



# 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](http://www.sangamonhistory.org), [SangamonLink.org](http://SangamonLink.org)

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JANUARY 2018

## Expert to Detail Area's Italian Heritage, January 16

### *Bill Cellini Jr. to Discuss Research*

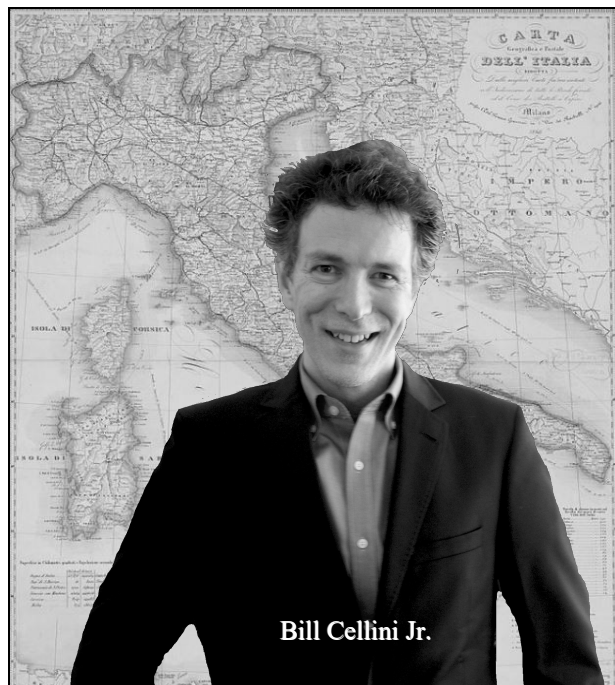
Italian genealogy expert Bill Cellini Jr. will provide texture to the fabric of history woven by Sangamon County's Italian population when he speaks to members and guests of the Sangamon County Historical Society on Tuesday, January 16.

The meeting, free and open to the public, begins at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at Springfield's Lincoln Public Library, 326 South Seventh Street.

A descendant of a Sangamon County Italian immigrant family, Cellini, based in Chicago, frequently conducts public seminars on Italian genealogy. Awarded a bachelor of arts degree in history from Illinois College and a bachelor in fine arts degree from Columbia College Chicago, he has also provided post-graduate studies in American History at the University of Illinois Chicago.

Cellini is a member of the Roman Cultural Society and the Italian American Studies Association, the latter a nationwide organization that explores, authenticates and interprets the wide range of experiences of Italians in America including culture, history, literature, demography, folklore and politics.

*(Continued on page 4)*



Bill Cellini Jr.

## Early Table Sales Come With a Special Incentive As SCHS Annual Trivia Night Planning Gains Steam

Planning to take a table of 10 for the Sangamon County Historical Society's 6th annual Trivia Night set for Saturday, March 10?

We have a "sweetheart" of a deal for you!

Sign up and pay by Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14 and everyone

at your table will get a surprise gift!

"We anticipate a sell-out crowd," said special event co-chair Mary Alice Davis, "and we didn't want the many people who look forward to it every year to be left out because they waited too long to sign up. We expect to sell out way in advance of the game date.

Adding an incentive to purchase a table early not only helps us with planning and table assignments, but also means that those who reserve and pay in advance will be guaranteed a prime table and seats for those who they've invited to join them in play."

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### Coming Soon:

RIVERTON'S HOLLYWOOD WRANGLER, KARL E. LUTHIN

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TRIVIA NIGHT ORDER FORM



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## 2018 Illinois Bicentennial Year Filled With Events

It's time to turn the calendar and enter a very special year. 2018 is significant for the state of Illinois because it is the Illinois Bicentennial – 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Illinois has a long interesting history that you will hear more about during the year.



In early 1818, Illinois was only a territory, but plans for statehood were already in the works. On **April 18, 1818**, the Illinois Enabling Act was approved by the U.S. Congress, which allowed the Illinois territory to begin the process of forming a constitution and state government and applying for admission to the Union. Other significant dates of that year are:

♦ **August 26, 1818**, an Illinois Constitution was adopted at a convention in Kaskaskia, where the State Capitol was located.

