



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, SangamonLink.org

VOLUME 54 NO. 3

MARCH 2018

It's Time to Play Trivia!

There's still time to reserve a table or seat in advance of the Society's 6th Annual Trivia Night set for Saturday, March 10 in Springfield.

You can purchase a ticket or table by going on line to the Society's website, *sangamonhistory.org* or by mailing in the form on page 7. Reservations and payment must be received no later

than Friday, March 9 to hold a table or seat in your name.

You can also purchase a seat or a full table at the event, provided they are still available. Individual ticket purchasers will be seated at an SCHS table if available. Tables of 10 are priced at \$100, individual tickets are \$10 per person.

For the third year in a row, Trivia Night will be held Christ the King church's Parish Hall, (*below*) at 1930 Barberry Drive, about a block west of Chatham Road.

The lobby will open at 5 p.m. for on-site ticket purchases. The table and seating area will open at 6 p.m.

(Continue on page 6)



Society to Honor G. Cullom Davis at Annual Dinner

The Sangamon County Historical Society will present its first Lifetime Achievement Award to historian G. Cullom Davis at the organization's annual dinner on Tuesday, June 19.

Dr. Davis, who served as president of the Society from 1991 to 1992, will be recog-

nized for his role in creating an oral history program at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois) that since the 1970s has given researchers and others a chance to hear first-hand--albeit through recorded interviews--the recollection of people who ob-

served or participated in past events or decisions that shaped our area.

"Throughout the years, Dr. Davis has left his imprint on the history community," noted Society president Ruth Slottag in announcing the unanimous board decision to create the award and choose

Dr. Davis as its first recipient.

"In addition to the great contributions he has made to the use of oral history as a fundamental in history education and preservation, his actions have had direct consequences for the many history

(Continued on page 4)

INSIDE:

- From the President's Desk.....2
- Membership Drive Getting Underway.....3
- Programs Resume on April 17.....6
- Calendar of Events.....7



Movie Magic

Page 5



March Provides a Time for Fun...and Reflection

March brings the promise of Spring with green grass and blooming flowers. Green also is a sign of shamrocks and the St. Patrick's Day Parade that for many years has brought joy to the community.



Springfield's St. Patrick's Day Marching Band Parade is 33 years old this year and is now one of the largest in downstate Illinois. It was founded by a group led by Pat O'Grady in 1985. One of its past grand marshals included Dermot O'Callaghan, former mayor of Killarney, Ireland, a twin-city of Springfield.

The parade is always a fun event when everyone becomes an Irishman for a day, even if you don't have ancestors from Ireland. If you haven't experienced this sea of green in downtown Springfield, be sure to check it out on Saturday, March 17.

Trivia Night

The Society is hosting to our annual Trivia Night on March 10 at Christ the King Parish Hall and we hope our members will join us. This is our only fund raising event of the year. Proceeds raised will help us provide grants to other nonprofit history projects in the community as well as allow us to continue sponsoring monthly history programs, which are free to our members and the public. You can reserve and pay for a seat or table in advance by going to www.sangamonhistory.org. You can also register by mailing a check with the form on page 7 but it must reach us no later Thursday, March 9.

Bicentennial News

Bicentennial events continue in Springfield with events and activities to be scheduled throughout the year. The second Bicentennial Town Hall Series, "Literary Springfield Then and Now," will be held 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 at the Vachel Lindsay Home. Speakers will be Jackie Jackson and Shawna Mayer. The series is organized by the Springfield Bicentennial Working Group.



"This Land Was Our Land: Native Americans, Globalization and Treaties" will be presented 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18 at the Illinois State Museum as part of the Cultural and Heritage of Illinoisans. Dr. Michael Wiant will be the speaker. The series is sponsored by the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College and the Illinois State Museum.

Women's History

March is Women's History Month. We salute a couple of Springfield's unsung women leaders who are not commonly recognized.

