



# HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

308 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 217-522-2500 [www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org)

SEPTEMBER 2009

## Potawatomi “Trail of Death” Update to Open Season; September 15 Meeting to be Held at Iles House

A talk by George Godfrey, the man behind a more than 20-year campaign to make the public more aware of, remember, and reflect upon the Potawatomi Trail of Death, will kick off the Sangamon County Historical Society’s 2009-2010 season on Tuesday, September 15.

The meeting will be held at the Elijah Iles House, 628 South 7th Street, Springfield, starting at 7 p.m. Members and guests are welcome to attend the free

presentation. Refreshments will follow. The parking lot is on the south side of Cook Street.

Godfrey, an Athens resident, will provide an update on his efforts and those fellow volunteers in promoting interest in the 660-mile Trail of Death running from Indiana to Kansas. The trail follows the route the Potawatomi Indians took when, through a series of shady deals and decisions, they were forced to leave fertile northern Indiana lands they had owned by

treaty. In 1838, the federal government initiated the “removal” of nearly a thousand Potawatomi and many children and the elderly died almost daily as they made their way on foot and horseback across Indiana and Illinois en route to Kansas.

Godfrey has been aided in his campaign by dozens of volunteers including Shirley Williard, president of the Fulton County Historical Society in



Rochester, Indiana, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and others. He initiated the movement in 1988—the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the march—by writing a letter to the *HowNiKan*, the Potawatomi Nation newspaper. In it, he pointed out that he crossed the Trail of Death every day on his way to work near Champaign, Illinois, and suggested something should be done to commemorate the historic event.

### INSIDE:

- From the President’s Podium.....2
- Lincoln Tomb Event Set.....3
- Buffalo Hart, UIS Programs Ahead.....3
- Emporium Project Seeks Volunteers.....3
- Member of the Month.....6

### NEXT MEETING:

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20**
- TOPIC: “State Bank of Illinois: Use and Abuse”
- SPEAKER: Dave Brady
- TIME: 7 p.m.
- LOCATION: Iles House, Springfield





# Don't Let Your Membership Slip Away

As an old, retired *Historico* editor, the September issue signals to me the start of a new year, so welcome to the 2009-2010 fiscal year for the Society!

This issue contains a list of Life members and those who have renewed their membership. If your name is not on the list, please **do renew quickly** as otherwise this will be your last *Historico* and we do NOT want to lose you!! (If you have already renewed and choose to send in another renewal for yourself, we will credit you with a donation!)

Elsewhere we've asked for those interested in developing our 'Emporium Project' to please volunteer. The truth is that we really need volunteers for most every committee and ask you please to call the office (522-2500) if you are interested in helping out anywhere. Most particularly we could use some help with hospitality, membership and tours, but the other committees need help also.

Do note that our fall programs will be held at Iles House because the library is closing early due to city budget restraints. We are most grateful to the Iles House board for opening the house and generously allowing us to use it.

The Society is supporting two programs on Saturday, September 26, unfortunately both at 2 p.m.:

•“**Cemetery Celebrities**” is the program at the **Lincoln Tomb** and will feature some of our research and script writing;

•**Dr. Brandon Curry**, of the State Geological Survey at U of I will be at the Presbyterian Church in Buffalo Hart to explain the **Buffalo Hart moraine** as the first part of the Buffalo Hart church's effort to celebrate its longevity. (15 miles out Route 54 from downtown Springfield).

Both programs sound fascinating, and we hope to see many of you at one or another of them!

Nancy

## SEPTEMBER REPORT

### New Members

#### Life Membership:

Francis Armstrong  
Farrell & Ann Gay  
Linda Moulton

#### New Member:

Mrs. Wauline Ann Quick  
Neil & Peggy Riley  
Tom Brinton  
Patricia Warren  
Andrew Wilkins  
Bradley Wilkins

### Donors

Elaine Hoff  
Paul Schanbacher  
Richard Wallin  
Wynn Wilkins

*The Society thanks you for your generosity in providing additional support for our programs!*

