



# HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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VOLUME 54 NO. 4

APRIL 2018

## Using Lincoln's Roadmap Circuit Court Route Gets a Modern Twist

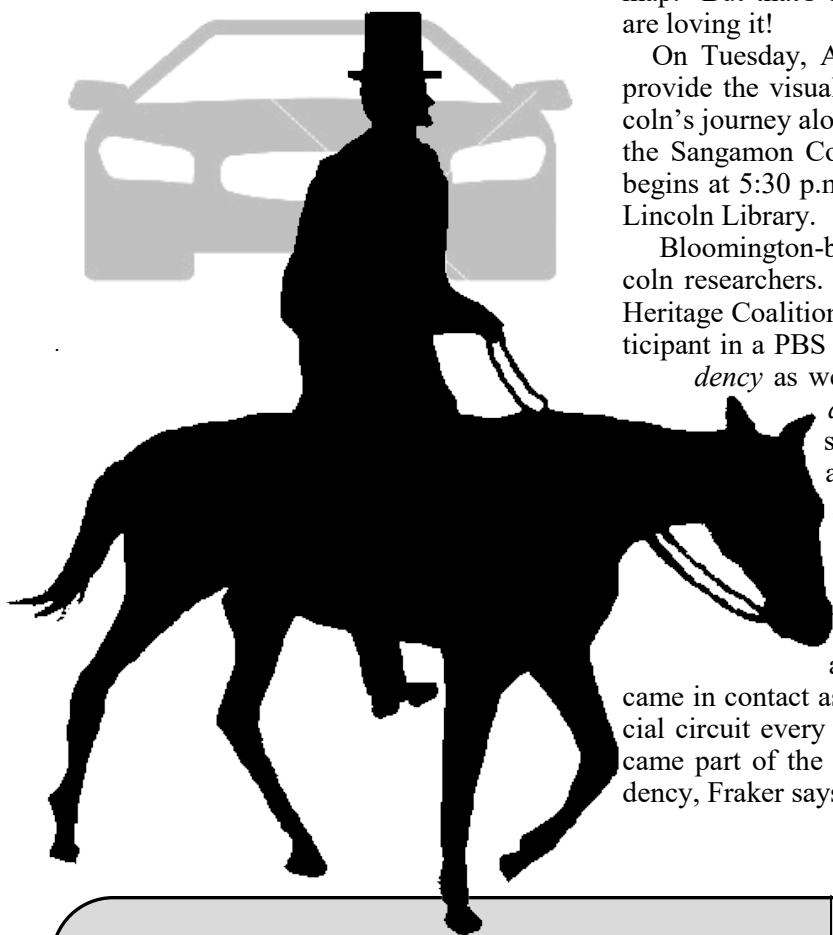
It's not every day that a history book becomes a modern-day road map. But that's exactly what has happened...and Lincoln history buffs are loving it!

On Tuesday, April 17, author and retired attorney Guy Fraker will provide the visual proof when he details his new driving guide to Lincoln's journey along the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The presentation, part of the Sangamon County Historical Society's monthly program schedule, begins at 5:30 p.m. in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library.

Bloomington-based Fraker is no stranger to the community of Lincoln researchers. The Lincoln scholar chaired the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition from 2013 to 2017 and has been a consultant and participant in a PBS documentary, *Abraham Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency* as well as co-curator of a permanent *Prelude to the Presidency* exhibit at the David Davis Mansion historical site in Bloomington. Fraker's first book about Lincoln as a lawyer traveling on the Eighth Judicial Circuit, *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: The Eighth Judicial Circuit*, was published in 2012. It is now in its third printing.

His first book dealt with the personal side of Lincoln and his relationships with colleagues, clients, and the communities in Central Illinois with which he came in contact as he journeyed on horseback around the 400 mile judicial circuit every spring and fall. The people he met along the way became part of the network that ultimately elevated Lincoln to the presidency, Fraker says.

