



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744, Phone: 217-525-1961,
e-mail: schsoffice@gmail.com web: www.sangamonhistory.org

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Lincoln's Funeral, 150 Years Later

Recreating An Historical Event

March 19 Meeting to Provide Inside Look, Update on Major 2015 Project

Breathing life into history is no small task.

A panel of experts involved in doing just that, in this case re-creating key elements of the funeral of President Abraham Lincoln in Springfield in 2015—its 150th anniversary—will talk about the challenges involved and what we can expect when an anticipated quarter of a million visitors descend on the city from May 1 through May 3, 2015, to see or participate in the event.

The Tuesday, March 19 program begins at 5:30 p.m. at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh Street, Carnegie Room North. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Heading the panel will be Sangamon County Historical Society member Katie Spindell, chair of The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition that is organizing the event and committee members Judy Wagenblast, a Society member and director of community education at Lincoln Land Community College, and Springfield School District 186 history instructor Phil Snow. Both Lincoln Land Community College and District 186 students and teachers will have roles in the re-enactment.

The Coalition planning group is composed of more than 40 individuals, organizations, and institutions who are working together to accurately re-create as close as possible what was a major event in Springfield's as well as the nation's history. And although re-creation of the funeral won't happen until the weekend of May 1-3,

2015, several related activities will precede it in April, among them a special performance of "Our American Cousin," the melodrama-comedy attended by Lincoln on the night of his assassination on April 14, 1865 in Washington, D.C.; scholarly symposia at area historic and educational sites; and Civil War encampments by re-enactors from across the country.

Following his death, Lincoln's body was brought to its final resting place in Springfield by a special funeral train that left Washington D.C. on April 21, 1865 and traveled 1,654 miles, making 11 stops along the way in which his body lay in state. The train, which arrived here on May 3, retraced the route Lincoln had taken to travel to Washington D.C. for his inauguration. It was the first national commemoration of a president's death by rail.

A replica of the Lincoln Funeral Train is being built in Elgin, Illinois by Kloke Construction and is expected to arrive at the current Springfield Amtrak Station on Third Street on Saturday, May 2 with current dignitaries, historic officials, representatives, and the replicated coffin of President Lincoln on board. (The public can view the work to date at an open house and shop tour of Kloke's facilities at 1325 Spaulding Road, Elgin, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 7. For details, go to www.the2015lincolfuneraltrain.com.

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MILITARY HISTORY:
Society past-president David Scott checks out one of the exhibits at the Illinois State Military Museum during a Society tour last month. See Pages 4 & 5.





History Groups Springing into Action

There's a spring in the step of local history buffs across Sangamon County that has nothing to do with the weather. As we head toward April, local history organizations are gearing up for a buoyant month chock full of activities, capped on Saturday, April 27 when representatives from history societies, foundations, and related sites — and their guests — gather at the Old State Capitol to support the Lincoln Troubadours. A lot of fun is in store for everyone. The first History Trivia Night is truly a joint effort. We hope you will be there!

If you've never heard The Lincoln Troubadours sing, this will be your chance. The group is composed of Springfield-area high school and college students who perform songs of the Lincoln era, *a cappella*. During the summer, donned in period costumes, these musical ambassadors perform in and around historic sites across Central Illinois including the Old State Capitol where visitors can listen as their lively, patriotic and sentimental songs from Lincoln's day fill its great rooms and halls. The students receive a small stipend for their efforts, most of which they apply toward their college education.

Created by Dr. Stephen Kaplan of Springfield in 2008, the group — directed by Lincoln Land Community College Madrigal and Concert choir vocal coach and adjunct professor Sue Hamilton — already has its own historic legacy. Its music arranger, Damien Kaplan, has been involved with the group since its creation. A graduate of Lincoln Land and Illinois State University, he is the current director of the choral program at Springfield High School.

Funds raised from ticket sales and related activities at the April 27 event (you'll be getting the specifics in the April issue of *Historico*) will help cover their stipend, clothing costs, music, and related expenses. Several history organizations, ourselves included, are directly involved in planning the event. Besides the Society, initial tasks are being handled by representatives

from the Old State Capitol Foundation, the Iles House Foundation, Edwards Place, the Illinois State Military Museum, the Pleasant Plains Historical Society and its Clayville arm. Several other history groups will be coming on-board at the planning group's next meeting on March 12.

The 10-round game will be staged in a historic setting, the main and upper floors of the Old State Capitol, with tables competing with each other, not only for the most right answers, but for the most creative history table decor. There will be food, drinks, prizes, a silent auction, and more. Think about putting together a table of up to 10 players. (Each organization can have more than one). Pleasant Plains has already thrown down the trivia gauntlet, challenging all to a lively, multi-tabled competition!

