



Historico

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

SEPTEMBER, 2008

September Program to be Held at Elijah Iles House

A different look at the early history of Springfield will be the topic of the Society's September program to be held in the Elijah Iles House. The House's Farrell and Ann Gay Museum of Springfield History is currently hosting an exhibit called "Springfield As Urban Frontier" which was created by the Sangamon Valley Collection in cooperation with Sangamon Researchers. The purpose of the exhibit is to show how much more urban Springfield was in its early years. The city offered a number of amenities that one would expect to be found only in older and larger communities. Curtis Mann, manager of the Sangamon Valley Collection, will discuss various elements of the display and provide further details about Springfield's commerce, tradesmen, and transportation. The program is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the lower level of the Iles House on September 16.



Elegant artifacts from early urban Springfield

INSIDE

Note From Nancy-----	2
Annual Meeting-----	2
Judge Treat's Memorial-----	3
Harvard Park Celebration-----	3
Moore Honored-----	3
Lunch and Learn Series-----	4
New Berlin News-----	4
Gifts and Memberships-----	4
African-American Farmers-----	5
Summer Scholars-----	5
Calendar-----	6

Save the Dates

October 5

"Echoes of Yesteryear," the Sangamon County Historical Society's 12th annual cemetery walk, will be held at Oak Ridge Cemetery from noon to 4:00. The walk will commemorate the hundredth anniversaries of both the Abraham Lincoln Association and the 1908 race riots in Springfield.

October 21

The Society's monthly meeting will be "Statehouse Statuary." Beginning at 5:30 p.m. Members only will tour the Capitol grounds looking at the commemorative art work and ending at the Pasfield House. The tour will be led by Carl and Roberta Volkmann, authors of the recently published *Springfield's Sculptures, Monuments, and Plaques*.

Society Elects New Officers for 2008-2009

The Sangamon County Historical Society elected new officers at its 47th annual meeting on June 17, 2008 (*see related story on page 2*). The new officers are: President-Nancy Chapin, Vice President-David Scott, Secretary-Curtis Mann, Treasurer-John Huther. Newly elected Directors on the Board are Jack Alexander, Sally Cadagin, Connie Locher Bussard, Jack Navins, and Jane Vetter.

Outgoing president Carolyn Moore acknowledged with gratitude the individuals whose terms expired this year. They are: Carol Andrews, Jack Billington, David Brady, Phyllis Brissenden, Robert Davis, Al Eck, Jr., Phyllis Eubanks, Steve Leonard, Carolyn Oxtoby, Taylor Pensoneau, and Allen E. Smith.



Note from Nancy

Welcome to a new year for the Sangamon County Historical Society! We are hoping to spotlight some of the more rural areas of the county this year with special programs and projects. We have one project already underway for which we could use more volunteers – and that is one of collecting the

historical vital statistics, or 'vitals', from all of the county communities that have library districts for a pamphlet. Gil Pilapil and Sue Wall have already started on the project. They will be soliciting members who live in the various districts for their help as well as the district librarians for their suggestions. If you would like to help with this endeavor, please contact the office (522-2500) or email Dr. Pilapil gilpini46@yahoo.com.

Perhaps you've already noted that you will need to watch out for the times and places of programs this fall as they are being held in various places at various times. It seemed to make more sense to go with interesting programs regardless of where or when they are scheduled rather than remain stuck to a location and time for a program. We hope you will be able to join us.

Hope to see you at the Iles House on September 16th and at Oak Ridge for the Cemetery Walk on October 5th!

Nancy

SCHS Annual Meeting Report

President Carolyn Moore presided over the forty-seventh annual meeting of the Sangamon County Historical Society held at the Island Bay Yacht Club on Tuesday, June 17. Nancy Chapin presented the Treasurer's Report, and Susan Hammond presented the nominees for new Society officers and board members. President Moore gave some farewell remarks and then introduced Nancy Chapin, the Society president for 2008-2009.

Carol Andrews, Society President for 1996-1997, presented "*Remembrances of a Historic Site Manager.*" When Carol started in her new position on April 1, 1976, she was the first woman to hold the position, the first who wasn't a Son of a Union War Veteran, and the first superintendent who not to live in the home at the Tomb.

Carol explained that a site superintendent's varied duties include budgeting, overall maintenance of the physical plant, and creative fundraising. One of the many new programs she started while in the position included the weekly Flag Lowering and Retreat Ceremony performed by the 114th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry Reactivated.

