



# 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 57 NO. 9

June 2021

### A Special Message: Keeping You, But Not History, at a Distance

Until the crisis is passed and we can resume a normal meeting schedule, the Society will continue to post video programs online and feature them in *Historico*. *Historico* is also posted online at sangamonhistory.org if you wish to view it digitally.

### 2021 Special Project Grants Recipients

Since 2013, the Society has given out funds to individuals and organizations preserving and promoting Sangamon County history through the Special Projects Grant Program. We receive applications in the spring and usually announce the recipients at the Annual Meeting in June. In 2020 and 2021 the Annual Meeting was not held in June. The Society is excited to announce the grants now, and plans to host the recipients at the gathering September 14th at Clayville Historic Site. Thank you to everyone who contributed to fund these grants and to the groups who applied.

**Gravestone for Olive Price at Oak Ridge Cemetery** - submitted by Mary Frances. Olive was the sister of Eva Carroll Monroe who was the matron at the Lincoln Col-

ored Home. Olive helped Eva raise money for the home and later lived there.

**The Mysterious Bard of Sangamo** - submitted by the Illinois State Historical Society. This project is a two-act play showcasing the works of the poet John Hancock. The grant will help defray expenses for production and staging costs.



**The Colored Section – Early African Americans Buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery** - submitted by the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. This grant will fund a permanent

exhibit highlighting the history and people buried in the “Colored Section”. It will include an interactive map with information about persons buried in this section.

**Tree Identification Plaques** - submitted by the Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation. This grant will allow the Foundation’s Tree Committee to identify and provide permanent markers for select trees with historic significance. They host the annual Oak Ridge Tree Tour.



### INSIDE:

From the President’s Desk .....	2
Annual Report.....	2
Board Candidates.....	3
Bicentennial Logo.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	5
Year’s Video Programs.....	5
Ballot.....	7



As we close the year, I want to thank everyone for their support as we pivoted to video programs, replaced grants trivia fundraiser with a letter campaign, postponed the Oak Ridge Cemetery walk, and did not meet in person. Thank you for supporting the grants program and for renewing your membership. For 2021-2022 we plan to resume in-person programming. Thank you to the Sangamon Experience to having me on Facebook and YouTube Live to talk about the Society and Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library. The Society's May video program "Springfield Project and Lindsay Memorial Bridge" will be shown on the City of Springfield's Channel 18. I look forward to working with the Sangamon County Board to celebrate the county's bicentennial the rest of the year.

*Stephanie J. Martin*

## Annual Report 2020-2021

2021 is the 60th anniversary of the SCHS

Programs and *Historico* articles focused on the Sangamon County Bicentennial

14 new memberships

Programs

Due to the pandemic, the Society moved to online video programs instead of in-person. The Society created a YouTube channel to host the videos.

November 2020 Mark Flotow presented "I think that we will Soon Be in Springfield" Illinois Civil War Soldiers' Quotations about Sangamon County from their Personal Letters"

January 2021 Curtis Mann presented "In the Beginning: A Look at Sangamon County 200 years Ago"

February 2021 Kathryn Harris and Sue Massie presented "Shine a Light Project: Historic Preservation and Interpretation on Springfield's East Side"

March 2021 Curtis Mann and Robert Mazrim presented "Lake Springfield Book Talk"

April 2021 John Hallwas and Tracey Pierceall presented "Virginia Eifert: Springfield Native, Prolific Naturalist" (Part of the LLCC Academy of Lifelong Learning's Sangamon County Big Read)

May 2021 Lance Warren presented "Springfield Project & Vachel Lindsay Memorial Bridge"

Did not hold the Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk

Did not have the annual trivia night. Raised funds for special projects grants via a letter campaign to members.

If you would like to see the Annual Treasurer's Report please email [schsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:schsoffice@gmail.com)



**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.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org) or [sancohis.org](http://sancohis.org). Send event announcements to [SCHSoffice@gmail.com](mailto:SCHSoffice@gmail.com).

