

of the Illinois State Museum.

## FEBRUARY - BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A number of activities have been planned in observance of Black History Month. From 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. daily through February, the Department of Transportation (2300 S. Dirksen Parkway) will host an exhibit of the works of local black artists. At the Public Affairs Center (main concourse) at Sangamon State University the works of nationally known African-Americans will be shown through February 28. During the 2nd and 3rd weeks of February the works of SSU's Jon Thomas and Patrice Brown will be displayed on the 3rd floor of SSU's Brookens Library. On February 24 at 3:30 P.M., the Eastside Theatre Readers' Troupe will present "Through the Eyes of a Native" at the Southeast Branch of Lincoln Library at 2500 S. Grand Ave., E. Both the Southeast Branch of the library and SSU have a number of related presentations planned as well.

### "WARTIME ODYSSEY: A SEQUEL"

After Dr. Floyd Barringer's book based on his World War II letters to his father, "Wartime Odyssey," was published in 1987, he was encouraged by its readers to continue the account of his personal, first-hand experiences during that war. Floyd has written "Wartime Odyssey: A Sequel", which was published recently, and is available at Shadid's and Chapter One bookstores. A further report will appear in a later HISTORICO. Floyd is a charter member, Life Member, past president and the historian of our Society.

### THE "FORGOTTEN" MAN?

With Springfield's understandable emphasis on Abraham Lincoln during his birth month of February, another February birthday is almost overlooked - that of George Washington. It is interesting to find, however, that Lincoln referred often to Washington and revered his memory. In the recently published two-volume work, "Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings" (Library of America) Lincoln refers to our first president by name in a number of speeches and writings. In a speech in Springfield on Washington's 110th birthday, February 22, 1842, Lincoln said, "To add brightness to the sun, or glory to the name of Washington, is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor, leave it shining on."

### NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

When former Congressman Paul Findley represented the 20th Congressional District of Illinois, he wrote the legislation establishing the Lincoln Home as part of the National Park System. President Nixon signed the bill in August, 1971, at the Old State Capitol. Mr. Findley was honored at a reception at the Lincoln Home Visitor Center on January 27, in thanks for his work on this project, which he considers the most important of his career.

The Chicago Historical Society has opened the most extensive exhibit in its 133-year history. It is entitled "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln" and features the Civil War period, one of the most critical eras in the history of our country. Among other objects displayed is the bed upon which Lincoln died - considered by the president of the Chicago Historical Society to be the museum's most historical and valuable item.

The Lincoln-Herndon Law Office State Historical Site is presently closed for renovation. It is expected to re-open in March.

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SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Simply fill out the form below and mail it along with your membership fee to: Sangamon County Historical Society, 308 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. (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 your check! A letter announcing the gift will be sent to the recipient including the donor's name.)

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*Sangamon County Historical Society*  
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