After more than 10 years in her dream job at Lincoln's Tomb, Carol moved on to be the site superintendent at the Old State Capitol. Later, the Lincoln-Herdon Law Office and Vachel Lindsay Home were added to her responsibilities. While at the Old State Capitol, Carol was responsible for adding several new programs including the Living History Program.

Architect Augie Wisnosky then presented a program entitled "Recollections of the Reconstruction of the Old State Capitol." He explained that he was only 28 years old when he joined the architectural firm of Ferry & Henderson which was awarded the restoration contract in 1963. The concept of historical restoration was rather new at that time.

The goal was to restore the building to the way it looked in 1858. Unfortunately, there were no building plans since they were destroyed in the State Armory fire. The exterior stones were carefully removed, numbered, and stored at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. After the interior of the building was finished, the exterior stones were returned and put in place. Governor Otto Kerner dedicated the restored building on December 3, 1968.

Board Meeting

**September 10, 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
- Sally Cadagin
- Jack Navins
- Jane Vetter

Honorary Director

- William Hughes Diller, Jr.

HISTORICO CONTRIBUTORS

- Dan Buck
- Nancy Chapin
- Margaret Collins
- Curtis Mann
- Taylor Pensoneau
- Polly Poskin
- Carl Volkmann
- Roberta Volkmann

Judge Treat's Memorial Dedicated

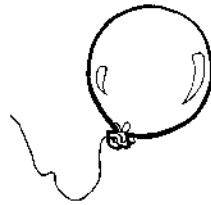
The grave site of Judge Samuel Hubbel Treat (1811- 1887) in Oak Ridge Cemetery was finally appropriately marked with the dedication of a striking marble obelisk on June 20, 2008. The first Illinois judge to serve in the circuit, supreme, and federal court systems, Judge Treat's remarkable career spanned just over 48 years. Abraham Lincoln and Judge Treat enjoyed a close personal and professional relationship.

Since Judge Treat was a widower with no children, the administrator of his estate was instructed to expend no more than \$200 for a tombstone. That tombstone never materialized. On the recommendation of Judge Richard Mills of the United State District Court, the Illinois State Bar Association determined in 2005 that this distinguished Illinois jurist must be acknowledged with an appropriate monument. The Illinois Bar Foundation spearheaded a campaign to raise funds, and through special benefits and donations, they collected \$15,885. Other organizations contributing to the effort include: the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Bar Association for the Central and Southern Federal Districts of Illinois, the Illinois Supreme Court Legal Historical Society, and the Sangamon County Bar Association.

The June 20, 2008, dedication of the monument occurred one day after the 197th anniversary of Judge Treat's birth and 121 years after his death. Speakers for the event were Judge Mills and Daniel W. Stowell, director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln Project. Dean Robert Brodie offered the invocation and benediction, and David B. Sosin presided. Judge Mills concluded his remarks by saying, "Here today we pay final homage to a remarkable jurist on Mr. Lincoln's prairie—the Honorable Samuel Hubbel Treat. Godspeed."



Base of Judge Treat's Memorial



Harvard Park Marks 100th Anniversary

The Harvard Park neighborhood is celebrating its 100th anniversary with two special events in September. Tours of the neighborhood will be led by Pat Gleason on Sunday, September 7. Beginning at 1 and 3 p.m., trolley rides will leave Harvard Park Baptist Church at 9th and Wellesley Streets and tour 8 buildings of architectural and/or historical significance including a special glimpse of the cold storage vault at Paris Cleaners. A donation of \$5.00 is requested.

On Saturday, September 27 beginning at 3:30, the neighborhood will celebrate at the Harvard Park Grade School with a chicken dinner hosted by Representative Raymond Poe. The festivities include a kids' parade, antique cars, historic photo exhibits, face painting, jumping gyms, special music, and other activities for all ages. Cost is \$5.00 per person and \$3.00 for children under 12.

Past President Moore Honored

During Rochester's Fourth of July celebration, Carolyn Moore, immediate past president of the Sangamon County Historical Society, and her husband R.L. were named Rochester's 2008 Citizens of the Year by the village of Rochester and the Rochester Lions Club. The award recognized the couple for their ongoing effort to uncover and share village history. Specifically, they were honored for their promotion and development of activities which commemorate an 1842 meeting in Rochester between President Martin Van Buren and young Abraham Lincoln.

In addition to serving as president of the Sangamon County Historical Society during the 2007-2008 year, Carolyn was one of the founders of the Rochester Historic Preservation Society and served as its first president. She was instrumental in restoring the Stone House and frequently portrays Lucetta Stevens/West, an early occupant of the historic building. The couple has several other projects brewing for Rochester including the restoration of an early log cabin discovered in the village.

