

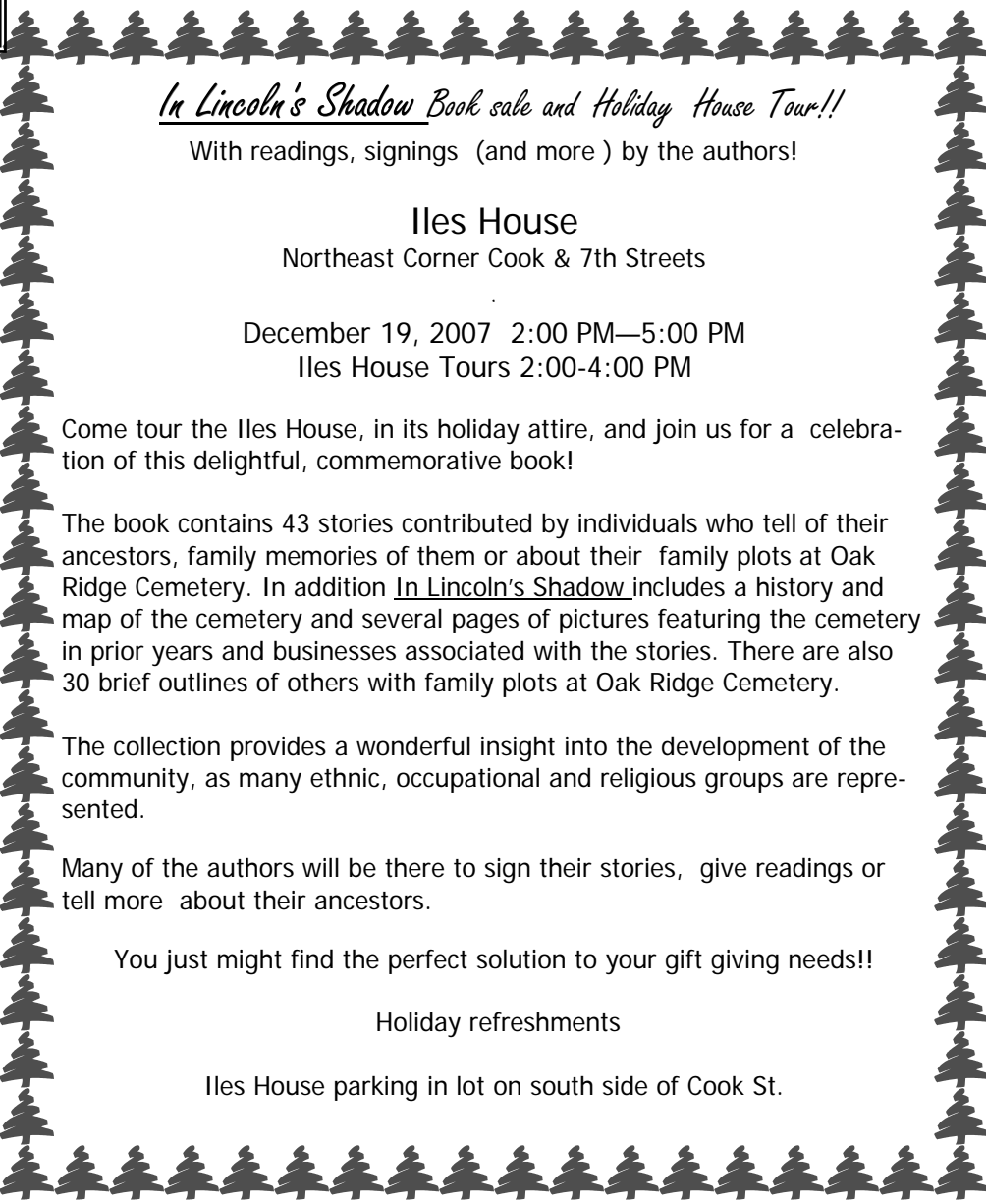


Historico

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

December, 07/January, '08

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In Lincoln's Shadow Book sale and Holiday House Tour!!

