



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

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VOLUME 49 NO. 2

SEPTEMBER 2102

THE SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 and THE OLD STATE CAPITOL FOUNDATION  
 INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN

*Celebrating*

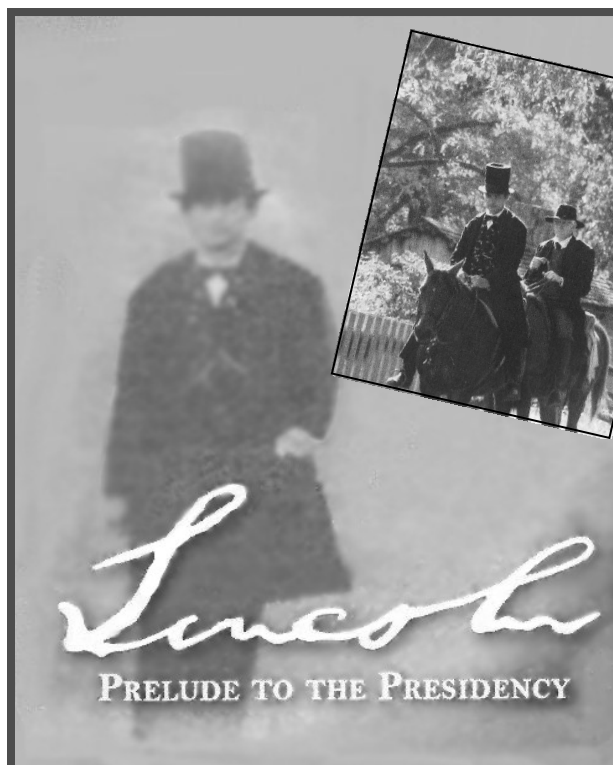
**SANGAMON  
 COUNTY HISTORY  
 THROUGH  
 THE ARTS II**

**LIVE MUSIC. ART  
 DEMONSTRATIONS. MINI  
 WORKSHOPS. PHOTO  
 CONTEST WINNERS.  
 EXHIBITS AND MUCH MORE  
 FOR ALL AGES!**

*In the Old State Capitol State Historic  
 Site, 1 E. Old State Capitol Plaza,  
 Springfield, Illinois.*

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 8**  
**10 a.m.- 4 p.m.**  
**FREE**

For information: [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org)

*Lincoln*  
 PRELUDE TO THE PRESIDENCY

**DOUBLE BILL:** The Society kicks off its fall season September 7 with a special reception and program at the Old State Capitol that includes a screening of the Emmy-nominated film *Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency* produced by Alison Davis Wood. Wood will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterwards on the art of documentary film making with Presidential Library Curator James Cornelius and Lincoln historian Guy Fraker. Ticket deadline is September 1. On Saturday, September 8, we host a free, public celebration of Sangamon County history as interpreted through the arts. More about the events and how you can play an active role in them on page 4.

## Coming Up: Medical Museum Tour, TV's Mark McDonald, and a Party!

The Society's fall-into-winter meeting season that begins with our September program is just a taste of what's to come. An exciting line-up of programs and activities will take you through the holidays, with more to come after the first of the year. Here's what's ahead for 2012:

○ **Tuesday, October 16:** Members only Guided Tour of Southern Illinois University's Pearson Medical Museum.

○ **Tuesday, November 13:** Television personality and Illinois Stories host Mark McDonald gives us the inside scoop on how the show is put together, his best work

and his toughest assignment.

The date, time, and location has yet to be set for our annual December Holiday Party but you can bet it will be filled with good cheer, great food, and great conversation.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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**LOOKING AT LINCOLN:** Society representatives attended the opening reception of a traveling display on Lincoln at Lincoln Land Community College. The show runs through September 14. See page 3.





## Defining Our Role Now and in the Future

One of the more important challenges ahead for our organization is shaping our future role in the history community.

Unlike most of the local and county history organizations around us, we are not responsible for maintaining a historic building, museum or related structure, something that takes a major commitment in time and money not to mention man (and woman) power. We recognize the great struggle these organizations are dealing with as they try to get ahead of mounting operating costs and debt in the face of dwindling resources.

