



# Historico

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

**February, 2008**

**February 9, Wednesday, 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

Phyllis Brissenden

Robert Davis

Phyllis Eubanks

Carolyn Oxtoby

**Directors to 2009**

Dan Buck

Susan Hammond

Tim Krell

Steve Leonard

David Scott

**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

**February 19, 7:00 PM**

**Program**

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room North



**ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

Kay Smith, Illinois Lincoln Bicentennial Coordinator  
 Cindy Adams, Chair, Springfield Bicentennial Committee

Ms. Smith and Ms. Adams will discuss the projects, events and programs planned for Springfield and Central Illinois in commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

The Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission was established by the Governor in 2006 to plan and coordinate Illinois' celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 2009. This is a part of a national effort currently underway to commemorate the bicentennial. The Illinois Commission is focused on informing the public of the impact Lincoln had on the development of our state and nation, and finding the best possible way to honor his accomplishments. Many events are planned throughout the state – from ice cream socials to symposiums to the Illinois Symphony performing music to the words of Lincoln. Educational programs will be presented by local community organizations, colleges, libraries, museums and others. Existing public monuments and sites will be enhanced and new monuments will be created as a permanent reminder of the bicentennial.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Illinois Lincoln Bi-Centennial Commission</i>	1
Abraham Lincoln birthday calendar of events	2
Report on January program; New members; Donations	3
Report on holiday book signing/sale at the Iles House	4
<i>Fort Taylor</i> by Curtis Mann	5
Spring schedule;	6

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## February 11, 2008

11:00 **Lincoln Symposium Luncheon**  
 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
**Who Won the Lincoln Douglas Debates?**  
 Allen C. Guelzo

ALPLM  
 \$20.00 per person  
**217-558-8934** for reservations

1:00–4:00 **Lincoln Symposium**  
 Hall of Representatives  
 Old State Capitol

Free, and open to the public

**Finding Abe: The Elusive Mr. Lincoln**  
 Jean H. Baker  
**A Life in Politics: Lincoln and the American Party Systems**  
 Mark E. Neely, Jr.  
**Lincoln's Rhetoric**  
 Douglas L. Wilson

7:00 **An American Dream**  
 Illinois Symphony Orchestra  
 Sponsored by ALA and NAACP  
 Sangamon Auditorium  
 University of Illinois at Springfield

Sangamon Auditorium  
 ticket office  
**217-206-6160** for reservations

## February 12, 2008

9:00-11:00 **George L Painter Lincoln Lectures**  
 Lincoln Home Visitor Center  
**Epiphany at Alton**  
 Timothy S. Good

Free, and open to the public

**Did Lincoln Own Slaves?**  
 Gerald J. Prokopowicz

10:30 **Wreath Laying**  
 Lincoln's Tomb  
 American Legion

Free, and open to the public

1:00 **A Soldier's Story**  
 Lincoln Home Visitor's Center  
 Robert J. Davis portraying 52 year old Civil War veteran and former slave

Free, and open to the public

1:00-4:00 **Lincoln Symposium**  
 Hall of Representatives  
 Old State Capitol

Free, and open to the public

**Abraham Lincoln's Ethic of Distance**  
 Brian R. Dirck  
**Abraham Lincoln: Commander-in-Chief**  
 Brooks D. Simpson  
**Lincoln the Citizen--Or Lincoln the Anti-Citizen?**  
 Michael Vorenberg

5:00 **Endowment Reception**  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel  
 Guest of honor, Michael Beschloss

\$75.00 per person payable to ALA  
 Mail to: Mary Shepherd  
 3501 Armstrong Drive  
 Bloomington IL 61704

6:00 **Centennial Lincoln Day Banquet**  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel  
 Michael Beschloss speaking

\$75.00 per person, payable to ALA  
 Mail to: Cathy LeConte  
 INB, 322 E. Capital. Ave.  
 Springfield, IL 62701

*African American History Month  
at the ALPLM-*

Month long poster exhibit: **"Art of War"** highlighting African American contributions to the Civil War.