With readings, signings (and more) by the authors!

Iles House

Northeast Corner Cook & 7th Streets

December 19, 2007 2:00 PM—5:00 PM
 Iles House Tours 2:00-4:00 PM

Come tour the Iles House, in its holiday attire, and join us for a celebration of this delightful, commemorative book!

The book contains 43 stories contributed by individuals who tell of their ancestors, family memories of them or about their family plots at Oak Ridge Cemetery. In addition In Lincoln's Shadow includes a history and map of the cemetery and several pages of pictures featuring the cemetery in prior years and businesses associated with the stories. There are also 30 brief outlines of others with family plots at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The collection provides a wonderful insight into the development of the community, as many ethnic, occupational and religious groups are represented.

Many of the authors will be there to sign their stories, give readings or tell more about their ancestors.

You just might find the perfect solution to your gift giving needs!!

Holiday refreshments

Iles House parking in lot on south side of Cook St.

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Around town in December and January -

December Wednesdays & Saturdays Iles House
10:00 –4:00 PM Holiday decorated house tours
December 5, 12 and 19 Old Capitol Holiday Walks
6:30 PM Lincoln-Herndon Law Office DePriest Puppet Show
Old State Capitol "History Hunt"
December 5 Old State Capitol Eddy Flute Choir
December 12 Old State Capitol Springfield Chorale Society
December 15 Deadline for ISHS Annual Award nominations
December 19 Old State Capitol Springfield Show Stoppers
December 23 Dana Thomas House Luminaria Sunday

Best wishes for a happy holiday!

We Welcome New Members

Robert Church
Ralph and Nancy Hahn

Memorials gratefully received

Memory of Barbara Mason

Perry Hall

Memory of Jim Coble

Perry Hall

Report on November program -

Bob Church gave a persuasive presentation of the effect of Abraham Lincoln's rather short surveying career on his political and legal successes. He pointed out the breadth of Lincoln's surveying work covered not only land surveys, but the laying out of roads and towns – some of which were developed, such as Petersburg, and some to go into oblivion, such as Albany and Huron. Part of his work was to determine disputed land boundaries, a subject that was to come up repeatedly in his legal career.

Bob began by pointing out that Lincoln lost his first bid for office in 1832, but after being licensed as the Sangamon County Deputy Surveyor and plying his new trade judiciously for two years, he was elected to the legislature in 1834, having earned the respect of his neighbors. As a lawyer Lincoln then argued for his clients using sound surveying principles.

Credit was given to Adin Baber and his 1969 book, A. Lincoln with Compass and Chain, for preserving many of the details of Lincoln's surveying career, and after delineating several of them, Bob proceeded to give his audience a short course in surveying and the tools thereof with pictures of a chain, or ½ chain as Lincoln used, a Jacob's staff, compass and the indispensable field book to record his findings (now available for viewing at New Salem).

Bob ended his presentation by calling attention to the statue of Lincoln the Surveyor at New Salem that he had worked to have installed as a reminder to all of Lincoln's surveying background.

January 15, 2008 Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Program

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room North

Springfield Race Riots

Kathryn Harris

The Springfield 1908 Race Riot was a “dark blot” on the city’s reputation. How could a race riot take place in “Mr. Lincoln’s hometown? In this year of centennial commemoration, Kathryn will not only give the “facts” about the riot, but will also share what the City and other local organizations are planning to memorialize the event. Finally, she will share her thoughts about the “legacy” of the riot, where we are today, and where do we go from here to assure that the events in 1908 do not happen again.