As a county-wide organization, we have an opportunity-- in fact a responsibility-- in coming months and hopefully, in the years ahead, to do what we can to support and work closely with other history groups in Sangamon County and even those in neighboring communities who need and want our help. Participating in a joint venture like we've done successfully for the past two years with the Old State Capitol Foundation is but one way to help strengthen both organizations.

An even simpler effort is to publicize the events of other history organizations among our members and where possible, bring our members to their facilities to see firsthand the many jewel box museums and other rich historical treasures within easy reach.

There are other steps we can take and roles we should play including supporting the Sangamo History Group, a fledgling effort underway in Springfield that is bringing together representatives of historical sites and individuals with a stake in local history to discuss common needs.

We're happy to sit at their table.

Perhaps one future role for the Society will be to coordinate a seminar series designed to assist all history organizations in managing finances, attracting volunteers, programming, member retention, and fundraising. Those are universal problems that affect every group to a greater or lesser degree. If we need to take the lead on this, we will.

We do need to do more advocacy on behalf of local history. That includes encouraging area municipalities as well as community and business organizations large and small to designate an official historian. It's troubling to learn that so many local entities in Sangamon County, though rich in history, lack a historian or even a sense of their own past, ironically in a region that has turned history into a major industry.

We'd also like to know more about the commitment our school systems are making to teaching elementary and secondary students about local history. How much do our children and grandchildren know about the history of their own home town, township, Sangamon County, or even Illinois? If history education is being short-changed, what can we do as an organization to correct the situation?

Your board will be addressing these issues in coming weeks and months as part of an effort to develop a Long Range Plan for the Society that will spell out our goals within a defined time period. Your input will be sought in the process, but don't wait if you have some ideas now. Drop me a line at [schspres@gmail.com](mailto:schspres@gmail.com). I'd like to hear your thoughts on these and other issues on the direction the Society should take in coming months and years.