Stephanie Martin, *Historico* Editor

## 2021-2022 Board Candidates

Members of the Society are to vote on four officers and four board candidates who are seeking three-year terms ending in 2024. The slate was advanced by the nominating committee and approved by the board on April 14. Because we are unable to hold an Annual meeting in June, all members who have paid their dues as of May 31, 2021 are eligible to vote. Please use the ballot on Page 7 and indicate your selection, then mail it to the address on the ballot or E-mail your vote to [schs@gmail.com](mailto:schs@gmail.com) and give your name.

### Officers

For President, Stephanie Martin

Martin, a librarian in the Sangamon Valley Collection at the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, earned her bachelor's degree in American Studies from Knox College in Galesburg, a master's in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University and a master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a past president of the Springfield Jaycees.



For Vice President, Susan Helm

Helm is retired from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine where she served as Director of Marketing for Surgery. She joined the Society in 2016 and has served on the Publicity and Marketing and Cemetery Walk committees. She is a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteer, specializing in establishing pollinator habitats. She has served on many community boards but currently sits on this one and the Denim & Diamonds board. She recently received the Springfield Business Journal's Women of Influence Award 2021.



For Secretary, Elaine Hoff

Born, raised and receiving her education in Michigan, Elaine Hoff taught special education in Michigan and northern Illinois before moving to Springfield in 1967. For most of her professional life she worked in the field of disability rights, most recently as policy advisor for the Illinois Attorney General, retiring in 2003. Hoff has been affiliated with a number of disability rights organizations, founding a local group addressing needs of "kids at risk" and an organization that advocated for gifted children's programs. She was first elected to the board for a three-year term in 2011 and has chaired the Society's Special Projects Committee 2014-2020.



For Treasurer, Jerry Smith

Smith, who is a Springfield native, is seeking his sixth term as Treasurer. He earned an associate's degree from Springfield College in Illinois and pursued studies in business administration at Southern Illinois University. For most of 35 years, he traveled the United States opening and managing various hotels in Florida, Colorado, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, Montana, Maryland, Alabama, and finally back to Springfield to retire. After returning "home" in 2006, he managed the conversion of the Springfield Renaissance Hotel to the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel for three years. He volunteers at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Pleasant Plains Historical Society's historic site, Clayville.



## 2021-2022 Board Candidates

### Board Members term ending 2024

#### Mary Alice Davis

Davis has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Denison University, Granville, Ohio, taught for 4 years, co-owned a children's clothing store for 10 years, and co-owned a chain of fast food stores for 35 years. She is past president of the Society (2014-2016), its Secretary (2012-2013), and co-chaired the Program Committee (2012-2019). Davis has chaired the Society's annual Cemetery Walk since 2015 to the present. She is a Westminster Presbyterian elder, past chairman and trustee of the Illinois State Museum Society Board, past vice-president of the Old State Capitol Foundation and served as a docent and past vice-president of the Land of Lincoln, Girl Scout Council.



#### Kathy Hoffmann

A retired mathematics teacher, Hoffmann spent the majority of her career at Springfield High School, retiring in 2001 as department chair. She holds degrees in mathematics from Nebraska Wesleyan University and Sangamon State University. She served on the Board (2011- 2014) and was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2017. She has served on several community boards including Lincoln Memorial Garden, The Hoogland Center for the Arts, and Goodwill Industries. Hoffmann is also a past chair of the Docent Program at the First Presbyterian Church. She is a World Affairs Council of Central Illinois board member and serves as secretary.



#### Cinda Klickna

Cinda Klickna taught English in District 186 for 25 years and served in various leadership roles with the Illinois Education Association/NEA for 18 years. She has been a freelance writer since she wrote her first article for Illinois Times in the 1980s. She is on the board of the Dana Thomas House Foundation and the Illinois State Museum Society.



#### Doug Polite

A semi-retired real estate broker who owns and operates the historic Flagg Farmstead Bed and Breakfast in Sherman, Polite graduated from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois in 1964 with a degree in business administration and economics and received a masters degree from the University of Tennessee in 1969 in transportation economics and statistics. He served on the historic committee for the 150th anniversary of the Village of Sherman. Polite is co-chair of the Society's Finance Committee.



## Bicentennial Logo

Sangamon County has revealed an official bicentennial logo! You will see it on bicentennial related programs. The bicentennial flag is flying at the county building!



