



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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AUGUST, 2011

Society to Host Free History Arts Event September 10 at Old State Capitol; Make Reservations Now for Preview Reception, Talk on September 9

The Society will kick off the season on September 10 with a free, public celebration of Sangamon County History through the Arts in the Old State Capitol on Saturday, September 10 from Noon to 4 p.m..

The event will be preceded on Friday, September 9 with a private preview reception open only to Society members, sponsors, members of other participating historical organizations and artists at 6 p.m. Steve Berry, an internationally acclaimed author and historic preservationist, will be guest speaker. Tickets are required for the reception, which is being co-hosted by the Old State Capitol Foundation. *(See order form, page 3).*

Saturday's indoor event will give the public an opportunity to watch and listen to visual and performing artists showcasing their talents throughout the Old State Capitol

building. Among them will be artist Bill Crook, sculptor John McCrary, stained glassmaker Steve Brooks, watercolorist Jan Sorenson, pastelists George King, songwriter Town Irwin, poet Dennis Cap, the Springfield International Dancers, The Prairie Land Dulcimers and the Old State Capitol Chorale. In addition, attendees will be able to view all entries in the Society's "Sangamon History Through the Arts" art competition. Artists can submit up to three works with a Sangamon County historical theme and in any medium by August 25. The works must have been created within the past three years. Winners of the contest who will be announced at the Friday night reception, will receive cash awards.

Works by First Place entries will be on display at the Old

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Grant's March Sesquicentennial Tour a Hit; Eye Repeat Bus Trip in October

Historian John Alexander, assisted by son and fellow Society member Jack Alexander, led this year's anniversary tour of Grant's March last month, one that fell not only on a Sunday, but the Sunday of the nation's birthday party!

The Society has led excursions following this march at least four times in the past but this one, on July 4 to Naples, Illinois, was the sesquicentennial of Grant's march. (Another trip is in the works, tentatively either for Sunday, October 2 or Friday, October 7 to be led by John Alexander. See the form on page 3 if you're interested in either one of those dates. We'll notify you when the details are finalized). The fee is \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members.

Over the years certain traditions have developed along the march. At the New Salem United Methodist Church the members supply hard boiled eggs and iced tea as it is said that's what the soldier had upon arriving at the site. They then shared the beginning of their service with patriotic hymns and prayers.

"From there we passed the Berlin Cemetery where

(Continued on page 2)

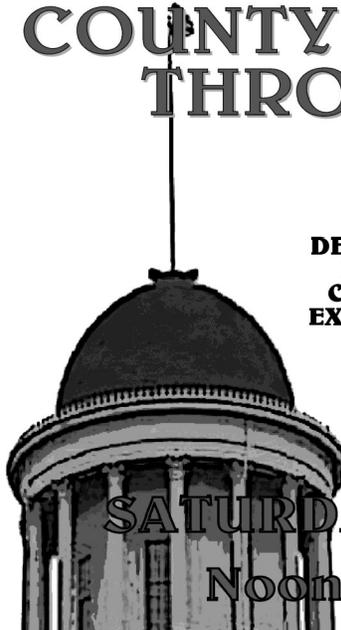
THE SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN

Celebrating
**SANGAMON
COUNTY HISTORY
THROUGH THE
ARTS**

**LIVE MUSIC, ART
DEMONSTRATIONS, DANCE,
POETRY, HISTORY ART
COMPETITION WINNERS,
EXHIBITS AND MUCH MORE
FOR ALL AGES!**

*In the Old State Capitol State Historic
Site, 1 E. Old State Capitol Plaza,
Springfield, Illinois.*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10
Noon-4 p.m., FREE



Sangamon County History and the Arts Celebration September 10

(Continued from page 1)

State Capitol through October 3. (Entry forms and competition details are available on the Society's website at www.sancohis.org).

Artists will be able to sell their works during the event. Along with the Society and the Old State Capitol Foundations, other history organizations across the county are expected to be represented on Saturday.

"We're really delighted that we were able to come together on this so quickly," noted Society president Nancy Chapin.

"Old State Capitol Historic Sites site manager Justin Blandford and his staff, the Old State Capitol Foundation, and representatives of the arts community have enthusiastically stepped forward to work with us on this new project. We are also appreciative of the generous financial support from Brown, Hay & Stephens, the oldest business in Sangamon County and the oldest law firm in the state.

Volunteers Needed, Call Now

"We need your help on this event both before and during the weekend of September 9-10," Chapin emphasized. "Please let

us know today if you would be willing to help by calling the Society office at 525-1961 or sending us an e-mail at schsoffice@gmail.com." Volunteers can get involved in numerous tasks such as helping set up, artist registration, even guiding the public through the building to the various artist work areas.

"This is a wonderful way to kick off our season and we look forward to offering members and the general public many more opportunities to interact with Sangamon County history and the Society," Chapin said.

Grant's March 150th Anniversary Tour on a Very Special Date in U.S. History

(Continued from page 1)

Governor. Yates' parents are buried and stopped at Island Grove to note the generosity of James N. Brown who offered Grant's 1,000 men a July 4th dinner, but Grant pushed on to his camp for the night. The following day they passed through Jacksonville and made no note of the Grierson house, not knowing that Benjamin Grierson would become key to the success of Grant's Vicksburg struggle," noted Society president Nancy Chapin who organized the tour. A

lunch stop was made in Duncan Park where Carol Jean produced an elegant boxed lunch. The tour went past the Fairgrounds where Grant is said to have dumped out even his officers' canteens if found to be full of spirits.