Kathryn M. Harris, a former President of SCHS, serves as the Library Services Director at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, formerly the IL State Historical Library. A 1971 graduate of the University of IL/Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Harris recently received the 2007 Distinguished Alumna Award from her alma mater. A native of Carbondale, Harris has worked in libraries since graduating; her first professional position was in the Reference Department at Lincoln Library in 1971. Since that time, she has worked in various special and university libraries in IL and in FL, including Florida International University, Miami, So. IL University Medical Library, and the IL State Library. Harris was recently appointed to the Mayor’s Commission to Commemorate the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. Harris enjoys “the stage” and has appeared as “Sadie Delany” in “Having Our Say” and as “Elizabeth Keckley” in “The Last of Mrs. Lincoln”; she has also portrayed characters over the years for the SCHS Cemetery Walk. But by far, her favorite role is portraying “Harriet Tubman” for schools, civic and social organizations, and church groups in Springfield and the central IL area.

Bi-centennial grant submitted

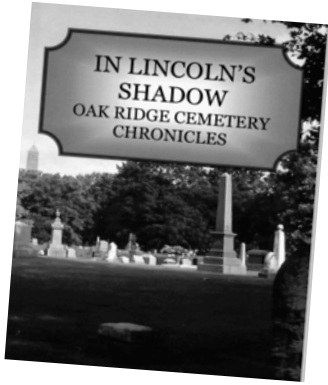
On November 15 the Board submitted a grant request to the Illinois Bi-centennial Commission requesting funds to expand the Cemetery Walk in 2009 to include more portrayals at Oak Ridge Cemetery, an interactive performance of some of Lincoln’s contemporaries on the Old State Capitol lawn and several interactive portrayals at various schools. Grants will be awarded on January 31, 2008, and if SCHS’ request is granted, we will need lots of help with researching and script writing and a lot of other elements to the project. For years we have sought some way of introducing students to some of the fascinating people we have had portrayed at Cemetery Walks, and this project will let us not only introduce Lincoln’s neighbors to students, but to show them interacting with each other as they might have done during their lifetimes.

*Request from
the Nominating Committee -*

The Sangamon County Historical Society’s mission is to perpetuate and create interest in the history of Springfield and Sangamon County and promote educational and literary purposes. This is a particularly exciting time in Springfield as the celebration and commemoration of the Lincoln Bicentennial will occur in 2008-2009. It will be an interesting time to be involved in the SHSC.

We are looking for members who would enjoy serving on the Board or volunteering for various activities. Please let us know by calling 217-522-2500.

Thank you!
Susan Hammond,
Nominating Committee Chairman



This publication being the first the Society has published with an ISBN number and barcode, it is the first that could be placed for sale at Barnes & Noble. We are pleased to report that they have ordered 90 books to date!

Books are also available from the SCHS office (308 E. Adams) and the Oak Ridge Cemetery office.

Here is a little article Curtis Mann found in the December 2, 1907 issue of the *Springfield News*.

Boys of Seventy-six; Springfield Born

Dr. William Jayne on Sunday called attention to curious coincidences in the lives of two of Springfield's well known citizens, Dr. George Pasfield and Charles A. Keys. "I call them my boys of seventy-six," said Dr. Jayne, because they were both born just seventy-six years ago this week and both of them were born in Springfield. Dr. Jayne is himself a native of Springfield, having been born here in 1826, just five years before the other "boys" saw the light of day in 1831.

All of these men have had much to do with making the history of Springfield and all of them are well supplied with information concerning the early days. When men of this age who are native to the city are living it shows what the growth of a community like this means. When the Jaynes, Pasfields and Keys came to Sangamon County, Springfield was a frontier settlement of log cabins and the country about it was virgin prairie. It was a far cry from this village to the modern city of today, but to the men who have lived all that time and seen it all it does not seem very long at all...



Period Ball on New Year's Eve

An archival search of the local papers, *Illinois State Register* and *Illinois State Journal*, indicates that balls were held at the Old State Capitol repeatedly in the 19th century, and this year such an event will be recreated on New Year's Eve.

January 9, 1843: "The citizens of Springfield and visitors of said city granted use of Rep. Hall on this evening to celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans"

May 1, 1850: "Monsieur De La Barthe holds an 'exhibition ball' beginning at 8 PM in the Senate Chamber. Gentlemen's tickets available at Chatterton's, Birchall & Owens Drug Store, and the American House."

