



Historico

The newsletter of the Sangamon County Historical Society
 308 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701
 www.sancohis.org 217.522.2500

November, 2007

Wednesday, November 14, 5:00 PM

Board Meeting

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room South

Officers

President

Carolyn Moore

Vice President

Gary Vitale

Past President

Taylor Pensoneau

Secretary

Sally Cadagin

Treasurer

Nancy Chapin

Directors

Directors to 2008

Carol Andrews

David Brady

Phyllis Brissenden

Robert Davis

Carolyn Oxtoby

Directors to 2009

Jack Billington

Dan Buck

Al Eck, Jr.

Susan Hammond

Steve Leonard

Directors to 2010

Elaine Birtch

Kim Efird

Carol Schwend Smith

Allen E. Smith

Martha Wolters

Honorary Director

William Hughes Diller, Jr.

Committee Chairmen

Cemetery Walk

Dave Barringer

Constitution & By-laws

Curtis Mann

Finance

Allen Smith

Membership

Dan Buck

Program

Steve Leonard

Nominating

Susan Hammond

Project Awards

Elaine Birtch

Bookseller

Kim Efird

Historico Editor

Nancy Chapin

Webmaster

Karen Everingham

Tuesday, November 20, 7:00 PM

Program

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room North

A. Lincoln with Compass and Chain

Presented by Robert Church

The presentation will provide an opportunity to learn about an unknown segment of the life of Abraham Lincoln. With all the books, and documentaries produced on Lincoln, his work as a surveyor has been virtually ignored.

Few people realize that before becoming a surveyor, Lincoln was defeated in his bid for the Illinois Legislature. Within two years after he began surveying, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. This was his first step on the road to the White House.

Although Mr. Lincoln served as Deputy Surveyor for only a few years, surveying greatly influenced him as a lawyer. In 1859 he was asked to give an opinion on how land surveyors were to find the center of a Section, which had been set by the Original Government Surveyors in the 1820s. Lincoln's legal opinion, given on January 6, 1859, still stands today.

Bob is the Executive Director and Lobbyist of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association (IPLSA). He began his career in the surveying and engineering profession in 1964 with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. He served as Deputy Mayor of Springfield under Langfelter from 1986 to 1995.

Currently, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, a member of the Board of Directors of the NSPS Foundation and treasurer of the National Museum of Surveying.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>A. Lincoln with Compass and Chain</i>	1
<i>Around Town; Report on the October program; New members; Donations</i>	2
<i>Sunnyside Literary Circle Turns 120!!</i>	3
Cemetery Walk pictures	4
<i>Cemetery Walk report; Old Settlers Day; Privy Moving Day</i>	5
<i>Lindbergh Landing Site Marker Installed</i>	6

Around Town in November

November 4, 10:00 AM—Noon

Museum of Funeral Customs

Display and presentation of the military's POW/MIA ceremony to recognize missing comrades by Les Morgan, retired Air Force.

Regular admission.

November 4, 6:00 PM Old State Capitol
144th Army Band Concert

November 10, 11:30 –4:30 PM

Vachel Lindsay's 128th Birthday Party
Performances and refreshments in heated tent

November 11, Noon Iles House
Vachel Lindsay Assn. Annual Meeting
and luncheon

Food, poetry and music

December 7&8, 6:30—8:00 PM Iles House

Candlelight tours, cookies and punch

December 8, Noon to 4:30 PM

Christmas at the Lindsay Home

Help Wanted!

The Iles House needs more docents for tours and special events. If you would be willing to help, please contact Linda Denk, 415-4727

Donation gratefully received

David & Laurie Farrell

it was torn down, and demonstrating how certain original portions of the building were used in the reconstruction.

David Ramsey appeared in appropriate garb to tell the story of James McCoy, the first settler of Rochester, who was an Indian fighter and one of the principals in the battle to remove Chief Tecumseh from his chosen path to rid white settlers from the Ohio Territory.

Carolyn Moore then portrayed Lucetta Putnam Stevens West, for whom the Stone House was built by her first husband, Samuel Stevens between 1832 and 1835. Both were former residents of New Hampshire. Following Stevens' death just a few years after their marriage, she married his partner, Benjamin West, and they resided in the Stone House and raised a family. Following Lucetta's death, Benjamin married her widowed sister, Zilpah.

Kathleen Winhold, President of RHPS, was presented a membership in the Sangamon County Historical Society in appreciation for her work with the Rochester group, and her assistance with the evening's program.

by Dorthy Ross

We welcome new members

Sherri Boner Family
Dr. Joseph & Sylvia Brewer
David & Laurie Farrell

Report on the October program

Members of the Rochester Historical Preservation Society presented a colorful history of their Old Stone House, which they had removed, stone by stone, from its original location on East Buckhart Road, Rochester, to the new Historical Park on West Main, where it was restored - stone by stone. The house is now furnished, and open for tours by appointment.