*Roger*

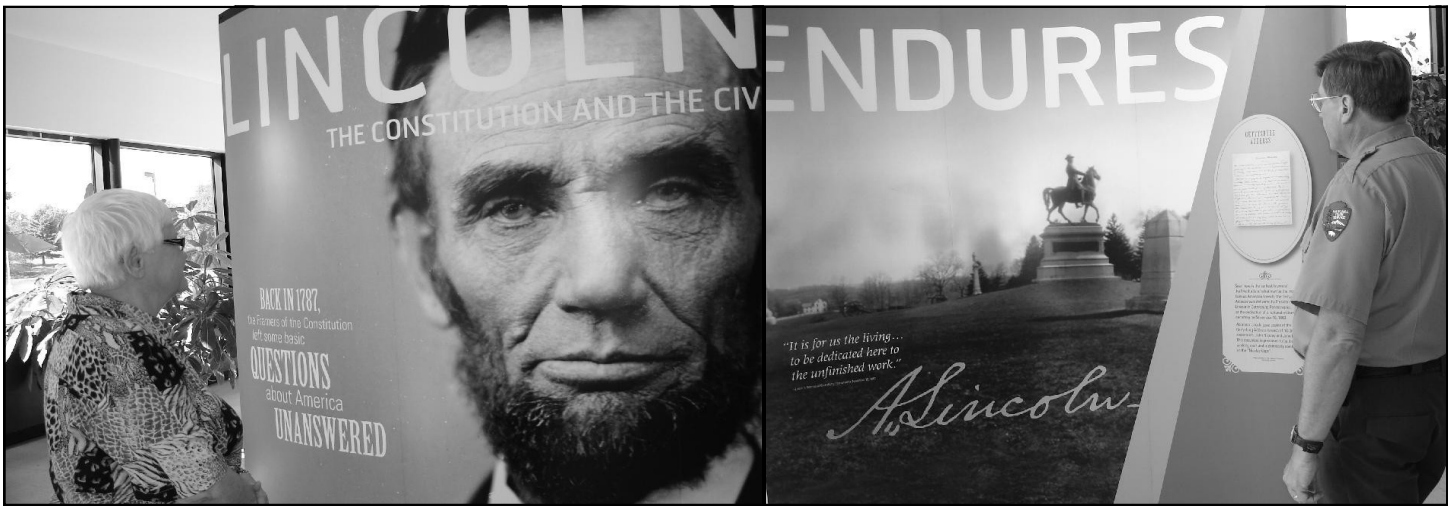


*Historico*, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

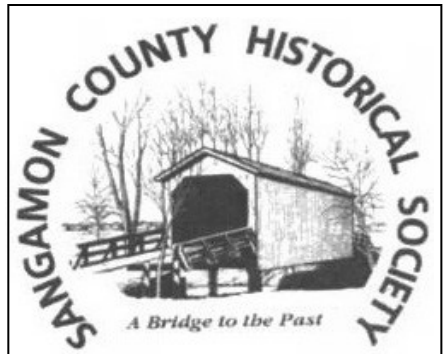
You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org).

Event updates also can be found on our **Facebook** page ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) and **Twitter** ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)). Log in and search for *Sangamon County Historical Society*.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor



**FIRST LOOK:** Board member Francie Staggs (left) goes close-up on a “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War” traveling exhibit on display through September 14 at Lincoln Land Community College. The exhibit, from the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association is being staged in the Menard Hall Student Union in conjunction with the college’s Trutter Museum and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. At right, Lincoln Home National Historic Site superintendent Dale Phillips views another of its large panels.



## Society Revving for Festival of Trees Entry

The winter holiday season may seem far off, but it’s just around the corner for the Sangamon County Historical Society.

As it has in past years, the Society will be decorating a tree for Memorial’s annual Festival of Trees which opens for a nine-day run at the Orr Building on the State Fairgrounds starting on Saturday, November 17.

Trees are actually decorated two weeks earlier, in time for the event’s Gala on November 10 and for the delight of young area school children who get to preview the display of Christmas trees, toys, trains and other seasonal decorations a week before the Festival opens to the public.

For the past three years, the Society’s tree has put the accent on local and county history, its first entry a tree decorated with early etched and framed photos of Springfield topped with one of the Orpheum Theater.

The next year we used a red, white and blue netted bunting around a tress that was decorated with hand-painted portraits of Sangamon County’s leading citizens from Lincoln’s

era to the early 1900s as well as local landmarks that no longer exist, such as Reservoir Park.

Our “Barns of Sangamon County” tree last year was a crowd favorite, judging by all the passersby who stopped and took photos of its colorful hand-made ornaments and bright trim. The tree was topped by a large barn in silhouette. As in past years, the ornaments carried mini local history lessons in their nutshell descriptions.

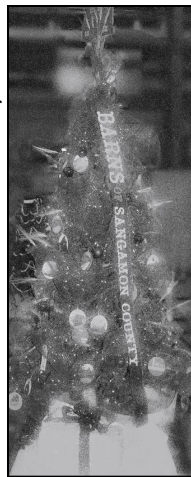
Our trees have traveled some interesting routes too. After the Festival, the portrait tree wound up on display at the Governor’s Mansion through the holiday season. It was also among those featured by WSEC-TV’s *Illinois Stories*, when he did a program about the display. After the holidays, it was returned to Historical Society Life Member Tony Leone, innkeeper of historic Pasfield House, who received the tree as a gift from the winners of a tree auction held in conjunction with the Festival of Trees pre-opening gala. Leone, in fact, has the other tree and puts both of them on display

each year for all to see.

The only tree that we lost track of was our first entry. We can only hope that the lovely framed photos that decorated it now hang in someone’s home or office.

The Festival display offers us a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about local history. It’s also a lot of fun to create and put together.

We have some thoughts about the 50 ornaments we will make this year, but no decision has been made. If you are interested in working on this year’s entry, drop a note to [committee@sancohis.org](mailto:committee@sancohis.org). Extra hands are always welcome as are your ideas.