*Membership in the Sangamon County Historical Association is open to both individuals and families. Dues are \$17.50 per year for individuals, \$25 for a family, \$50 for a sustaining member. For Individual Life Membership, there is a one-time payment of \$250 and for Family Life Member, a one-time payment of \$400. For a membership form and/or additional information, contact the Society at 522-2500 or write to us at 308 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701.*



### 2009-2010 Officers Sangamon County Historical Association

**President**.....Nancy L. Chapin  
**Vice-President**.....David Scott  
**Secretary**.....Curtis Mann  
**Treasurer**.....Paul R. Mueller

#### Directors to 2010

R-Lou Barker ♦ Elaine Birtch  
Kim Efird ♦ Sue Wall ♦ Martha Wolters

#### Directors to 2011

Jack Alexander ♦ Connie Locher Bussard  
John Huther ♦ Jack Navins ♦ Jane Vetter

#### Directors to 2012

Tim Krell ♦ Vicki Megginson  
Bill Minder ♦ Sarah Thomas ♦ Roger Whitaker

#### Honorary Director

William Hughes Diller Jr.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Finance: Tim Krell; Hospitality: Jane Vetter; Long Range Planning: David Scott; Membership: Connie Bussard; Nominating: Phyllis Eubanks; Program: Jack Alexander; Tours: Susan Hammond; Project Awards: Elaine Birtch; Publications: John Huther.

## Lincoln Tomb Event Among Long List of Early Fall History Activities Here

From a Society co-sponsored close-up on “Cemetery Celebrities: Friends and Family of the Lincolns” at Lincoln’s Tomb on September 26 to a two-day “Once Upon A Storytelling Festival” at the Old State Capital and other sites later this fall, there will be lots to see and lots to do in Springfield in coming weeks in terms of historical activities.

Here’s a look at the September and October events:

**Saturday, September 5: Taking Leave**, a new drama written and directed by well-known central Illinois playwright Ken Bradbury, will be performed at the Old State Capitol Historic Site at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The program will dramatize what Mary Lincoln was doing on the day she moved from the White House without her husband by her side. Pam Brown will play Mary Lincoln. Free.

**Saturday September 26: “Cemetery Celebrities: Friends and Family of the Lincolns.”** Costumed actors will portray some of the Lincoln’s associates who are also buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in this special theatrical presentation put together by Lincoln Tomb staffers in con-



junction with the Sangamon County Historical Society. The 2 p.m. event is free and open to the public. Limited seating will be provided and lawn chairs are welcome. The program is ex-

pected to last about one hour and will be held in the courtyard west of the Lincoln Tomb. For information call 782-2717.

**Friday, October 16: Two-Day Once Upon a Prairie Storytelling Festival Begins.** The event starts Friday at 6 p.m. at the Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site with “Classically Scared: Read Into It What You Will,” with performer-readers reading from classic stories and poems of suspense; sounds and sights of the All Hallows season. It’s free, but reservations are required. (Call 524-0901). Hot chocolate and cookies will be served by lantern light in the back room. On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Lindsay home will host “Stories from the Prairie” while “Stories like Lincoln Used to Tell” will be shared at the Old State Capitol. From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Café Moxo, 411 East Adams, in downtown

Springfield there will a “Cookies and Milk” Family Story Hour with free cookies and milk for kids

**Saturday, October 17: Once Upon a Prairie Storytelling Festival, Day Two.** In this celebration of Lincoln’s 200th birthday, and the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, award winning storyteller Bobby Norfolk tells the story of Lincoln, the Civil War, and the trials and triumphs of African-Americans living in the shadow of slavery with a presentation of “In The Shadow of Lincoln” at 6 p.m. Portraying a freed slave named Jacob (around 1865), Norfolk uses first person narratives, poetry, and song to highlight the key players, events, and political forces that brought ordinary men and women into extraordinary circumstances. It’s free at the Old State Capitol. For information call 785-7960.

### Volunteer Now For New SCHS Project

We’re looking for people who would be interested in helping develop some special products that the Society can sell that reflect on and teach about our local history. We are thinking of putting out new note-cards with the scene explained; soap (made locally) with wrappers of historical interest; and/or other items that could be used to promote Sangamon County history. If you would like to help with this project, which we’ve dubbed the **Emporium Project**, please contact Nancy Chapin [schs@sancoh.org](mailto:schs@sancoh.org) or 483-2376

### Buffalo Hart Church to Host Geology Talk September 26

Dr. Brandon Curry, Senior Geologist from the Illinois State Geological Survey at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will discuss the glacial geology of the Buffalo Hart Moraine on Saturday, September 26 at 2 p.m.