February 12 11:15 & 2:15  
Union Theatre

*"Frederick Douglass & Abraham Lincoln: A Friendship Unique"*

February 26th Union Theatre  
1:00 & 6:30 pm

*"No Land's Man: A Chapter in the Lives of Dred and Harriet Scott"*

*We Welcome New Members*

Lawrence Jefferson  
Elmore W. Snyder

*Donation gratefully received*

in memory of  
Elizabeth Chapin  
From a longtime friend

Don't miss our own Robert Davis in *A Soldier's Story* at 1:00, February 12 at the Lincoln Home Visitor's Center!



*Report on January program -*

Kathryn Harris told a full house that she had never heard of the 1908 race riot in Springfield until she was a 'newly minted' librarian working in the reference department at Lincoln Library in the '70s and would receive inquiries about it. She credits Jim Krohe with bringing the story to the public's attention. Krohe was a student of Cullom Davis at Sangamon State and began pulling the facts together; finally putting the story of the riot into a book, "Summer of Rage", published by the Sangamon County Historical Society's bi-centennial series in 1973. Since that time there have been additional studies made of not only that riot in Springfield, but of other race riots in other communities, and that a 2 volume encyclopedia of American race riots had been amassed about such occurrences.

Harris said the purpose of commemorating the event was "to illuminate a dark recess in our city's past" so that the misdeeds not be repeated and we can all look forward to a better future. She pointed out that the period of the race riot was a period of unrest, that while everyone knew the Jim Crow laws in effect, there was growing discontent with them. She went on to review the events of those August days with additional comments drawn from various sources. She castigated the newspapers' role in inflaming the populace at the riot's beginning and chided the city for its promise of 'justice' at the end and then not returning a guilty verdict on any of the 117 warrants issued by the grand jury – with the exception of a petty larceny misdemeanor.

She showed several slides of the damage done during the riot; then read her own script prepared for the 1999 Cemetery Walk gravesite of William Donnegan who had been so brutally murdered.

She then invited Melinda McDonald, who has written a novel set during the race riot to do a reading from her work.

Finally as a member of the City's Commission on the Race Riot, she told of the newspaper's website where all articles and comments on the race riot commemoration will be maintained ([www.sj-r.com/news/raceriot/](http://www.sj-r.com/news/raceriot/)); told something about the brochure and map the Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau has produced, and made them available; told of the joint plans of the Abraham Lincoln Association and the NAACP to sponsor a musical evening commemorating their 100 year histories on February 11; and of the NAACP's plans to place a statue in the community.

*Report on the holiday book promotion at the  
Iles House -*

Despite an 8 1/2 inch snow just days prior to the holiday fest, walkways were clear and welcoming to the festively decorated Iles House. (thanks to the hard work of Dave Barringer!!)

Many visitors took advantage of the house tours offered before descending to the lower level for delicious refreshments and stories by many of the authors of *In Lincoln's Shadow*.



Phyllis Eubanks & Jone VanWinkle

15 authors were available at times during the afternoon to add what they had told in their stories. At least three authors reported having learned new things about their families: Dan Buck learned that his grandparents were buried right here at Oak Ridge; Ida Johnson, who brought several pictures, including a picture of her grandmother who had been a slave in Missouri before coming to Illinois, reported having learned much from putting together all kinds of information about her family that had almost been lost; and Bonnie Brockamp shared a handwritten report she had found of her grandfather that described his pioneering childhood in Nebraska.

Cricket Trutter Hauff came from the Chicago area to share memories of her father, John Trutter, with the group and John Dixon shared more stories of his family, as did Pat Rudolph, and Madelyn Morris even brought a copy of her family picture of the shared tent of Ozias Hatch and Lincoln at Antietam.

Phyllis Eubanks and Jone VanWinkle put on the holiday table of holiday tables with both hot and cold ciders and a multitude of delicious looking cookies and cakes. They were wonderful treats and we hope they look good on us!

A most successful kick off for the holidays!



