



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

123 South Seventh Street, Suite 402, Springfield, Illinois, 62701. Phone: 217-525-1961,
mail: P.O. Box 1834, Springfield, IL 62705, e-mail: schsoffice@gmail.com, web: www.sancohis.org

VOLUME 48, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2011

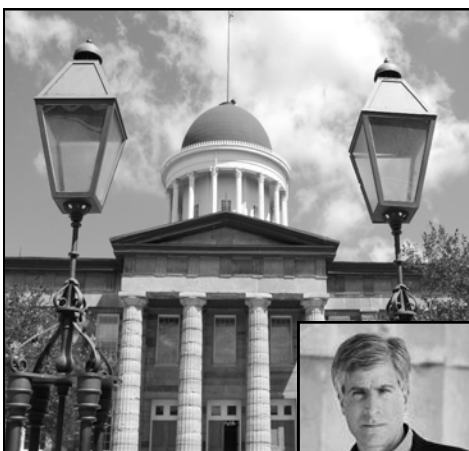
Famed Author to Speak at September 9 Preview

“Sangamon County Through the Arts,” Ticket Deadline Nearing As Society Launches New Season With Major Event in Springfield

There’s still time to get tickets for the Friday, September 9 Sangamon County Historical Society season opener at the Old State Capitol, a private preview of the following day’s “Sangamon History Through the Arts” celebration.

The evening includes a talk by internationally known, best-selling author, Steve Berry, an advocate of historic preservation.

“We’re just delighted by great response and cooperation we’ve gotten from the arts community, the Old State Capitol and its Foundation and the many artists and historical organizations that will be joining in the event. Friday night’s program is a wonderful kick-off for our meeting season, a truly special event that our members should not miss. There will be lots to do and see before the historic site is open to



AUTHOR Steve Berry will speak at Friday evening’s reception at the Old State Capitol.

the general public the next day including the display of art works of every sort that focus on a Sangamon County history theme,” noted Nancy Chapin,

Society president.. Winners of the art contest will be announced at the Friday reception.

Tickets, at \$20 per person, include wine and light hors d’oeuvres. To get the special rate that’s being extended only to members and guests of historical organizations participating in the Saturday event, your check must be received by the Society by September 5. After that date, tickets are \$30 per person. (*A ticket order form is on page 7*).

Author of the Cotton Malone Series of historical novels, thrillers, and short stories published by Ballentine Books, Berry has 12 million books in print, which have been translated into 40 languages and sold in 51 countries. His novels have earned spots on the **New York Times, USA Today, Pub-**

(Continued on page 6)

INSIDE

Lincoln Lecture Set.....	2
President Photos Wanted.....	3
Video for September 10.....	3
Honorary Trustee Diller Dies.....	3
50th Annual Dinner.....	4 & 5
Reception Registration.....	7
Membership Renewal Form.....	7
Calendar.....	8

More Special Events, Meetings as Society Readies Fall Schedule of Activities at County’s Historic Sites

What follows a great September kick-off? Plenty of other activities that will take members to new locations to learn more about local history. You’ll be reading more about these events in next month’s *Historico*, but here’s a preview:

Saturday, October 22: 4 p.m. “*Old Settler’s Day Revisited*,” Pioneer Park, Chatham. A return to Pioneer Park, for a taste of the first picnic of the Old Settlers Society of Sangamon County. Box dinners will be available (\$10 for members, \$20 for non-members) and in the spirit of the period, there will be an old-fashioned auction of desserts!

Tuesday, November 15: 5:30 p.m. *Talk and Tour*. Tom Clay, executive director of the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, Springfield, takes center stage in this talk and tour of the historic Adams Homestead operated by the Illinois Audubon Society.

(Continued on page 8)



NANCY CHAPIN

Don't Miss This Special Celebration!

I have to admit to being really excited about the Celebration of the Art in History event! It's seemed to just keep getting better and better! We think (and hope) it's a 'do not miss'!!

The art competition guidelines call for the work to be "created in Sangamon County within the last three years and to depict a Sangamon County historical theme by subject matter, location or title". It will be interesting to see how broad an audience is intrigued by the focus on local history through another median.

The art will be on display; some of it for sale, through Saturday, unless the artist decides to pick it up sooner. Our old friend Pete Ellertsen, who brought his dulcimer players to the cemetery walk for years, will be in the art gallery to enhance the ambiance. And all the while, on Saturday, artists will be upstairs, demonstrat-

ing their skills in the various governmental rooms of the Old State Capitol! In the midst of it all there will be at least eight, maybe more, not for profit organizations scattered around the Old State Capitol explaining their mission to the hoped for crowd.