♦ **October 6, 1818**, Shadrack Bond was inaugurated as the first Illinois Governor.

♦ **December 3, 1818**, President James Monroe signed Illinois' application for statehood as the 21<sup>st</sup> state. Our state's population was 34,620 at the time. Most of the residents lived in the southern portion of the state along rivers and forested areas. The prairies are largely unsettled and Chicago was an unimportant village.

During the coming year, many educational and celebratory events and activities are planned throughout the state and in Sangamon County.

♦ *A series of monthly Town Hall meetings* will be scheduled in Springfield on various historical topics. The first one about racism and reconciliation in Springfield will be held at the African American History Museum in February. Other meeting topics include education in the past, present and future, conservation of natural resources in urban planning, sports and recreation, and transportation. Watch for information about dates and locations.

♦ *The US Postal Service* will mark Illinois' 200th with a commemorative First-Class Forever stamp.

♦ *An educational curriculum* has been planned and will be taught to students in schools across the state.

♦ *A multimedia campaign* including radio, TV, newspa-

per and social media promotion will be featured throughout the year.

To learn more about all of the events and activities, visit [www.illinois200.com](http://www.illinois200.com) or [www.il200springfield.org](http://www.il200springfield.org).

### January Program

We are looking forward to learning about Sangamon County's Italian Heritage on January 16 at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library. Bill Cellini Jr., a Chicago based educator and historian, will give the presentation, which is based on his own research. The event is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there.

### Historical Events

Several significant historical events occurred during the month of January. You can read more about them on our on-line and searchable encyclopedia of Sangamon County history, [SangamonLink.org](http://SangamonLink.org) or follow the links below.

♦ **January 1, 1948** – The last Sangamon County resident to have served in the Civil War died at age 98. Hiram Shumate of Riverton signed up for Union Army service three times, starting when he was 13 years old. <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=10053>

♦ **January 1, 1938** – The last Springfield street car ran on the North Fifth Street route, leaving city streets thereafter to automobiles and Springfield Transportation Co. buses. <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=9660>

♦ **January 25, 1933** – An estimated 8,000 members of the women's auxiliary of the Progressive Miners of America marched to the Statehouse. Their leaders gave Governor Henry Horner a petition calling for, among other things, a system of unemployment compensation. <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=3316>

♦ **January 31, 1952** – Chatham's last passenger train left the village station at 2:48 p.m. <http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=6192>



*Historico*, published 10 times a year (except July & December), is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

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

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor

**1922-2017**

**Former SCHS Director Daniel R. Buck Jr.**

Daniel R. Buck Jr. a former Sangamon County Historical Society director and recipient in 2014 of a special Membership Recognition Award for his long-time leadership, participation, and efforts in expanding the organization's membership base, died on December 7 at age 93. He was a Life Member of the Society.

Fellow Society member and close friend William Furry, executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society, recalled fond memories of the distinctive gentleman who often had a copy of the *New York Times* tucked under his arm.

"A bachelor his entire life, Dan never drove a car, walked everywhere he could up until his last year, and wore a necktie—usually a bow tie—every day for most of his adult life."

Born in Springfield, one of nine children of Daniel R. and Lela Meredith Buck, his father built the home Dan grew up in on Columbia Avenue, and it was the foundation and address of his Springfield years.

"A graduate of DuBois School, Springfield High School, and Springfield Junior College, Buck's education was cut short by his enlistment two years into WWII, but his education and instincts for language and linguistics found him a berth at a special and isolated internment camp for Italian POWs just south of Washington, D.C., where he "interviewed" prisoners dur-

ing his wartime service," noted Furry who pointed out that Buck learned Italian from listening to opera on the radio as an adolescent.

"He once told me that it was a fight to get listening opportunities for the opera on the family radio when his six



sisters and older brothers were such big Cubs fans. The ballgames always took precedent! After the war Dan came back to Springfield and, because of his love for the theatre, found roles in Springfield Theatre Guild and Muni Opera productions, building and painting sets in his spare time. There was plenty of music, magic, good food, and romance in Dan's life," Furry added.