**BARN TREE**

### OFFICERS

**President.....**Roger Whitaker  
**Vice-President.....**Claire Eberle  
**Secretary.....**Mary Alice Davis  
**Treasurer.....**Richard Herndon

### DIRECTORS

#### Term Ending June 2013

Linda Bee  
 Bruce Beeman  
 Elaine Hoff  
 Logan McMinn

#### Term Ending 2014

Patricia Davis  
 Kathy Hoffmann  
 Brenda Holmes  
 Doug Polite  
 Vicky Whitaker

#### Term Ending 2014

Donna Catlin  
 Les Eastep  
 David Grimm  
 Ruth Slottag  
 Francie Staggs

#### Presidential Appointees To Board

Marion Leach, Membership Relations Chair  
 David Scott, Special Projects Chair

**SCHS Coordinator**  
 Dr. Samuel Wheeler

### SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Sangamon County Historical Society membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. If you have not paid your dues for 2012-2013, please fill out the form on page 8 and mail it with your check to our postal address or visit [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) where you can renew on-line.



## History Through the Arts Event September 7- 8

Like a blockbuster movie, the Sangamon County Historical Society's screening of *Lincoln, Prelude to the Presidency* will play to a sell-out crowd on Friday, September 7. The Emmy-nominated historical documentary and a discussion that will follow are the centerpieces of the Society's season opener that's part of a two-day *Sangamon County History Through the Arts II* celebration at the Old State Capitol, focusing on county history as expressed through the arts.

Tickets, priced at \$30 per person for the Friday evening event, were almost sold out as *Historico* went to press. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Saturday, September 1 and can be ordered at [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org). Ticket orders by mail must be received by the deadline. Since seating is limited, no walk-ins at the door will be admitted.

Friday's event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception of sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and desserts by Carol Jean Fraase in the lower lobby of the Old State Capitol. Attendees can flow into the Foundation Hall to view the work of finalists in the Society's *Sangamon County Through the Arts II* photo competition whose winners will be announced that evening, mix and mingle, or choose a seat for the program that will follow.

The film will be introduced by Alison Davis Wood, a Springfield native who has been producing national documentaries for over a decade. Her programs have received numerous awards including 14 Emmy nominations. In 1999 she won an Emmy for her documentary, *Walter Burley Griffin: In His Own Right* about the talented, but overlooked Illinois architect. Her documentary *Against the Wind*, the story of wheelchair athlete

Jean Driscoll's attempt to become the first athlete to win seven consecutive Boston Marathons, was named best Television Documentary by American Women in Radio and Television.

Wood was one of 20 producers selected to attend the **WGBH Boston Producers Workshop**, where she participated in extensive hands-on training with some of television's most experienced producers.

Wood began producing documentaries for the Big Ten Network when she

After the showing, Wood will be joined by James Cornelius, curator of the Lincoln Collection in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and Lincoln historian and author Guy Fraker to discuss "*Doing It Right: The Art of Making Historical Documentaries*"

On Saturday, the *Sangamon County History Through the Arts II* celebration transitions to a free, family-oriented indoor event that will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..



**ON SITE:** The Old State Capitol in Springfield will be the site of the Society's Sangamon County Through the Arts celebration on September 7 and 8. The event transitions from a formal reception on Friday evening to a free family event on Saturday.

joined Illinois' Division of Intercollegiate Athletic/ Public Affairs in 2008. Her work for the Big Ten Network includes *Spark of Genius: The Story of John Bardeen* and *Larger Than Life: The Red Grange Story*.

Wood also was the longtime producer and host of *Prairie Fire*, a cultural magazine focusing on central Illinois aired by **WILL-TV**, a University of Illinois public broadcasting station. She holds a masters in journalism from the University of Illinois.

It will include artists demonstrating or performing history-oriented works in the special setting of the Old State Capitol, displays by more than a dozen area history organizations. There also will be craft activities for children, and a series of 30 minute "how to" walk-in workshops on topics ranging from preserving old books, to recognizing Abraham Lincoln signature forgeries.

Photo contest winning works will also be on display and in some instances, for sale.

# Pearson Museum Tour, Insights from Mark McDonald Ahead

(continued from page 1)  
 You'll be hearing more about the party plans in next month's *Historico*.