David Grubb, principal carpenter in the rebuilding of the Stone House, (along with Springfield mason, Waymond Stubbs) then presented a PowerPoint showing of "The Bones of a Building," with color photos of the inside and outside of the building before

Pat Henry Historico editor:

Sept. 1979—Jan, 1995

Issues of that period prove that Pat was the best editor, ever! Received a nice note from Pat Henry's son, Don, with a request for the "In Lincoln's Shadow" book. Pat is living near him in Burlington, Iowa and would love to hear from old friends. Call 522-2500 for her address.

Alice Kaige

Our condolences to Alice's son, Bob, and her many friends. Alice was an active, 40 year member of the Society and will be missed.



Sunnyside Literary Circle Turns 120!!

In November of 1887 cultured women of Springfield began an experiment that has lasted more than a century, even to this day. Home study and self-improvement encouraged women to develop their minds at the same time they were being wives and mothers. So it was that a small group of 11 young women met and chose for study the life of Washington Irving, quite an exciting choice.

Irving was America's first internationally successful author. He traveled extensively, served in diplomatic positions at American embassies in Europe, and wrote numerous works of fiction, history and biography. His literary fame was established with the publication of *The Sketch Book*, which included the most famous stories, "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

"Sunnyside" is the name of his cottage in Tarrytown, NY, located in the Hudson Valley about 20 miles from New York City. This small, enchanting mini-castle, made up of gables, angles and crooked corners, was designated as a Historic Landmark in 1966 after being meticulously restored by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1945. "Sunnyside" was Irving's suburban retreat, and he lived there from 1835 until his death.

The local study group was organized, complete with By-laws, which have had few changes since the 1890s. Membership is limited, meetings are semi-monthly and prompt attendance is a must. A general topic is selected in May, and members, in alphabetical order, research and present their papers during the year. Programs in history, religion, the arts and sciences have been explored and re-explored.

Today's members are proud of their rich heritage and grateful to their founders whose idea had come.

Hopefully "Sunnyside" will continue for decades. The quest for knowledge will never go out of style!
Georgia Northup

11th Annual Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery



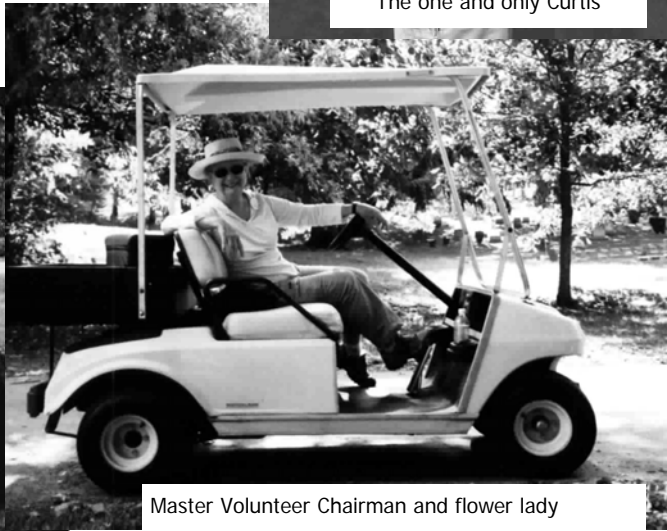
Always waiting for the trolley



The one and only Curtis



PrairieLand Dulcimers and guest violinist



Master Volunteer Chairman and flower lady



Inaugural "In Lincoln's Shadow" tent sale



Food paradise!



Sue Wall at her swansong bookselling! Thanks, Sue.

Actors: Ted Keylon, Don Schneider, Michelle Guerra, Linda Schneider, Bruce Davidson and Regan Smith were wonderful and magnificently (and very warmly) attired, but no one gave our photographer a ride up the hill to take their pictures. A *grave* oversight!



Photographer, Dan Buck

Cemetery Walk report

Hats off to the wonderful actors who persevered through record tying heat (91°) to portray their characters all afternoon long on Sunday, October 7!! The performances were wonderful and greatly enjoyed! And thanks to the assistants who were on hand to take care of the actors, and the spectators, should the heat have proved too much.

There were several innovations in the Historama area this year, thanks to Paul Mueller. The arrangement of tables, concession, tent and music were much improved. The addition of performances by the Springfield International Folk Dancers was popular, with many spectators suddenly finding themselves learning folk dances! Games were another popular addition to the area. Paul also picked up and returned tables and chairs borrowed from the Iles House to save rental costs.

