



# Historico

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

June, 2009

**Annual Meeting June 16, 2009  
 The Blind Pig aka Maggie's in Thayer, Illinois  
 Cash bar 6:30 with dinner at 7:00 PM**



Maggie's opened for business (providing drinks) in about 1921. Food was not added until after prohibition ended in the 1930's. Spaghetti and fried chicken have been the specialty there ever since.

Wikipedia defines the term "Blind Pig" as having "originated in the United States in the 1800's; it was applied to establishments that sold alcoholic beverages illegally. The operator of an establishment (such as a saloon or bar) would charge customers to see an attraction (such as an animal) and then serve a 'complimentary' alcoholic beverage, thus circumventing the law." It is not known whether or not Maggie's had an "attraction" to sell in addition to drinks, but Wikipedia states that a speakeasy had food and a floor show, while a blind pig just provided drinks, whatever the financial arrangements.

Following a salute to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Old Settlers' Society, whose Constitution was passed on June 15, 1859, a history of the Thayer community will be presented by Jim Allen, a long time resident of the area. The evening will end with raffle master Curt Mann drawing your number for wonderful prizes. Tickets for the prizes may be purchased throughout the evening. Persons wishing to contribute items for the drawings are asked to contact Curt at 753-4900 (ext. 234) or cmann67@hotmail.com.

Maggie's is located just off Route 4 about 16.5 miles South of White Oaks Mall. Follow Route 4 to Thayer, and signs will direct you to Maggie's once you are in Thayer. NC

**SCHS to Collaborate with  
 State Journal-Register**

SCHS will be collaborating with the State Journal-Register (SJ-R) on a high quality, hard-bound book highlighting the early years (1850-1939) in Greater Springfield. Publication date is October of 2009, but the publisher's representatives will be in Springfield the week of June 8-13 to receive and organize pictures and other material for the book. There will be public scannings on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium of the SJ-R building when the public will be invited to bring in pictures taken prior to 1939 to be scanned and added to the pool available for use in the book.

SCHS will benefit in many ways from this collaboration. SJ-R will include SCHS in all promotional materials. This should result in much greater exposure in the community and will hopefully add to membership. Many of those bringing in pictures may have stories to tell, and we are in a perfect position to learn of them if we attend the public scannings. The Society will receive a DVD of all the pictures, thereby enlarging the known history of the area. Finally, we will receive one complimentary copy for each three pictures of ours that are used, and Curtis Mann will be making the SVC collection available as our collection.

We need volunteers to help at the public scannings on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> from 3 -6 :00 PM and from 10-2:00 PM on Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. If you are willing to help, please contact Nancy Chapin nchapin@springnet1.com or 483-2376. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Society to discover more history! NC

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### *Note from Nancy*

This month's issue will be the final one for *Historico* editor Roberta Volkmann who has done a wonderful job this past year! We are grateful to her for taking it on and thrilled with the improvements she has made! Many thanks, Roberta!

Last month we were rather desperately looking for Roberta's replacement, and I am delighted to be able to report that Vicky Whitaker, who joined the Society with her husband Roger just last month, has volunteered to be the *Historico* editor! Vicky has edited newsletters for other organizations in the past and looks forward to taking on our challenge. I'm hoping that everyone will support Vicky's generosity by offering lots of interesting articles to her and getting everything in to her on time!!

As the Society's year draws to a close, there is much I had hoped would be accomplished that somehow has not been. I've had wonderful help and support from everyone, but I think maybe I was trying to "bite off more than I could chew" (as my grandmother would have said). I had hoped that we would have brochures completed of the critical history of many of the smaller towns in the county, but we need illustrators! Are there any budding artists out there who can draw simple pen and ink illustrations of schools, churches, mills and the like? We need you! Illustrations add so very much to script. There were other projects we had hoped to get under way, but time ran out.

Now the time has come for a new year, and we need your renewals to come in as a response to the inserted form. We will not be sending out renewal forms this summer. In the meantime I will see the first 100 (limit) of you who make reservations at the Blind Pig on June 16<sup>th</sup>! *Nancy*

### **In Transition: a Note From the Editor**

Pat Henry, editor of the *Historico* for 26 years, passed away on May 4, 2009. A life member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, she was the Illinois State Fair Historian. She combined her love of history and photography to document the story of the Fair and to share that history with others. The Pat Henry Lane outside the Coliseum on the Fair grounds is named in her honor.

Although I never met Pat Henry, I have a profound respect for her service. I have been the *Historico* editor this past year and found the experience both challenging and gratifying. I have learned much and met many individuals dedicated to the preservation of Sangamon County's past. A special benefit I experienced was getting to know Theresa Power and Mary Marada at Robinson's, the Society's office and print shop. Their efficiency and friendliness are the cogs that keep the Society's wheels spinning. Thanks to them and to all who supported me this past year.