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**TRIVIA NIGHT** Pages 4-5



## Society's Trivia Night A Great Success Thanks to All!

Thank you to all who joined us at the Society Trivia Night on March 10. We had a great time while raising funds to help us continue providing programs and special projects for our members and the community.

We especially want to thank all of our round and table sponsors, judges, trivia masters Al and Karen Gietl, emcee Mark McDonald, chili maker Les Eastep and all of our wonderful volunteers.

### Bicentennial News

A commemorative Illinois Bicentennial postage stamp was issued on March 5 with a ceremony at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. The forever stamp is available for purchase nationwide to celebrate our state's bicentennial.



*"The Comeback of Conservation in Illinois"* will be presented Wednesday, April 4 at 7 p.m. at the Illinois State Museum. Jared Duquette, Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be the speaker. It is part of the Town Hall series presented by the Springfield Bicentennial Working Group.

*"Becoming a State: The Illinois Way"* will be presented Sunday, April 15 at the Illinois State Museum. Tara McClellan McAndrew will be the speaker. It is part of The Culture and Heritage of Illinoisans series sponsored by the Academy of Life Long Learning and the Illinois State Museum.

### Society Membership Drive

Our Society's membership drive is now underway, running through May 31. So be sure to renew your membership so you do not miss a single issue of *Historico*. You will want to stay informed about our monthly programs and special activities. See more information and membership renewal form on page 8.

### Historical Facts

**April 10, 1821** -- Springfield is founded. Paul Angle described the event in *Here I Have Lived': A History of Lincoln's Springfield, 1821-1865*.

Recording the transaction, they stated that after a full examination of the county's population they had "fixed and designated a certain point in the prairie near John Kelly's field on the water of Spring Creek at a stake marked Z D as the temporary seat of Justice." John Kelly's cabin stood on what is now the northwest corner of Second and Jefferson streets, and the stake was driven close by.

The name, Springfield, was doubtless suggested by the adjacent creek, although it is not unlikely that Peter's long residence in Washington County, Kentucky, which also has a Springfield for a county seat, had something to do with its selection."

<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=128>

**April 2, 1832** -- Springfield incorporated as a village.  
<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=128>

**April 6, 1840** – Springfield became a City. (*From the Sangamo Journal, April 10, 1840*): *At the Election on Monday last, the citizens of Springfield accepted the City Charter by a vote of 226 to 121. Springfield, therefor, is no longer a town.* As the community grew, city officials – including Abraham Lincoln, who became a town board member in 1839 — asked the legislature to authorize Springfield to become a city instead. Among other changes, institution of city government would allow the community to be divided for election purposes into wards, rather than having a town president and four board members elected at large. Many of the powers outlined in the proposed city charter were remarkably similar to those employed today by city government. The new city council was authorized to build and repair streets, provide water to residents, extinguish fires, regulate merchants, protect public health. ... among other responsibilities.

<http://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=7083>

You can read more about these stories and others edited by Mike Kienzler at [www.SangamonLink.org](http://www.SangamonLink.org).



*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

## Members Will Elect Board, Officers At Society's Annual Dinner June 19

When the Sangamon County Historical Society holds its annual dinner on Tuesday, June 19, members will be doing more than joining in celebrating the accomplishments of the guest of honor, historian G. Cullom Davis, and catching up on the organization's projects and finances.

They'll be electing new officers and board members too.

If you're interested in being a part of the administrative arm of the Society, now's the time to weigh in.

"We will be filling both board seats and electing the executive board," notes Nominating Committee chair Mary Alice Davis.

"And while several members have already stepped forward to express interest in board seats, there is always room for more candidates," she says. The proposed slate will be announced in the June issue of *Historico*, but nominations can also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

The Society is governed by a 15-member board and six officers with support of nearly a dozen specialized committees ranging from finance to hospitality.

"Most of our board members and officers have come up through the ranks, serving on committees that reach out to a broad area. Even if you

do not have the time to serve on the board or as an officer, now is also a great time to volunteer to serve on one of its committees," Davis said.