There are many ways you can help. Perhaps the most important is for you to go to the website: **www.sancohis.org** and download and print the poster. Then to take copies to your workplace, your church, your club, your bridge group – everywhere and let people see it! Tell all your friends about it and convince them to come. Another need is for you to volunteer your time to help us have this run smoothly. To do that, just call 525-1961 and leave me a message!

Nancy

UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership Plans Lecture on "Lincoln and the Civil War"

A free public lecture on Michael Burlingame, the and Washington and Lee Policy and Leadership at "Lincoln and the Civil War" Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln University, will be guest UIS in cooperation with the will be held at Brookens guished Chair in Lincoln speakers at the event, the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Auditorium at the Univer- Studies at UIS and Dr. Lu- 2011 Lincoln Legacy Lec- guished Chair in Lincoln Auditorium at the Univer- Studies at UIS and Dr. Lu- 2011 Lincoln Legacy Lec- guished Chair in Lincoln sity of Illinois, Springfield, cas E. Morel, Lewis G. ture. The program is spon- Studies. For more informa- on October 13 at 7 p.m. Dr. Term Professor of Politics sored by the Center for State tion call 206-7163.

Another Grant's Tour May Be in the Works!

There's still time to express interest in taking an October 2 or October 7 bus tour that will follow part of the route taken by the 21st Illinois Regiment led by Ulysses S. Grant at the start of the Civil War 150 years ago. The tour, like a similar Society excursion held this past July 3, will travel from Springfield to Naples, Illinois, with stops at historic sites along the way, provided enough people register. Call the Society office at 525-1961.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS REPORT

The Society welcomes the following new members and thanks current members who have upgraded their membership:

LIFE MEMBERS:

**Rick and Ann Carlson
Will Howarth**

MEMBERS

**Jim Matheis
Richard A. Lusardi**

And thanks the following for their generous donations:

Donna Catlin ● Pat and Janice Joyce ● Mark and Jackie Hansen (in memory of Dr. Floyd Barringer)



Historico, published 10 times a year, is the monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Back issues are always 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*.

Vicky Whitaker, Historico Editor

PHOTOS WANTED! REWARD!

If you are a friend or a family member of any of the following, we need a photo, either a snapshot or a portrait of these past presidents: **Wayne Morgan, Isabella Bradford, Robert Howard, Donald Henry, Robert Wagenknecht, Janel Lundgren Carol Andrews, and Terry Ranson.** The photo can be in either physical or digital form. Physical photos will be returned. The reward will be a Society

booklet that we do not think you own! Please contact the Society office at 525-1961.

LAST MINUTE SPECIALS

We have an arrangement with Linda Bee, volunteer coordinator of the ALPLM volunteers that if they have extra space available for special events such as bus tours, they will let us know. We anticipate this being on fairly short notice and will notify you

by e-mail when and if such a possibility occurs. If you would like to be notified and have not yet given us your email address, please do so now.

VIDEO SEPTEMBER 10?

If you would be willing to take video segments of the art demonstrations at the Old State Capitol on September 10, please call the Society office at 525-1961.

**William Hughes Diller, Jr.,
Honorary Director
(July 15, 1916 - June 4, 2011)**

Honorary Director William Hughes Diller, Jr. died June 4 at The Villages, Florida, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery with military honors June 7.

Diller was the last Springfield member of a family who were well known to the earliest settlers and to Springfieldians over four generations. He was the son of William Hughes Diller Sr. and Corinne Payne Diller.

A lifelong member and the longest living member of the First Presbyterian Church, Diller served as Deacon and Elder. He was a member of the local, state and national Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) since 1942 and served as an officer in the Springfield SARS Chapter. In 2006, he was honored at the organization's national convention in Chicago when he was presented with a with a 65 Year Membership Award. In 1980 Diller was awarded the Silver Good Citizenship Medal by the Illinois Society.



In late August, 1983, he and over 100 compatriots from across the country flew to Paris to participate in week-long events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Paris, which concluded the Revolutionary War.

Diller served as President of the Sangamon County Historical Society 1986 to 1987 and was named an Honorary Director of the Society in 2006. He was a major sponsor of the restoration of Pioneer Park when the Society received that land in the 1960s.

He was also a charter member of the Texas Jack Society, President of the Civil War Round Table, and served as President of the Evening Etude Society, and a member of Toastmasters, Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois Farm Bureau and the Council of World Affairs.