The torch will be passed this fall when Vickie Whitaker assumes the role of *Historico* editor. Vickie has a lifetime of journalism experience. Currently a freelance writer for Creators Syndicate, she has had various newspaper positions and retired as the chief spokesperson for the State University of New York in Stony Brook, New York. Vickie and her husband Roger, SCHS's new webmaster, will bring fresh professionalism to the *Historico* with a unified image both on and off line. I'm sure Pat Henry would be pleased. Roberta Volkmann

### **RENEW TODAY!**

Spring is here, and it is renewal time for the Sangamon County Historical Society for the year 2009-2010. Please fill out the enclosed renewal notice and return it along with your reservation for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Memberships are from June 1 to May 31, and the enclosed form will be your only reminder. Thank you! SH



### **NEWS FLASH!**



SCHS Board Director Jack Alexander has been named Site Superintendent of the Lincoln Tomb State Historical Site. Congratulations Jack!

#### **OFFICERS**

**President**  
Nancy L. Chapin  
**Vice President**  
David Scott  
**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  
Sue Wall  
Martha Wolters

#### **Directors to 2011**

Jack Alexander  
Connie Locher Bussard  
Paul Mueller  
Jack Navins  
Jane Vetter

#### **Honorary Director**

William Hughes  
Diller, Jr.

#### **HISTORICO CONTRIBUTORS**

Nancy Chapin  
Susan Hammond  
Carl Volkmann  
Roberta Volkmann  
Roger Whitaker

#### **WEBMASTER**

Roger Whitaker

**Renew your membership now!!**

This is your membership form for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, which begins June 1, 2009.

*No other renewal reminder will be mailed this year!!*

To join or renew your membership, simply fill out the form and mail it to the address below. (If you want to give a gift membership, fill in name, address and telephone number of new member(s); designate (X) in 'Gift' box; sign your name as Donor; and don't forget to include that total on your check. A letter announcing the gift will be sent to the recipient including the donor's name.

Individual - \$17.50  
Family - \$25.00  
Sustaining - \$50.00

Individual life - \$250.00\*  
Family life - \$400.00\*

\*One time payment

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Gift membership donor

- \*\* If you would like to volunteer for Society activities, please indicate your interest: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*\* Would you be willing to provide refreshments for one of the monthly programs? \_\_\_\_\_
- \*\* If you would be willing to serve on a committee, please indicate your interest: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

*Annual Meeting, Dinner and Program June 16<sup>th</sup>*

*6:30 PM Cash bar with dinner at 7:00 PM*

**Maggie's  
Thayer, Illinois**

Reservation deadline, **June 12<sup>th</sup>**

**(\$5.00 surcharge on any reservations after June 12th)**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Reservations:** Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non Member \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Non-member spouses/friends of members to pay non-member cost

The cost is **\$15.00** per member; **\$20.00** per non-member

**Total enclosed for membership** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed for Annual Meeting** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make** your check payable to: **The Sangamon County Historical Society**

308 East Adams Street  
Springfield, IL 62701



## MEMBERSHIPS

### Life Member

Kathleen Hoffmann

### New Member

Flagg Farmstead Bed and Breakfast

### A Letter to the Editor

Editor, *Historico*:

The April *Historico* carried a story about tours of churches, in which it was stated that "...no church building from Lincoln's time survives [in Springfield]..." However, at the northeast corner of 8th and Miller stands a one-story brick structure that once housed the Second Portuguese Presbyterian Church. Research by Curtis Mann of the Sangamon Valley Collection of Lincoln Library and past president of the Society, reveals that *The Gathering of the Portuguese: 4th Presbyterian Church, Springfield Illinois*, by Eileen Gochanour and Wanda Allers, 1984, page 179, states that the Second [sic] PPC was built in 1860, before Lincoln left Springfield in February 1861. That construction date is partly supported by county records that Mann says show the church acquiring the property in July 1860. It is apparently the oldest extant church building in the city.

Fairly intact on its exterior, the structure is now partly attached to a complex designated 710 North 8th Street that serves as a mental health services center. Based on Mann's recent research, the building should be added to the list of standing Lincoln Era structures maintained by the Springfield Historic Sites Commission.

Jerry Jacobson

## Illinois State Museum Oral History Project Featured in May Program



Dr. Robert Warren

Dr. Robert Warren, Curator of Anthropology at the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and one of the principal investigators for the Oral History of Illinois Agriculture, presented a progress report of the project at the SCHS May program.

The initial goal of the program, funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is to develop comprehensive educational material on the origins and evolution of agriculture. Phase one includes recording digital oral histories of people with agricultural experiences for availability on an internet web module. Four institutions have contributed to the collection of 73 completed interviews: Northern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Springfield, ISM, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) with Dr. Mark DePue from ALPLM serving as co-principal investigator. The project investigates the history of agriculture from five perspectives: land, plants, animals, people, and technology. To make the information searchable on the web site, all completed interviews are being indexed by subdividing each into segments and clips and then attaching keywords by theme, topic, time and location.

### SPECIAL REQUEST

Dick Hart, President of The Abraham Lincoln Association, is requesting photos taken during Lincoln's 200th birthday celebration February 12, 2009. The Association is planning to publish a picture book of activities from sunrise to sunset of that day. Credit will be given to the photographer of the photos that are selected. Please take pictures or CD's to Robinson's at 308 E. Adams Street or contact Nancy Chapin.

