



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

308 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 217-522-2500 www.sancohis.org

VOLUME 47, NO. 6

SEPTEMBER 2010



CLAYVILLE'S historic buildings will be on view September 21 when the Society holds its first meeting of the season.

Fall Meeting Season Opener at Clayville September 21 With Tours, Optional Box Dinner, Talk by Historical Archeologist

The Sangamon County Historical Society opens its fall monthly program season on Tuesday, September 21, with a first-hand look at Clayville and its remarkable---and ongoing rebirth---as an important historical attraction.

Historical archaeologist Annie Reiken, who has been providing the professional guidance for its renewal, will be the evening's speaker. Her topic

will be "Stewardship."

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. Starting at 6 p.m., you'll be able to take a self-guided tour of the site plus enjoy a Carol Jean Fraase Fall-themed box dinner. (*You must pre-order the box dinner by September 19. See page 7 for details*).

The 7 p.m. program is free and open to the public. Directions to the Clayville site is on

page 5.

Reiken has made a career out of rescuing historic sites. A former nurse midwife, youth counselor and school district wellness coordinator, she redirected her energies toward a career in historic archeology and architectural history in 1990.



Reiken

INSIDE:

- From the President's Podium.....2
- Special Events Mark Season.....3
- We're On Facebook!.....3
- Membership Survey.....6
- Mailing, E-Mail Advisories.....8



YOUR COLLECTIBLES can aid Clayville restoration.....4



COMING IN OCTOBER:

The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of "Rabbit Row."

Date: Tuesday, October 19

Time: 7 p.m.

Speaker: Ken Mitchell

Location: Lincoln Public Library, 326 S. Seventh Street, Springfield



— *From the President's Podium* —

Look Ahead for Changes in Society's Activities

Look for some differences in your Sangamon County Historical Society in the coming year, starting with our September 21st program. This special evening includes a box dinner at the historic Clayville site west of Springfield, along with an informative talk and tour of the renovations now underway. We expect a good turnout given the widespread support for the “rescue” of Clayville. A box dinner reservation form appears on page 7.

The coming months will be different in another way, in that the Board will direct its attention to strategic planning. Based on a committee report to the Board in March, followed by Board discussions in April and

- 1) Can we develop programs that will appeal to a wider variety of people than in the past?
- 2) How can we expand our marketing approaches to increase our membership and income? More members and income allows more programs.

These questions are not just for Board consideration; we welcome community and membership input at monthly meetings and through a survey

Another difference is that 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the Society's founding, certainly a time for special activities. As your new President, I look forward to advancing the mission of the Society.

David

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Sangamon County Historical Society thanks those who have joined or upgraded their membership level this month...and to those who have generously made donations in support of our goals.

DONATIONS

David & Laurie Farrell
Dr. Mark & Jackie Hansen
in memory of Dr. Flypd Barringer

MEMBERSHIPS

Linda I. Bee	Logan L. McMinn
Robert E. Bolton III	James Mergen
Sylvia Brewer	Steven & Paula Peddicord
Barb Budinger	Carolyn Roth
Claire B. Eberle	Williamsville Boxcar
Don Gregor	Museum
Gloria C. Lamb	Thomas & Linda Yokley
Elizabeth Lovegrove	



2010-2011 Officers Sangamon County Historical Society

President.....David L. Scott
Vice-President.....Vicki Megginson
Secretary.....Pam VanAlstine
Treasurer.....Paul R. Mueller
Past President.....Nancy Chapin

Directors to 2011

Jack Alexander ♦ Connie Locher Bussard
John Huther ♦ Don Springer ♦ Jane Vetter

Directors to 2012

Tim Krell ♦ Carolyn Moore
Donna Catlin ♦ Roger Whitaker ♦ James H. Beaumont

Directors to 2013

Linda Bee ♦ Bruce Beeman
Claire Eberle ♦ Carolyn Oxtoby ♦ Jane Treadwell

Honorary Director

William Hughes Diller Jr.