The free lecture, open to the public, is part of a year-long series of events marking the Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church’s historical ties to the community. The church was built in 1896.

On Saturday, March 27 at 2 pm, Dr. Michael Wiant, Director of the Dickson Mounds Museum, will speak about the Native American presence in the Buffalo Hart area. Individuals who have artifact collections from this era are invited to bring them for display.

The Church is located on Route 54, 15 miles northeast of downtown Springfield. For information, call 523-2801 or check the church website at [www.buffalohartpc.com](http://www.buffalohartpc.com).



### UIS Alumni, Illinois Historical Society Team for Series Examining Creativity in the Illinois Heartland

“Central Illinois: Patchwork of Creative Minds,” a three session educational series examining creative expression that has flourished in the Illinois heartland, opens September 16 at the University of Illinois, Springfield with a session on “Through the Lens-Images of Nature and Humanity.” Sponsored by the UIS Alumni SAGE Society and the Illinois State Historical Society, free series runs Wednesdays from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Other sessions will be on October 21, and November 18. Pre-registration is required at least a week before each program. All sessions will be held in Rooms C/D on the lower level of the UIS Public Affairs Center. A by-reservation buffet lunch, at \$20 per person, also will be available in the meeting room at 11:30 a.m. A series luncheon package is \$50. For details call the alumni office at 206-7395 or e-mailing alumni @uis.edu. Information is also available on line at [www.uiaa.org/uis](http://www.uiaa.org/uis).



# 2009-2010 Sangamon County

## LIFE MEMBERS

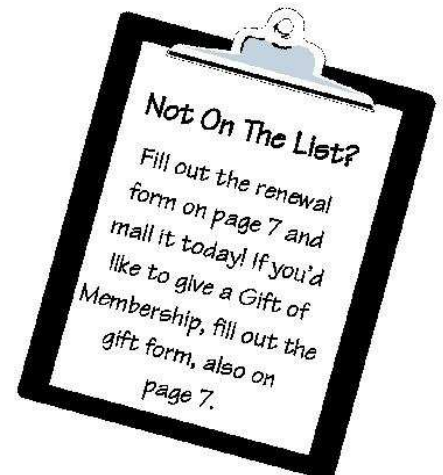
Charles W. Adams	Karla Krueger
Ann Allan	William S. Klein
*Frances Armstrong	Mr. Robert C. Lanphier III
R-Lou Barker	Dr. Victor H. Lary
Daniel Monroe Barringer	Miss Mary Frances Lavin
Tadd K. Baumann	Lincoln Library
Joann Bayer	Mary Ellen McElligott
Jay Elliott Bell	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. McNichols
Mr. Justin A. Blandford	*Linda Moulton
Mary Blumle	Dr. and Mrs. Kriegh P. Moulton
Mr. Edward A. Brooks	Mrs. Paula S. Myers
Mr. Robert H. Bunn	Aislin S. Nickey
Ms. Sally Cadagin	Joe Nicoud Jr.
Terri Cameron	Mrs. Georgia Northrup
Donna G. Catlin	Mrs. Thomas D. O'Brien
Charles & Nancy Chapin	Victoria O'Brien
Mr. Bradley S. Churchill	Thomas D. Patton
Job C. Conger IV	Elena E. Pilapil
Mrs. Mary Alice Davis	Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil
William Hughes Diller Jr.	Priscilla Reyhan
Mr. John B. Dixon	Sarah Robinson
Barbara H. Farris	Pauline Roesch
Nadine Ferguson	Dorothy Ross
Carol Jean Fraase	Patricia K. Rudolph
F. Sheplor Franke	Edward J. Russo
C. David Franke III	Paul Schanbacher
Mrs. Carl D. Franke, Jr.	Logan H. Schlipf
Mr. Donald Hay Funk	Nanchen and Michael Scully
*Farrell & Ann Gay	Don Springer
Linda L. Garvert	Dr. Charles A. Starling
Karen Graff	Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Stuart Jr.
Dr. Donald R. Graham	Mr. Don Tracy
Perry and Marilyn Hall	Enrique J. Unanue
Ginger Harmon	Mrs. A. D. Van Meter
Mr. Richard E. Hart	Elizabeth A. Weir
Earl W. Henderson Jr.	L. A. Wollan, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick B. Hoffmann	Mrs. Harold B. Wright
Mrs. Kay V. Hattoon Hofmann	Mary Jane Wright
Brenda June Holmes	Dr. Elvin Zook
Walter Wesley Johnston	Mrs. Sharon Zook
Alex J. Jones IV	