Five board members are elected each year and serve three-year terms. Officers are elected annually.

To volunteer or contact the Nominating Committee, send an e-mail to [schsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:schsoffice@gmail.com), use snail mail to our postal box (address below, right), or leave a message on the SCHS phone, 525-1961. Your call will be returned.

This year's annual dinner will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield, starting at 5:30

*"Even if you do not have the time to serve on the board or as an officer, now is also a great time to volunteer to serve on one of its committees."*

-Nominating chair Mary Alice Davis

p.m. Member and non-member ticket information and a registration form will be published in the May issue of *Historico*. You will also be able to purchase tickets on-line at [sangamon-history.org](http://sangamon-history.org) starting in May.



### 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](http://SangamonLink.org) Editor

### APRIL 2018 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT

*The Society expresses its appreciation for donations to the Society from David and Laurie Farrell*

*...And to all those Trivia Night players who so generously turned their winnings back to the Society in support of our Special Projects fund or made an individual donation.*

Please make note of our official mailing address:

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

# Trivia Night Sets Record

## *Special Projects Fund To Benefit*

The Sangamon County Historical Society's Annual Trivia Night on March 10 turned out the big winner, pulling the largest number of players and round sponsors in its six year history.

"We're really delighted with the results," said SCHS president Ruth Slottag, "because the proceeds flow back to the community through our Special Projects grants."

Trivia Night income is earmarked for the competitive awards program that provide up to \$3,000 annually to individual and organization projects that promote Sangamon County history.

"The turnout was great," added Special Events co-chair Mary Alice Davis who coordinated Society volunteers in the set-up and operation of this year's Trivia Night held in the Parish Hall at Christ the King Church in Springfield. "It was great to see so many returnees from last year."

The Society, which offered a gift incentive to early table and ticket purchasers, opened its doors to a nearly full pre-paid house and some 20 corporations and individuals who bought \$100 round sponsorships.

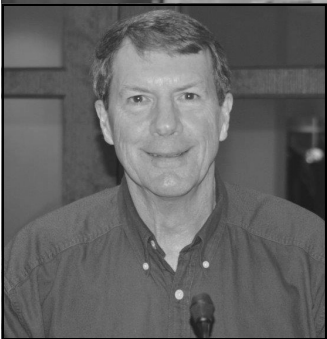
And champion chilli maker Les Estep, who spent the evening in the kitchen, turned out hundreds of servings of chilli for a hungry group of players, some of whom also purchased copies of his *Springfield: A History of Chilli* book published by the Society, which was on sale at the event.

As in past years, television host Mark McDonald served as emcee for the evening, as did trivia question master Al Gietl. "Hospitality chair Marion Leach and her volunteer kitchen crew did a great job," Davis noted, "and her cookies and those made by Sue Massie were a hit."



**BALLOON GAMERS:** Board members Larry Stone and Elaine Hoff organize balloons for the balloon game.

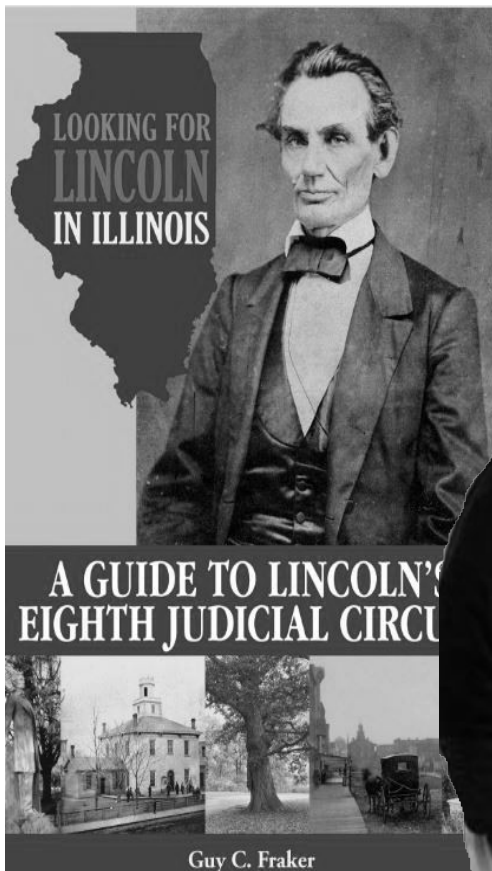
You Have 3 Minutes to  
Get Your Answers to  
the Judges!



