



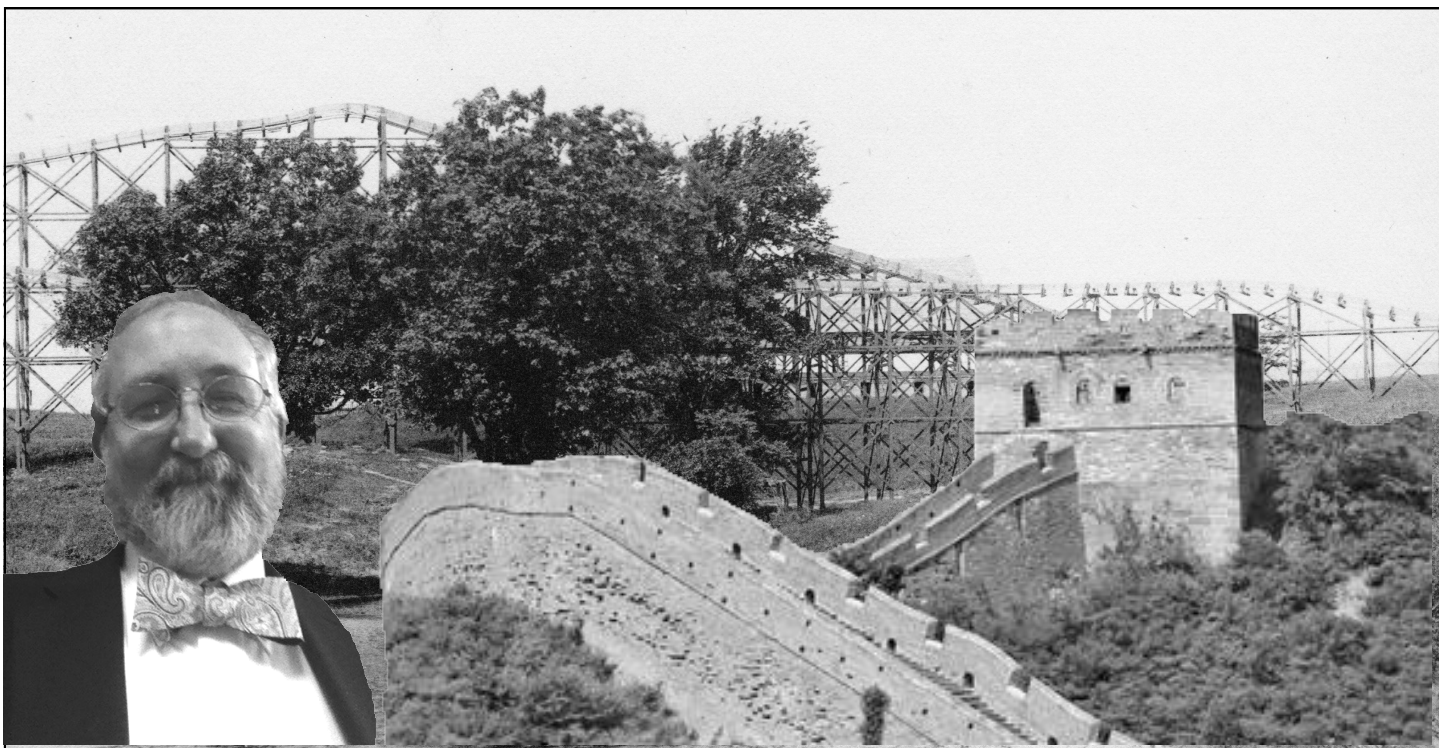
# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

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**MISSING? Did Sangamon County once have its own Great Wall and was this the start of its construction? Historian William Furry will provide the answer to that question and much more in a lighthearted look at area landmarks when he speaks at the Tuesday, October 21 meeting of the Sangamon County Historical Society on “Now You See It, Now You Don’t.”**

## Missing Your Favorite Landmark? Expert Will Give Its Whereabouts In a Lighthearted Search Laced With Sangamon County History

October is always a fun month for footprints, with what speaker William Furry promises will be “a lighthearted look at Sangamon County’s landmarks.” He will be mixing an affectionate look at these sometimes long-gone sites with solid historical facts, filling in the blanks as to what they were, where they were, and why they’re gone...if, in fact, they have disappeared.

But Furry, executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society, is no lightweight when it comes to history. This year’s Halloween treat, on Tuesday, October 21, follows in its

*(Continued on page 7)*



William Shannon provides a show and tell on the history of rail service and the Chatham Railroad Museum..... Pages 4 and 5

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Tara McClellan McAndrew brings back Orson Welles for a Halloween Season Radio Treat...Page 6





## Seasonal Fun Ahead and a Growing "Link"

Time moves so swiftly, it's hard to image that we're already well into our fall schedule of programs and events. We encourage you to come to our October meeting. It should be fun, informative, and a little askew of what we usually offer, but that's part of our annual and historic Halloween treat!