Membership in the Sangamon County Historical Society is open to both individuals and families. Dues are \$17.50 per year for individuals, \$25 for a family, \$50 for a sustaining member. For Individual Life Membership, there is a one-time payment of \$250 and for Family Life Member, a one-time payment of \$400. For a membership form and/or additional information, contact the Society at 522-2500 or write to us at 308 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

From Tea to Tour, Special Events Mark Start of Season

Want to get a head start on the Society's fall season?

You can sign up now for two special events, both in October, that will give you an unusual opportunity to see local history, up-close.

The events, for which there are fees, are in addition to the Society's regular free monthly meetings that begin with a program on and at Clayville on September 21.

Reservation forms are on page 7. Here's what's planned:

TEA AT THE HISTORIC FREEMAN-HUGHES HOUSE. (Thursday, October 7, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and repeated on Sunday, October 10, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). Here's a rare opportunity to step inside and be among a limited number of visitors allowed to tour this charming, privately-owned 19th century home in Springfield that is listed on the National Register.

Built in 1878 by Clarkson W. Freeman, the house was eventually passed to a nephew, Arthur Freeman Hughes, whose widow sold the property to Dr. and Mrs. Floyd Barringer. Passionate about local history, the Barringers lovingly restored the Italianate-style home with its intricate Carpenter-Gothic trim. The current owner, Mary Ann

Langston, has preserved its furnishings and antiques. At each room, volunteer docents will point out features and answer questions about specific features. Tea will be served. Each session is limited to 25 participants. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$30 for non members.

trip takers will hear stories and descriptions of Sangamon's earliest settlement sites and view over five 19th century farm houses and early family cemeteries. At two of the cemeteries, actors will portray several of the early settlers buried there.

The tour, expected to take about

Join the Freeman-Hughes House Tea-Tour Team!



You can get an inside track on the Freeman-Hughes House by volunteering to be part of a group of Society members that will be trained to staff the October 7 and October 10 events. Step forward and you can be a docent, server, part of the kitchen staff or parking attendant. For more information on what's involved and to volunteer, contact Carolyn Moore at carmor1@sancohis.org.

FALL BUS TOUR ALONG SUGAR CREEK (Sunday, October 17, 1 p.m.). If you missed the first tour in June, you've another opportunity to take a bus trip back in time in a tour of the Cotton Hill District, Sangamon County's birthplace.

The area—in and around Sugar Creek—was home to the first generation of settlers here. Traveling in a comfortable, air conditioned tour bus,

two-and-a-half hours, will leave from the Meijer's parking lot off Veterans Parkway (Route 4), Springfield, at 1 p.m. Sites and history along the route will be detailed by historian Dick Hart. He'll do the same for the north side of Sugar Creek on the way back. Sign up early.

There are only 45 seats available for this trip. Tickets are \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members.

Find Us Now on Facebook

You now can track Sangamon County Historical Society events on **Facebook**, thanks to the efforts of new member B.R. Bolton, who set up the account for us. The page lists monthly and special events and can instantly alert you to new activities. In the first week of operation, the site had 443 visitors!

You'll need a **Facebook** account to see the site. It's free at facebook.com. Once you're logged in, search for "Sangamon County Historical Society" and add us to your Friends list. We'll do the same.

And of course, you can keep up with events and happenings on our website, www.sancohis.org.

History Groups Gear Up for Busy Fall

The Sangamon County Historical Society isn't the only history focused organization revving up for what looks to be a busy season. Here are some of the others and links to find out more:

Elijah Iles House: A series of Fireside Chats from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday programs focusing on Springfield's heritage begins September 22, with a presentation on "The Underground Railroad in Lincoln's Springfield," by Richard E. Hart. It will be followed on September 29 with a talk on Donner Family History by Don Springer, a Donner descendent. Farrell Gay discusses the history of the Illinois Watch Company on October 6. Gay will display and discuss time pieces and watches from his personal collection. Reservations are required. Call 652-7302 for information.

(Continued on page 6)

Clayville to be Setting for Society's Season Opener;

(Continued from page 1)

“Saving, recording, and on occasion, moving structures has been essential to my life style for the past 20 years now,” she says.

Employed by SCI Engineering, Inc., a St. Louis professional consulting engineering firm, she also handles contract cultural resources survey work for major pipelines coming through America from Canada. Her job has taken her across Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Montana.

