



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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A Look Behind the Scenes, February 20

Vet Helps Shape Film Industry's Historical Accuracy

What happens when you mix horses, wagons, military uniforms and making movies?

You get Karl E. Luthin, a veterinarian and veteran wrangler from Riverton who keeps Hollywood film makers on their toes when it comes to historical accuracy.

The Riverton-based wrangler who heads internationally known KEL Equine Productions that provides historically accurate military units, horses, wagons, riders, drivers, stunt men, crews and coordinators as well as technical advice to the film industry, will speak to the Society its February 20 meeting.

The program, free and open to the public, will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the city of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street.

Dr. Luthin, who will be bringing some samples of the props he provides and will show video clips of his work,

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.



Dr. Luthin

The wagons were being built out of wood rather than plastic or other modern materials normally associated with prop building. Dr. Luthin was able to explain the uses of various elements of the design, a reflection of his knowledge of transportation history.

After filming, Dr. Luthin brought 10 of the wagons back to his Riverton headquarters, adding to his collection of transportation, props, wardrobe and more, that KEL Equine Production provides to the entertainment industry.

(Continued on page 5)

Tables, Seats Going Fast For March 10 SCHS Trivia Night

Trivia buffs as well as trivia game novices are moving quickly to get a ticket for the Sangamon County Historical Society's 6th Annual Trivia Night scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at Christ the King's Parish Hall in Springfield.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. with play beginning at 7 p.m. Tables of 10 are priced

at \$100, Individual tickets are \$10.

"Our early bird incentive—a surprise gift for each person who purchases a table by Valentine's Day—has sped table sales. Everyone at the buyer's table will get a gift. Individuals who purchase a ticket by February 14 will also be eligible, "notes event chair Mary Alice Davis. "We also

expect to sell out our round sponsors—individuals or companies whose corporate logo or message appears on screen at the start of each round and on printed material. Tickets can be purchased on-line or by filling out the form on page 7 and mailing it with your check to the Society.

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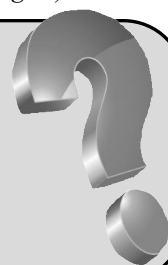


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LINCOLN'S
LEGAL LEGACY**

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NIGHT
ORDER
FORM**

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February a Busy Month for History Events Here

Entering the month of February, the second month of the Illinois Bicentennial year, we find a number of historic events and celebrations taking place throughout the community.

long foldout that shows the state's history from its birth in 1818 to 2018. A 15-foot long expanded version of this chart is currently on view at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.



February is best known for President's Day, celebrating the birthdays of Presidents Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Numerous events honoring President Lincoln, an Illinois favorite son, are scheduled in Sangamon County.

The printed "Illinois Chronicles" book will be available to all K-12 schools in March. It is available for purchase at www.illinois200.com, Amazon.com and select retailers across the state. You can read it in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library reading room main desk.

African American History Month is also observed in February with many celebrations scheduled in our area. Be sure to check out these events.

Past Historical Events

The Society is off to a good start this year with our monthly programs. We send a big "thank you" to Bill Cellini Jr., who spoke last month about Sangamon County's Italian immigration to a standing room only crowd.

It's always interesting to learn about historical happenings of many years ago, some of which are listed below. You can find more about them on our searchable online encyclopedia, www.SangamonLink.org, edited by Mike Kienzler.

February Program

At our February meeting, Karl Luthin, Owner of KEL Equine Productions of Riverton, will share information about his experiences in providing authentic horses, wagons, uniforms etc. for the entertainment industry. (See page 1).

• **February 13, 1905** - Thermometers record the coldest day in Springfield history: 24 below zero.

<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=10278>

• **February 16, 1903** - Teacher Edith Martin perhaps saves the lives of two dozen children by forcing them out a second-story window as a fire consumes Caldwell School in Thayer.

<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=9312>

Bicentennial News

• The first Springfield Bicentennial Town Hall Series event will be held February 17 at 4 p.m. at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American Museum. The topic is "Racism and Reconciliation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." This event is part of a series of monthly talks planned for various locations during the year. The presentations are organized by the Springfield Bicentennial Working Group and their partners. Find them at www.il200springfield.org.