March 1, 1894: Annie Rheem Hannon announced her candidacy for re-election as Sangamon County school superintendent. Hannon had become the first woman to hold county office in 1892, when she was appointed superintendent following the death of the previous superintendent, her father. She went on to win election on her own in November 1892, even though the electorate was still entirely male. In 1894, however, Hannon's fellow Democrats rejected her bid for re-nomination. It would be another 58 years before another woman was elected to a countywide office in Sangamon County.

<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=9529>

March 17, 1914 - Women turn out in massive numbers to register to vote for the first time in a Springfield city election (previously, women could vote only in school elections). Before the one-day registration event, 663 women were eligible to cast ballots; by the time registration sites closed on March 17, an estimated 11,000 women were on city voting rolls. The oldest, Catherine Bergen Jones, 97, would cast the first ballot of her life a month later.

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

You can read more about these women's stories on www.SangamonLink.org, edited by Mike Kienzler.



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

Annual Membership Drive Kicking Off for 2018-2019

The Sangamon County Historical Society will be kick off its annual membership drive this month, reaching out to several hundred current members in all categories.

The 2018-2019 membership year starts June 1 and runs through May, 31, 2019.

"With over 600 members, we have had significant growth this past year," noted board member Stephanie Martin who with fellow board member Pete Harbison, co-chair the Society's Membership Committee. They are coordinating an effort that includes individual letters and personal outreach.

"Our membership levels and fees remain the same from previous years, providing access and participation in meetings, special events, member-only events, and much more for the community of history fans throughout the area and beyond," she adds.

The Society has seven levels of membership, five of them--Regular (\$30 per year), Pioneer (\$100 per year), Settler (\$250), Trailblazer (\$500) and Life (a one-time fee of \$700) -- considered "family memberships" that apply to those 16 and over living in the same household.

Individual membership for students living away at school is \$20. Business/corporate members pay a \$200 annual fee.

All members receive the Society's

monthly newsletter, *Historico* and pay a lower member rate for ticketed events.

"We are also reaching out by letter to the nearly 100 Life members of the Society to thank them for their ongoing support, update them on Society programs and projects and provide information on potential donor opportunities," Martin said.

The committee also will be working to expand the membership base with a special invitation to join the Society that will be sent to those who have at-



Co-chairs Martin, Harbison

tended programs and events as guests over the past year or otherwise expressed interest in the organization's activities. It will also be stepping up efforts to build corporate and business membership.

"One of the best parts of having a membership drive is that it gives everyone an opportunity to show their support for the Society's efforts to promote and preserve local history. Many use this period to add a donation, upgrade to a higher level of membership or a give a gift of membership to a friend, neighbor, or student that shares an interest in history," she added.

The 2018-2019 membership application/renewal form can be found on page 8 of this issue of *Historico* and includes space to list adults and children 16 and over living at the same address.



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

Term Ending 2019

Jennie Battles
Elaine Hoff
Mary Mucciante
Mary Schaefer

Term Ending 2020

Peter Harbison
Susan Helm
Stephanie Martin
Eugene Walker

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

MARCH 2018 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT

The Society welcomes the following new members: *Kristin Jorgensen, Judy Wagenblast,*

...And expresses its appreciation for donations to the Society from *Sally Cadigan* in memory of Dan Buck.

Society to Honor Past President G.Cullom Davis, Educator Who Shaped Oral History Program Here

(Continued from page 1)

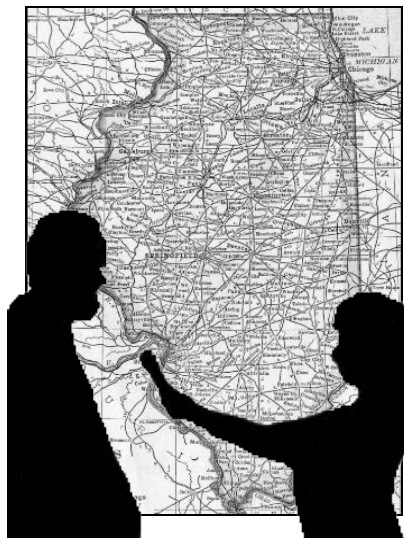
organizations of which he has been part, the Society among them. Not only has the oral history program he created helped researchers in their quest for information, but also has aided the Society as it explores and builds information for our programs and projects. We are proud that Dr. Davis was part of the original Sangamon County Historical Society committee that helped plan what is now our on-line and searchable encyclopedia of Sangamon County, www.SngamonLink.org. In addition, as president of this organization, Dr. Davis initiated the Special Projects grant program to fund small but significant local historic projects, a effort that continues to this day."