The October 16 medical museum tour will be led by Phil Davis, Director of the Pearson Museum and Research Associate Professor and Deputy Chair of the SIU School of Medicine's Department of Medical Humanities. The program will be limited to Society members and though free, will require reservations. Registration information will be provided in the next edition of *Historico* and on line at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org).

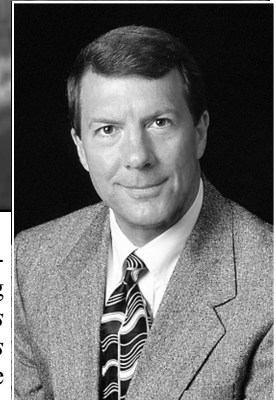
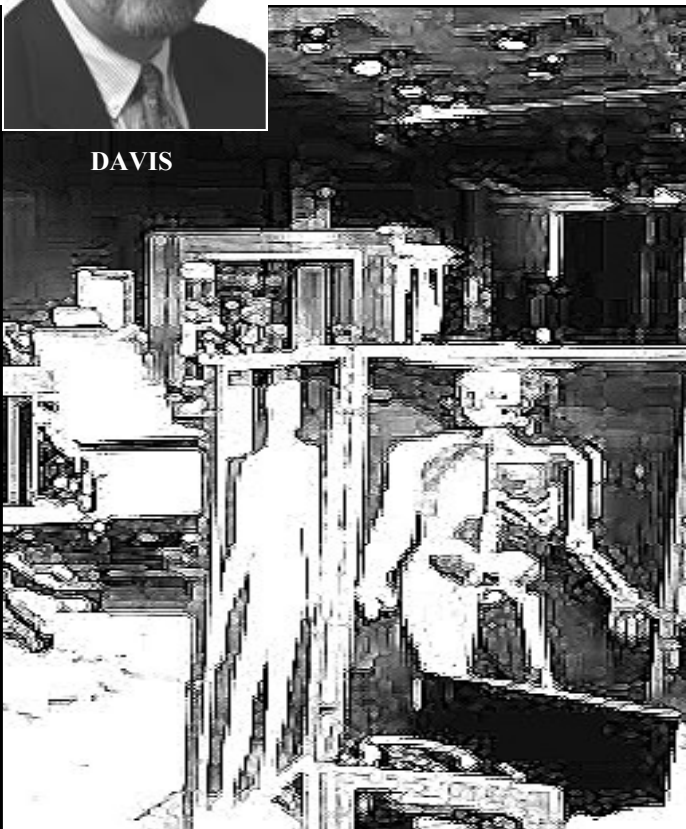
A medical history museum has been an integral part of the School of Medicine since its inception. Active collecting and

acterized the early years. In January of 1977, the collection moved to its current location at 801 N Rutledge—permanent space designed specifically for use as a teaching museum.

In 1980, the Museum was named in honor of Dr. Emmet F. Pearson, a Springfield physician and student of medical history. Dr. Pearson served as president of the Sangamon County Historical Society from 1966 to 1967.



DAVIS



McDONALD

His generous contributions in building the nucleus of the collection and his continuing patronage were an invaluable resource to the School of Medicine. The Museum's collections record the history of healing in the Mississippi River Basin.

Dr. Davis, our host and tour guide, has been responsible for the development of a medical history series that has brought leading medical historians and other scholars interested in the history of medicine to the campus.

Dr. Davis holds a baccalaureate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana, a master's degree from Duke University, and completed his doctoral studies in health education at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

The November meeting moves back to the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library for a session that's open both to members and non-members.

Mark McDonald, the popular host and producer of public television's Emmy award-

winning *Illinois Stories* will be the guest speaker.

An engaging speaker, McDonald will be taking us behind the camera as he shares what's involved in taking us through a Central Illinois we only thought we knew. His show is aired locally on public television station WSEC in Springfield, on WQEC in Quincy and WMEC in Macomb.

McDonald has worked in television and media relations for 30 years as a news reporter and anchor, public affairs specialist, and now, as an Emmy award-winning chronicler of life in Central and West Central Illinois. He has the distinction of having interviewed three Presidents at some time in their careers. He's won an Emmy and an Emmy nomination for Illinois Stories segments.