**FOOD AND FUN:** Trivia gamers await for the next round as their reps bring answer sheets to the judges (top) as other stop to purchase wine, beer or soda (above). Television personality Mark McDonald (left) served as emcee and kept the game moving as national champion chilli maker Les Estep (right) conjured up his favorite chilli recipe for hungry Trivia players. Estep is a former SCHS board member and author of a book on the history of chilli in Springfield published by the Society.



*Larry Stone photos*



Guy Fraker

## New Guidebook Lets You Travel Lincoln's Circuit Court Route

(Continued from page 1)

His new follow-up volume, *A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit*, lets you share that experience by car and on foot in a city-by-city tour book that directs you to some of the actual roads that Lincoln traveled.

In his April 17 presentation, Fraker will provide a PowerPoint-aided peek into the 130-page guidebook, one filled with photos, maps, and walking tour directions divided into individual counties and communities.

The book includes a general outline map showing the entire route around the circuit along with written driving directions to help you navigate every turn throughout the trip. The tour route runs from Springfield to Metamora on the north to Danville on the east, and Shelbyville on the south.

For his guide book, Fraker chose the time frame from between 1847 and 1853, during which the Circuit consisted of 14 counties, a period in which he says in his book, "represented the high-water mark for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, an area covering about 10,000 square miles. In Lincoln's time the trip took ten to 12 weeks by horse, until the rail service arrived in 1853.

### April 20 Deadline For Special Projects

Organizations and individuals have only a few weeks left to apply for a Sangamon County Historical Society Special Projects Grant. Entries must be postmarked by April 20.

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.

Applications can be downloaded from the Society's website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org). Completed forms should be mailed to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Special Projects Committee, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.

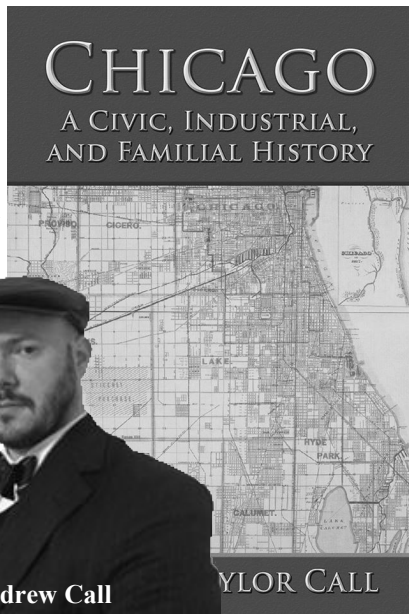
Award winners will be announced at the Society's annual dinner to be held on Tuesday, June 19 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield.

## Chicago History, Local Ties Coming Up in May

A new book, *Chicago, A Civic, Industrial and Familial History*, by attorney and author Andrew Call, will be the focus of the Society's May 15 program.

Call, whose family helped with the founding of the state of Illinois, Chicago, Cook County and multiple parts of the Chicago metropolitan region, has deep roots in Springfield, Sangamon County, Morgan and Cass counties. He is the great-great-great grandson of Jacob Bunn.

The program, in Carnegie Room North at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, will begin at 5:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Details will appear in the May edition of *Historico*.



Andrew Call

ANDREW CALL

# Calendar of History Events

## PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

◆ **Wednesday, April 4: *The Comeback of Conservation in Illinois***, 7 p.m. Jared Duquette, Wildlife and Hunter Heritage Program Manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, serves as speaker for the April installment of the Springfield Bicentennial Town Hall Series. Thorne Deuel Auditorium, Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring Street, Springfield. Free and open to the public. For information call 782-0979.