*(Continued on page 6)*

**JANUARY 2018 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT**

The Society welcomes the following new members: *Doug Anderson, Dennis Bomke, Lynda Dautenhahn, Craig Kent, Stephanie Kent, Stephanie Kluge, Lee Nickelson and Barbara Parsons.*

...And expresses its appreciation for donations to the Society from *John and Joanne Paul, Dwight O'Keefe, and David and Janet Stover* in memory of Daniel R. Buck Jr. and from Life Member *Mary Blumle.*



**OFFICERS**

President.....Ruth Slottag  
 Vice-President.....Vicky Whitaker  
 Secretary.....Kathy Dehen  
 Treasurer.....Jerry Smith  
 Past-President.....Mary Alice Davis

**DIRECTORS**

**Term Ending 2018**

Larry Stone  
 Roger Whitaker  
 Sue Massie  
 Doug Polite  
 Kathy Hoffmann

**Term Ending 2019**

Jennie Battles  
 Elaine Hoff  
 Mary Mucciante  
 Mary Schaefer

**Term Ending 2020**

Peter Harbison  
 Susan Helm  
 Stephanie Martin  
 Eugene Walker  
 Angela Weiss

**Committee Chairs**

**Legal:** Bruce Beeman  
**Finance:** Doug Polite, Larry Stone  
**Membership:** Stephanie Martin, Peter Harbison  
**Nominating:** Mary Alice Davis  
**Hospitality:** Marion Leach  
**Publicity and Marketing:** Ruth Slottag, Susan Helm  
**Publications:** Roger Whitaker  
**Programs & Special Events:** Mary Alice Davis, Vicky Whitaker  
**Social Media Chair:** Mary Schaefer  
**Special Projects:** Elaine Hoff  
**Staff**  
 Mike Kienzler, *SangamonLink.org* Editor

Please make note of our official mailing address:

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

## Keeping History Accurate

# Film Industry Insider to Share Horse Tales, More

Though you probably didn't know you've seen Karl E. Luthin's fingerprint on everything from Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" to "The Last Samurai," even "Rambo III," not to mention literally hundreds of Hollywood movies, television shows and specials already aired or about to be.

On Tuesday, February 20, the veterinarian who heads an internationally-recognized Riverton-based company, KEL Equine Productions that provides historically accurate military units, horses, wagons, riders, drivers, stunt men, crews and coordinators for the film industry, will tell Sangamon County Historical Society members and guests about what he does as a "wrangler" and technical advisor.

Luthin just wrapped up work on a new Netflix movie in which, in addition to serving as a wrangler, found himself advising the prop artists creating historically accurate Conestoga wagons for the film. The wagons were being built out of wood rather than

plastic or other modern materials normally associated with prop building. Luthin was able to explain the uses of various elements of the design, a reflection of his knowledge of transportation history. Afterwards, Luthin was able to bring 10 of the wagons back to Riverton, adding to his collection of transportation, props, wardrobe and

more that KEL Equine Production provides to the industry.

At the February 20 presentation, Luthin will be bringing some samples of the props he provides and will show

The next decade brought participation in numerous big budget films that eventually caught the attention of Hollywood studios. In 1996, Luthin was able to purchase a significant amount



Karl Luthin

video clips of his work.

His involvement in the film industry started in 1980 when producers of the television mini-series, *The Blue and The Gray* sought Luthin out after learning of his involvement in providing cavalry for a re-enactment film produced for the Prairie Grove National Park site in Arkansas.

of horse props and horse drawn vehicles used in film classics such as *Major Dundee*, *The Undeclared*, *Jeremiah Johnson*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Zorro*. The purchase established KEL Equine Productions as one of the leading prop houses for movies depicting cavalry from the Napoleonic War through WWII.

## Italian Genealogy Expert Bill Cellini Jr. to Speak January 16

(Continued from page 1)

Some of Cellini's detailed findings on the early immigration of Italians to Sangamon County have been posted on *SangamonLink.org*, the Sangamon County Historical Society's on-line and searchable encyclopedia of

history.

Included is information on some of the earliest Italian immigrants in Springfield and the fate of those who followed after the Great Wave of immigration to the United States between 1900 and 1914.