## Board Members Get Committee Posts. You Can Have One Too!

Serving on the board of the Sangamon County Historical Society carries with it its own set of responsibilities in shaping how the organization operates.

It's to that end that president Roger Whitaker has named 10 new committee chairs from among the organization's 14 board of directors and four executive board members. Some additional committee chair posts will be filled in coming weeks.

"The committees do the real work of the Society, coming up with specific program ideas, special projects, activities to broaden membership, trips, oversee finances, publicity and more. It's important that board members carry responsibility for these activities with direct reporting back to the full board. But our committees are not composed of board members alone. All members of the Society can sign up and work on a committee of their choice," says Whitaker.

Broadening your membership by participating on a committee can be both educational and fun, he says. "Sure there may be some hard work and a commitment of time, but there are the social aspects too, and the sense of accomplishment you get whether it be working to put a program together, develop a funding project, even plan a holiday party."

To that end, the Society has set up a special on-line address for members who would like to volunteer for a committee, [committee@sancohis.org](mailto:committee@sancohis.org).

"If you're not an e-mail user, you can always leave a message on the Society's phone, 217-525-1961. The committee chair will follow up," Whitaker promises.

The Society now has eleven active committees, one of which, **Member Relations**, is new this year. That committee, headed by **Marion Leach**, will be responsible for meeting and greeting members and guests that attend Society events, in

the process learning about the individual interests of those attending meetings, introducing new members, encourage guests to join and creating for all what should be a pleasant social as well as educational experience.

Meanwhile, the **Membership Committee**, headed by vice-president **Claire Eberle**, will be spending the next several months analyzing membership interests, trends, and retention patterns so that it can develop plans and programs and recommend policies that will

board, will chair the **Publications Committee**. The committee has editorial and financial responsibility for all books and booklets published by the Society. In coming months, it will be exploring e-book publishing and sales as an alternative to the Society's traditional publication methods.

The 15-member board is down one with the election of Mary Alice Davis to the executive board position of Society secretary this past June. **Brenda Holmes** has been appointed chair the **Nominating**

**Historico** editor and board member **Vicky Whitaker** will continue to serve in that position, assisted by fellow board members **Brenda Holmes** (sponsorships), **Donna Catlin** (photography), and **Marion Leach** (mailing and circulation).

Board member and public relations expert **Ruth Slottag** heads the **Publicity Committee** while a past president and current board member **David Scott** will continue in his role as chair of the **Special Projects Committee** that is looking for effec-

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**GREETINGS:** Board member Marion Leach heads a new Sangamon County Historical Society committee charged with greeting members and visitors at meetings and special events and making them feel welcome. Marion got her start by volunteering to help set up the Society's then new office and moved on to oversee the mailing of *Historico*, a separate committee assignment she still pursues. "Being on a committee really enriches the membership experience," says Leach, who now, as chair of the **Member Relations** committee, hopes that others like herself will want to pitch in.



help the Society continue to grow. Also serving on the Committee are board members Kathy Hoffmann and Doug Polite.

The **Program Committee**, co-chaired by **Vicky Whitaker** and new board member **Francie Staggs**, will be plotting out the spring meeting schedule (the committee works several months in advance) from January through May. The June annual meeting is planned separately.

New board member **David Grimm**, who has an extensive background in education and serves on the Sherman library

**Committee** that will recommend a candidate to fill the remainder of the term that ends next June. From now until then, the Committee will also seek candidates for all five, three-year term seats that come up in June. Also serving on the committee is board member **Linda Bee**.

No stranger to the **Finance Committee**, new board member **Logan McMinn** will now be its chair. McMinn was a member of the committee last year, drawn from the general membership. Also serving on the committee will be treasurer **Richard Herndon** and new board member **Les Eastep**.

tive ways to support history education programs. He is joined on the committee by board member **Elaine Hoff**.