“I believe in life-long learning and am here to be a student and teacher when invited. I love to help individual people or not-for-profit groups save money by utilizing my background in preservation—both won and lost—on their own endeavors. I believe that the best preservation is prevention, in people, structures and social conditions.”

Clayville was established by Moses Broadwell, a Revolutionary War veteran from Elizabethtown, New Jersey who brought his family to the area around 1820. He and his son John, a veteran of the War of 1812, opened a tannery and built a brick kiln that allowed them to construct the first brick house in Sangamon County. The Broadwells named the area Clayville in honor of Henry Clay, a leading Whig politician.

Moses Broadwell built the large brick inn in 1824 on what is now Route 125, just east of Pleasant Plains. It became a popular stop through the 1850s for those traveling between Springfield and Beardstown. Until railroads reshaped transportation patterns here, the Broadwell Tavern and Inn drew stage coach travelers, cattle buyers from the East who spent the winter

in Illinois while they bought up livestock to ship the following spring; teamsters hauling dry goods, liquor, groceries and more between the two cities; and families of settlers who spent the night there before seeking property for themselves.

The original inn was partially destroyed by fire in 1834, but was rebuilt by John Broadwell within the year. (Moses Broadwell died in 1827). It is the oldest surviving brick structure in Sangamon County.

In its heyday, Clayville was the center of activities for the Whig Party. At one point, in fact, the Broadwell Tavern was renamed Clay's Ville and served as home to

County Historical Society and served as president from 1966 to 1967. One of the Society's first meetings, in fact, was held at Clayville. At the time of his death in 1996, Dr. Pearson was a professor emeritus in the internal medicine and medical humanities department at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield.

In an interview conducted as part of a Sangamon State University oral history project in 1972, Dr. Pearson recalled that he and his wife Mary were attracted to the site after visiting many inns across the country and in Europe.

“We found this building was architecturally as interesting as many we'd seen in other places. It

Bring a Collectible to Support Restoration Effort

Members of the Sangamon County Historical Society can personally...and easily help with the Clayville restoration effort by donating a collectible that can be sold at the Clayville Fall Festival to be held at the site on Saturday October 2 and Sunday October 3.

Proceeds from the “Treasure Flea Table of Collectibles” will go to the Pleasant Plains Historical Society to further their Clayville restoration work, says Bette Franke, who is organizing the sale. Bring items to the Society's September 21 meeting and you will receive a receipt for your tax records. Donors should also include a written description of the item and its estimated value.



an organization known as Clay's Men, whose members included Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln also became the lawyer for members of the Broadwell family, a relationship that lasted for about 20 years.

Eventually abandoned, Clayville was rescued from historic oblivion in 1961 by Dr. Emmet F. Pearson, a Springfield physician with a deep commitment to local history. Dr. Pearson was a founding member of the Sangamon

had wonderful woodwork, all walnut. Bricks were handmade on the grounds and the other features of the building indicated it's a very early type of construction. We felt it was a must to restore it.”

“The architecture of Clayville is called Federal, which is a simple American style adapted to the frontier and did *not* involve great skill, although the workmen of Clayville

(Continued on page 5)

Pre-Talk Self-Tour, Box Dinner to be Available

(Continued from page 4)

must have been fairly skilled,” Dr. Pearson observed. “The building looks very much like some buildings we have seen in Pennsylvania.”

When Dr. Pearson took title to the site in 1961, “great hand hewed exposed timbers” supported the house and “all the mantles, doors, jams, and all of the woodwork” was solid black walnut which is said to have been cut from walnut

trees on the grounds. At the time, the original hand-dug stone well was still in operation.

“The furniture of the period for the inn came from

houses and Sangamo Country,” he said, the decorative arts representing the transitional period between the frugal cabins of the frontier like New Salem and the more comfortable homes that were developing in Springfield before the Civil War.

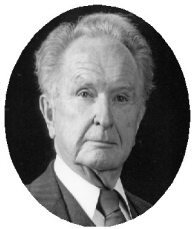
“Some of the furniture was fairly good although much of it was primitive. Paintings of the period were mostly done by itinerant or unskilled painters and artists. The brick oven in the kitchen is the only brick oven we know west of the Allegheny Mountains that still can be used to bake bread and other baked goods.”