And speaking of Halloween, let me direct you to page 6, where you can read more about the series our talented Society member Tara McClellan McAndrew has created for WUIS-radio. It's a mix of subject matter, but just in time for the season, she has program on the local and national reaction to Orson Welles' now infamous Mercury Theater radio production of "War of the Worlds" that sent some people scurrying for cover. WUIS has still to announce the schedule of her programs for October and November, but said that particular piece will air sometime on or near Halloween.



We're especially pleased that the series of shows dealing with local history was made possible through a grant from the Society's Special Projects Fund. The Fund is designed to provide financial underpinnings for small projects with big impact both for the community and the Society and this is surely one of them.

\* \* \*

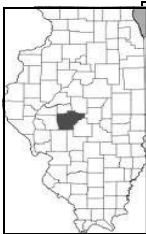
Our *SangamonLink.org* on-line searchable encyclopedia is moving right along, thanks to Mike Kienzler and the growing number of folks out there (and you may be among them) who are contributing important histories that might otherwise be lost to time. This is a long-running project for which the Society is making a continuing commitment both in time and money. We think it is important to the County's history and a relevant way to keep that history alive and current.

As Mike notes, you don't have to be a professional writer to contribute information to *SangamonLink.org*. Part of his job is to edit, write and organize the information he both researches and receives. He's also on the speaking circuit, drumming up interest from local organizations to provide historical information that they and their members may want to share. It's an effective approach. If you belong to another organization that you think may want to hear him speak about *SangamonLink.org*, just drop him a note through the website or call the Society phone number and leave a message.

\* \* \*

In last month's *Historico*, we pointed to the list of committee chairs (that appears on page 3 as part of the regular directory) to encourage you to contact them and get more active. Oops! After it was printed, we noticed Membership Chair Claire Eberle's name was left off the list. It's there now! Contact her if you'd like to work on Membership.

Mary Alice



*Historico*, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, 2013 Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, [sangamon-history.org](http://sangamon-history.org) or [sancohis.org](http://sancohis.org). Send event announcements to [historicoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:historicoeditor@gmail.com).

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

## Society's SangamonLink.org Website Continuing to Expand Its Entries

Content in *SangamonLink.org*, the Society's new and searchable on-line encyclopedia of Sangamon County history, continues to expand, thanks to the efforts of more than a dozen new contributors of history items, says editor Mike Kienzler.

Segments of the encyclopedia are also published every other Sunday on the front page of the *State Journal Register's SUNDAY A.M.* section.

Nearly 600 entries have been posted in what will eventually be thousands as the on-line site builds a comprehensive body of work about every aspect of Sangamon County's history. Recently added to the site is information on topics from:

**Curtis Mann:** All breweries except Reisch, all mills.

**James Krohe**

**Jr. :** 30 subjects, from coal mining to Santa Anna's wooden leg.

**Sandy Baksys:** (Lithuanians in Springfield blog): All Lithuanian entries (except the one on Lithuanian children at the Palmer School).

**Nancy Chapin:** Women's literary societies

**Chuck Stone :** Riverton, Spaulding, Clear Lake, Wheeland Haven, Camp Glen Olive.

**Tom Fitch:** Illinois State Fair Museum; auto dealers in Springfield series.

**Phil Shadid:** Illinois Glory Days website: all 16 entries in the closed high schools series .

**Tara McClellan McAndrew:** Emancipation Day, ice harvesting, pre-1900s baseball.

**Erika Holst:** Dr. John Todd, Benjamin Edwards, Leigh Kimball, Caroline Lamb Black, Bettie Stuart Brown

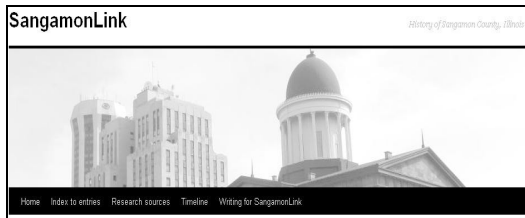
**Carl Volkmann (deceased):** Trinity, Grace Lutheran churches

**David Wachtveitl:** 114th Infantry  
**Anne Tisckos Wisnosky:** Lithuanian children at Palmer School, via Lithuanians in Springfield.

