

The Pioneer Park committee will meet to plan a spring picnic. The publicity committee continues to send notices of our meetings to local papers. The publications committee noted work on a new Sangamon County barns history by Wayne Price. Speakers for the next two meetings were announced; Judge Wood and Atty. Beeman will speak in February and March. The tour committee was authorized to continue plans for the May 19 tour to Bishop Hill.

Secretary Jackie Wright is looking into the availability of membership pins for our Society. Ed Russo, Director of the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library, brought us up-to-date on the expansion and remodeling of the Sangamon Valley Room. The SCHS was instrumental as early as 1972 in establishing this collection, and in honor of the re-opening which will occur in a few weeks, it was voted to purchase a needed microfilm reader to be used in the Sangamon Valley Room. Jan Wass reported on the progress of the new State Museum gallery, "At Home in the Heartland". (See article on this project.)

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, March 8, at 4:30 P.M. at Lincoln Library.
The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

WELCOME, NEW LIFE MEMBERS!

A warm welcome and "thank you" to Dr. Victor Lary, Mrs. Fred Blythe (Betty), and to our Immediate Past President Mary Ellen McElligott, who recently joined the ranks of our Life Members.

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

The membership committee is promoting a "join-up" campaign by offering a "bonus" - extra months for the regular membership fee. Anyone joining from now to the end of our membership year (June 30) will become a member immediately as well as for the full 1990 - 1991 year (7/1/90 - 6/30/91). The fees remain the same: Individual - \$10.00; Husband and Wife - \$15.00; Juniors under 21 - \$1.00; Sustaining - \$30.00; Life Membership, paid once - \$150.00. Please use the membership application on the back of this newsletter.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY ACTIVITIES

Sat. and Sun., February 10 and 11, 2:00 P.M. each day at the Lincoln Home Visitor Center, 426 S. Seventh St. Members of the Springfield Symphony Chorus will present "Abraham Lincoln; a Biography in Words and Music." This presentation will recreate an 1865 political rally honoring President Lincoln, who will be portrayed by the nationally acclaimed actor, Fritz Klein. Paul Presney, Jr., will act the part of Jesse DuBois, Illinois State Auditor during Lincoln's time. The Symphony Chorus, directed by Mr. Timothy Koch, and accompanied by Mrs. Margery Dodds, will present music which was important in Lincoln's life.

Immediately preceding the Sunday, February 11 program at 2:00 P.M., awards will be presented to winners of the state-wide 8th grade Lincoln Essay Competition. (1st place winning essay published in this HISTORICO).

Monday, February 12, starting at 9:30 A.M. at the Visitor Center - the Lincoln Heritage Lecture series continues. Renowned Lincoln scholar Prof. Richard N. Current of the University of North Carolina will deliver a lecture, "Have the Body: Lincoln, Taney and Merryman," in which he will defend Lincoln's actions in the Merryman case. Daniel Weinberg, proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, will speak on "Adventures in Lincoln Collecting,"

wright indicated that Greek Crafton, seeking spiritual peace, said that he had brought this trouble upon himself by threatening and attacking Peachy Harrison, and now wished to die with no ill will toward any man. Lincoln made a powerful two-hour closing argument, and after deliberating a little over an hour, the jury returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

The case was unusual for a number of reasons - there were undertones of family feuds, marital infidelity, and partisan politics. The courtroom procedure was spirited, and at one point Lincoln and Palmer re-enacted the scuffle between Crafton and Harrison. The prominence of the chief participants added to the drama. Many of them had been or would become later even more well known. Lincoln would become the 16th president, but Cullom and Palmer also were candidates for this office at other times, and both eventually were elected to the governorship of Illinois, and also became U.S. Senators. Lincoln, Cullom, Robert Hitt and Judge Rice at the time were past or future U.S. Congressmen. Six served in the state legislature - Lincoln, Cullom, Rice, Broadwell, Logan and Palmer. Broadwell later was elected as the mayor of Springfield, and Palmer became a Major General in the Union Army.

Although our speaker confessed that he looked hopefully for favorable mention of his ancestor, Shelby Cullom, during the trial, he met with disappointment. Near the end of the transcript, when the record showed that Atty. Cullom was about to present his argument for the defense, it was stated that he suddenly fell ill, owing to the heat, and had to retire! Undaunted by this disappointment, "our" Cullom ended his presentation by again stressing the importance of the transcript in revealing the nature of Abraham Lincoln's commitment to the legal profession, his success in his own law practice, and the development of law in this county and the American West.

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Following the meeting we enjoyed very appropriate refreshments - delicious "Lincoln Log" cake - served by program committee members Bette Franke and Sally Robinson.

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We were pleased to have at our January 25 meeting two guests who are direct descendants of the star witness in the Harrison trial, the Rev. Peter Cartwright. Mrs. Edith McMillan and her daughter, Ann Tapscott, who were guests of Elizabeth Weir, are direct descendants of Peter Cartwright through his daughter, Wealthy Mary Jane Cartwright, the fourth of his nine children, who was married to Gorham Eaton. Mrs. McMillan and Mrs. Tapscott live in the Pleasant Plains area.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The SCHS officers and Board of Directors met at Lincoln Library at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, 1990, with 21 present. Minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were read and accepted. Our total funds as of January 11 are \$21,968.68. Committee reports followed.

George Painter reported that 140 people from 10 states attended the 4th Annual Lincoln Colloquium on October 14. The 1990 Colloquium will be held on October 20. It was moved and passed that the SCHS give \$500 toward expenses for the event. The SCHS was one of the charter sponsors of this event several years ago; it has gained in attendance and national publicity every year since and its support is one of our Society's chief projects. The membership committee is promoting Life Memberships.