## Upcoming Events

- July 1 Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum Re-Opening. 629 S. 7th, Springfield.
- July 14 *More Than Courage: Sangamon County Veterans Remember.* Sangamon Experience. Facebook Live. Noon.
- July 24 *Finding Female Ancestors* Chatham Area Public Library. 2pm. Virtual. Registration required.
- July 29 *They are Selling My Things!* Dana-Thomas House Foundation. 7pm. Virtual. Registration Required.
- June-August *History Comes Alive!* Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. Saturdays 1:30pm.
- August 3 *Family Heirloom Recipes from the Illinois State Fair.* Lincoln Library. Virtual. 7pm.
- August 7 *Walking in the Footsteps of Susan Dana ... From Suffrage to Equal Rights.* Dana-Thomas House Foundation. 9am-noon

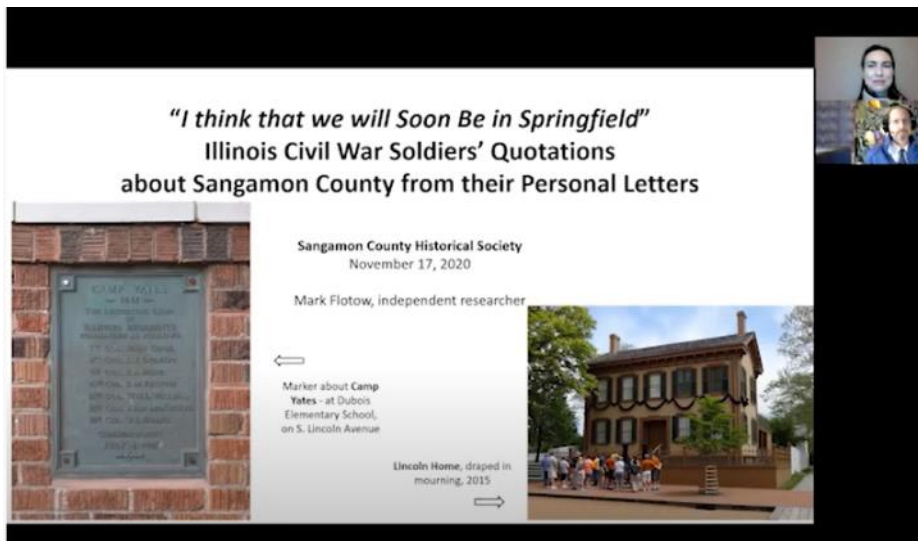
## New Members

Eva Blaum

Mike Rowden

## 2020-2021 Programs

Here is a look at some of our video programs this year. They are all available for viewing on our YouTube channel.



## OFFICERS

- President.....Stephanie Martin
- Vice-President.....Susan Helm
- Secretary.....Elaine Hoff
- Treasurer.....Jerry Smith
- Past-President.....Vicky Whitaker

## DIRECTORS

### Term Ending 2021

- Mary Alice Davis
- Kathy Hoffmann
- Sue Massie
- Doug Polite
- Cinda Klickna

### Term Ending 2022

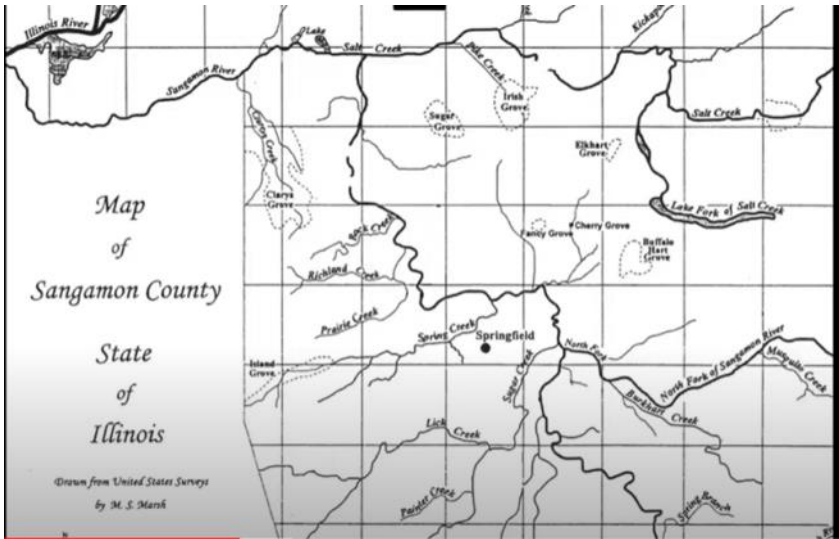
- Larry Stone
- Kathy Dehen
- Mary Schafer
- Angela Weiss
- Jennie Battles