Coming Up: Society members will get a mid-month treat on Tuesday, April 16, with an exclusive, evening tour and talk at and about the Illinois Supreme Court's efforts to acquire, collect, preserve, and catalogue documents, artifacts, and information relating to the Illinois Judiciary. John Lupton, Acting Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission, will be our tour guide for the 5:30 p.m. program. The free event will be limited to the first 50 members who sign up. Details will appear in the next issue of *Historico*.

Last, but certainly not least, our sympathies go out to the family of Donald Donner Springer, who passed away last month. Don was a Life Member and served on the Society Board for several years, chairing or serving as a member key committees. A Springfield native whose ancestors traveled by covered wagon and arrived in this area in 1825, he had a global view of the world, a reflection of his wide travels. But it was always apparent to those of us who had the opportunity to know and work with him, that his heart belonged to Springfield.

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.

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

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Donna Catlin, Photographer

New Exhibit at Illinois State Military Museum, More in Offing

Thanks to a new display case, the **Illinois State Military Museum**, Springfield, has unveiled a new exhibit, this one showing a third version of the **90th Illinois** regimental colors. The exhibit can be seen through May. With the new showcase, the Museum – with a collection of more than 1,000 battle flags from the Mexican War to the current Global War on Terror – will be able to display flags from its collection on a quarterly schedule.



Tied into the opening of the exhibit was a March 2 talk by **James B. Swan**, author of the book *Chicago's Irish Legion, the 90th Illinois Volunteers in the Civil War*. The book tells the story of the little-known Illinois regiment and its flag. Recruits for the 90th Illinois Volunteer Infantry came from Springfield, Chicago and towns across Northern Illinois, but the regiment was truly Irish: 70 percent of the officers and enlisted men were born in Ireland. Under a regimental flag that prominently and proudly displayed the harp of Erin, the unit marched and fought in General Sherman's 15th Corps across seven Confederate states and helped capture three Confederate state capitols.

New Iles House Camp Butler Exhibit to Debut With Reception

Tickets are now on sale for the Saturday, **April 13** reception/fundraiser at the **Elijah Iles House** previewing its new exhibit, *Camp Butler: A Civil War Story*.

Using photographs, artifacts and documents, the display details the story of what was the second largest military training camp in Illinois during the Civil War. The reception, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., will include a talk by **Michael Burlingame**, an award-winning author and University of Illinois at Springfield Distinguished Chair



in Lincoln Studies. In addition to participating in a live auction, attendees will be able to purchase autographed copies of a just-published *Photographic Book of Civil War Soldiers at Camp Butler* compiled by **Kathleen Heyworth** and **Richard Hart**. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be ordered by mail by sending a check to the Elijah Iles House Foundation, Box 144, Springfield, IL 62705. Iles House is also seeking volunteers to work at the site when it opens for the season on April 20. A **"Muster for Volunteers"** will be held on March 30 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon. For information and/or to RSVP call 492-5929.

Dana-Thomas House Kicks Off Special Saturday Tour Series

Dana-Thomas House has kicked off a series of special Saturday tours focusing on the architectural, construction, and furnishing details of the home designed in 1902 by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright at 301 E. Lawrence Avenue, Springfield. The tours,



one at 10:15 a.m. on "Attention to Detail," the other at 1:15 p.m. on "Of Glass and Wood," will be offered twice a month from April to July and will cover aspects of the State-owned site not covered in normal tours. Each tour is limited to 15 participants, so reservations are recommended (782-6776). There's a suggested donation of \$15 per person.

Reminder: Where to Find SCHS Inclement Weather Notices

Freezing, snowy weather and/or less than safe road conditions could affect the Society's late winter/early spring meeting schedule.

To make sure that our members stay safe under such circumstances, the Society will post cancellation or postponement notices by 3 p.m. of the day of the meeting on our website (www.sangamonhistory.org) and on our phone, 217-525-1961.

Where possible, we will also post any cancellation notices on media websites and other outlets.



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Please make note of our new mailing address:

SCHS
Box 9744
Springfield, Illinois,
62791-9744

MARCH MEMBERSHIP/DONOR REPORT

The Society welcomes its newest members

Kathy Dehen, Lisa Hills, Jay Martens, Stewart Reeve,
 Janine Toman, Thomas Yokley

...and thanks the following donor for her generosity:

Donna Catlin in memory of Don Springer



MUSEUM DIRECTOR Stewart Reeve (right) provides insight on one of the many exhibits on display at the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield. The Society held a members-only tour of the two-story complex on February 19.