\* NEW LIFE MEMBER



## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Dr. Alan & Elaine Birtch  
 Jim & Madelyn Bogue  
 Mrs. Walter F. Brissenden  
 Lawrence & Connie Locher-Bussard  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Church  
 George Anne Daly  
 Dr. G. Cullom & Ann Davis  
 David & Laurie Farrell  
 Charles & Susan Hammond  
 John & Catherine Huther  
 Richard McLane  
 Vicki & Norman Megginson  
 Paul R. Mueller  
 David & Virginia Scott  
 Carl W. and Roberta E. Volkmann



# Historical Society Members



## FAMILY MEMBERS

Bill & Kathie Adams  
Gary & Jan Adams  
Stan and Carolyn Adams  
Douglas M. & Pamela Barringer  
Mary and Jim Beaumont  
Linda Bee  
Michael & Christine Brophy  
Mr. & Mrs. George N. Buck  
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Buck, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carlson  
Jeremy Carrell  
Mary Lynne Cleverdon  
Mr. & Mrs. Denis J. Conlon  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Crome  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Davenport  
Mr. & Mrs. Kirby Davenport  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Davenport, Jr.  
Robert & Patricia Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Derhake  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dickerman  
Lela E. Espenshied  
Flagg Farmstead Bed & Breakfast  
Stuart and Judith Fliege

Ralph & Nancy Hahn  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hiler  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Hiler, Jr.  
Preston & Joanne Hott  
Mr. & Mrs. William Irvine  
Bryan & Mary Lou Johnsrud  
Orville A. & Miriam Keirs  
Terry Bayliss and Joan Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. Loren L. Lowery  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lynn  
Denise & Robbie MacDonald  
Frank & Ruthann Mazrim  
Stephen D. & Susan McKenrick  
Ralph & Carolyn Moore  
Richard & Caryl Moy  
Mike & Kathie Nenaber  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Noll  
John and Joanne Paul  
Phil & Thelma Peabody  
Taylor & Elizabeth Pensoneau  
John & Janice Pettechak  
Patrick Phillips Family  
Ernie & Ruth Ponai

\*Mrs. Wauline Ann Quick  
Lawrence & Elizabeth Reisch, Jr.  
\*Neil & Peggy Riley  
Patricia Sabo Family  
Mr. & Mrs. William Sausaman Jr.  
Dr. Richard & Sally Sellwood  
William H. & Bonnie Shannon  
James A. & Jo Skeeters  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Slater  
Robert & Mary Sneed  
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold A. Stern  
Robert & Virginia Taylor  
Donald P. & Donna M. Thannen  
Michael and Debra Thompson  
Tim & Diane Townsend  
Terry and Judith Ullrich  
Larry & Pam VanAlstine  
William and Jane Vetter  
Gary & Jean Vitale  
Richard E. & Mary Ellen Walton  
Roger & Vicky Whitaker  
Randall & Karen Witter

\*NEW FAMILY MEMBER

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Glen H. Alexander  
Jack Alexander  
Jim & Madelyn Allen  
Mary R. Barringer  
Sherri Boner  
Estella P. Booth  
Norma Brantley  
\*Tom Brinton  
Mrs. Helen E. Brooks  
Daniel Buck  
Norman Ray Buecker  
Mrs. Barbara J. Burris  
Darlene Burtle  
Diane Canavan  
Cathy Caughlin  
Chatham Area Library  
Elaine Corum