Cricket Hauff addressing visitors



Ida Johnson



Arnold Stern

*Curtis Mann seems to have turned his attention from reporting on the various mills that dotted the 19th century landscape to reporting on the world's oldest profession and at least one of the community's more notorious businessmen.*

*The segment below is the first of a 4 part series.*

## *FORT TAYLOR*

### Part I

Harvey Taylor was not well liked in Springfield, Illinois. One local newspaper editor noted Taylor was a man "whose character in this vicinity is not that of a saint." A brutal thug, Harvey was also a businessman and apparently a successful one in his chosen trade as a brothel owner.

Prostitution has been a part of Springfield, Illinois's history probably from its earliest days. Very little is known about the "oldest profession" except for articles in newspapers and official records. One of the best known of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brothels was the establishment operated by Harvey Taylor and his wife Lucinda. Their business thrived for a number of years during the Civil War but soon faltered afterward. Known as Fort Taylor because of all the soldiers who briefly stationed themselves in this bastion, the Taylors was just one of several "houses of ill repute" that popped up during the war to meet the demands of their military and civilian clientele. The local newspapers rarely spared an opportunity to heap abuse on the Taylors and others of their ilk.

The story of the Taylors and their sordid affairs has never been thoroughly researched and told extensively before

now.

Very little is known about the early lives of Harvey and Lucinda Taylor. Harvey Taylor and Lucinda Johnson were married in Clark County, Illinois on August 1, 1852. The 1850 census of Clark County lists Lucinda Johnson living in the household of Thomas and Sarah Johnson. She is 22-years-old and has a 3-year-old son named Simpson. Thomas is 71-years-old and Sarah is 62-years-old so it is likely that Lucinda was either a daughter or granddaughter or she was previously married to a man named Johnson, possibly their son or grandson. The Taylors apparently moved to Springfield some after their marriage.

The 1857-58 city directory indicates Harvey Taylor was employed as a saloon keeper and resided on the north side of Madison Street between Second and Third streets. He was next listed as occupying a house on the east side of North Fourth Street between Mason and Madison streets. No occupation is provided.

1859 proved to be an eventful year for Harvey Taylor and his wife, Lucinda. Trouble began early in the year when Frances Warren, a prostitute employed at the brothel, was charged with stealing a purse containing over \$100 from

fellow prostitute Ida Johnson. Warren was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Lucius B. Adams for the theft. She was confined to the jail after failing to post the \$300 bail. During the examination, Miss Warren told authorities that she was working for Harvey Taylor at the time of the alleged theft. Her testimony, which the paper noted "was full and explicit", led officials to charge Taylor for keeping a house of ill-fame. He was found guilty and fined \$100 and costs. The newspaper indicated he would appeal the case.

On May 3, 1859 at 1 a.m. in the morning several men attempted to enter Taylor's establishment located across from the offices of the Illinois *State Register* for a drink. Taylor refused the men entrance to the brothel and locked them out. The men found a brick and began to throw it against the door. Taylor retaliated by opening fire on the men. He shot a man identified as Brown in the leg. A police officer arrived to arrest Taylor for the shooting. He escaped from the officer and fled the city. The paper speculated that Taylor left the city and skipped to St. Louis. His business shut down immediately with its inmates moving out the next day.

to be continued -

*We Welcome new Board members!!*

To serve to 2008

Phyllis Eubanks

To serve to 2009

Tim Krell

David Scott

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



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

*2008 Program Schedule*

All programs start at 7:00 PM

February 19

*Lincoln Bicentennial Commission*

Kay Smith/Cindy Adams

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North  
March 18

*Susan Lawrence Dana*

Richard Taylor

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North  
April 15

*History of the Springfield Muny*

Tom Shrewsbury

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North  
May 20

*History of the Sangamon County Fair*

Lincoln Library, Carnegie Room, North

F. North Ross, a life member of the Sangamon County Historical Society passed away January 17, 2008. He was a descendant of early Sangamon County pioneers. Among his talents were creating miniature wooden replicas of historical buildings of the Springfield area. He was pleased to donate some of these peices to our organization. We will miss his support of the SCHS. Our sympathy to his wife, Dorothy (our current Publicity Chairman).