Carolyn's motivation is simple: "I love history, and I love to learn." She offers this advice to others: "If you are looking for history, start where you are because history is being made everyday."



Web Site

The Illinois State Library would like to invite you to visit the index of Sangamon County inventors from 1838-1900 that has been added to the Illinois State Library Patent and Trademark Depository Library web page. Log on to:
http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_have/pdfs/sangamon-county-inventors.pdf.

Lunch and Learn Series

The University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) Alumni SAGE Society and the Illinois State Historical Society are presenting CENTRAL ILLINOIS: PATCHWORK OF PEOPLE. The Lunch and Learn event is a six-session educational series that will examine the people and cultures that have influenced life in Central Illinois. Three sessions will be held in Fall 2008 and three in Spring 2009. A lunch buffet and presentations by two experts on the topic are included during each session. UIS alumnus William Furry, director of the Illinois State Historical Society, is the moderator for the series.

The first session is Tuesday, September 16. The topic is Why They Came. Heather Bailey, PhD, Associate Professor of History University of Illinois at Springfield, will speak on "Blessings from the Motherland: Early Russian Immigration in Downstate Illinois," and Michael Wiant, PhD, Director of Dickson Mounds Museum, will present "Under Emiquon: What We Know About the First Illinoisans from Recent Archaeology in the Illinois River Valley."

On October 21 the topic will be How They Organized Their Communities, and the November 18 topic will be What They Built. Presenters later this fall include Christopher Fennell, PhD, JD; Eileen McMahon, PhD.; John Hallwas, PhD; and Richard Hart, JD.

All sessions are from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and meet in the UIS Public Affairs Center Conference Rooms C/D. Cost is \$20 per person for each luncheon or \$45 per person for the three session Fall 2008 series if paid reservations are received by September 2. For more information contact the Office of UIS Alumni Relations at 206-7395 or alumni@uis.edu.



New Berlin

Memberships are now available in the New Berlin Area Historical Society, a recently established organization designed to preserve and promote the history of the village of New Berlin and surrounding communities and agricultural areas.

The society is intended to ensure that both present and future generations will be able to appreciate and share in the fascinating and often distinctive aspects of the New Berlin area's historical and cultural heritage. To do so, the society will, among other activities, oversee the presentation of public programs, the publishing of documents, and the collection of artifacts tied to its mission.

Governance of the society is vested in the New Berlin Historical Corporation, a nonprofit entity that has been incorporated in papers filed with the Illinois Secretary of State. Charter members of the corporation's board of directors include former New Berlin mayor William Pfeffer, Taylor Pensoneau, and Allen E. Smith. Pensoneau is a former president of the Sangamon County Historical Society, and Smith is a former SCHS board member.

Applications for membership in the New Berlin society may be obtained from members of the board of directors. The annual fee for an individual membership is \$10, while a family membership may be secured for \$15.

(Editor's Note: Future editions of Historico will spotlight other Sangamon County communities. If your town has something of historical interest, please contact Carl or Roberta Volkmann at 698-5594 or cvolk@aol.com)

DONATIONS

IN HONOR OF CHARLES & NANCY
CHAPIN'S 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY:

Phyllis Brissenden
Arnold & Doris Stern
Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Strow

DONATION TO THE SOCIETY:

David & Laurie Farrell

MEMBERSHIPS

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

Justin A. Blandford
Donna Catlin
Mary Alice Davis
Linda L. Garvert

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS:

Dr. Alan & Elaine Birtch
Farrell & Ann Gay

NEW MEMBERS:

Jack Alexander
Jane Fee
Kerry Franke
Kay Harris
Harris & Sharon Hatcher
Denise & Lisa Livingston-
Bridwell
Jack Navins
Todd Saviste
Lori Schwartz

IN MEMORY OF

Alice Plaisted - by Betty Tabor Woods

L The African-American Farmers of Chinkapin Hill, Sangamon County, Illinois - Part I

By Curtis Mann

The history of Springfield's early African-American community has only recently received any serious research. The work of historian Richard Hart has revealed that African-Americans have been a part of the Springfield community from its very beginning. Most of Hart's work has focused on the African-Americans living in the city of Springfield. What about those African-Americans living in the countryside? A colored citizens' directory of Sangamon County published in the 1920s states that a unique group of former slaves was brought by their former masters to Sangamon County in the 1850s and settled here. This settlement was named Chinkapin and was located a few miles northwest of Springfield, Illinois, along the Sangamon River.