• **February 17, 1892** - Annie B. Hannon is appointed to succeed her late father as Sangamon County superintendent of schools. That November, she was elected in her own right, even though Hannon couldn't vote for herself. Voting was still restricted to men, but a quirk in the state constitution allowed women to serve as elected county school superintendents.

<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=9545>

• **February 28, 1837** - Springfield celebrates the legislature's vote to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield with a wild night of celebrating, including a bonfire in the town square (site of today's Old Capitol Historic Site) that destroyed, once and for all, the city whipping post.

<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=9726>

Ruth Slotta



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 or sancohis.org. Send event announcements to historicoeditor@gmail.com.

Vicky Whitaker, **Historico** Editor

April 20 Deadline Set to Seek Society's Special Projects Grant

Not every project that preserves and promotes interest in Sangamon County history comes with a giant price-tag.

Ingenuity, resourcefulness, impact and hard work can accomplish awesome results, demonstrated by the winners of Sangamon County Historical Society Special Grants program that provides up to \$1,000 to individuals and organizations with a viable idea. You or someone or organization you know,

"Last year the Society gave grants to four organizations representing a broad spectrum of projects," noted Elaine Hoff, chair of Society's Special Grants committee.

"The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum used its funding to research and prepare an exhibit about early African American settlers in the area," noted Hoff. "And the Pleasant Plains Historical Society used its \$1,000 grant to furnish a replica of an early 1800s one-room log cabin school house at its Clayville Historic Site."

Two other groups received \$500 each. The Springfield Art Association applied its grant to its Edwards Place Historic Home in Springfield for an exhibit of archeological artifacts of an early 19th century kitchen. The Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation received a grant to underwrite a bronze donor plaque honoring contributors to the restoration of its handwritten internment Books.

"Funds for our Special Projects Grants come from monies we raise at our annual Trivia Night," Hoff pointed out. "We hope the support we receive this year and in future years will allow us to expand this worthwhile funding program."

Applications can be found on-line at www.sangamonhistory.org. by clicking on "Grant Program." The on-line form can be downloaded to your computer.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Special Projects Committee, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.

Award winners will be announced at the Society's annual dinner in June.

"Funds for our Special Projects Grants come from monies we raise at our annual Trivia Night. We hope the support we receive this year and in future years will allow us to expand this worthwhile funding program."



**Elaine Hoff
Special Projects Grants Chair**

might win a Special Projects Grants in 2018. The deadline for applying for the funding is April 20.



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Please make note of our official mailing address:

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

FEBRUARY 2018 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT

The Society welcomes the following new members: *John Green, Alice Lucchesi, John Lucchesi, John Runions, Teri Runions,*

...And expresses its appreciation for donations to the Society in memory of the late Daniel R. Buck Jr. from: *Jennie Battles, George Buck, Mary Marada, Frank Havey, Joan Lewis, Theresa Power, Ruth Poani, David Oehmke, Lela Espenschied.*

Sneak Preview

SCHS Programs Will Span Broad Range in 2018 and Beyond

The shift to 2018 is just a half-way mark for the Sangamon County Historical Society, which operates on a June 1 to May 30 schedule. As we head into 2018, you can count on a wide variety of programs and special events. Here's some, but not all of what's coming up once the Society holds its annual Trivia Night on March 10.

We immediately move to April, (*see below*) with prominent Lincoln expert and SCHS member Guy Fraker talking about his newest work, a guidebook that allows you--map, directions and pictures in hand--to take the same 400 mile trek through east central Illinois that Lincoln took twice a year as a Lawyer on the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

On May 15, you'll learn more about

the Bunn family, the latest book by Andrew Call on one of the most prominent families in Springfield and America.

The Society will hold its annual dinner in June that will include elections and an announcement of the winners of our Special Projects grants and more about the exciting history projects on which they'll be working.

Some special programs and events are in the works for the summer, usually a respite from the meeting schedule but one that gives us some scheduling flexibility. We'll let you know about those later this spring.