Born in Aurora, Dr. Davis was raised in Peoria before being sent to a private secondary boy's school in New Jersey during his teens, in preparation for--and down the road from--his father's and his uncle's *alma mater*, Princeton University where he honed his interest in history. Not that history was ever far from his family tree. Dr. Davis is a descendant of Governor and U.S. Senator Shelby Cullom.

After graduation from Princeton and a brief stint in the advertising department at Caterpillar in Peoria, Dr. Davis pursued a teaching career, first at a private school in Hawaii before returning to the mainland to take a graduate assistantship at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. His

post-graduate job hunt ended in the early 1960s at a history conference where an article he wrote on the Federal Trade Commission published by a leading history journal, caught the eye of recruiters from Indiana University, which hired him in 1964.

In January 1970, at age 34, Dr. Davis gave up his history teaching post at Indiana University,



university, where he had been an assistant professor, to serve on a blue-ribbon team being assembled to create a new state university for Central Illinois in Springfield.

Dr. Davis was invited to join the Sangamon State University planning team by

Dr. Robert C. Spencer, a nationally prominent political scientist and graduate dean of Rhode Island University who was recruited by Illinois to organize and open the new university within a year. Dr. Spencer was appointed president in September 1969.

Dr. Davis served as his assistant and as associate professor of history, earning a full professorship in 1974. It was during this period that Dr. Davis created and directed the new university's Oral History Office and helped design its Master's program in public history. He quickly developed a national reputation in the oral history community, serving as president of the Oral History Association from 1983 to 1984.

Over the next 30 years Dr. Davis held successive faculty appointments and a variety of administrative positions. He retired in 1995 as emeritus professor of history, just before Sangamon State University was merged into the Illinois State University system.

A past president of the Abraham Lincoln Association (1995-1996), from 1988 to 2000, Dr. Davis was Director and Senior Editor of the Lincoln Legal Papers that later became the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

The Sangamon County Historical Society's annual dinner will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield.

Deadline Approaching for Special Project Grants

The clock may be ticking, but it's not yet ready to sound the alarm on the April 20 deadline for those seeking a Special Projects grant from the Society,

The competitive grant program provides up to \$1,000 to individuals or organizations seeking funding for a project that helps preserve or promote the history of Sangamon County. The project must be completed within 12 months, explained

Special Project Grants chair Elaine Hoff.

Previous grants have underwritten a wide range of projects over the past several years, including providing the financial underpinnings for research and an exhibit on Sangamon County's early African America settlers for display at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum in Springfield; furnishing a replica of an early 1800s one

room log cabin school at the Pleasant Plains Historical Society's Clayville Historic Site. SCHS Special Project grants have also helped underwrite an exhibit of early American archeological artifacts from an early 19th century kitchen at Historic Edwards Place in Springfield; and historic site signage at Oak Ridge Cemetery, downtown Williamsville and Clayville.

Award winners will be

announced at the Society's annual dinner to be held on Tuesday, June 19 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield.

You can download from the Society's website at sangamohistory.org.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Special Projects Committee, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. They must be postmarked by April 20.



Adding History to

MOVIE MAGIC



GOING BEHIND THE SCENES: Society members and guests filled the house, demonstrating the box-office pull of veteran movie wrangler Dr. Karl Luthin (left) who on February 20, shared behind the scene stories of some of the best known Hollywood and made-for-television movies for which, in addition to horses, he is a major supplier of historically detailed uniforms, riders, stunt men, drivers and uniforms. Dr. Luthin, a professional wrangler, veterinarian, and head of Riverton-headquartered KEL Equine Productions, showed clips of several movies in which he was involved, pointing out individual scenes which provided historic challenges. He also demonstrated the versatility with which clothing, props and other gear can be switched to reflect historical periods. The meeting was held at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library.