Research into this story does reveal that a small cluster of African-American farmers was located there, but the time of their settlement and their reasons for coming are different from the directory's account.

The first African-American known to have purchased land in the Chinkapin area was a man named Henry Fry. Fry and his wife Louisa came from Kentucky in the 1830s and bought 120 acres from a man named Henry Harper for \$700 in 1836. Two years later another man named Richard Fry purchased 145 acres in the same vicinity. A familial connection may exist between Henry and Richard, but none is known at this time. The probability is very great.

The Fry families land holdings were located in sections three and four of Springfield Township near the road heading to Athens and Petersburg. The next farmer to settle in this area

was Robert Hill. Hill was born in Maryland and, according to an 1858 newspaper article, came to Sangamon County in 1838. He does not appear in the 1840 census of population for the county but was married to a woman named Isabella Daugherty on September 20, 1842, in Sangamon County. Richard Fry sold some land to Hill in 1847. Fry also sold four acres of land to an African-American woman named Dinah Posey in 1847.

By the 1850 census of population, four African-American families were known to be living in the Chinkapin settlement: the Frys, the Hills, and Dinah Posey. All were listed as farmers though Posey was 75-years-old at the time. Both Henry and Richard Fry had large families. Richard and his wife had ten children, while Henry and his wife had nine. All of these children provided free but valuable labor on the farm. Robert Hill apparently never had children of his own and must have relied on hired labor or tenant farmers.

(Editor's note: This is the first of a two part series to be continued in the next Historico.)



Summer Scholars at Presidential Library



In a program sponsored by the : National Recreation Foundation and administered by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, high school students from diverse schools and backgrounds meet together for a two-week period each summer to conduct research and to work with professional historians, librarians, and museum professionals. Each year these Lincoln Summer Scholars create a project, and this year it was an online magazine comprised of graphic images, text labels, audio components and video documenting the 1908 Springfield Race Riots. A link to "Flash Point," can be found at <http://alplm.org//home.htm>.

2008 Lincoln Summer Scholars were:

Reem Abdullh- Springfield Southeast
Kyle Allison-Williamsville
JoEllen Crain-Edinburg
Steven Grigsby-Sacred-Heart Griffin
Matt Hartzler-Glenwood
Rianna Hollenstine-Sacred-Heart Griffin
Amanda Kozar-2008 Graduate Springfield Southeast
Beau Lawrence-Springfield
Skylar Midden-Glenwood
Tylar Midden-Glenwood
Andrew Peecher-Calvary Academy
Evan Preston-2008 Routt Catholic Graduate
George Ray-Rochester
Kayla Schneider-Sacred Heart-Griffin
Trevor Thompson-Williamsville
Natthida Wiwatwicha-Sacred Heart-Griffin

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



Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 777
 Springfield, Illinois

www.sancohis.org



SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4	Book discussion on <i>In Lincoln's Shadow: The 1908 Race Riot in Springfield, Illinois</i> by Roberta Senechal. Panel will discuss "The Aftermath: Retrospective and Reconciliation"	6 pm to 7:30 pm Springfield College-Benedictine, Beata Hall Conference Room
7	Architecture/historic tour of Harvard Park neighborhood; see page 3	1 pm and 3 pm Harvard Park Baptist Church
9	Meet the Author: Gary Ecelbarger (<i>The great Comeback: Abraham Lincoln Beat the Odds to Win the 1860 Republican Nomination</i>)	7 pm Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Union Theater; reservations required-558-8934
10	SCHS Board meeting	5 pm Lincoln Library Carnegie Room
11	Meet the Author: Roberta Senechal (<i>In Lincoln's Shadow: The 1908 Race Riot in Springfield, Illinois</i>)	7 pm Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Union Theater; reservations required-558-8934
16	First of "Central Illinois: Patchwork of People" Lunch and Learn series; see page 4	11:30 am to 1:30 pm UIS Public Affairs Center Rooms C/D
	SCHS monthly program: "Springfield as Urban Frontier;" see page 1	7 pm Elijah Iles House
19	Progressive Reception: <i>Through the Eyes of Artists: Looking Back, Looking Forward</i> , a commemoration of the 1908 Race Riots through the eyes of artists at 3 venues	5:30 pm to 7:00 pm- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library; 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm- Illinois State Museum; 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm- UIS Art Gallery
20	Saturday afternoon tea with Nancy Torgerson: How children lived in Lincoln's time.	2 pm Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Lincoln Reception Room
27	Harvard Park neighborhood centennial celebration; see page 3	3:30 pm Harvard Park Grade School