September kicks off with archaeologist Hal Hassen and bio-anthropologist Dawn Cobb deciphering the symbols

and fascinating past of gravestones and markers on September 18, a perfect step-off to the Society's 2018 *Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery*, this year on a Illinois Bicentennial theme on Sunday, September 30.

The Society adds its personal Bicentennial touch with a new powerpoint, "*the History of Transportation in Springfield, From Horse and Buggy to High Speed Rail*" that will debut on October 16.

A November program is in the works and December, of course, is the Society's annual holiday party. You'll get details about that in the fall along with a preview of programs for 2019 and beyond!

Historian to Share Guide to Lincoln's Legal Journey April 17

For 23 years, Abraham Lincoln practiced law on the Eighth Judicial Circuit in east central Illinois, a journey covering more than four hundred miles each spring and fall.

The Circuit, says historian and author Guy Fraker, provided Lincoln with clients, friends, and associates who became part of the network that ultimately elevated him to the presidency.

Fraker will be taking a nostalgic view back at Lincoln's route when he speaks to the Society on Tuesday, April 17 on "The Places and People that Put Lincoln in the White House."

But even more, he'll tell the story behind his new book, *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit*, that provides modern maps, directions and some 90 photos as a guide so you can make the trip yourself.

His presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street. The public is invited to the free event.

Fraker, a retired attorney from Bloomington, Illinois, and a member of the Society, has written two books on the Lin-

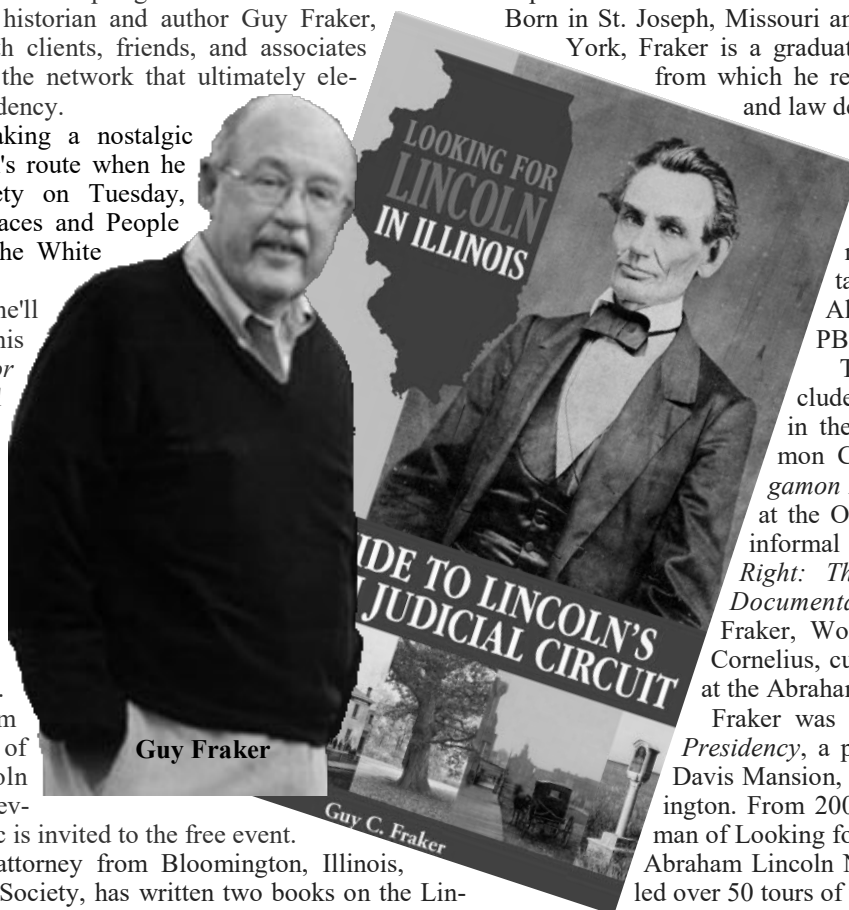
coln Circuit, *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: the Eighth Judicial Circuit* published in 2012. His most recent book came out this past October.

Born in St. Joseph, Missouri and raised in White Plains, New York, Fraker is a graduate of the University of Illinois from which he received both a bachelor of arts and law degree.