### Student-Created Web Site Recognized

*Flashpoint*, the online magazine created by Springfield area students last summer through the Lincoln Summer Scholars program at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library (see September *Historico*) received national recognition in April. During their twentieth annual award ceremony in Philadelphia on April 30, the American Association of Museums presented the web site with a Gold Award for "teaching and outreach" and the Jim Blackaby Ingenuity Award for standing "above and beyond the other submissions in inventiveness and quality." Documenting the 1908 Springfield race riots, *Flashpoint* can be viewed at [www.presidentlincoln.org](http://www.presidentlincoln.org).

Dr. Warren illustrated the diversity of the information that has been accumulated through the project by presenting clips from some of the interviews. Attendees viewed conversations as varied as a "sit down" interview with a pumpkin farmer from Tazwell County, and "walk and talk" interviews with an urban farmer from the south side of Chicago and an Amish breeder of Belgian draft horses. Dr. Warren completed his presentation by sharing some conclusions about the current trends in farming that have emerged through the project. One of his observations is that the owners of family farms have three options: get larger, get out, or find a niche. An emerging response to this trend is the development of agritourism.

The development of the digital oral history phase of the project will be completed September 30, 2009.



# SUMMER HISTORY EVENTS IN SANGAMON COUNTY

## JUNE

5-7	“Civil War Medical Encampment” re-enactors, camp life, and activities for the whole family; sponsored by Memorial Medical Center, Old State Capitol Foundation, and IHPA	Daily events; information: <a href="http://www.lincoln200.net">www.lincoln200.net</a> or 524-3971
9	Public picture scannings for publication of book by State Journal-Register (see page 1)	3 pm to 6 pm; State Journal-Register Auditorium; information: 483-2376
11	Public picture scannings for publication of book by State Journal-Register (see page 1)	3 pm to 6 pm; State Journal-Register Auditorium; information: 483-2376
13	Public picture scannings for publication of book by State Journal-Register (see page 1)	10 am to 2 pm; State Journal-Register Auditorium; information: 483-2376
15	“Illinois Stories” A series of temporary exhibits exploring the complex history of the great state that Lincoln called home; through August 31, 2010	9 am to 5 pm; Illinois Gallery, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum; Museum admission required; information: <a href="http://www.presidentlincoln.org">www.presidentlincoln.org</a>
16	SCHS Annual Meeting (see page 1)	6:30 pm cash bar; 7 pm dinner; Maggie’s in Thayer; reservations: page 3

## JULY

4	“A Tribute to Mr. Lincoln;” One of the Poets in the Parlor Series	2 pm; Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site; information: 524-0901
7	Book talk and signing with author Myron Marty: <i>Communities of Frank Lloyd Wright; Taliesin and Beyond</i>	7 pm; Carnegie Room, Lincoln Public Library; sponsored by Dana Thomas House Foundation, 788-9452
11	“Hats Off to Agriculture;” Learn about Lincoln’s connection to agriculture, the farming practices of his time and how they both impact agriculture today .	11 am to 3 pm; Illinois State Museum; Free; information: <a href="mailto:ebazan@museum.state.il.us">ebazan@museum.state.il.us</a> or 217-782-5993.
17	Book Signing with Author James A. Percoco: <i>Summers with Lincoln</i>	11 am to 12 pm; Gift store, ALPLM; information: <a href="http://www.presidentlincoln.org">www.presidentlincoln.org</a>
18	“Let Us Be Bold With Our Songs;” soloists educating and entertaining alongside history	2 pm; Vachel Lindsay Home State Historic Site; information: 524-0901
24-26	“The Civil War;” a moving song-cycle embracing the spirit of the Civil War with a cast of 21 actors and live orchestra	8 pm (pre-show 7:15); Outdoor stage, Union Square Park; information: 217-558-8934 or <a href="http://www.presidentlincoln.org">www.presidentlincoln.org</a>
30-31	“The Civil War” (see July 24-28)	

Note: Daily activities continue at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in commemoration of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth (see May *Historico*). Information: [www.nps.gov/iliho](http://www.nps.gov/iliho) or 492-4241.

# SCHS 2008-2009 AT A GLANCE



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

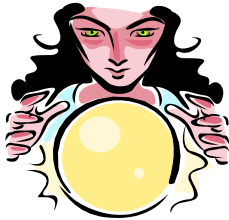


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**June**



### **A Look Into the Future (2009-2010)**

Nominating Committee chair Phyllis Eubanks has announced the nominees for SCHS Board membership for 2009-2010. They are: Vickie Megginson, Bill Minder, and Roger Whitaker. Additionally, Paul Mueller has been nominated as Society treasurer, and John Huther is slated to complete Paul's term on the Board. Members will vote on these nominations at the annual meeting June 16 (see page 1).

The Fall schedule of programs is as follows:

September 15	George Godfrey	Potawatomi Trail of Death; Its Relevance to Sangamon County
October 20	David Brady	State Bank of Illinois; Use and Abuse
November 17	Curtis Mann	TBA

**Don't miss out on an exciting future! JOIN TODAY!**