



# Historico

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

**September, 2005**

**September 14, Wednesday, 5:00 pm**

**Board Meeting**

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room South

**Officers**

**President**

Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil

**Vice President**

Taylor Pensoneau

**Past President**

Kathryn Harris

**Secretary**

James Coble

**Treasurer**

Nancy L. Chapin

**Directors**

**Class of 2006**

Jennie Battles

W. Hughes Diller, Jr.

Kim Eford

Carolyn Moore

Elena Pilapil

**Class of 2007**

R-Lou Barker

John Huther

Janice Petterchak

Mary Jo Potter

Gary Vitale

**Class of 2008**

Carol Andrews

David Brady

Phyllis Brissenden

Robert Davis

Carolyn Oxtoby

**Committee Chairmen**

**Membership**

Carolyn Moore

**Program**

Taylor Pensoneau

**Publications**

Curtis Mann

**Finance**

John Huther

**Project Awards**

Gary Vitale

**Nominating**

R-Lou Barker

**Constitution & By-laws**

Curtis Mann

**Publicity**

Janice Petterchak

**Special Functions**

Elena Pilapil

**Tours**

Kim Eford

**Webmaster**

Karen Everingham

**Booksales**

Sue Wall

**Historico Editor**

Nancy Chapin

**September 20, Tuesday, 7:00 pm**

**Program**

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room North

*The Mine Union War in Springfield*

Carl D. Oblinger, Jr.

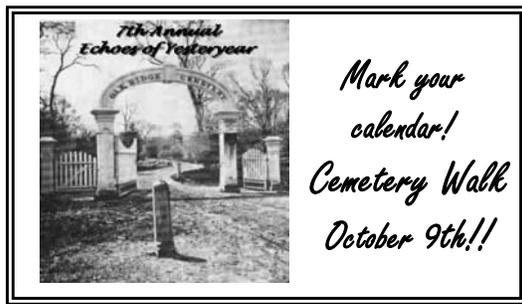
Carl Oblinger will talk on the role of Springfield as a focal point for a violent rivalry in the 1930s between two unions fighting for supremacy in the coal industry. They were the United Mine Workers of America led by the legendary John L. Lewis and the Progressive Mine Workers of America. Sangamon and neighboring Christian counties were major producers in Illinois' soft-coal industry, and they constituted a flash point in the Progressives-UMWA rivalry that had great repercussions nationally.

Oblinger's research into the so-called mine union war included a number of oral histories that he did with participants in the confrontations. The research has provided the basis for *Divided Kingdom*, a book by Oblinger that came out in a second edition in 2004.

Oblinger is familiar to many persons in this area for his election to a number of public offices. He was a trustee and mayor of Chatham and Sangamon County circuit court clerk. He is now a trustee of Lincoln Land Community College and in recent years has been a history and government teacher at schools in Sangamon County.

A graduate of Springfield High School, Oblinger received a bachelor of arts degree from Franklin & Marshall College, a master's degree in American history from the Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate in history from Lehigh University.

His book, *Divided Kingdom*, will be available for purchase after his presentation



Mark your  
calendar!  
Cemetery Walk  
October 9th!!

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

"The Mine Union War in Springfield"	1
Iles House Grand Opening	2
20th Ann. Lincoln Colloquium Reception	3
9th Annual Cemetery Walk	3
Bishop Hill bus trip for November 22	4
President's Report	5
Fall History calendar	6



*20<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Colloquium  
Reception October 7<sup>th</sup> 7-9 pm*

SCHS is hosting a reception and program (actually Curtis Mann will be providing the program) at the Lincoln Visitor's Center on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> for SCHS members and those attending the Lincoln Colloquium sponsored by the Lincoln Home National Historic Site on Saturday.