He was a consultant on and participant in "*Abraham Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency*," an award-winning nationally distributed documentary written and produced by Alison Davis Wood for WILL-PBS.

The documentary, which included several Springfield residents in the cast, was shown at a Sangamon County Historical Society *Sangamon History Through the Arts* event at the Old State Capitol. In 2012 An informal panel discussion on "*Doing It Right: The Art of Making Historical Documentaries*" followed, featuring Fraker, Wood and SCHS member James Cornelius, curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Museum,

Fraker was co-curator of *Prologue to the Presidency*, a permanent exhibit at the David Davis Mansion, a state historical site in Bloomington. From 2003 to 2017, he served as chairman of Looking for Lincoln, the action arm of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. He has led over 50 tours of the Circuit.



Guy Fraker



HISTORY LESSON: Italian genealogy expert William Cellini Jr. (right) chats with audience members following his January 16 Powerpoint presentation to the Society that traced the migration of Italians to Sangamon County from the 1850s through the early 1900s. Speaking to a standing-room-only audience that filled Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, Cellini provided a visual look at the path early Italians took that brought them to this area and how their presence drove and shaped the county during that period. A descendant of a Sangamon County Italian immigrant family, Cellini, based in Chicago, holds degrees in history and fine arts, is a member of the Italian American Studies Association and the Roman Cultural Society.

SCHS photo

Society to Get Look at Historically Accurate Movie Making

(Continued from page 1)

The company can provide cavalry and tack across broad and diverse time periods and cultures, including the Crusades, Genghis Kahn, the Napoleonic War, the Black Hawk War, the Alamo, the French Legion, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

His involvement in the

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

The next decade brought participation in numerous big budget films that eventu-

ally caught the attention of Hollywood studios. In 1996, Dr. Luthin was able to purchase a significant amount of horse props and horse drawn vehicles used in film 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.

In addition to box office blockbusters like Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*, *The Last Samurai*, and *Rambo III*, KEL-supplied horses, wagons, and/or cavalry regularly appear in television movies, series and specials.

Ready to Play? Here's Everything You Need to Know!

(Continued from page 1)

If you've not participated in an SCHS Trivia Night before, here's a quick guide:

Getting there: SCHS Trivia Night is held in the Parish Hall at Christ the King Church, 1930 Barberry Drive, just west of Chatham Road. There's plenty of parking close to the building including handicapped spaces.

Time: Check in will be in Parish Hall lobby starting at 6 p.m. where you can learn the location and table number. Every table seats a maximum of 10 players. Every table has a number and in the case of pre-paid tables, the name of the sponsoring organization or purchaser. Individual players will be seated at the remaining tables.

Food, Drinks: Chili prepared by champion chili-maker Les Estep, hot dogs, wine, beer, soda, water, popcorn, and cookies will be available for purchase.

The game: The game is played in 10 rounds, each round with 10 questions that may be visual or audio. The table "team" is composed of up to 10 players. Each table designates one person (with good handwriting!) to record the group's answer that reflects the consensus of that table's players.

After each round, the table has a few minutes to fill in any blanks or change its answers, after which their answer sheet is walked over to a panel of judges who review the answers and give each table a score from zero to 10. If you notice a quick scribbling of notes, nods, and a hushed tone as the table confers, it's part of the mechanics

of the game. Suggesting an answer loudly or holding up the answer on a sheet of paper, could be seen or overheard by someone at a nearby table!

Filling in the Blanks: There's a way for a table to leave a blank space if they don't know the answer, without hurting their score: the *Mulligan!*

Before the trivia game officially begins at 7 p.m., each table will be able to purchase a strip of 10 stick-on Mulligans, stickers that can be pasted on the answer sheet in place of only one of the ten answers in each round.

