



SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICO

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NOVEMBER, 1990

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LOOKING AHEAD - PEASE'S CANDY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

The Sangamon County Historical Society will meet at 7:00 P. M. on Tuesday, November 20, in the Carnegie Room at Lincoln Library, to hear Robert Flesher speak on the history of one of Springfield's best-known establishments, Pease's Candy Shop. Bob is the third generation owner of the business which is now celebrating its 60th anniversary in Springfield. He has been "on the job" for 42 years, during which time the business grew from its original location in a house at Third and South Grand to the main store at State and Laurel and two branches (one on N. Ninth and one on Stevenson Drive), plus a newly-opened kiosk at White Oaks Mall. Grandfather Martin Pease started his candy business in Bloomington about 1918, and his son, Martin, Jr., established the Springfield store in 1930. Later the senior Mr. Pease came to work for Martin, Jr., in Springfield. Bob Flesher is the nephew of Martin Pease, Jr., who is now retired and living in Florida. Bob has many interesting things to tell us about this unique business. He still has books on candy-making which his grandfather wrote in 1912 and 1918, and he also gives an account of the early days of the store in Springfield.

Pease's candy is one of Springfield's "sweetest" traditions. Who has not enjoyed one of Pease's beautiful chocolate eggs at Easter, or their special Thanksgiving and Christmas candy, or their luscious caramel apples at Hallowe'en? We're looking forward to learning more of the background of this fine company which makes these delicious treats.

BOARD MEETING - NOVEMBER 15

The SCHS officers and Board of Directors will meet at 4:30 P. M. on Thursday, November 15, at Lincoln Library, in the Children's Reading Room, at the eastern end of the main floor. (Please note this change from the date given in last month's newsletter.)

STILL AHEAD

Be sure to save Tuesday, December 18, for a tour and tea at Edwards Place for our holiday meeting. Next month's HISTORICO will have more details.

A LOOK BACK - FIFTH ANNUAL LINCOLN COLLOQUIUM

The Fifth Lincoln Colloquium, of which our Society is one of the sponsors together with the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the Eastern National Park and Monument Association and the Lincoln Group of Illinois, met on October 20 at Sangamon State University. The registration of about 150 was an increase over last year's attendance, and participants were pleased with the Brookens Auditorium location and the luncheon served in the University dining room.

George Painter, Lincoln Home Historian and the founder and coordinator of the annual Colloquium (and a past SCHS president) opened the program at 11:45 A.M. Norman Hellmers, Superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, discussed the topic of a possible Lincoln Research and Interpretive Center in Springfield. (Congressman Richard Durbin, originally slated to present this topic, was detained in Washington due to the Congressional schedule at that time.) The luncheon speaker was Harold Holzer, co-author of "The Lincoln Image," and co-editor of the anthology "Lincoln on Democracy". He spoke on the difficulties and special problems of translating the anthology into Polish, a translation requested by the Solidarity Teachers of Poland from Governor Mario Cuomo of New York, who sought Holzer's help as co-editor. Consulting scholars on this project include some of our Society's members - Mary Ellen McElligott, Cullom Davis, and George Painter.

A note of sadness caused a change in the program when it was announced that Robert W. Johannsen, the J.G. Randall Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Illinois, was unable to be present because of the death of his father the day before the Colloquium. Professor Johannsen's paper, "Abraham Lincoln and the Universal Yankee Nation," was brought to the meeting by John Hoffmann, who directs the Illinois Historical Survey at the University of Illinois Library, and was presented by our vice-president, Sangamon State University history professor, Cullom Davis.

Harold Holzer and Mark Neely, Jr. (Director of the Lincoln Museum in Ft. Wayne, Ind.) presented a slide-illustrated program on "The Lincoln Family Album", including its genesis and evolution from Lincoln's time, and on into the 20th century with his descendants. The authors discussed the decline of the family, whose later members retired from public notice as often as possible and took no interest in politics. Eventually the family name came to an end.

Harvard University history professor, William E. Gienapp, speaking on "Abraham Lincoln and the American Political Tradition," noted Lincoln's enthusiasm for politics in his day, and his high ideals and goals.

Edwin G. Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, presented a paper on "Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis: Differing Responses to Similar Environments." He noted their different leadership styles, mentioning that Davis concentrated on speaking with the military, particularly officers and leaders, whereas Lincoln, who also was very interested in military matters, still communicated with all the people.

Discussion periods brought out many interesting questions and comments. A large number of books were sold at the literature table. The papers featured in this Colloquium will be published and mailed to all those attending and are included in their registration fee. Copies for sale also will be available later in the Lincoln Home Visitor Center bookshop. Papers from earlier Colloquiums also may be purchased at the bookshop.

Next year's Colloquium will be held at Sangamon State University on October 26, 1991.