Cathy Cragoe  
Mrs. Mary Crane  
Theresa Faith Cummings  
Thelma Davenport  
Mary Lou Delahunt  
Anna Marie Diefenback-  
Mary D. Disseler  
Lee Eastep  
James A. Edstrom  
Phyllis N. Eubanks  
Jane Fee  
James H. FitzGerald  
Kerry Franke  
Kathleen F. Friedman  
Lee Gonzalez  
Dianne Hardwick

Daniel Hiler  
Elaine Hoff  
Newlyn Hosea  
William J. Hosking  
Doris Hunter  
Jane E. Hurie  
Jerome Jacobson  
Julia L. Jeffers  
Roberta Johantgen  
Rosemary King  
Elizabeth N. Kloppenburg  
David Koss  
Mrs. Margot L. Kramer  
Tim E. Krell  
Ronald D. Ladley  
Marion Leach  
Doris J. Leonard

Lincoln Home  
Curtis Mann  
Robert Mazrim  
Mrs. John McKee  
William S. Minder  
Paul W. Mueller  
Jack Navins  
Mrs. Lorraine O'Hern  
Ian J. Patterson  
Barbara Jean Reid  
John R. Rodenburg  
Mrs. Joyce Sandage  
Todd A. Saviste  
Dorothy Z. Sheedy  
Dore Skeels  
Lynda E. Skinner  
Elmore W. Snyder

Katie Spindell  
Mrs. Barbara Steward  
Joyce M. Stuper  
Frances M. Telsey  
Sarah H. Thomas  
Karen Thompson  
Mary L. Townsend  
Charlene M. Vollmer  
Susanne Wall  
Richard R. Wallin  
\*Patricia Warren  
Robert E. Warren  
Betty Washko  
\*Andrew Wilkins  
\*Bradley T. Wilkins  
Wynn T. Wilkins  
Bruce Yurdin  
\*NEW MEMBER

## Jack Alexander: *Love of History Learned at an Early Age*

Jack Alexander learned about history at his father's knee, a good thing for the 36-year-old Springfield native and Sangamon County Historical Society director. Alexander recently became Site Superintendent for the Lincoln Tomb.

"My dad, it seems, was almost always in a discussion with someone about Illinois history or the Civil War or Abraham Lincoln and somehow just being around this on a regular basis, the interest in me grew as well, wanting to know more about those stories," he says.

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**"The biggest challenge to me so far has been to try and find more time to spend with the visitors to our site."**

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Alexander's new job keeps him busy overseeing every aspect of the historic site's operations, from routine administrative duties to conducting research, and developing an interpretive plan for the popular tourist destination. He loves every minute of it.

"The biggest challenge to me so far has been to try and find more time to spend with the visitors to our site. I really enjoy talking about history with people and especially about President Lincoln, explains Alexander, who is in his second year on the Society's board and is chair of the program committee. "The reward to me is hearing from those visitors how meaningful their visit was or even how beautiful the site looks. The staff at the Lincoln Tomb works very hard to try and provide our visitors with a memorable visit."

Alexander is the first to admit that he's no expert on Lincoln, but he is a quick study. "There is so much information about this great man that is available due to such a high global interest, especially in the Springfield area. I have quite a collection of Lincoln books--just ask my wife--and I'm usually reading a new Lincoln book at any given time. I must admit though, that when I showed up for my first day at the Lincoln Tomb I felt like there was an entire part of Lincoln's story that I was going to have to learn rather quickly," he recalls.

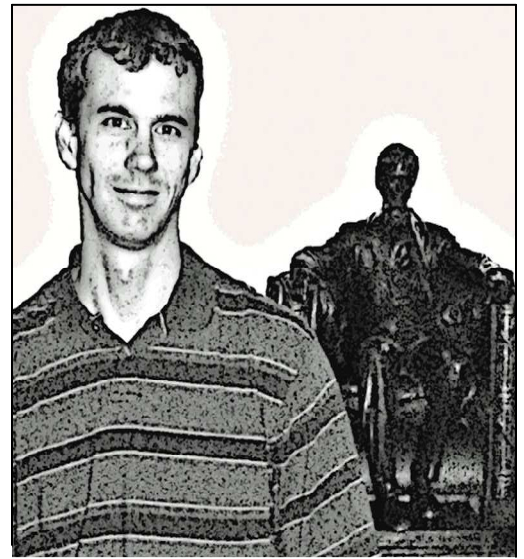
"I have always focused on the life of Lincoln and never really put much of a focus on his death and the creation of his final resting spot. So, I still continue to learn, almost daily, about the fascinating history of the Lincoln Tomb and Oak Ridge Cemetery."