November 11, 1850: "Masonic Lodge holds an evening ball at the statehouse to raise funds for building at Masonic hall in Springfield next summer. Tickets available from Capt. J. R. Diller at firm of Ash and Diller. Music provided by Prof. Kennedy leading the Union Brass Band of St. Louis"

June 26, 1852: "Masonic Lodge holds a citizens ball in Rep. Hall on the evening of St. John's day. Grierson's Band plays. Tickets on sale at Corneau & Diller's Drug Store, Ives & Curran's and C.W. Chatterton's Jewelry Store."

And in 2007 -

The glamour of women twirling in hoop skirts on the arms of dashing gentlemen will be re-created during the First Night Period Ball scheduled for New Year's Eve at the Old State Capitol Hall of Representatives in downtown Springfield. The Period Ball is free and open to the public from 7 – 10 PM and is part of the First Night Springfield celebration, though no First Night button will be required. The parking garage underneath the Old State Capitol will be open, and parking rates will be \$3 per car.

Springfield Society Before the Civil War, by Caroline Owsley Brown

New Year's day was universally a fete day – everybody kept "Open House", and if some family affliction prevented a lady's receiving, she tied a basket to the doorknob wherein her friends could deposit their cards. Each lady received in her own home assisted by her daughters and any house guests. It was not until after the War that Mrs. C. M. Smith introduced the fashion of inviting a number of outside people to receive with her; and the first time she did so, a great deal of criticism befell the hostess, and her receiving party was called a mob. As a child I can remember the great hurry and flurry that stirred the household on this festive occasion, to get the parlors to a certain degree of temperature. For some early birds came about nine o'clock – and they were generally quite old birds that should have known better. Sometimes when it was very cold, the fireman arose several times during the night to fill the stoves with wood. In this icy atmosphere egg nog was very tempting, and many a young gallant found it hard to stand upright about six P.M. At each house the caller was expected to eat oysters, chicken salad, drink coffee, put down a saucer of ice cream and cake, and nibble a few bon-bons. Where the oranges came in, I do not know, but this I can affirm, that with skins cut in fancy shapes, they were always present on the table, as well as raisins and almonds and white grapes. The first oranges of the season came at Christmas and the New Year, and very seldom at any other time. They were a fruit for high days and holidays.

Mrs. Watson, the confectioner, way back in the forties, had gone to St. Louis to learn to make the famous macaroon pyramids without which no party table was complete, each New Year's table bore one [of] these brown sticky monuments as its central adornment. I have never been able to fathom the mystery of the latter end of these pyramids. I think perhaps they may have been kept and brought forth from time to time to grace the festive board – one thing is certain, I never remember eating part of one.

(From a paper presented to the Anti Rust Club, in 1914 by Caroline Owsley Brown (1845-1919). The paper was reprinted in a little book of Brown family writings compiled by Edwards Brown to celebrate Elizabeth Brown Ide's 100th birthday in 1973.)



Bookseller needed!

The Society needs a volunteer to sell books at the ISBN Symposium at Milikin University in Decatur in March. The book sale times that are best are Saturday, March 14 and until noon on Sunday, March 15.

One of the great benefits of being the 'bookseller' is the ability to slip into a symposium session that seems particularly interesting.

If you are willing to help, please contact Carolyn Moore 498-7891 or carmor@insightbb.com.

(Costume not required!)

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



Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Springfield, Illinois

2008 Program Schedule

All programs start at 7:00 PM

January 15

Springfield Race Riots

Kathryn Harris

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North

February 19

Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Kay Smith

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North
March 18

Susan Lawrence Dana

Richard Taylor

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North
April 15

History of the Springfield Mury

Tom Shrewsbury

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North
May 20

History of the Sangamon County Fair

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North



Anyone wishing to contribute holiday cookies to the book sale at the Iles House on December 19th should contact Phyllis Eubanks: 787-2687 or peubanks@sbcglobal.net. She would be delighted to receive your contribution!