Dr. Pearson put time and money into the site, restoring its luster as a crossroads village by replacing several outer buildings that had decayed and were torn

down with other authentic buildings. These included two log cabins that Dr. Pearson believed were built in 1817 and 1846 and two barns from the pre Civil-War period. Members of the Clayville Folk Arts Guild, of which Dr. Pearson was a member, soon filled the site with local craftspeople that provided year around educational activities designed to preserve knowledge of arts and crafts of

In ensuing years, the property fell into disrepair, weeds, brush and fallen trees eventually blocking the site from public view, making it attractive to vagrants and vandals.

In 2007, the Broadwell Inn and Tavern was listed by Landmarks Illinois as one of the state’s 10 most endangered historic places. At the time, Landmarks Illinois noted that the building had become “open to the elements, wildlife and



PEARSON

CLAYVILLE, initially restored in the 1960s through the efforts of former Society president Emmet Pearson, drew large crowds like those at right to its many special events and learning programs.



early Illinois. Their pottery, leather and knit goods and other handcrafts were sold at an on-site crafts shop. A blacksmith, a country-kitchen educator, a summer theater-in-the-round, and a living “pioneer farm” to demonstrate farming methods before the Industrial Revolution were also part of the operation as were annual spring and fall arts festivals.

In 1973, Dr. Pearson donated the Clayville site to Sangamon State University which operated it as a Rural Historic Center and Museum until 1992 when it said it could no longer afford to fund it. The property was sold to Dave Bourland, curator of the Illinois Executive Mansion.

vandals, and immediate intervention is needed to prevent further structural damage.”

That intervention happened a few months later when a group of local residents formed the Pleasant Plains Historical Society and led a community-wide effort to purchase and restore the site. Their successful on-going clean-up (in which volunteers recovered hundreds of antique items including blacksmith tools, looms, and plows) as well as a fundraising campaign continues. Several major events have been held at the site and more are planned. Volunteers continue to work at the site on weekends. Today Landmarks Illinois lists the site as “saved.”

DIRECTIONS TO CLAYVILLE

RTE 125

JEFFERSON STREET (RTE 97)

“CLAYVILLE”

To get to Clayville, take Jefferson Street (Rte 97) west. It becomes Rte 125 past the Rte 97 junction. The Clayville site, about 12 miles west of Springfield, is well marked and will be on your left.

RTE 97

RTE 4 (VETERANS HWY)

Membership Committee Wants to Know More About You!

The Society's Membership Committee is now conducting a survey and needs your help! "We'd like to know more about our existing members, their interests, talents, and skills to help the Society develop future programs and expand its offerings," explained Membership Chair Nancy Chapin, "We need our members to provide both input and expertise and, in some cases, their time and talent as we tackle the future."

2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

In planning for the future we would like to know what interests you about the Historical Society and in what activities you would like to take a more active role. Please fill out the questionnaire below and mail it to the Society, 308 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701 or bring this to the September 21 meeting.

Are you interested a committee or the Board?

- Programs & tours
- Finance
- Publications
- Hospitality
- Marketing
- Board

Are you interested in being a volunteer?

- Special events
- Research
- Hospitality
- "Just give me a call!"

Indicate below special talents/interests you would be willing to share with the Historical Society:

- Arts, crafts, music? _____
- Technological? _____
- Writing? _____



Name: _____

e-mail address: _____

Fireside Chats, Conclave, Tour, Fall Festival on Agenda for Area History Organizations

(Continued from page 3)

Clayville Historical Site: The site will host a Fall Festival, Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Artisans and craftsmen will be demonstrating pottery, coopering, quilting, outdoor cooking, willow furniture making, chair caning, corn milling, whiskey distilling, water color painting, and dulcimer making.

In addition, there will be displays of guns and knives of the Old West and Civil War, and early 1800s reenactments including an old-fashioned "Revival Meeting" on Saturday afternoon in which real-life minister Ron Waltrip, pastor of Trinity Church of the Nazarene, will portray famed pioneer Methodist preacher and politician Reverend Peter Cartwright.