"As we move into full swing, I will be consulting with other board members who have not yet taken on committee posts to see where they think they will best fit," Whitaker says. I also hope to create at least three other key committees, one that will tackle the issue of Long Range Planning, another to consider and plan special trips, and one that will deal exclusively with handling special events including our holiday party and our annual dinner."

## CALENDAR OF SOCIETY EVENTS

All events are open to members and non-members unless otherwise specified. Some events may require a reservation and /or a fee. All board and executive board meetings are open to everyone.

**Saturday, September 1: Reservation deadline,** Sangamon County History Through the Arts reception and program.

**Friday, September 7: Sangamon County History Through the Arts reception and program,** 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Old State Capitol, Springfield. Reservations required, no walk-ins. Tickets \$30 per person.

**Saturday, September 8: Sangamon County History Through the Arts,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Old State Capitol, Springfield. Free.

**Wednesday, September 12: Exec Board Meeting,** 5:30 p.m., **Board Meeting** 6 p.m. Carnegie Room South, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, Springfield.

**Wednesday, October 10: Exec Board Meeting,** 5:30 p.m., **Board Meeting** 6 p.m. Carnegie Room South, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, Springfield.

**Tuesday, October 16: Pearson Medical Museum Tour,** 5:30 p.m., SIU School of Medicine, 801 N. Rutledge, Springfield. **Members only.** Reservations required.

**Wednesday, November 7: Exec Board Meeting,** 5:30 p.m., **Board Meeting** 6 p.m. Location to be announced.

**Tuesday, November 13: Mark McDonald, Illinois Stories,** 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Room, Carnegie Room, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, Springfield.

### Other Area History Events That May Be of Interest to You

Now Through September 14: **"Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War"** traveling exhibit from the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College's Trutter Museum and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Menard Hall Student Union, Lincoln Land Community College, 5250 Shepherd Road, Springfield.

**Sunday, September 2: Prairie Dreams: The Story of Clayville and Its People,** Pre-Show 2 p.m., Play starts 3 p.m. Clayville Historic Site

near Pleasant Plains. Other performances will be on Saturday, September 8, pre-show at 6 p.m., play at 7 p.m. and Sunday September 9, pre-show at 2 p.m., play at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$13.50 for adults, \$11.50 for seniors. \$8.50 for children 12 and under. For information call 572-4984.

**Sunday, September 2: Historic Marbold Farmstead Ice Cream Social,** 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Craft demonstrations, food, lectures. For information see [www.haistoric-marbold-farmstead.org](http://www.haistoric-marbold-farmstead.org) Route 29, Greenview, Menard County.

**Saturday, September 8: Illinois State Historical Society Centennial Awards** reception, Illinois Executive Mansion, Springfield, 1 p.m. Reservations required.

**September 29: Fiery Trail: Civil War Stories by Candlelight.** Candlelight tour of six historic sites with portrayals and stories from Springfield during the Civil War. Sites include the Lincoln Tomb, the Lincoln Home, the Old State Capitol, the Vachel Lindsay Home, Edwards House, and Iles House, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Free.

## sangamon county historical society friends and sponsors



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Our names are Jilly and Duncan  
And We Love History

The Community Learning program at Lincoln Land Community College offers a non-credit curriculum related to interpretation about people, animals, nature, and cultural artifacts. Fall 2012 programs are:

- **Combining 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Voices** - Kathryn Harris as Harriet Tubman. *Performance and Workshop Thurs., Sept. 20*
- **Interpretation: The Nature of Action in Language** - Mark Hardiman, LLCC Professor of Theater. *Sat., Oct. 20*
  - **Overnight trip to Connor Prairie, Indiana and "North Star" UGRR experience.** *November, 2012*



Other offerings, including those leading to certification follow, in association with the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). For information, call 217-786-2432.



***Sangamon County Historical Society***  
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**Sangamon County Historical Society MEMBERSHIP / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form**

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. You may also join or renew on line by going to [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org).



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Status**

\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ Gift of Membership from:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels**

- 01--Student Membership - \$15. Must show proof of student status.
- 02--Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 . Must show proof of non-profit status.
- 03--Regular Membership - \$25
- 04--Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 05--Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 06--Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 07--Lifetime Membership - \$700