### Term Ending 2023

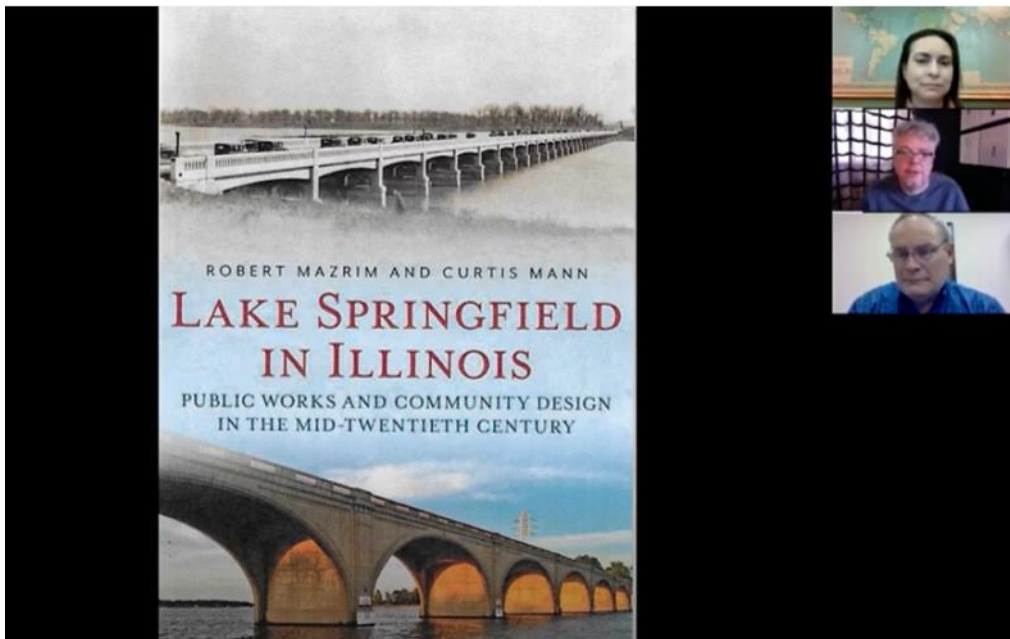
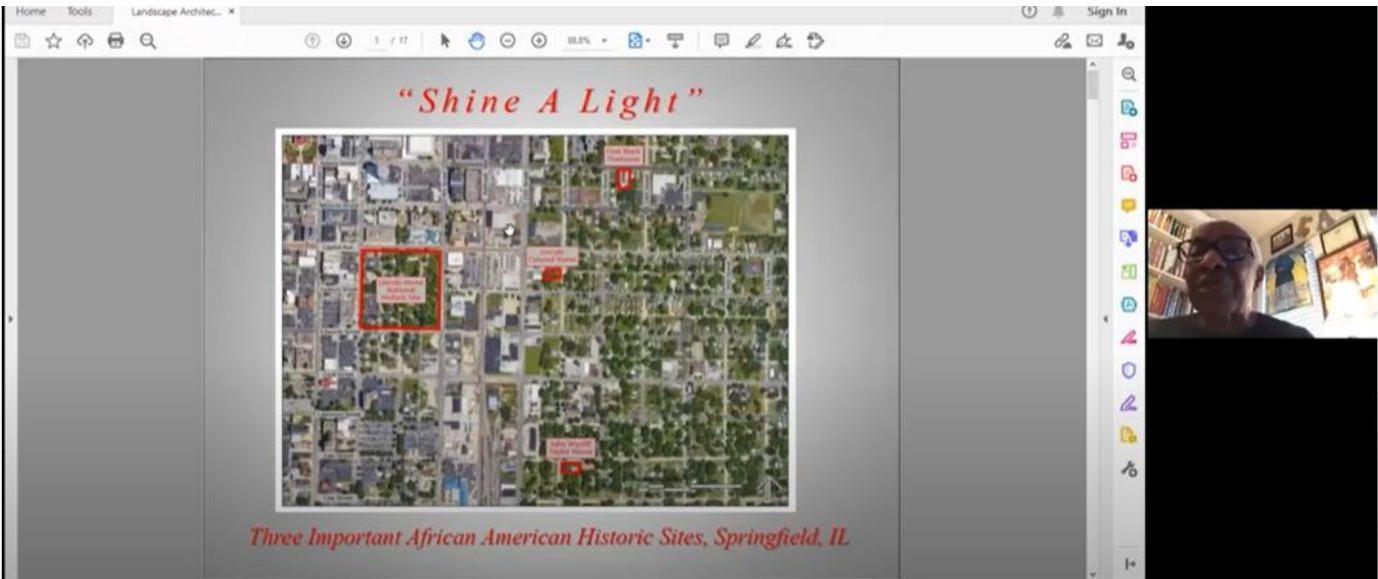
- Sarah Adams
- Vincent Chappelle
- Pete Harbison
- Mary Mucciante
- Ruth Slottag