**The History Channel's** recent broadcast of "*Stealing Lincoln's Body*," and Thomas Craughwell's book by the same name, has definitely captured the public's interest in visiting the Tomb, he adds. "I am amazed at just how many people that visit have that topic in mind and want to know just how much of the story is true. I hope to develop some sort of program in the near future that we can offer where we talk more about this part of the site's history. I believe that it, too, is a part of the history of the Lincoln Tomb and should be told in the proper format."

Though born in Springfield, Alexander did most of his growing up in

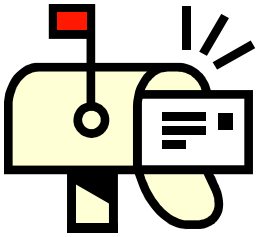
Virden. After graduating Virden High School in 1991, he enlisted in the Army, serving in Germany and the United States. "I utilized my G.I. Bill and Army College Fund, rather than taking a bonus check for signing up, to help me get my professional career determined." After graduating from Lincoln Land Community College with an associate's degree, Alexander went on to the University of Illinois at Springfield from which he was awarded a bachelor of arts degree in history.

I had just completed my first semester



of "graduate studies, also at UIS, when I was offered a position as a site interpreter at the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum." The Museum is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which also operates Lincoln's Tomb and about 60 other historic sites and memorials around the state. Alexander served as a site interpreter for nearly three years before taking the Lincoln Tomb post three months ago.

Alexander and his wife Darla, whom he married in 1998, have two children, an eight-year-old son and a six-year-old daughter. They reside in Springfield.



Great Meetings, Lots Of Activities Ahead for 2009-2010

# Don't Miss Out By Failing to Renew!

Here's your membership form for the 2009-2010 fiscal year which began June 1, 2009.

To join or renew your membership, fill out the form below and mail it to the Sangamon County Historical Society, 308 East Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701. And while you're at it, why not get an early start on your holiday shopping list by giving a gift of membership? Just fill in the Membership Gift Form. We'll take it from there. We'll send the recipient a letter announcing the gift with your name as the donor.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual:.....	\$17.50
Family:.....	\$25.00
Sustaining.....	\$50.00
Individual Life:.....	\$250.00*
Family Life:.....	\$400.00*

\*one time payment

## 2009-2010 Renewal/New Member Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to take a greater role in Society programs and events. My area of interest area is in: \_\_\_\_\_.

I'd be willing to provide refreshments for one of the meetings.

I'd like to serve on a committee. I'm particularly interested in: \_\_\_\_\_.



## ...A Gift of Membership

2009-2010

Please send a gift membership in the Sangamon County Historical Society in my name to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sangamon County Historical Society**  
308 East Adams Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Non-profit Organization  
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Permit No. 777  
Springfield, Illinois

## **In November**

**Tuesday, November 17**

**TOPIC:** “*Gone With the Wind: The Barretts of Sangamon County.*”

**SPEAKER:** Curtis Mann

**LOCATION:** Iles House

**TIME:** 7 p.m.



### **2009-2010 Board Meetings**

*(Second Wednesday)*

September 9, October 14, November 13,  
January 13, February 10, March 10,  
April 14, May 12

### **2010 Monthly Programs**

*(Third Tuesday)*

January 19, February 6, March 16,  
April 20, May 18

### **2010 Annual Meeting**

June 17

*Now On Our Website:*

## **Lincoln’s Friendship Train Arrives**

The Society’s website ([www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org).) is continuing its display of photos from the Mercury Studio Collection at the Lincoln Library Sangamon Valley Collection. The Lincoln Friendship Train is in the latest to go on line. For more, go to our website!



**MOMENTS TO REMEMBER:**  
G. William Horsley portrayed Abraham Lincoln when the Lincoln Friendship Train arrived in Springfield at the Great Western Depot on February 12, 1948.