Mark your calendar!
Cemetery Walk
October 9th!!
With the completion of 11 years of work and the expenditure of almost $900,000.00 the moved and restored Iles House is holding its long awaited Grand Opening with a rededication on September 24th! The Municipal band will begin to play at 10:30 AM with the ceremonies to start at 11:00. Cullom Davis will serve as Master of Ceremony for the event which will feature an introduction of Major and Mrs. Elijah Iles and the Foundation Board of Directors; remarks by Will Howarth; and Mayor Tim Davlin presiding with Winifred Barringer over the ribbon cutting and the official opening of the Barringer exhibit.

Following the rededication ceremony both the Iles house and the Barringer exhibit will be open for touring until 5:30 pm. Docents will be on hand to interpret.

More docents are needed, and if you are willing to help, please contact Nancy Chapin at 483-2376.

Since “many events in the Nauvoo period were played out and decided in Springfield”, Jan asked Springfield coordinators of the Conference-Bryon Andreason, Jeanne Murphey, and Dr. Joyce Shireman- to encourage local historians interested in Mormon history to attend and participate. SCHS director Gary Vitale, author of Letters to Mollie from Her Mormon Past: 1860-1912, plans to do just that.

For information on cost and registration, see the JWHA website www.jwha.info/meetings/main05.asp

Thanks to Gary Vitale for this information
The colloquium will be held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, beginning at 9:00 AM and features in depth discussion of historic places and people associated with the story of Abraham Lincoln’s America including Gettysburg National Military Park; Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site; Homestead Nation Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska; Saint-Gaudens Nation Historic site in New Hampshire; and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom project based in Omaha. Phillip Shaw Paludan will provide thoughts on the day’s presentations and moderate the question and discussion session. For registration details contact 492-4241, ext. 241.

This year’s Cemetery Walk promises to be interesting! The characters to be portrayed were all taken from Now They Belong to the Ages: Abraham Lincoln and His Contemporaries in Oak Ridge Cemetery by Susan Krause, Kelley Boston and Daniel Stowell, a publication of the “Papers of Abraham Lincoln”: Mary Welles – a wealthy widow whose world was shattered by the death of her husband and 5 of her children; Judge Samuel Treat – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court before whom Abraham Lincoln argued 870 cases; Francis Springer - Lutheran minister, educator and Civil War regimental chaplain; Jane Allen – a minister’s daughter who became the city’s first female teacher and who later married Robert Allen, a successful Springfield stage line operator; Virginia Dresser – youngest daughter of Rev. Charles Dresser, the Episcopal minister who officiated at the Lincoln marriage and later sold the Lincolns their only home; Orson Stafford – a man of many occupations who found himself on both sides of Lincoln’s legal skills.

The ‘Historama’ area will again feature exhibits by historical associations, and again we will have Society authors available for book sales and signings. The ‘Here and Hereafter’ booth will seek to further illuminate the lives of those portrayed by the actors; the Prairieland Dulcimers will again be providing a musical background; and the concession promises to be better than ever!

Parking will be in the usual place, with the trolley available to take visitors who wish a ride to the start of the walk. And you might be forewarned that sometimes the crowds arrive en masse at 12:00 and there may be less of a wait for the trolley, if you wish to ride, if you came a bit later. (Last tour starts about 3:15, so don’t come too late!)

Carol Andrews, who initiated the walk in 1996, will again be chairman this year, so if you are willing to help and haven’t yet been contacted, please call Carol at 546-5839. She would love to have your assistance!

Do plan to come and experience Sangamon County’s history in a delightful setting!
“Ghost Tours” of Edwards Place

The tours will include costumed interpreters portraying members of the Edwards family and those close to them. This year the event will take place on October 20, 21, 27, and 28. Tours will be from 7 to 9 pm and begin on the half hour (7, 7:30, 8, 8:30, and 9). The cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be served.

We are looking for volunteers to take on character roles, provide costumes and assist with the event in general. Anyone wishing to volunteer or assist with the event can contact me, Amanda Lampert, at the SAA (217) 523-2631.

Bus tour to Bishop Hill
October 22

The bus trip to Bishop Hill, the religious commune that Eric Jansson organized in 1846, is scheduled for Saturday, October 22. Much of the original village is in place so that visitors are able to see and almost experience (which is about as close to having been there as you would WANT to be) life as the immigrants knew it. It was a hard life, and one has to be awed by the accomplishments of the immigrants in a very few short years. In 1988 IHPA constructed a museum to house a collection of paintings by Olof Krans, who came with the settlers as a 12 year old, and years later painted pictures depicting the people and the work as he recalled them. The pictures create a vivid image of communal life in the mid-19th century and are a wonderful introduction to the community. The community’s church, which seated 1,000 is intact, as are the ‘rooms’ on the floors below the sanctuary that were occupied by the residents right up into the 1940s. Several additional buildings still stand with some having been converted into shops and restaurants.

Lunch at Johnson’s Swedish restaurant will be followed by a guided tour and time to shop and relax. Save the date and watch for the sign up form in October’s Historico. The cost will be just $30.00 for members and $35.00 for non-members.

