and a special parking lot for those who wish to be on their own and walk to and from the start of the walk.

See you on October 8th at Oak Ridge Cemetery!!