The evening will feature an orientation followed by a walking tour to include the Jesse K. Dubois house within the Lincoln Home area, the newly opened Iles House, and the Vachel Lindsay House. SCHS members are invited to attend the reception and tour, but PLEASE make a reservation by October 6<sup>th</sup> by calling the office at Robinson's 522-2500. Phyllis Brissenden has offered to be in charge of the arrangements but needs to know how many will be attending.

*20<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Colloquium -  
"Experience Lincoln's America"  
October 8<sup>th</sup>*

The colloquium will be held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, beginning at 9:00 AM and features in depth discussion of historic places and people associated with the story of Abraham Lincoln's America including Gettysburg National Military Park.; Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site; Homestead Nation Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska; Saint-Gaudens Nation Historic site in New Hampshire; and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom project based in Omaha. Phillip Shaw Paludan will provide thoughts on the day's presentations and moderate the question and discussion session. For registration details contact 492-4241, ext. 241.



*Home for the  
Friendless Memorial*

Plans are currently underway to place permanent memorialization to the 152 unmarked graves associated with children from the Home for the Friendless in Oak Ridge Cemetery. The plans have not yet been finalized, but you can learn more about the project by visiting our table in the Historama area during the Cemetery Walk on October 9th. Please come out to learn more about the project and to see how you can get involved to make this memorial a reality.

*UIS US Constitution Observance*

Sept 16 - 11:00 Satellite Broadcasts of two Constitution Day programs PAC -G  
Sept 19 - 7:30 Brookens Auditorium  
"Politics, the Constitution, and Supreme Court Appointments"

Webcast live at <http://www.uis.edu/technology/>

*9<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery: Echoes of Yesteryear*

This year's Cemetery Walk promises to be interesting! The characters to be portrayed were all taken from *Now They Belong to the Ages: Abraham Lincoln and His Contemporaries in Oak Ridge Cemetery* by Susan Krause, Kelley Boston and Daniel Stowell, a publication of the "Papers of Abraham Lincoln": Mary Welles - a wealthy widow whose world was shattered by the death of her husband and 5 of her children; Judge Samuel Treat - Chief Justice of the Supreme Court before whom Abraham Lincoln argued 870 cases; Francis Springer - Lutheran minister, educator and Civil War regimental chaplain; Jane Allen - a minister's daughter who became the city's first female teacher and who later married Robert Allen, a successful Springfield stage line operator; Virginia Dresser - youngest daughter of Rev. Charles Dresser, the Episcopalian minister who officiated at the Lincoln marriage and later sold the Lincolns their only home; Orson Stafford - a man of many occupations who found himself on both sides of Lincoln's legal skills.

The 'Historama' area will again feature exhibits by historical associations, and again we will have Society authors available for book sales and signings. The 'Here and Hereafter' booth will seek to further illuminate the lives of those portrayed by the actors; the Prairieland Dulcimers will again be providing a musical background; and the concession promises to be better than ever!

Parking will be in the usual place, with the trolley available to take visitors who wish a ride to the start of the walk. And you might be forewarned that sometimes the crowds arrive en masse at 12:00 and there may be less of a wait for the trolley, if you wish to ride, if you came a bit later. (Last tour starts about 3:15, so don't come too late!)

Carol Andrews, who initiated the walk in 1996, will again be chairman this year, so if you are willing to help and haven't yet been contacted, please call Carol at 546-5839. She would love to have your assistance!

Do plan to come and experience Sangamon County's history in a delightful setting!



## Bus tour to Bishop Hill October 22

The bus trip to Bishop Hill, the religious commune that Eric Jansson organized in 1846, is scheduled for Saturday, October 22. Much of the original village is in place so that visitors are able to see and almost experience (which is about as close to having been there as you would WANT to be) life as the immigrants knew it. It was a hard life, and one has to be awed by the accomplishments of the immigrants in a very few short years. In 1988 IHPA constructed a museum to house a collection of paintings by Olof Krans, who came with the settlers as a 12 year old, and years later painted pictures depicting the people and the work as he recalled them. The pictures create a vivid image of communal life in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and are a wonderful introduction to the community. The community's church, which seated 1,000 is intact, as are the 'rooms' on the floors below the sanctuary that were occupied by the residents right up into the 1940s. Several additional buildings still stand with some having been converted into shops and restaurants.

