

will be presented. On the Sunday evenings of December 9th, 16th and 30th the house will be open until 8:00 P.M., and Sunday, December 23, will be the Night of the Luminarias when the exterior and courtyard will be illuminated with hundreds of lights from 4:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Tours for 10 or more can be arranged, except for the holiday weekends, by calling 782-6776.

OUR LOSS

Our sympathy goes to Gene Hall, of Illiopolis, whose wife, Emily Jean Cravens Hall, 61, died on November 15. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hall have been long-time members of our Society, and Gene has served on our Board. Mrs. Hall's life was one of service and companionship to her family and many friends in spite of difficult health problems. She had been an insulin-dependent diabetic since childhood, and as a patient of Dr. Thomas Masters was one of the first diabetic children to live to maturity. Before losing her eyesight she was a bookkeeper at the Farmers State Bank of Illiopolis. She also was a active member of the Illiopolis Christian Church, participating in the choir and in the Christian Women's Fellowship. A memorial service at the Illiopolis Christian Church was held on Saturday, December 8.

ELEVENTH ISHS SYMPOSIUM

The 11th Illinois History Symposium, sponsored by the Illinois State Historical Society on November 30 and December 1 was very well attended. Held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, it featured a number of interesting sessions concerning Illinois history in the fields of politics, literature, music and art, agriculture and industry. The banquet speaker was John Mack Faragher, Ph.D., history professor at Mt. Holyoke College, and author. One of his books of interest locally is "Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie."

In a Saturday session dealing with local history, chaired by a past president of our Society, Jacqueline Wright, another of our past presidents, Carrol C. Hall, spoke on the story of Caleb Carman, who resided in New Salem during the time Abraham Lincoln lived there. Caleb was Carrol's great-grandfather's brother, a Quaker who migrated after the American Revolution from Canada, thence to Pennsylvania, Ohio, and to Sangamon Town in Illinois, then to New Salem for several years, and finally to Petersburg. Caleb was a miller in Sangamon Town, and also served as constable. He first met Abraham Lincoln in 1831 when young Abe arrived with Dennis Hanks on a partially built flatboat to be completed at the sawmill in Sangamon Town. The boat then was partially loaded with corn there, taken to New Salem to finish loading, then went to New Orleans where the corn was sold. After that Abe returned to New Salem to live, and Caleb moved there about three years later. In Sangamon Town he had worked in the carding mill processing wool, but at New Salem he became a shoemaker. Abraham Lincoln boarded with him about two or three years and, as Caleb wrote later, "he made himself useful in every way he could." At one time he re-caned a chair for Caleb - that chair is now on display at the New Salem State Park Museum. When Lincoln's last law partner, William Herndon, was seeking information on Lincoln's earlier years, he wrote to Caleb Carman for information, and it is from Caleb's letters that Herndon and other authors have learned much of the New Salem phase of Lincoln's life. Caleb remembered how he looked, the songs and books he liked, his pet cats, and his work as a storekeeper and postmaster. Caleb discredited the story of the Ann Rutledge romance, stating that he himself had not lived there at that time and found no evidence of it either from Lincoln or other villagers later. Herndon, however, chose to use that story, true or not, to embellish his biography of Lincoln. When New Salem was abandoned Caleb moved to Petersburg and lived an active life there until his death at the age of eighty-five.

Two other interesting papers were presented at this session. Miss Elizabeth Hardy of Jacksonville spoke on the interesting life of one of her ancestors from Switzerland, Bernard Steiner, who attempted to sail to America with his fiancée and her family, but when their ship left at an unexpected time he missed the sailing. Although he worked his way to America later and eventually settled in St. Clair Co., Illinois, he never found his fiancée and never married. The circumstances of his death in 1821, when his body was found near Kaskaskia, was the second mystery which gave Miss Hardy's paper its title, "Bernard Steiner: Double Unsolved Mysteries in St. Clair Co., Ill."

Florence Hutchison of Jacksonville, designer of the present Illinois State Flag, spoke on her experiences as a "vexillological, sphragisticological and heraldic genealogical historian." She explained that "vexil" refers to flags, and "sphragistics" is the science of seals and signets dealing with their history, age, usage and legal functions. In November, 1984, Mrs. Hutchison gave an interesting program on flags for our Society.

A number of our Society members attended other symposium meetings. The HISTORICO would welcome reports of any of the other sessions. (Send to Mrs. D. A. Henry, 29 Sunnyside Drive, Springfield, IL 62702).

OUR KAY GETS AN "O.K." FROM YOUNG READERS

Our Society's publicity chairman, Kay Watt, does more than write up our meeting notices to be sent to local papers! Under her maiden name, Kay Cooper, she has written a dozen successful children's books, with several more still underway. Her most recent publication is "Where In The World Are You?" - a book designed to spur children's interest in geography and the world beyond their own front doors. Several years ago her book, "Who Put the Cannon in the Courthouse Square?", encouraged the interest of children in the history of their own communities and showed them how to begin a study of local history at their own level. This book has gone into several printings so far. (Incidentally, the "cannon" refers to one used in an election celebration in Greenville, IL, in 1916; it has mysteriously disappeared.)

FIRST NIGHT SPRINGFIELD

Be sure to watch the local papers for news and schedules of events for Springfield's family-oriented celebration of New Year's Eve, taking place from 2:00 P.M. to mid-night on December 31st. A number of activities will take place at some of our historic sites - the Old State Capitol, the present Capitol, Lincoln's Home, and other locations of historic interest.

IN SPRINGFIELD, DECEMBER, 1890

Some aspects of American life one hundred years ago have a familiar ring today. In an Illinois State Journal of early December, 1890, one headline read "The Financial Outlook Not Any Too Encouraging." The war clouds of that day were in our own country, in South Dakota, where the U.S. Cavalry was still battling the Indians, particularly those led by Sitting Bull, who was killed later that month by other Indians. The police news carried items about incidents almost as violent as those covered in today's "Police Beat" column. Five days before Christmas a local woman swore out a warrant for her husband, who was sent to jail by a local judge. It was reported that "The husband is of a very playful disposition and amused himself by trying to drown