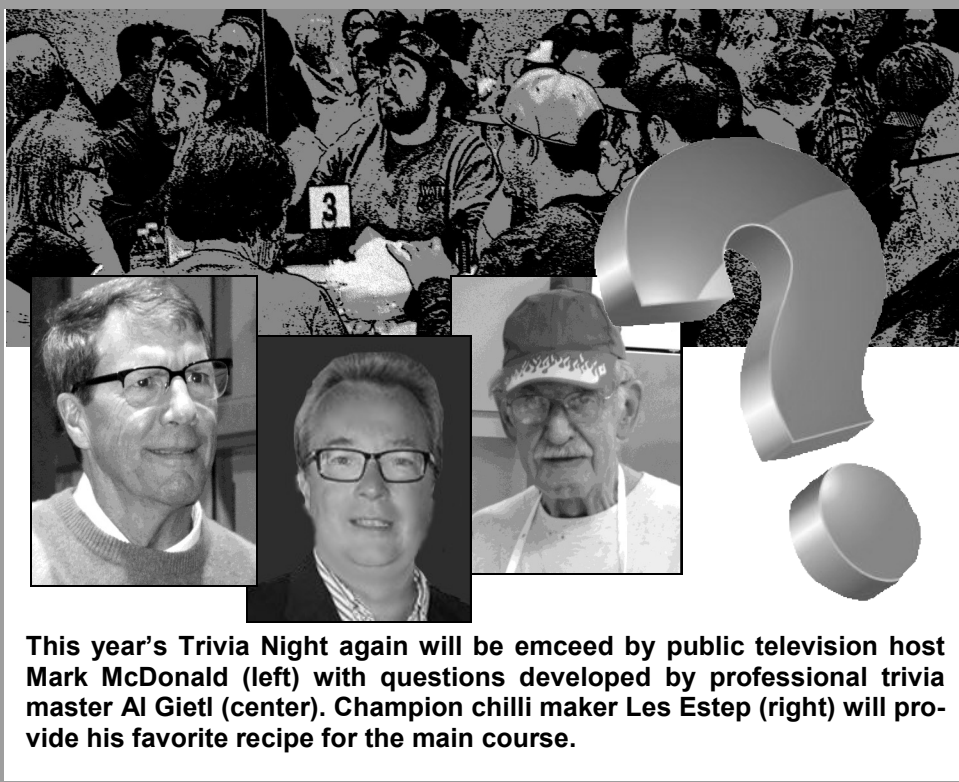
With a Mulligan in place of a blank space for question you and your tablemates couldn't answer, you'll get credit

the 10 questions is clearly designated as the "Balloon Round" question. That means that if you are playing the Balloon Round Game, your table must correctly answer that question correctly.

And if you're in the game, a Mulligan cannot be used on a Balloon Round question. If your table had the wrong answer, you must immediately pop that balloon!

The table with the last balloon tethered to it, wins the Game, the glory, and half the money collected for the Balloon game. If there is a tie after the balloon round question in the 10th round, the tied tables will split the prize money collected for the Balloon game.

Rules: There are some universal rules about playing Trivia. You can't use a cell phone, computer, or tablet to look up the answers, for one. In fact, all those electronic gadgets must be out of sight during the course of the evening. That goes for all other reference materials except, of course, your fellow tablemates.



This year's Trivia Night again will be emceed by public television host Mark McDonald (left) with questions developed by professional trivia master Al Gietl (center). Champion chilli maker Les Estep (right) will provide his favorite recipe for the main course.

for the question as if you answered it correctly. A strip of 10 Mulligans will cost \$10 per table. Remember, the tables with the highest scores win cash prizes.

Balloon Game: There's another way to also come home with a prize: A table can purchase a balloon for \$10 for the Balloon Round Game.

When you look at the score sheet, you will see that in each round, one of

Be sure to put away or cell phone and keep it on silent mode or turn it off. Also, there's no smoking in the building. Game rules and an explanation of how to play will be listed on a tent card on every table.

If you're curious how you're doing as compared to the other tables, the running score will be projected on a wall so you can see track how your table is doing against the competition.



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

Saturday, February 17: Racism and Reconciliation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Springfield Bicentennial Town Hall Series event. 4 p.m., Springfield and Central Illinois African American Museum, 1440 Monument Avenue. For information call 391-6323.

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. Doors open at 6 p.m., play begins at 7 p.m.

IF BAD WEATHER IS HEADING OUR WAY...

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 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

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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. 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