

The seven justices are elected in the five judicial districts. Three are from Chicago (the most populous), with one from each of the other four. The justices elect the Chief Justice from among themselves, to serve a three-year term. (Elected recently to this office was Ben Miller of Springfield.) To date all the justices in the Illinois Supreme Court have been men. They are elected to ten year terms, running on a political ticket as Republicans or Democrats. They may choose to try for a second term, this time running for retention, not by party, and must get 60% of the popular vote. So far there has never been a Supreme Court justice who was not re-elected when running for retention. The average length of stay is about fifteen years. In earlier days there were some very young men serving, some in their twenties. The oldest to run was seventy-two. There is no minimum age but a candidate must be an attorney in good standing, elected by the people in his district.

Following Mrs. Taitt's talk we toured the second floor rooms, noting especially the beautiful murals in both the Supreme Court and Appellate Court chambers. They were painted by Albert Krehbiel of Park Ridge, a professor at the Art Institute in Chicago many years ago. He won a contest to do these paintings. Those in the Supreme Court Chamber depict the functions of the law - its continuity, powers and supremacy. Those in the Appellate Court picture the great figures of law - Moses, representing Mosaic law; Alfred the Great and common law; Pope Gregory and canon law; and Justinian and civil law. We also visited the extensive law library whose volumes are available for all the justices to use in addition to their own libraries in their private studies. We learned that during the regular sessions the Supreme Court room is open to the public as long as seating is available - observers are not allowed to stand. We also visited the marshal's office, near the Supreme Court chamber.

After our tour we enjoyed refreshments served by Olive Foster and Polly Myers in the attorneys' room adjoining the Supreme Court room.

Our thanks go to Carolyn Taitt for a fine program on the legal procedures of our state's court system as well as the history of the impressive Supreme Court building.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The SCHS officers and Board of Directors met at 4:30 P.M. in Lincoln Library on Feb. 28, with twenty present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the treasurer's report accepted. We have a total of \$20,531.38 in all accounts as of Feb. 28. President Jane Lundgren announced that a nominations committee had been appointed. Members are Mary Ellen McElligott, George Painter, Joyce Sandage, Carl Volkmann and Pat Henry (chairman). Committee reports followed. The publications committee will make arrangements for the printing of new brochures promoting membership and Pioneer Park. The budget was discussed, especially with regard to the costs of printing the new brochures, publishing Wayne Price's book on barns when it is completed (elected as our publication project), and re-printing the by-laws. Plans for tours on May 4 were announced, as well as tentative plans for a Sept. 28 tour (see following article). The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M. with the next Board meeting set for 4:30 P.M. at Lincoln Library on Thursday, April 11.

SPRING TOUR IN MAY

A spring tour is planned for Saturday, May 4, with the following schedule:

8:00 A.M. - leave the Stratton Building parking lot in Springfield for Jacksonville where we will see the Governor Duncan Home before leaving for Meredosia.

- 10:45 - 11:15 A.M. - in Meredosia we will see the site where construction of the Northern Cross R. R. began.
- 11:30 A.M. - leave for Carrollton
- 12:15 P.M. - lunch at the Brass Rail in Carrollton.
- 1:30 P.M. - visit the Lee-Baker-Hodges House in Carrollton, managed by the Greene Co. Historical and Genealogical Society.
- 2:30 P.M. - leave for Alton and a two-hour tour of the city's historic sites.
- 5:00 P.M. - leave for the Pere Marquette State Park.
- 6:00 P.M. - dinner at Pere Marquette State Park Lodge.
- 7:30 P.M. - leave for Springfield.
- 9:30 P.M. - tentative arrival time back in Springfield.

The cost is \$25.00 for members (\$30.00 for non-members) and covers bus transportation, gratuities and any entrance fees. (Meals are "on our own.") Reservations may be made at our business office or by mail: Sangamon County Historical Society, 308 E. Adams St., Springfield, 62701; tel. (217) 522-2500. Make checks payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society and mark for SPRING TOUR.

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The Governor Duncan House in Jacksonville was built in 1834 for Illinois Governor and Mrs. Joseph Duncan and their family. It was the official Governor's Mansion during his term (1834-1838) and is the only structure left in the state outside of Springfield that served as the official Mansion.

The Northern Cross Railroad, with construction started at Meredosia in 1838, was planned as part of an entire rail system to be built in Illinois, but only the 59 miles between Meredosia and Springfield were completed by 1842, and its flimsy construction and erratic schedule resulted in a poor and unprofitable operation. When its one locomotive wore out in 1844 mules were used to move the cars! The line was sold at auction about 1847.

When Carrollton was chosen as the county seat of newly-organized Greene County in 1828 a two-room brick house already stood on the northwest corner of the square. It was purchased by Samuel Lee, around 1825 to 1827, and he planned a spacious addition to the house. He died in 1829 but the construction was completed and the young widow and her two children lived there. Mrs. Lee re-married in 1831. Her second husband was Carrollton attorney Edward Dickinson Baker, later to become a good friend of Abraham Lincoln. Eventually Baker became the first senator from Oregon, and also was a Civil War hero. The Bakers moved to Springfield in 1835, and sold the house to a Mr. Heaton in 1836. It was sold again in 1850 to Charles D. Hodges, a circuit judge and former Congressman. He added to the house and made it the showplace of Carrollton. It remained in the Hodges family for almost 71 years. In 1921 it was sold to a dentist and it became an office building. Eventually it was purchased by the Greene Co. National Bank, then deeded to the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society in 1982. In 1980 it had been officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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The fall tour is set for Saturday, September 28, with an 8:00 A.M. departure for Galesburg, arriving there about 10:00 A.M. to visit the Carl Sandburg birthplace and other sites. After lunch in Galesburg, an afternoon visit is planned at Jubilee College, founded in 1839 fifteen miles northwest of Peoria. From there we will go to Peoria for dinner at Jumer's Castle, with arrival back in Springfield about 9 P.M. The tour price is set tentatively at \$15.00 for members (\$20.00 for non-members). Details will be published in a later HISTORICO.