Donna Catlin photos

Illinois State Military Museum Hosts Society

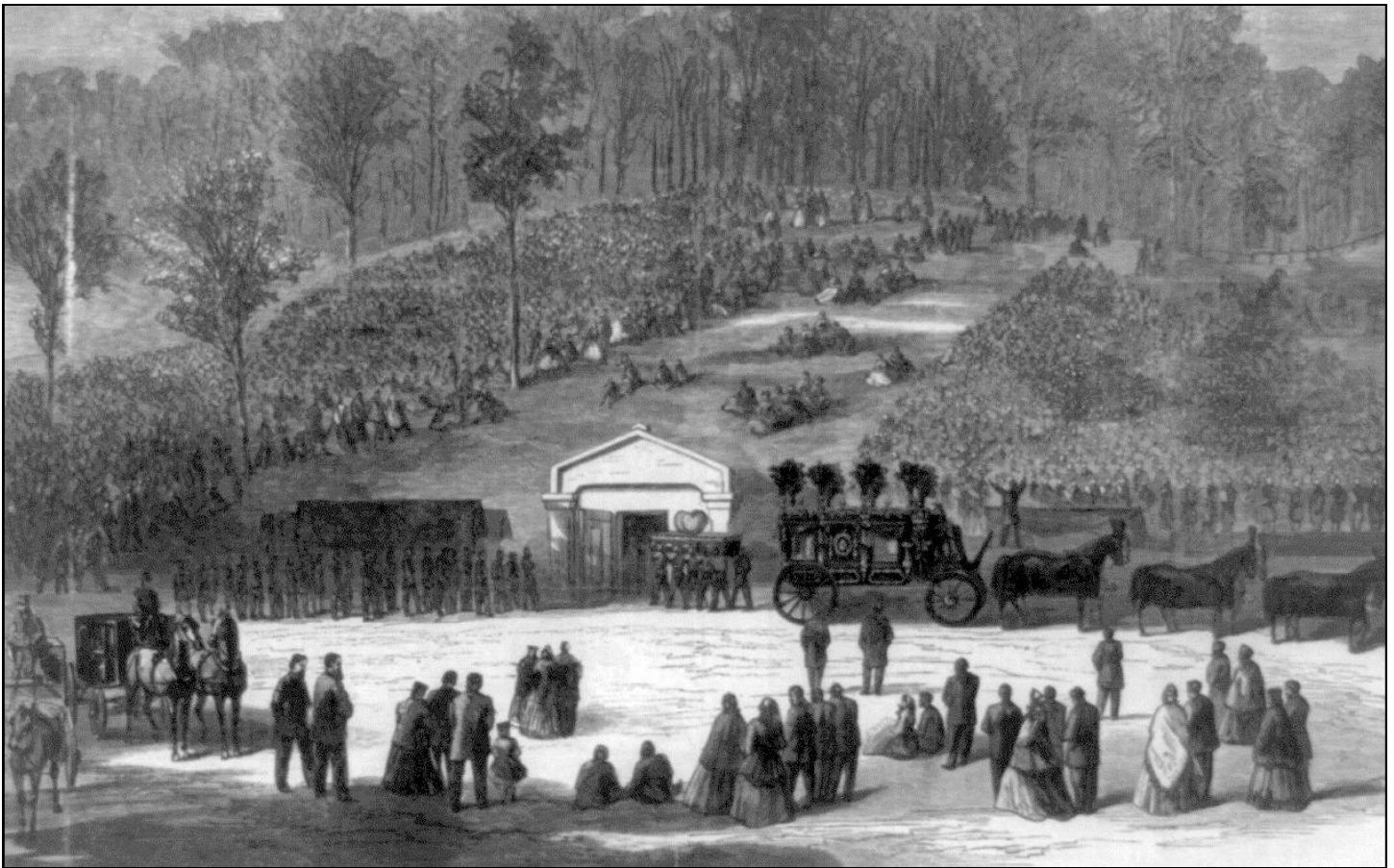


THE MUSEUM'S extensive exhibit includes a variety of artifacts that Society members were able to browse through during the tour.

CIVIL WAR ERA ARTIFACTS A drum and bugle (right) dating back to the Civil War are among the many artifacts on display at the Illinois State Military Museum that drew special attention from Society tour-takers. Below, a painting and the accompanying exhibit depicts President Abraham Lincoln firing seven consecutive shots from a Spencer repeating rifle at a target board 40 yards away. Its inventor, Christopher Spenser, gained an audience with Lincoln who subsequently invited him to a shooting match and demonstration of the new weapon. The August 18, 1863 demonstration in Washington D.C. so impressed Lincoln that he ordered the repeating rifle to be adopted for production. It was used by the Union Army throughout the Civil War.



Inscription on Lincoln Target Board
7 consecutive shots made by the President of the United States with Spencer at the distance of forty yards Washington, DC August 18, 1863



TEMPORARY RESTING PLACE: Lincoln's coffin was taken to a reception vault at Oak Ridge Cemetery after a procession of mourners who walked or rode in horse-drawn carriages to the site from the heart of Springfield. The event, captured in an illustration by William Waud, will be re-enacted here in May 2015.