An avid reader of historical books, Diller was especially interested in the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln era and donated many historical books and other artifacts to universities and other historical organizations including the donation of President Abraham Lincoln's desk to the Illinois Old State Capital and a chair believed Lincoln sat in during visits to the Diller drug store.

The Society is grateful for a bequest it has received from the W. Hughes Diller, Jr. Trust.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President.....**Nancy Chapin
- Vice-President.....**Vicki Megginson
- Secretary.....**Carolyn Moore
- Treasurer.....**Paul R. Mueller
- Past President.....**David Scott

DIRECTORS

Term Ending June 2012

- James H. Beaumont
- Donna Catlin
- Jacqueline Jackson
- Ruth Slottag
- Roger Whitaker

Term Ending 2013

- Linda Bee
- Bruce Beeman
- Claire Eberle
- Elaine Hoff
- Carolyn Oxtoby

Term Ending 2014

- Robert Brozio
- Mary Alice Davis
- Kathy Hoffmann
- Brenda J. Holmes
- Doug Polite



THANKS: Incoming president Nancy Chapin presents outgoing president David Scott with a plaque in thanks for his service to the organization.

CATCHING UP: A past president, Kathryn Harris (center, left), chats with old friends at the Society's annual dinner at Panther Creek Country Club in June, helping celebrate the organization's 50th year of raising the awareness of county history.



NEW BOARD members (at left, from left), Ruth Slottag, Doug Polite, Elaine Hoff and Brenda Holmes were elected at the annual meeting along with Jacqueline Jackson, Robert Brozio, Mary Alice Davis, and Kathy Hoffman, They will be serving terms ranging from one to three years.



TABLE TALK: The annual dinner's informal setting at the Panther Creek Country Club gave members and guests plenty of time to sit and talk or walk around to meet fellow county history buffs. Those who attended the 50th anniversary dinner got a surprise as they left: free copies of the book, "At Home With Illinois Governors," a social history of the Illinois Executive Mansion from 1855-2003 written by Dan Monroe with Lura Lynn Ryan, the First Lady of Illinois from 1999-2003 with watercolors by Kay Smith.

Photos this page by Donna Catlin

50 Years And Counting! Society Gathers for Annual Meeting



PAST PRESIDENTS attending the Society's 50th anniversary annual dinner in June were (top row, from left) Nancy Chapin, Cullom Davis, Fred Hoffmann, Dick Hart, Gil Pilapil Janice Petterchak, Taylor Pensoneau and Tim Krell. Second row (from left): Carolyn Moore, and Kathryn Harris. Front row, seated from left, Carl Volmann, David Scott, George Myers, Curtis Mann and Perry Hall.

Donna Catlin photo.

Nearly 100 members of the Sangamon County Historical Society gathered at the Panther Creek Country Club on June 21 to help celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary.

Among the guests were 15 past presidents and others who played a role in shaping the Society over the past five decades. Past president Curtis Mann, manager of the Sangamon Valley Collection at Springfield's Lincoln Library and Springfield City Historian was keynote speaker. Mann discussed the long-term relationship between the Society and the Collection. New officers and directors were also elected at the annual meeting. *(A list appears on page 3).*

In addition, a plaque carrying the names of 50 years of Society presidents, was unveiled at the dinner. Originally created by Bette Franke for the Society's 25th anniversary, the updated plaque now hangs in the Society's office in Springfield.

HISTORY: A plaque carrying the names of the Society's past presidents, originally created by Bette Franke for the Society's 25th anniversary, was updated for the 50th anniversary and unveiled at the June 21 dinner. It hangs in the Society's office in Springfield.



Society Puts Accent on the Arts

Reception, Public Celebration to Kick Off Meeting Season As Society Revvs Up for a Major Event on September 10

(Continued from page 1)

lisher's Weekly and BookSense best-seller lists. His Cotton Malone Series includes *The Jefferson Key*, *The Emperor's Tomb*, *The Paris Vendetta*, *The Charlemagne Pursuit*, *The Venetian Betrayal*, *The Alexandria Link* and *The Templar Legacy*. He also has three stand-alone thrillers (*The Third Secret*, *The Romanov Prophecy* and *The Amber Room*) and two e-book original short stories, *The Devil's Gold* and *The Balkan Escape*.

A foundation, *History Matters*, started by Berry and his wife, Elizabeth, is dedicated to aiding the preservation of our heritage. A former attorney and professor, author Berry's road to publishing was long and arduous, spanning 12 years and 85 rejections over five separate manuscripts, but now he uses that experience and his publishing success to teach writing to audiences across the globe. In doing so, Berry uses these opportunities to promote historic preservation.