Marian Leach, longtime concession Chairman, outdid herself this year obtaining gifts from Sam's, Walmart, Meijers, Starbucks and County Market, in addition to continued donations from Apple Barn, Carver's Westside Power Equipment, Del's Popcorn and US Bank. Her efforts enabled the concession sales to be virtually cost free this year, assuring the Society of more money to use for other projects in the community.

Dave Barringer, as General Chairman, provided the overall leadership to ensure a successful event.



Old Settlers Day at Strawbridge/Shepard House

October 20th fell on a perfect fall day this year and 100s attended the resurrection of "Old Settlers' Day". With the 144th Regimental band playing, the house draped in bunting, pumpkins and straw bales everywhere, it was a festive atmosphere that greeted visitors. People waited patiently in long lines for house tours or wandered among the exhibits. The 144th Infantry Regiment had a hospital tent set up and an extensive gun and sword display; there were crafts, children's face painting, carriage rides, food, and local goods for purchase.

Privy Moving Day



Photo by Dick Hart

The origins of the privy going down the road to its new home at the Strawbridge-Shepard house are unknown, but Harlington Wood, Jr. found it on the property he purchased on the Old Jacksonville Road in the '50s. Having no need for it, he donated it to Charles Chapin who rounded up several friends and a borrowed pick-up truck to move it to his farm near Chatham. Some 25 years later a tenant privy, built by the WPA, disintegrated, and this privy was moved to take its place. Outlasting the house it served, it was intermittedly put to use for various horse competitions, but for the last 10 years or so it has been just sitting there, waiting for a new home (people) to serve.

On October 11 Tom Bundy, Dick Hart and crew moved the now somewhat fragile, very historical building to the Strawbridge-Shepherd house with promises to restore it to its former glory.

You might note that the privy sports its own garden, or at least a tree. That is the remains of a very healthy poison oak vine growing up its side, seeking entrance. Tom Bundy feels that the "tree" has become an integral part of the building and should remain until structural repairs are made.

And to top it off, this magnificent structure is a 2 1/2 holer!

Sangamon County Historical Society
308 E. Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701



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

Lindbergh Landing Site Marker Installed

On October 13, 2007, members of the Sangamon County and Menard County Historical Societies and several other people gathered by Irwin Bridge Road, a Cantrall township farm road, to install a marker for Charles Lindbergh's emergency landing site back on September 30, 1926. Its installation was made two years after the marker for the Dirks farmhouse where he slept was placed.

The uncovering of the marker followed the welcome remarks of SCHS president, Carolyn Moore, and my story of how we came to finally place a marker at the landing site. There were several people who attended the occasion. Among them were Debbie Richardson, mayor of Athens; Elmer Cramer, the owner of the farm where Lindbergh landed, which was originally owned by Oscar Anderson; and Bruce and Marjorie Kugler, the present owners of the Dirks farmhouse. SCHS vice-president, Gary Vitale, was also among those who witnessed the installation.

Two people, one of whom was present at the event, were personally acquainted with Lindbergh's landing. John E. Dirks, almost 98, who witnessed the landing with his brother Herman, recounted how his brother drove Lindbergh to Springfield to deliver his mail. The other witness, Merrit W. Fitschen, who was at the Dirks farmhouse marker installation, had passed away on February 2, 2007.

Two other people who were aware of the Lindbergh landing but who did not get to meet him were Raymond C. Brown and Loren Ernest Brown. Raymond, 90, was nine years old at the time and recalled "climbing up onto the fence that evening and observing the plane as it was sitting in the field." Loren, 85, was four years old at the time and remembers his folks talking about the event.

One person who was especially enthused about the occasion was Ruth Moorman of Sherman, Illinois, 88, whose father, William Henry Goonerneier, interviewed Lindbergh for Bloomington's *Bulletin*, now the *Pantagraph*. Lindbergh had given him a tapestry which had hung in their guest house until it was given to Mrs. Moorman's family. It is now in the possession of her son, Dr. Jay Moorman of Joplin, Missouri, but the family is now donating it to the SCHS.

One person who missed the occasion vacationing in Florida was Edward L. Brown, the Fancy Creek Township Road commissioner who had approved the installation and who personally mounted the marker by the roadside. To be thanked for motivating the work on the project is Charles E. Nance of Athens, who hounded this author until the project was completed.

By Virgilio R. Pilapil, M.D.

Editor's note: Please let me know by the 10th of the month if you will have something for the following month's Historico. Then I need to have the material by the 15th. Email materials to schs@sancohis.org. Nancy