◆ **Sunday, April 15 *Becoming A State The Illinois Way***. 2 p.m. Historian and writer, Tara McClellan McAndrew discusses the wayward way Illinois became a state and how the first lawmakers in Kaskaskia started from scratch in creating state government in this special Illinois State Museum Bicentennial Speakers Series on "The Culture and Heritage of Illinoisans." Thorne Deuel Auditorium, Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring Street, Springfield. Free and open to the public. For information call 782-0979.

◆ **Tuesday, April 17: *A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial District***. 5:30 p.m. The Sangamon County Historical Society plays host to historian and attorney Guy Fraker who will provide an up-to-date guidebook for the venturesome looking to follow the actual route that Lincoln took when he was a Circuit lawyer. Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street. Free and open to the public.

◆ **Tuesday, May 8: *The Birth, Death and Rebirth of Downtown: Marrying Development, Preservation and Workforce***. 5:30 p.m. Curtis Mann and Stephanie Martin of the Sangamon Valley Collection at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, team for this presentation, the fourth in a series of Springfield's Illinois State Bicentennial Town Hall Series that runs through next November. City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, 326 South Seventh Street. Free and open to the public.

◆ **Tuesday, May 15. *Chicago, A Civic, Industrial and Familial History***. 5:30 p.m. Chicago lawyer and historian Andrew Taylor Call discusses his new book, *Chicago, A Civic, Industrial and Familial History*. Great, great, great grandson of industrial pioneer Jacob Bunn, Call will detail the connections between Chicago, Springfield and nearby areas he discovered in the course of researching his book. Carnegie Room North, City of Springfield's Lincoln Library of Springfield, 326 South Seventh Street.

◆ **Sunday, May 20: *Binding Our State Together: Canals, Railroads, Postal Services and Roads***. 2

p.m. A presentation by former Augustana College geology professor Dr. Norman Moline continues the Illinois State Museum Bicentennial Illinois. Speakers Series on "*The Culture and Heritage of Illinoisans*." Thorne Deuel Auditorium, Illinois State Museum, 502 S. Spring Street, Springfield. Free and open to the public. For information call 782-0979.

## MEETINGS

◆ **Saturday, April 14 : *Chatham Area Public Library Friends of Genealogy Meeting***, 2 p.m. Discussion of family research problems, successes, tips and tricks, travel to important genealogy. Library Conference Room, Chatham Area Public Library, 600 E Spruce Street, Chatham. Free and open to the public. For information call 217-483-2713.

## EXHIBITS & SPECIAL EVENTS

◆ **Wednesday, April 4: *Iles House Season Opening and Birthday Party***. Noon. Springfield's oldest house returns from its winter hiatus with a birthday celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Iles House Foundation. Cake, ice cream and drinks will be served not only in honor of the Foundation but also the Illinois Bicentennial, Springfield's 177th birthday and the 196th anniversary of the year Elijah Iles opened a general store in Springfield. Iles House is located at 628 S. 7th Street, Springfield. For information call 492-5929.

◆ **Saturday, April 14: *Second Chance Christmas***, 3 p.m. It doesn't need to be December to enjoy a festive global journey through food at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. Sample the world's cuisines and vote for your favorite dishes, table decorations and costumes worn by the chefs. The event is for all ages, family and friends. The Museum is located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield. No charge but donations are welcome. For information call 391-6323.

◆ **Sunday, May 6: *Grand Opening, Early African American Pioneers of Central Illinois***. 4 p.m. This new exhibit, in the gallery of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, explores and illuminates African American families who moved to Central Illinois in the 1800's and who still have descendants in Springfield. The exhibit is the result of research and interviews done by Elizabeth Alexander and Patricia Davis sponsored and funded by a grant from the Sangamon County Historical Society. The Museum is located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield. No charge but donations are welcome. For information call 391-6323.

**Sangamon County Historical Society**

P.O. Box 9744,  
Springfield, IL 62791-9744  
Return Service Requested

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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