The Sangamon History through the Arts" celebration will run from Noon to 4 p.m., indoors, on Saturday and is free and open to the public. Well-known artists and performers will be demonstrating their talents throughout the historic building, including pen and ink artist and printmaker Bill Crook Jr., known for his landscapes and

city scenes; sculptor John McClarey, whose Lincoln sculptures can be seen significant restoration projects here world-wide; stained glass artist Steve Brooks, a life-long Springfield resident and Dana Thomas House; prize-

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**

winning watercolorist Jan L. Sorenson; pastel artist George King, president of the Illinois Prairie Pastel Society; singer, story teller and historian Tom Irwin; Vachel Lindsay scholar Dennis Camp, professor emeritus of English at the University of Illinois; the Springfield International Dancers who will be performing works reflecting Springfield's heritage; Peter Ellertsen of the Prairieland Dulcimer Strings, and the Old State Capitol Chorale. Other artists and performers were being added as *Historico* went to press.

The Society and other key history organizations will also have displays including the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Old State Capitol Foundation, the Pleasant Plains Historical Society (Clayville), the Vachel Lindsay Foundation, the Springfield History Museum and Iles House. Additional groups are expected to participate.

For updates, check the Society's website at www.sancohis.org or our *Facebook* and *Twitter* sites.



ARTISTS OF EVERY ILK, like musician Tom Irwin (left) and stained glass artist Steve Brooks will be showing, performing, or demonstrating their skills on Saturday when the public is invited into the Old State Capitol Historic site for this free celebration focusing on Sangamon County's history. You'll also be able to view (and even purchase) entries in the art competition.

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

*Special rate for Society members and their guests: \$20
(Check must be received by September 5)*

Please send this form and your check made payable 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 _____ person(s) for the reception on Friday, September 9 at 6 p.m. Enclosed is my check for _____.

Name: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Your reservations will be at the door.

And in case you've forgotten....

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.

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

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

SCHS CALENDAR

Monday, September 5: *Deadline* for receiving checks for September 9 "Sangamon County Through the Arts" reception at member price. See page 7.

Friday, September 9: *Reception*, "Sangamon County Through the Arts" Celebration, 6 p.m., Old State Capitol, Springfield. Reservations required.

Saturday, September 10: "Sangamon County Through the Arts" Celebration, Noon to 4 p.m., Old State Capitol, Springfield, Free.

Saturday, October 22: "Old Settler's Day Revisited," Pioneer Park, Chatham. Details in the October *Historico*.

Tuesday November 15, *Talk & Tour*, Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, Springfield, 5:30 p.m.

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

Society Events, Others Enriching Knowledge of History

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday, December 13: 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration. You'll be helping wrap up our 50th year with a holiday party at historic Strawbridge House.

The Society also encourages our members to support local historical associations in their efforts to promote the area's rich history. To that end, here's some other history-related events coming in the weeks ahead:

September 1: Deadline for accommodations for the October 7-8 Illinois State Historical Society Fall Tour. (See details below).

September 14: Fireside Chat, Iles House, 7 p.m. Terry Ransom discusses "The Underground Railroad." See <http://www.iles-house.blogspot.com> or call 492-5929.

September 17: Fireside Chat, Iles House, 7 p.m. Lincoln Home National Site historian Tim Townsend, guest speaker. See <http://www.iles-house.blogspot.com> or call 492-5929.

September 17-18: Clayville Fall Festival, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, go to <http://www.clayville.org>

September 21: Fireside Chat, Iles House, 7 p.m. Erika Holst discusses the Edwards Place Restoration Plan. See <http://www.iles-house.blogspot.com> or call 492-5929.

September 25: 5th Annual Berwyn Bungalow Tour, Berwyn, Illinois, Noon to 5 p.m. The tour will showcase the Art Moderne Silhan House which is on the National Register of Historic Homes as well as bungalows and other vintage homes. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. For information see <http://www.berwynbungalow.org>.

October 7-8: Illinois State Historical Society Fall Tour 2011, showcasing the beauty of the Ohio River Valley. Lodging reservations must be made by September 1. For information call 525-2781.

October 14-15 "Raising The Dead at Clayville" Haunted House and Hayride, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. For additional hours and dates and information about special hours and scare-free activities for children on October 14, 22, and 29, go to <http://www.clayville.org>.

December 10, Clayville Christmas. For information, go to <http://www.clayville.org>