We are grateful for Donations:

Mrs. Walter Brissenden
Dr. Mark E. and Jackie Hansen
& Erik and Jenna
in Memory of Dr. Floyd Barringer
Paul Schanbacher

We Welcome new members:

Life Members
Charles and Nancy Chapin

Sustaining Members
Jim and Mary Beaumont
Martin J. Berning
Sally Cadagin
Elizabeth L. Crosby
Ralph and Carolyn Moore
Bud and Mary Jo Potter
Martha L. Wilkinson

July Board meeting

President Pilapil called a special Board meeting in July to get the reorganization of the Board started for the year. He passed out a list of committee assignments (Chairman are listed on the sidebar of the 1st page of this newsletter) and discussed some of the accomplishments he hoped the Society would achieve.

The Board voted to drop the Pioneer Park and Colloquium committees from the list of standing committees in the By-laws; voted to drop the ‘business’ and ‘not-for-profit’ categories from membership levels; and voted to abandon the automatic extension of membership for those who join in the latter half of the Society’s fiscal year (ie: January – May). The Board also voted to donate $1,000.00 to the Iles House Foundation for their final push to their rededication on September 24. The Iles House Foundation has a matching donor for contributions made during this period.

New look for the Historico

You just might have noticed that the Historico has a new look with this issue. One of the advantages of the way we are doing it now is that we will be able to put it on our website in columnar form and include pictures. Prior to this we have had to post it in a one column format which wasn’t very readable, and we could not include the pictures. We hope you like it, but even if you don’t, we have to warn you that you’re pretty well stuck with at least the letterhead and color for this year.

If you have suggestions as to how to improve the format in the future, please contact me at 483-2376, or schs@eosinc.com.

Nancy
The President's Corner

I don't recall seeing this item in the Historico before but I thought of having one to say hello and informally update members, especially those who do not attend our meetings, on SCHS happenings in a brief way. We had a great time during the Annual meeting June 21 at Illini Country Club. Officers & Board members for this term were nominated and elected. Thanks to SCHS members Dorthy Ross & R-Lou-Barker for arranging the event, Jennie Battles with R-Lou for manning the desk, Curtis Mann & Dave Brady for the auction, John Paul, Janice Petterchak & Jim Coble for the nominations, the outgoing officers & Board members for their important services, past president Theresa Faith Cummings as guest speaker and Nancy Chapin for her continuing help. A special award was given to outgoing Board member Curtis Mann for his many years of continuous service to SCHS.

On July 13, a Special Board Meeting was held to address immediate concerns and pre-start our plannings. Our various committees are formed and we are working on our cemetery walk October 9 (in a connected program with NPS Lincoln Colloquium) and our first Holiday Celebration in December for members on Sangamon County history. V-P & Program chair Taylor Pensoneau has our program lined up starting in September and we are looking forward to a good fresh mix of presentations. A tour of Bishop Hill is forthcoming this Fall. Our prayers are with past president Kathryn Harris for her husband’s good health. I hope to see most of our members come to our programs.- VRP.

Annual meeting report

Over 85 people attended the annual meeting on June 21 at Illini Country Club. In the absence of President Kathryn Harris, Vice President Dr. Virgilio Pilapil presided. Dr. Pilapil began by recognizing the retiring officers and directors and thanking them for their service. Following the Treasurer’s report, a change in the Constitution was approved to reduce the number of directors to fifteen.

Officers for the 2005-2006 year and new directors for the next three years were elected unanimously. (Their names now appear on the sidebar on the first page of the Historico.)

President Pilapil then outlined some of his plans for the organization during the year: continuing popular programs such as the Cemetery Walk; developing new program ideas to appeal to different prospective members; and putting together a Directory of members and reports of Society activities over the years to celebrate its 45th anniversary this year.

The speaker of the evening, Theresa Faith Cummings, then presented a report on “A Daytrip on the Underground Railroad in Sangamon County and the Surrounding Area”. In it she delineated several places in surrounding counties where ‘underground railroad’ activity had been documented such as those in Jacksonville that were visited on this spring’s bus tour. She pointed out, however, that though there are reports of places near both Farmingdale and Riverton, no locations have yet been actually documented to have existed in Sangamon County itself.

The raffle drawing was held following the talk with many intriguing items displayed. It was a great success as the raffle added $216.00 to the coffers of SCHS!
Historico History Calendar

A listing of history events, lectures, conferences, etc., as we learn of them, in Sangamon County.

September
20  SCHS Program, 7:00 pm: The Mine Union War in Springfield, Carl D. Oblinger, Jr.
23  Soiree at the Iles House
24  Iles House Grand Opening
29-Oct 2.  John Whitmer Historical Association annual conference.  www.jwha.info

October
  7    20th Colloquium Reception & program, 7:00 pm Lincoln Visitors’ Ctr.  Reservations
  8    20th Annual Lincoln Colloquium  Contact: Tim Townsend 492-4241 ext 241
  8    New Salem candlelight tour
  9    SCHS annual 12:00 - 4:00 pm.  Echoes of Yesterday, 5th Annual Cemetery Walk.
18  SCHS Program, 7:00 pm: The Need for Reform in Medical Education and the SIU Difference, Dr. Richard H. Moy
20,21,27 & 28  “Ghost tours” of Edwards Place  Info: Amanda Lampert 522-2631
22  SCHS bus tour to Bishop Hill  For reservations, call: 522.2500
24  ALPLF Jim Edgar Lecture Series featuring David McCullough  www.alplm.org

November
  5    ALPLF Adlai Stevenson of Illinois  www.alplm.org
15  SCHS Program, 7:00 pm: CWLP—A History of Trailblazing, Phil Gonet

December
20  December surprise!

Note: Programs above in ‘script’ font are SCHS programs; other listings are community programs