

ILLINOIS HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The Eleventh Annual Illinois History Symposium will be held in Springfield on Friday and Saturday, November 30 and December 1, at the Ramada Renaissance, 701 E. Adams. Several of our Society's members will be taking an active part of some of the sessions. SSU Professor Cullom Davis will chair the meeting on Nov. 30 from 1:15 - 3:15 P.M., and will comment on the papers presented dealing with sources of literature about Lincoln (including that of Benjamin Thomas). On Sat., Dec. 1, two past SCHS presidents will participate in the 9:00 - 11:45 A.M. session featuring local history papers. Jacqueline D. Wright (also with the Lincoln Group of Illinois) will act as chairman for the session, which includes a paper by Carrol C. Hall on "Shoemaker of Lincoln's New Salem." At that meeting another paper to be presented is by Florence Hutchinson (Jacksonville Genealogical and Historical Society), who gave a flag program for our Society in November, 1984. Janice Petterchak (Division Manager of the State Historical Library, and SCHS member) will chair the Symposium's final session, 3:30 - 5:00 P.M. on Dec. 1.

At the Symposium Banquet on Friday evening the keynote speaker will be Dr. John Mack Faragher of Mt. Holyoke College, speaking on "Communities and Frontiers." Dr. Faragher is the author of "Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie."

Registration fees are \$29.00 for ISHS members, and \$34.00 for non-members, and include coffee breaks. Banquet tickets are \$27.00 per person. All reservations must be received by Nov. 16. To receive detailed information and registration forms, contact Noreen O'Brien-Davis, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Educational Services, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL, 62701. (Tel. (217) 785-7952)

LINDSAY HOME NOW A STATE HISTORICAL SITE

The re-opening of the Vachel Lindsay Home on October 11 was a gala occasion, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to signify the transfer of the house to the State of Illinois as its newest historical site. The house had been closed for several weeks while being readied for the transfer to the state Historic Preservation Agency. Judge Harlington Wood, Jr., was the Master of Ceremonies at the 3:15 P.M. ceremony held on the front porch of the home before a sizeable gathering on the lawn and sidewalk. The Springfield Municipal Band Ensemble provided music for the occasion and colors were presented by the Illinois National Guard State Color Guard.

William Hughes Diller, president of the Vachel Lindsay Association, and George C. Hoffman, president of the Vachel Lindsay House Fund (both are SCHS members), jointly presented the house deed to Julie Cellini, chairman of the Historic Preservation Agency board. Members of the Lindsay family were in attendance, and Nicholas Lindsay, the poet's only son, recited his father's poem, "The Building of Springfield," in the dramatic style which Vachel Lindsay had employed when he gave public performances.

Following the ceremony at the home, a large number of people attended a program and reception at the Franklin. The program featured a slide-illustrated presentation, "Catharine Lindsay's House," by Edward Russo, Director of the Sangamon Valley Room at Lincoln Library (and a member of our Society). Ed gave a comprehensive history of the house, describing its original style and the various modifications of later years. The house was built in the 1840's by the man who also built the A. Lincoln home, Henry Dresser. It was purchased for \$5300 in 1853 by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Smith. Mrs. Smith was Mary Todd Lincoln's sister, and the Lincolns often were entertained in the home. In 1878 Dr. Vachel T. Lindsay bought the house, and it was here that the poet, Nicholas Vachel Lindsay, was born on November 10, 1879. After his death,

in this house, in 1931, it remained in the family until it was sold to the Vachel Lindsay House Fund in 1958, and opened to the public in 1959.

At the reception and buffet at the Franklin following the program, Jack Watson of the Franklin was the master of ceremonies. Janel Lundgren was honored for her work as Executive Director of the Lindsay Association. (Janel also is our Society's president.) Music during the evening was by the Jane Hartman Trio.

The Vachel Lindsay Association will remain active and retain its headquarters in the house, concentrating its efforts on expanding the collection of Lindsay items, and publishing and promoting interest in the poet's works.

A number of our Society's members are active on the boards of both the Vachel Lindsay Association and the Vachel Lindsay House Fund. The Home will be open free of charge, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Thursdays through Mondays.

A CHANGE OF DIRECTORS AT THE IHPA

Susan Mogerman, formerly the Deputy Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, is now the Acting Director, following the recent resignation of Michael Devine, who will remain with the Agency as State Historian.

1990 A MILESTONE YEAR

Our Lincoln Colloquium is now five years old, and so is the Historical Preservation Agency. The Illinois Times passed its fifteenth birthday in September; Sangamon State University is now twenty years old, and the Clayville Fall Festival has turned over twenty-five years. And Carrol Hall was 85 on October 22! (Happy belated birthday to our 5th president!) Susan Lawrence Dana wasn't bodily present at her 128th birthday party but the Dana-Thomas House was the scene of a fine birthday party in her honor on Oct. 14th.

COMING UP SOON

Just a reminder that the Christmas holidays will be here before we know it. Some dates to remember:

Sat. and Sun., Nov. 17 and 18 - Holiday Market at the Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center, 2301 East Lake Drive. Fine holiday gifts and crafts available. (For further information call 529-1111)

Sat. and Sun., Dec. 1 and 2 - Christmas Open House at Clayville Rural Life Center. Traditional 1850's celebration. (SCHS board member Elizabeth Weir is the Site Manager at Clayville.) For further information call (217) 626-1132.

Sat., Dec. 8 - Our neighboring historical group, The Rochester Historical Preservation Society, will have a House Tour of five unique homes (11 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.), and Holiday Market and Bake Sale at Rochester Middle School (10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.), and a luncheon featuring homemade soup served at the Rochester United Methodist Church. Advance tickets for the tour are \$5.00 (\$6.00 on Dec. 8) which include refreshments; \$1.00 for the Holiday Market only. The luncheon is priced separately. For ticket and other information contact the Rochester Historical Preservation Society, P. O. Box 13, Rochester, IL., 62563.

Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, and 29-30, Christmas at the Dana-Thomas House, with music, tours and holidays decorations. Sat. hours are 11:00 A.M.