**SCHS Holiday Party:**

*Celebration, Conversation and Seasonal Treats*

Nearly 60 Sangamon County Historical Society members and their guests gathered at the home of Roger and Vicky Whitaker on December 12 for the organization's annual holiday party.

The evening, social by design, provided an opportunity for members to warm up by the fireplaces on a cold winter's evening, munch on a variety of hors d'oeuvres, seafood, fruit and veggie platters as well as a

collection of desserts ranging from petit fours, cake, miniature éclairs and cream puffs, chocolate truffles and cookies. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages were served.

The Society's entry in the 2017 Festival of Trees, purchased by the Whitakers from the Memorial Medical Foundation, was on display in the living room throughout the evening. The tree (above, left) featured handmade old-fashioned skate orna-

ments and a tree topper featuring a turn-of-the-century skater that captured this year's Festival theme: skates, sleds and snow.

Since the gathering also fell on the first night of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, former board member Les Estep brought along a menorah, the traditional nine branch candelabrum which was lit to mark the first night of the eight day celebration.

**Dry City, Illiness and Look Back at Camp Butler on *SangamonLink.org***

That bottle of champagne that you shared with friends to welcome the New Year earlier this month is no doubt long gone, but had you planned to sip it in Springfield 100 years ago, the police might have been knocking at your door!

*SangamonLink.org* editor Mike Kienzler details the New Year's party-pooping

impact in 1918 after city residents voted to ban saloons and alcohol. It's one of several new articles just added to the Society's on-line encyclopedia of Sangamon County history.

Also new to the site is a look at the danger mosquitoes posed to early residents of Central Illinois and the first dial telephones put into ser-

vice in Sangamon County in the Illinois Statehouse..

Contributor Chuck Stone provided photos and a map of Camp Butler as a Civil War training center, tracking its transformation into a prisoner of war compound.

"The end of the Civil War in 1865 also brought an end to the sprawling camp. By 1866, most of the training

camp had been demolished, and within a few years, nothing was left as a reminder of the important activities that transpired there," Kienzler writes.

"Today's Camp Butler National Cemetery is just northwest of the training camp grounds. It is the final resting place for many Union and Confederate soldiers."

## Event March 10

# Advise Early Purchase for Tables, Trivia Night Tickets

(Continued from page 1)

join them in play."

The event will be held in the Parish Hall of Christ the King Church in Springfield. Doors will open at 6 p.m., with the game starting at 7 p.m. Food and drinks will be available starting at 6 p.m. All proceeds support Society projects and programs.

As in past years, tables of 10 will be \$100. Round sponsorships are \$100. The Society will set aside tables for individual players, who can purchase \$10 tickets in advance.

A mail-in table and ticket order form is available on page 7. You can also purchase a table or individual tickets on line. In order to be eligible for the table gifts, checks must be received by

or on-line payment made by February 14.

"Some individual tickets may be available at the door, but if we reach capacity prior to the event, seats will be filled only on an as-needed basis to complete a table," Davis noted.

As in recent years, questions are being developed by professional trivia master Al Gietl, with public television host Mark McDonald serving as emcee. Champion chilli maker Les Estep will provide his favorite recipe for the main course. The Balloon Game and Mulligans will be part of the festive offerings.

The table that comes up with the most right answers will win \$200, with second and third prizes of \$100 and \$75 to the runners up.



## Former Director Remembered for Contribution to History Community

(Continued from page 3)

In the early 1950s, Buck moved to Boston, where he was an administrative secretary for the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. While there he was season ticket holder for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the New York Metropolitan Opera. He also traveled extensively both before and after his retirement in 2003, and subsequent return to Springfield, noted Furry.

"Though in his early 80s, Dan was not the retiring sort. He came to work for the Illinois State Historical Society as a volunteer in 2004, walking from his home on East Adams Street to the ISHS offices around the corner, up two flights of stairs, always carrying a bag

filled with newspapers, crossword puzzles, chocolate, and the latest issue of *The New York Times*. He answered the phone for us, directed calls, read back issues of the *ISHS Journal* and *Illinois Heritage* magazines, and helped out at special events."