"It was interesting to note all along the way the number of houses of one sort or another that had been there 150 years before. Some had fared well but it looks like others will soon be gone. When we reached Exeter, once a thriving town on the stagecoach line, another tradition was fol-

lowed. By the time Grant's regiment had reached that area, word has spread that this was an impressive regiment and the ladies from along the ridge rewarded them with apple pie. A tradition we shared while stopping where Grant's men had stopped 150 years before," she added.

Chapin said the group was disappointed not to be able to tour the beautifully restored Abbott House at Naples. Purportedly built in 1822, the house has suffered through hard times in the interim but has found new life. However, a holiday weekend is also a family weekend and the family was there.

Grant's march turned out to be significant because Grant had taken an unruly regiment and set to training them in an unusual way. In so doing he proved to be strict but fair. He could

have simply taken the train to Naples but chose to use the march as a training exercise. By the time he reached the Illinois River he, an unknown, was known, and just a month later was named Brigadier General. The march is therefore considered significant as a first, perhaps major step in the Union victory.



ON TOUR: Jack Alexander gives pointers (left) before lunch at Duncan Park.

Sangamon County Historical Society FALL MEETING AND EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST

Now: *Call to volunteer* for the Sangamon County History Through the Arts celebration, 525-1961 or schsoffice@gmail.com.

August 25: *Deadline for entries* in the Sangamon County History Through the Arts art competition.

SEPTEMBER

September 5: *Non-surcharge ticket deadline* for reservations for September 9 reception (see below).

September 9: *Reception* for "Sangamon County History through the Arts," 6 p.m. Old State Capitol, Reservations, at \$20 per person, required (*See page 3*)

September 10: "Sangamon County History through the Arts," *Celebration*, Noon to 4 p.m.. Old State Capitol.

OCTOBER

October: *Grant's March Bus Tour* (Date to be determined. *See form page 3*)

October 18: "Old Settler's Day Revisited," Pioneer Park Chatham, 5 p.m. .

NOVEMBER

November 15: Program to be announced.

DECEMBER

December 13: *50th Anniversary Gala* celebration, Strawbridge House, Springfield.

SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER RESERVATION FORM

Private Preview Reception

for "Sangamon County History Through the Arts"
September 9, 6 p.m. , Old State Capitol Historic Site, Springfield



Please send this form and your check (made out to the Sangamon County Historical Society) to SCHS at 123 South Seventh Street, Suite 402, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Reservations must be postmarked by September 5. *Reservations made after that date will be \$30 per person.*

Please make reservations for _____ members for the Reception on Friday, September 9 at 6 p.m.. Enclosed is my check for _____.

Name: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

2011-2012 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my membership for 2011-2012 in the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City & Zip: _____

e-mail address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____ Business _____

Category of Membership: (Please circle)

Household: \$25 Sustaining Household: \$100 Life Membership Household (one-time payment of \$700)
Not-for-Profit Organization, \$20 Corporate (Please contact us for details)

Enclosed is \$ _____. Checks should be made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society and mailed to the Society at 123 South Seventh Street, Suite 402, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

OCTOBER GRANT BUS TOUR



Please indicate preference as 30 people will need to choose a date to reserve bus.

- ___ 1. Available either date but prefer Oct. 2
- ___ 2. Available either date but prefer Oct. 7
- ___ 3. Available only Oct. 2
- ___ 4. Available only Oct. 7
- ___ 5. Sounds interesting, but available neither date

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ e-mail: _____

Sangamon County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1834,
Springfield, IL 62705
Return Service Requested

**Non-profit Organization
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Springfield, Illinois**



Historico, published 10 times a year, is the monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Back issues are available on-line in PDF format at our website, www.sancohis.org. We are in the process of redesigning our website. Look for more information in the future.

Event updates also can be found on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com) and Twitter (www.twitter.com). Log in and search for Sangamon County Historical Society.

Annual Membership dues for 2011-2012 are:

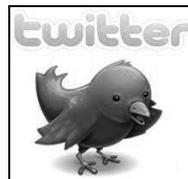
Household: **\$25**, Sustaining: Household **\$100**.
Household Life Membership, one-time payment
of **\$700**.

Not-for-Profit Organization, **\$20**
Corporate, (**Contact us for details**)

For a membership form and/or additional information, contact the Society at 525-1961 or write to us at P.O. Box 1834, Springfield, IL 62705 or schsoffice@gmail.com.

We're Now on Twitter!

Thanks to Kiran and Kaushal Desai, we now have a Twitter account! Our Twitter address is SanCoHis, and we hope you will all follow us, retweet us and tell your friends where to find us!



Our goal is to keep you as up to date as possible and then to have you spread the news! Thanks again to Kiran and Kashal!

Photos Now on Facebook

Kaushal Desai has also updated our Facebook page and Curtis Mann is re-sending the Mercury photos that were to be part of an identification competition last year; the pictures having been too small for identifications. We also hope to use the Facebook to help keep you informed of interesting things going on in the community. Thanks to both Desais for their help and support!