Lunch at Johnson's Swedish restaurant will be followed by a guided tour and time to shop and relax. Save the date and watch for the sign up form in October's *Historico*. The cost will be just \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members.

## "Ghost Tours" of Edwards Place

The tours will include costumed interpreters portraying members of the Edwards family and those close to them. This year the event will take place on October 20, 21, 27, and 28. Tours will be from 7 to 9 pm and begin on the half hour (7, 7:30, 8, 8:30, and 9). The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be served. We are looking for volunteers to take on character roles, provide costumes and assist with the event in general. Anyone wishing to volunteer or assist with the event can contact me, Amanda Lampert, at the SAA (217) 523-2631.

### *We are grateful for Donations:*

Mrs. Walter Brissenden

Dr. Mark E. and Jackie Hansen  
& Erik and Jenna  
in Memory of Dr. Floyd Barringer

Paul Schanbacher

### *July Board meeting*

President Pilapil called a special Board meeting in July to get the reorganization of the Board started for the year. He passed out a list of committee assignments (Chairman are listed on the sidebar of the 1<sup>st</sup> page of this newsletter) and discussed some of the accomplishments he hoped the Society would achieve.

The Board voted to drop the Pioneer Park and Colloquium committees from the list of standing committees in the By-laws; voted to drop the 'business' and 'not-for-profit' categories from membership levels; and voted to abandon the automatic extension of membership for those who join in the latter half of the Society's fiscal year (ie: January – May). The Board also voted to donate \$1,000.00 to the Iles House Foundation for their final push to their rededication on September 24. The Iles House

Foundation has a matching donor for contributions made during this period.

### *New look for the Historico*

You just might have noticed that the *Historico* has a new look with this issue. One of the advantages of the way we are doing it now is that we will be able to put it on our website in columnar form and include pictures. Prior to this we have had to post it in a one column format which wasn't very readable, and we could not include the pictures. We hope you like it, but even if you don't, we have to warn you that you're pretty well stuck with at least the letterhead and color for this year.

If you have suggestions as to how to improve the format in the future, please contact me at 483-2376, or [schs@eosinc.com](mailto:schs@eosinc.com).

Nancy

### *We Welcome new members:*

#### *Life Members*

Charles and Nancy Chapin

#### *Sustaining Members*

Jim and Mary Beaumont  
Martin J. Berning  
Sally Cadagin  
Elizabeth L. Crosby  
Ralph and Carolyn Moore  
Bud and Mary Jo Potter  
Martha L. Wilkinson

## *The President's Corner*

I don't recall seeing this item in the *Historico* before but I thought of having one to say hello and informally update members, especially those who do not attend our meetings, on SCHS happenings in a brief way. We had a great time during the Annual meeting June 21 at Illini Country Club. Officers & Board members for this term were nominated and elected. Thanks to SCHS members Dorthy Ross & R-Lou-Barker for arranging the event, Jennie Battles with R-Lou for manning the desk, Curtis Mann & Dave Brady for the auction, John Paul, Janice Petterchak & Jim Coble for the nominations, the outgoing officers & Board members for their important services, past president Theresa Faith Cummings as guest speaker and Nancy Chapin for her continuing help. A special award was given to outgoing Board member Curtis Mann for his many years of continuous service to SCHS.

On July 13, a Special Board Meeting was held to address immediate concerns and pre-start our plannings. Our various committees are formed and we are working on our cemetery walk October 9 (in a connected program with NPS Lincoln Colloquium) and our first Holiday Celebration in December for members on Sangamon County history. V-P & Program chair Taylor Pensoneau has our program lined up starting in September and we are looking forward to a good fresh mix of presentations. A tour of Bishop Hill is forthcoming this Fall. Our prayers are with past president Kathryn Harris for her husband's good health. I hope to see most of our members come to our programs.- VRP.