**A.J. Lust,** Presidential Museum.

**Elise Antonacci ,** Hawthorne Place.

**Hannah Ketchum,** Reisch Brewery.



**William Shannon :** Chatham's railroad history.

**Notes Kienzler,** "We are con-

stantly adding to SangamonLink.org and we welcome additional contributors. You do not have to be a professional historian or writer to contribute information to the site."

Kienzler, a retired **SJ-R** editor and long-time Society member, oversees the project which was several years in development before publicly debuting this past June.

The Society is also continuing to reach out to area organizations and individuals to provide information about their history that could be added to the site.

For information on how you can be among them, go to *SangamonLink.org*.



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Dr. Samuel Wheeler, **Executive Coordinator**  
Mike Kienzler, **SangamonLink.org Editor**

### OCTOBER 2014 MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS REPORT

The Society welcomes new members: **Jennie Battles, Roy and Cathy Mayfield, Angela and Duane Weiss,** and **Thomas Wood.**

And thanks the following members for their recent donations:  
**Robert C. Lanphier III, Bruce and Nicky Stratton,** and  
**Angela and Duane Weiss.**

Please make note of our official mailing address:

**SCHS**  
**Box 9744**  
**Springfield, Illinois,**  
**62791-9744**



In a two-pronged program, Society members heard about the history of railroading here when they gathered on September 16 in Chatham for a talk about and tour of the Chatham Railroad Museum. Leading the way was Society member Bill Shannon, president of the Chicago & Illinois Midland Chapter, National Railway History Association, who first spoke to a full house at the Chatham Community Building before leading the group to the train station a block way. Shannon and the chapter, which operates the museum, were in the forefront of saving the station that was built in 1902. The building, which went out of service in 1972, is one of the very few town stations still standing where it was built. Among its artifacts is a floor compass (bottom right, page 5) that was formerly in the entrance of the Chicago & Alton Depot in Springfield, now the Amtrak Station. The museum includes a large array of railroad memorabilia including a telegraph office (below left), photo displays and brochures like those held by Society member Roni Betts (bottom, right), even a bell from a steam locomotive.

*Donna Catlin photos.*





# Society's November Program to Feature Talk By Award-Winning Journalist, Author Taylor Pensoneau

Award winning journalist and author, former *St. Louis Post Dispatch* Illinois political correspondent Taylor Pensoneau, will take a look back at the people and events in his career when he speaks to the Society at its monthly program meeting on Tuesday, November 18.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library. The session is open to the public.

Pensoneau, who spent 16 years at the Post-Dispatch, the last 12 covering the Illinois State House, left the newspaper in 1978 to begin what turned into a 26-year career with the Illinois Coal Association, the trade organization for the state's coal industry. He retired in December 2003 as president of the association, carving out a second writing career as a biographer and historian.

He is the author of the widely acclaimed *Brothers Notorious: The Sheltons, Southern Illinois' Legendary*

*Gangsters*, as well as three biographies of Illinois political heavyweights: *Dan Walker: The Glory and the Tragedy*; *Richard Ogilvie: In the Interest of the State*; and *Powerhouse: Arrington from Illinois*. He also has penned one work of fiction, *The Summer of '50*, mystery that revolves



Taylor Pensoneau

investigative reporter for the *St. Louis World*.

His newest book *Reporting on Life—and people along the way*, a memoir provides a revealing portrait of an Illinois insider replete with

poignancy, humor and heartbreak. In it, he takes readers behind the scenes in the Illinois Statehouse pressroom, the Watergate scandal and the writing of his books.

In reporting on life—and people along the way—he relates his encounters with the famous and not as famous, and provides a detailed look at those who have greatly impacted his life.

A resident of New Berlin, Pensoneau and his wife Elizabeth, the retired editor of *Outdoor Illinois* magazine, own and operate Downstate Publications. Both members, he is a past president of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

Pensoneau is also a past president of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. He also is a member of the Advisory Board for *Illinois Issues* magazine, president of the Board of Trustees of the West Sangamon Public Library District.

## Radio Series Supported by Society to Begin Airing This Month

If you're not a regular listener of *Illinois Edition* on WUIS radio (91.9 FM), you may want to become one!

Airing this month and next will be programs about Illinois history produced and recorded by author and playwright Tara McClellan McAndrew, underwritten in part by the Sangamon County Historical Society Special Projects grant.

Three pieces have been recorded and will air this month, including one on John Phillip Sousa, the "March King," another on Orson Welles's infamous "War of the Worlds" Halloween radio broadcast, and a third on Illinois' first General Assembly.

Sousa was a frequent performer in Springfield in the early decades of the 1900s, says McAndrew, who includes clips from his marches in the 30-minute segment. For the "War of the Worlds" program, McAndrew focuses on local and national reaction as well as clips from the original broadcast. In the General Assembly piece, she explores what the government body did and didn't do. At the conclusion of each program, an announcer notes that "These historical pieces are supported by a grant from the Sanga-

mon County Historical Society, details at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org)."