In addition to his work as a traveling preacher, Cartwright was twice a member of the Illinois legislature and ran for Congress in 1846, only to be defeated by Springfield Whig Abraham Lincoln. Waltrip has performed with the Muni, the Jacksonville Theatre Guild and at New Salem. A clothesline art show, music by Mike Anderson, and a performance by Chris Camp, "The Whip Guy," is also planned.

The Clayville site will be the setting for Haunted House and Hayride Fridays and Saturdays, October 22, 23, 29 and 30 and on Sunday, October 31 and "A Clayville Christmas" December 11. For more information, visit www.clayville.org.

Conference on Illinois History: Dozens of papers on a wide range of

topics focusing on history in Illinois will be presented on Thursday, September 30 and Friday, October 1 in Springfield.

Sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and to be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, panels topics include the coal mining industry; settlement patterns; black history; legal, political and family history and many more.

For more information and reservations, call 782-2118.

The Illinois State Historical Society will be marking the 100th anniversary of President Ronald Regan with a two-day bus trip, Friday and Saturday, October 8 and 9, to "Regan Country." Reservations must be made by September 1. For information and reservations, call 525-2781.

Here's A One-Stop Way to Sign Up for Society Events!

Reserve by phone at 522-2500. All checks should be made payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society and mailed to the Society at 308 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

FALL BOX DINNER FOR THE CLAYVILLE MEETING

Please order ___\$15 per person for Carol Jean Fraase Fall-themed Box Dinner with drink for the Tuesday, September 21, Clayville meeting - if paid by September 14. The cost is \$18 if paid between September 15 and 18. *No order will be taken after September 19.*



Name: _____

Address: _____ City and Zip: _____

e-mail address: _____ phone: _____

Please provide the names and e-mail addresses of your guests:

Freeman-Hughes House Tea and Tour

FREEMAN-HUGHES HOUSE TEA, 3:30 p.m., **Thursday, October 7, 2010.** (Members: \$25, Non - Members: \$30.) Seating limited. *No. of tickets* _____

FREEMAN-HUGHES HOUSE TEA, 4 p.m., **Sunday, October 10, 2010.** (Members: \$25, Non- Members: \$30). Seating limited. *No. of tickets* _____



Member Name: _____ e-mail address: _____

Names and e-mail addresses of your guests:

FALL BUS TOUR TO SUGAR CREEK/COTTON HILL

BUS TOUR OF SUGAR CREEK/COTTON HILL PRECINCT, 1 p.m., *Sunday, October 17, 2010.* (Members: \$40, Non-Members: \$50). Seating limited to 45. *No. of tickets* _____

Member Name: _____ Phone & Cell Phone _____

E-mail address: _____



Please provide guest names, e-mail, phone & cell phone numbers :

Sangamon County Historical Society
308 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
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Springfield, Illinois

Have A Temporary Address? Let Us Know!

If you live part of the year here and spend time at a vacation home or otherwise stay at a different address for a few months of the year and have mail forwarded to you, please let our office know your temporary address.

The post office will not forward bulk mail, the method we use to send you *Historico*. Instead, it is returned to us with a substantial penalty attached.

We need your help to avoid this unnecessary expense.



And If You're On Line, We've a New Service!

The Society has contracted with an email service to enable us to send you attractive notices of upcoming events and area activities.

If you haven't received an email from the Society in the last week or two, it means we may not have a correct e-mail address....or we may have no e-mail address listed for you at all.

Don't miss out on this terrific new way to learn about events as they come up. Please email the office: ras1915@xanadoo.com so we may add you to the list.



2010-2011 Meeting Calendar

PROGRAM MEETINGS

September 21

Clayville

October 19

"Rabbit Row"

November 16

Lincoln-Herndon Law Office

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 7

Freeman-Hughes House Tea and Tour

October 10

Freeman-Hughes House Tea and Tour

October 17

Fall Bus Trip to Sugar Creek

BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday, Lincoln Library, 5 p.m.

**September 8, October 13, November 10,
December 8, January 12, February 9, March
9, April 13, May 11, June 8**