Buck sponsored dozens of individual memberships to both the Illinois State Historical Society and SCHS. "He was the kind of member of which every not-for-profit organization dreams, said Furry.

"The source of his passion for local history was the history of his own family, which had roots in the American Revolution. He loved Illinois history, and attended every symposium or conference on Prairie State history he

could. He was a frequent guest at the University of Illinois Springfield's "Lunch and Learn" programs, as well as the Lincoln Legacy Lectures held every October.

Buck was also adept in the kitchen, known for hosting feasts in Boston, someone who spoke fluent gourmet with Springfield's downtown chefs, Furry recalled.

"Every spring Dan was one of the first to sit down for a slice of Maldaner's "Truffle Pie," and he had a fondness for David Brady's "Apple Raisin Pie," an occasional treat for the weekly morning breakfast club at Café Moxo, long hosted by Prairie Archives' John Paul, a group that has met continuously for 20-plus years.





# TRIVIA NIGHT TABLE, TICKET, ROUND SPONSOR ORDER FORM



## TABLE RESERVATIONS:

Enclosed is my check. Sign me up for \_\_\_ tables of 10 for the Saturday, March 10 SCHS Trivia Night. (In appreciation for your early commitment of reserving and paying by Wednesday, February 14, each of your guests will receive a special gift from the Society.

## INDIVIDUAL TICKET RESERVATIONS:

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_ seats. (Society members and guests who purchase tickets in advance will be seated at designated Sangamon County Historical Society tables).

## ROUND SPONSOR

Companies, organizations and individuals are welcome to sponsor individual rounds at \$100 per round. The name of the company, organization or individual will appear on the screen at the start of the round. You will need to furnish any art work associated with your sponsorship along with your payment no later than February 18. Please indicate if you wish to be contacted to discuss any technical details.

I wish to be a Round sponsor. Please contact me at: e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Checks should be made payable to SCHS and mailed to SCHS,  
P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.

## Calendar of History Events

**Tuesday, January 16: Sangamon County's Italian Heritage.** The Society kicks off the State's Bicentennial Program Year with a presentation by Chicago-based educator and historian Bill Cellini Jr. who has researched and written about the area's Italian immigration and heritage. 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Lincoln Library. Free and open to the public.

**Tuesday, February 20: Adding Historical Authenticity to the Big Screen.** The Sangamon County Historical Society plays host to Karl Luthin, owner of KEL Equine Productions, who will share both his expertise and the stories that go along with being internationally known for providing historically authentic horses, uniforms, crews, riders, drivers and stunt men to the movie industry. 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield Lincoln Library.

**Saturday, March 10: Trivia Night.** The Society stages its

Sixth Annual Trivia Night, returning to the Parish Hall at Christ the King Church in Springfield for another round of questions, fellowship and fun, the proceeds of which will benefit Society programs and projects. Mark McDonald returns as emcee, with trivia master Al Geitl handling the proceedings.

### WEATHER...WHAT IF?

If weather conditions call for it, the Society could cancel a meeting or a special event. And if that happens, an announcement to that effect will be posted by 3 p.m. of the day of the meeting/event several different ways. Notices initially will be posted on our main website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org) and on our phone, 217-525-1961 by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting or event. This should give you ample time to change plans. Where possible, we will also post any cancellation notices on media websites and request that they be broadcast through local radio and television outlets.

**Sangamon County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 9744,  
Springfield, IL 62791-9744  
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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 June 1 to May 31. All memberships — except Business/Corporate and college/university students — cover adults and children 16 and over at the same address. Be sure to include their names.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Status**

\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ 2018-2019 GIFT of Membership from:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**2017-2018 Membership Levels**

Except for business and college/university student membership, all levels listed below cover adults and children 16 and over living at the same address. ***Please list their names in the space below.***

\_\_\_\_\_

- Regular Membership - \$30     College/University Student (individual) - \$20.
- Pioneer Level - \$100                       Settlers Level - \$250
- Trailblazer Level - \$500
- Lifetime Membership - \$700 (*one time fee*)

\_\_\_\_\_

Business /Corporate Membership - \$200