

were still in practice in Springfield. Young Orendorff's chief interest other than the law concerned the management of railroads and heavy industry. Together with his father-in-law, Col. John Williams, he was deeply involved with the development of area railroads - particularly the Springfield and North West Railroad. His other main interest, perhaps exceeding all others, was in politics. He was involved in almost every political activity in Springfield and served as a delegate in a number of conventions. He worked with almost all of the Republican or Liberal Republican leaders, attending committee meetings, conventions, going on a speaking tour with U.S. Senator Lyman Trumbull, and conferring often with his close friend Governor John Palmer. He left the regular Republican party, however, joining many friends, including Gov. Palmer, in protesting the action of President U. S. Grant in sending federal troops to maintain order in Chicago after the great fire in October 1871. The Governor and many other citizens thought that the Illinois Militia should have been in charge, and felt that the state's rights had been violated. Other political leaders across the nation agreed with Palmer's stand and the Liberal Republicans broke off from the regular party to join with Democrats in protest. After April 18, 1872, almost all entries in Orendorff's diary refer to political matters and no further mention is made of the law practice. Orendorff was kept busy during the spring and summer with numerous political activities for the Liberal Republicans, and on the day that he ceased keeping his diary, August 6, 1872, he was nominated to the Illinois State Legislature.

We do know that Alfred Orendorff's involvement in politics and government continued, as he became the State Adjutant General in the mid-1890's. His year-long diary of 1871-72 gives us a glimpse into a formative year in the life of "a man of action," the term used by his grandson to describe one of Springfield's most influential citizens of the late 19th century.

Following John's address, the annual business meeting was convened, featuring the election and installation of officers and directors. Our officers for 1991-1992 are: President - G. Cullom Davis; Vice-President - Janice T. Wass; Secretary - Linda Garvert; Treasurer - John F. Macpherson, Jr. New Directors are: Pauline Roesch (Class of 1992), Tim E. Krell (Class of 1993), and in the Class of 1994, Theresa Faith Cummings, Clifford M. Hathaway, Jr., Victor H. Lary, M.D., John W. McKee, Virgilio R. Pilapil, M.D., Richard G. Risku, and Enrique Unanue. A monetary gift was presented to the Sangamon Valley Room at Lincoln Library in honor of Dr. Floyd S. Barringer.

Following the meeting we were entertained with the lively Scottish music and dancing of the St. Andrew's Society Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers.

A MID-SUMMER PARTY AT PIONEER PARK

The Society's Pioneer Park, adjacent to the Sugar Creek Covered Bridge, was the scene of our annual ice cream social on Saturday, July 13. Delicious cake and ice cream were provided and served by Hughes Diller, Park Chairman, assisted by his committee -- Fred Adams, Kim Efird, Frank Farley, Karen Lee Lynn, Robert McAlpine and Wayne Price. Children and grand-children of some of the members were present with their families, and everyone enjoyed the fine entertainment provided by banjo player and singer Phil Rebbe, the Shriner Highlanders Society of Bagpipers, and the reading of a Vachel Lindsay poem by Karen Lynn.

NEWS OF NOTE

Two of our long-time members celebrated birthdays in July. Russell H. Lanham

was 90 on July 19, and William A. Sausaman, Sr., was 85 on July 17. Our belated "Happy Birthday" wishes go to both.

The Lincoln Home National Historic Site recently joined in the nationwide observance of the National Park Service's 75th anniversary in August. The Sept. 3 - Oct. 31 schedule for the Lincoln Home and the Visitor Center: Mon. and Tues. - 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Wed. through Sun. - 8:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

E. Duane Elbert is the new Illinois State Historian. His appointment by the board of trustees of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency was confirmed by Gov. Edgar and he took office during the first week of August. Mr. Elbert has been a member of the Eastern Illinois University faculty since 1966, serving as a professor of history and historical administration. He is a past president of the Illinois State Historical Society, the author of many historical articles, and is working at present on two books.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, New Salem State Park will be the scene of the Traditional Music Festival from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. each day. Early 19th century music and dancing will be featured.

Your editor wishes to thank members who have contributed several good articles and stories which will be used in future HISTORICOS. Several members also have promised interviews and reminiscences which will provide some interesting articles.

Sangamon County Historical Society

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