Coalition Repts to Detail Plans for 2015 Lincoln Funeral Re-Enactment

(Continued from page 1)

President Lincoln was interred at Oak Ridge Cemetery on May 4, 1865. In President Lincoln's time, Oak Ridge was a rural cemetery two miles from the heart of Springfield.

His coffin was placed in a receiving vault and moved twice, once to a temporary vault eight months later and in 1871 to a temporary crypt in the south wall of the Lincoln Tomb that was then under construction. After its completion in October, 1874, his coffin was placed in the tomb's Memorial Hall. Several more moves were made between then and 1901, either for security reasons or during reconstruction. Lincoln's coffin was permanently placed in a steel cage, embedded in concrete 10 feet deep under the floor of the Tomb in 1901.

Although Monday, May 4, 2015 is the official anniversary date of President Lincoln's burial, Coalition-

sponsored activities will take place from Friday through Sunday so as not to interfere with normal weekday business activity in downtown Springfield. Homes and businesses, primarily along the route of the funeral procession, will be draped in black bunting, in much the same way as they were in 1865.

On Saturday, May 2, reflecting the activities of 150 years earlier, the public will be able to view a replica of the hearse and watch the procession that will follow the historic route from the Springfield train station at Third and Jefferson to an area near the Old Capitol Plaza where an opening commemorative ceremony will be held. Afterwards, the public will be able to tour Civil War encampments and attend informal open-air concerts by Civil War era bands at a variety of sites throughout the afternoon. In the evening, Benedictine University at Springfield is expected to present a musical

performance and poetry program.

With adjustments for safety and modern-day streets, the funeral procession will follow the historic route to Oak Ridge Cemetery on Sunday, May 3.

Starting at Sixth and Washington, it will turn east to Seventh, head south to Capitol before turning east to Eighth Street. The procession will move past the Lincoln Home Historic Site before heading west on Cook to Fourth Street, where participants will head north to Dodge, west to Third and then north to the historic entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery and the public receiving vault. Clergy and Civil War reenactors will give the eulogy speeches and salutes at the site. Music originally conducted during the ceremony will also be performed.

You can stay up-to-date on the event and the activities associated with it by going to its website, www.lincolnfuneraltrain.org.

CALENDAR OF HISTORY EVENTS

Sangamon County Historical Society Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13: *SCHS Board Meeting*, Carnegie Room South, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19: *SCHS Program Meeting Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment Update*, Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16: *Members Only Supreme Court Tour*, 5:30 p.m., Advanced reservation required, limited to first 50 who apply. Details in the April issue of *Historico*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12: *SCHS Board Meeting*, Carnegie Room South, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27: *History Trivia Night*, Old State Capitol, 6 p.m. Sponsored by areas history organizations, the event will benefit the Lincoln Troubadours. (See page 2). Ticket and reservation information will appear in the April issue of *Historico*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8: *SCHS Board Meeting*, Carnegie Room South, City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South 7th Street, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 21: *SCHS Monthly Meeting*. Program to be announced.



GAME TIME: The Old State Capitol will be the setting for a history-themed Trivia Game April 27 to raise funds for The Lincoln Troubadours. Several history groups are so-sponsoring the event including the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Other History Related Events

NOW THROUGH MAY, 2013: *90th Illinois Regimental Colors Exhibit*. Illinois State Military Museum, Springfield.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13: *"Camp Butler: A Civil War Story" Opening Reception*, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Elijah Iles House, 628 S. Seventh Street, Springfield. Tickets \$40. (See story, page 3).

SATURDAY, MAY 18 AND SUNDAY, MAY 19: *Clayville Spring Festival 2013*, Clayville Historical Site, Route 125, Pleasant Plains.

Organizations can send their event announcements to schspress@gmail.com. for inclusion in this calendar.

sangamon county historical society friends and sponsors



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De-acidification, Repair and Encapsulation of Fragile Documents

Workshop With Jon Austin | March 2

3rd Person Interpretation Workshop with Betsy Irwin | March 26

Sharing Family Memories With the Wagenblast Sisters | April 20

Welcome Visitors! - A Kickoff To The Season | May 15

NAI Training for Certified Interpretive Guide | May 15-19

Information: 217.786.2432 or www.llcc.edu/commed

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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.



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Status

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___ Renewal

___ Gift of Membership from:

Phone _____

Membership Levels

- 01 - Regular Membership - \$25
- 02 - Not-For-Profit Membership - \$20 (Must show proof of status).
- 03 - Student Membership - \$10. (Must show proof of status).
- 04 - Educator, \$15. (Must show proof of status).
- 05 - Pioneer Level Membership - \$100.
- 06 - Settlers Level Membership - \$250.
- 07 - Trailblazer Level Membership - \$500.
- 08 - Lifetime Membership - \$700