Please make note of our official mailing address:

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



In the Beginning:  
A Look at Sangamon County  
200 years ago  
with Curtis Mann



# Official Ballot

## Sangamon County Historical Society 2021-2022 Officers and Board Members

Slate of Candidates recommended by the  
Sangamon County Historical Society Board of Directors  
(See Pages 4 and 5 for candidate biographies)

### Officers

President - Stephanie Martin  
Vice President - Susan Helm  
Secretary - Elaine Hoff  
Treasurer - Jerry Smith

### Board Members 3 Year Term

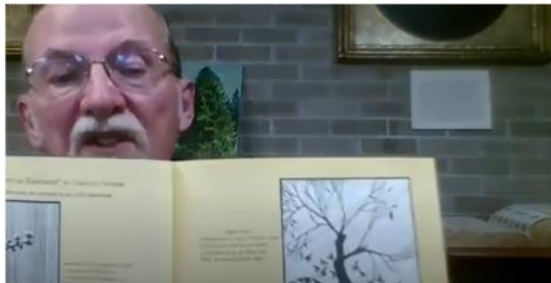
Mary Alice Davis  
Kathy Hoffmann  
Cinda Klickna  
Doug Polite

Yes, I approve

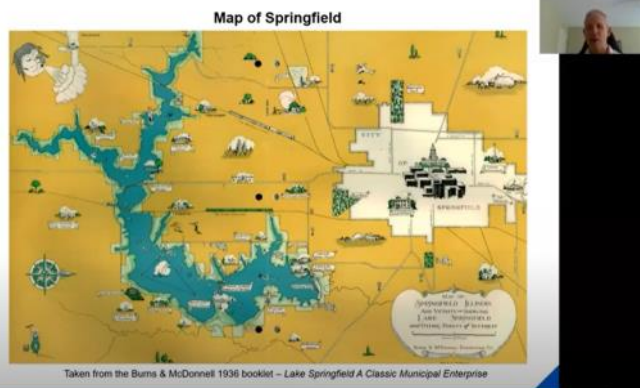
No, I disapprove

Write In vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote and mail this ballot to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744 or E-mail your vote to [schs@gmail.org](mailto:schs@gmail.org) and give your name.



*Virginia Eifert: Springfield Native, Prolific Naturalist*  
John Hallwas, Western Illinois University and Trace Pierceall, Illinois State Museum



Lance Warren presented *Springfield Project & Vachel Lindsay Memorial Bridge*

**Sangamon County Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 9744  
Springfield, IL 62791-9744  
*Return Service Requested*

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 777  
Springfield, Illinois

**2021-2022 SCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
*(Please Print)*

**SELECT THE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**

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

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Significant Other Name (where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Maiden Name (where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Full Names of others included in your membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*This is a GIFT for: (Name of Recipient, Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip))* \_\_\_\_\_

*I am adding a donation of \$* \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744