October and November scheduling for *Illinois Edition* was not available as *Historico* went to press. You can get an updated listing by going to [wuis.org/programs/Illinois-edition](http://wuis.org/programs/Illinois-edition). The radio news magazine airs weekdays at noon and replays Mondays through Thursday weeknights at 7 p.m. The Orson Welles piece will run close to Halloween, a station representative said.

McAndrew, a member of the Society whose roots here reach back at least five generations, has written numerous books and articles about local history. Her play, "*The Lighter Side of Springfield History*," has been performed at Lincoln's New Salem and the Hoogland Center for the Arts. She also penned "*Prairie Dreams*," a play about the history of Clayville.

In addition to local venues, her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune Magazine* and *Illinois Issues*. She has also produced or helped produce radio pieces for National Public Radio, Christian Science Monitor Radio, Illinois Public Radio, and the BBC.

# Calendar of Historical Events



Tuesday, October 17 (repeated October 16, 23, and 29): **"One Destiny," 1 p.m.** One of the most popular theatre offerings at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, this Richard Helleesen play is set in the days after the assassination of President Lincoln on April 1865. During the 35 minute performance, two actors portray several characters including Harry Hawk, who was performing on stage when the President was shot, as he revisits the night of April 14 with Harry Ford, the theatre manager. Free to Museum members, general Museum admission (\$6 to \$15 depending on category) for non-members. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Springfield.

**Wednesday, October 8: SCHS Board Meeting, 5 p.m.,** City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street, Springfield.

**Thursday, October 16: 12th Annual Lincoln Legacy Lecture, 7 p.m.** The Lincoln funeral

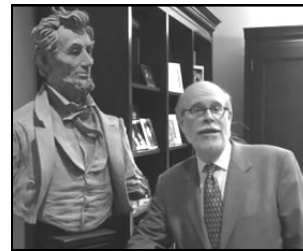


-themed presentation is in anticipation of the re-enactment and commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's funeral next May in Springfield. Those who arrive early will have an opportunity for seating in the auditorium; overflow seating will be in Public Affairs Center room C/D. A live webcast can be viewed at [www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html](http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html). Panelists for this year's event will be: James L. Swanson, senior legal scholar at The Heritage Foundation; and Dr. Richard Wightman Fox, University of Southern California history professor. Dr. Michael Burlingame, who holds the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at UIS, will offer opening remarks. Brookens Auditorium, University of Illinois, Springfield. Free.

**Saturday, October 18: Third Annual Spooktacular Evening with Abe, 5 p.m.** Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. A kid's costume

contest, *Ghosts of the Library* special viewing, games, spooky ghost stories, refreshments and more are the treats for this event. No adult costumes with hoods or masks will be permitted. Tickets are \$10 for general public, free for Museum members but members need to call 557-5589 for special tickets.

**Tuesday, October 21: SCHS Program Meeting: Now You See It, Now You Don't: Sangamon's Disappearing Landscape, 5:30 p.m.** William Furry, speaker. Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Library. Free and open to the public. (See story, page 1).



**Wednesday, October 29: Book Signing and Lecture With Harold Holzer, 6 p.m.** Lincoln Presidential Library Multi-Purpose Room. Author of *Lincoln and the Power of the Press*, Holzer is one of the country's leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. Chair of the Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, he is also the first Roger Hertog Fellow at the New York Historical Society. Free, but reservations required. Call 558-8934.

**Wednesday, November 12: SCHS Board Meeting, 5 p.m.,** City of Springfield Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street, Springfield.

**Tuesday, November 18: Reporting On Life, 5:30 p.m.** Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Lincoln Library. Former *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Illinois political correspondent Taylor Pensoneau shares stories about the people and events in his career. Free and open to the public.

**Tuesday, December 16: Annual SCHS Holiday Party.** Reservation information will appear in the November issue of *Historico*.

## Missing Something? October Speaker May Help You Find It!

(Continued from page 1)

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library. Seasonal refreshments will be served. The program is open to the public.

Furry, a long-time member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, also serves as editor of *Illinois Heritage* magazine, and is a sixth generation Springfieldian.

In his spare time he makes music with

the local folk ensemble Thistle n' Thyme, and with the Midwestern band Finnegans Walk, now in its 41st year. He is the father of Galen Patrick Brothers-Furry, and Joel Aaron Styzens, and his household includes Brother Sam, Mr. Peeps (the cat), and Sirius (the dog).

***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). Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30.



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**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