Theresa Cummings, our speaker



Sure makes one smile to see the money roll in!



A portion of the crowd figuring strategy for the raffle



John cleans up real good!

## *Annual meeting report*

Over 85 people attended the annual meeting on June 21 at Illini Country Club. In the absence of President Kathryn Harris, Vice President Dr. Virgilio Pilapil presided. Dr. Pilapil began by recognizing the retiring officers and directors and thanking them for their service. Following the Treasurer's report, a change in the Constitution was approved to reduce the number of directors to fifteen.

Officers for the 2005-2006 year and new directors for the next three years were elected unanimously. (Their names now appear on the sidebar on the first page of the *Historico*.)

President Pilapil then outlined some of his plans for the organization during the year: continuing popular programs such as the Cemetery Walk; developing new program ideas to appeal to different prospective members; and putting together a Direc-

tory of members and reports of Society activities over the years to celebrate its 45th anniversary this year.

The speaker of the evening, Theresa Faith Cummings, then presented a report on "*A Daytrip on the Underground Railroad in Sangamon County and the Surrounding Area*". In it she delineated several places in surrounding counties where 'underground railroad' activity had been documented such as those in Jacksonville that were visited on this spring's bus tour. She pointed out, however, that though there are reports of places near both Farmingdale and Riverton, no locations have yet been actually documented to have existed in Sangamon County itself.

The raffle drawing was held following the talk with many intriguing items displayed. It was a great success as the raffle added \$216.00 to the coffers of SCHS!



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*Historico History Calendar*

A listing of history events, lectures, conferences, etc., as we learn of them, in Sangamon County.

**September**

- 20 SCHS Program, 7:00 pm: *The Mine Union War in Springfield*, Carl D. Oblinger, Jr.
- 23 Soiree at the Iles House
- 24 Iles House Grand Opening
- 29-Oct 2. John Whitmer Historical Association annual conference. [www.jwha.info](http://www.jwha.info)

**October**

- 3 ALPLF *Evenings to Remember: Gov. Jim Thompson* [www.alplm.org](http://www.alplm.org)
- 7 20<sup>th</sup> Colloquium *Reception & program*, 7:00 pm Lincoln Visitors' Ctr. Reservations
- 8 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Colloquium Contact: Tim Townsend 492-4241 ext 241
- 8 New Salem candlelight tour
- 9 SCHS annual 12:00 – 4:00 pm. *Echoes of Yesteryear, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cemetery Walk.*
- 13, 20, & 26. UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership. Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series.
- 18 SCHS Program, 7:00 pm: *The Need for Reform in Medical Education*

*and the SIM Difference*, Dr. Richard H. Moy

- 20,21,27 &28 "Ghost tours" of Edwards Place Info: Amanda Lampert 523-2631
- 22 SCHS *bus tour to Bishop Hill*, For reservations, call: 522.2500
- 24 ALPLF *Jim Edgar Lecture Series featuring David McCullough* [www.alplm.org](http://www.alplm.org)
- 27 & 28 IHPA *Conference on Illinois History.* [www.illinois-history.gov/conference.htm](http://www.illinois-history.gov/conference.htm)

**November**

- 5 ALPLF *Adlai Stevenson of Illinois* [www.alplm.org](http://www.alplm.org)
- 15 SCHS Program, 7:00 pm: *CWLP—A History of Trailblazing*, Phil Gonet

**December**

- 1, 2, & 3. ISHS, 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois History Symposium. *Religion in Society.* [www.historyillinois.org](http://www.historyillinois.org)
- 20 *December surprise!*

*Note: Programs above in 'script' font are SCHS programs; other listings are community programs*