Are You Ready to Play Trivia?

(continued from page 1)

Food and drinks will be available throughout the evening.

Champion chili master Les Eastep will be cooking up vats of the tasty dish that has won him national fame. A member of the Society and a former member of the board, Eastep is also author of one of the Society's most popular publications, *Springfield, Illinois: A Chili History*.

Public Television host Mark McDonald will return as emcee for Trivia Night along with judges Tony Leone, owner and innkeeper of Pasfield House and a Life Member of the Society; journalist Kathy Rem, former food editor of the *State Journal-Register*; and Jerry Hopgood, executive director of the Central Illinois Fil Commission. They, along with well-known trivia master Al Geitl, are also Society members.

As in the past, Trivia Night will be in place of the Society's monthly program meeting. See below.



Ahead: Lincoln's Judicial Circuit; Bunn Family's Impact

The Society's regular program schedule resumes on Tuesday April 17 at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, with a verbal and visual trip along Abraham Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit. Author and Lincoln expert Guy Fraker will be your guide.

Fraker, a retired attorney from Bloomington, Illinois, and a member of the Society, will be taking a nostalgic look back at Lincoln's route in telling the story behind his newest 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. The program begins at 5:30 p.m. in Carne-

gie Room North.

On May 15, Chicago-based lawyer and historian Andrew Call will provide the Society with details about the Bunn family that he's compiled in a new book providing a comprehensive look at the Bunn legacy and impact over a broad stretch of Illinois history.

The program will start at 5:30 p.m., also in Carnegie Room North.

Jacob Bunn, an Illinois industrial pioneer with ties to Springfield and Chicago, is Call's great-great-great grandfather.

The book focuses on a largely untold and rediscovered history that the Bunn family played in the civic and economic development of Chicago. Call will also

talk about the Bunn family in Sangamon and surrounding counties.

Interested in history since childhood, Call moved to Chicago in 2007. After finishing a law degree and a Master of Laws degree, he started extensive research into the history of the Midwestern states that his family came to from New York, New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and directly from Europe.

The different sides of his maternal family were among the founders of Chicago, and the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ohio, as well as the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania region during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Before migrating to the

newly-developing Midwest, his mother's families were founders and builders of New York City and New Amsterdam, New Jersey, and many New England states, cities, and towns during the 17th century.

Call's paternal family were among the founding families of Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Pittsburgh metropolitan towns and counties of Allegheny and Butler, during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Both his maternal and paternal families have contributed to the industrial and civic development of Chicago and Cook County. Both sides of the family were heavily involved at all levels with industry and civic organizations.



TRIVIA NIGHT TABLE, TICKET, ORDER FORM

**TABLE RESERVATIONS:**

Enclosed is my check. Sign me up for ____ reserved tables of 10 for the Saturday, March 10 SCHS Trivia

INDIVIDUAL TICKET RESERVATIONS:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

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

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. 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: _____

Calendar of History Events

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.

Tuesday, April 17: A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial District. Historian and attorney Guy Fraker provides an up-to-date guidebook for the venturesome looking to follow the actual route that Lincoln took when he was a Circuit lawyer. His newest book, *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit*, provides modern maps, directions and photos as a guide so you can make the trip yourself. The presentation, free and open to the public, will be held at 5:30 p.m., in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library of Springfield, 326 South Seventh Street.

Tuesday, May 15. The Bunn Family Legacy. Chicago lawyer and historian Andrew Taylor Call provides a comprehensive look at the Bunn family's legacy and impact over a broad stretch of Illinois history. 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield's Lincoln Library of Springfield, 326 South Seventh Street.

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

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. 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 _____

2018-2019 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
- Pioneer Level - \$100
- Trailblazer Level - \$500
- College/University Student (individual) -\$20.
- Settlers Level - \$250
- Lifetime Membership - \$700 (one time fee)

I am adding a donation of \$ _____.

Business /Corporate Membership - \$200