



# HISTORICO

March 2025

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Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter  
P.O. Box 9744 Springfield, IL 62791-9744 | 217-525-1961 | schoffice@gmail.com  
www.sangamonhistory.org | www.sangamonlink.org

## Songs for the Unsung: Springfield Heroines Festival March 21



Songs for the Unsung: Springfield Heroines festival kicks off on Friday, March 21 with a partnership between the Sangamon County Historical Society (SCHS) and the Springfield Choral Society.

Thanks to Jacobson Woollen, Director of the Springfield Choral Society, for his intriguing idea to combine actresses, provided by the SCHS, with music by female composers, sung by the Choral Ensembles.

SCHS Vice-President Linda Schneider has rounded up actresses - many who you might recognize if you attended our annual Cemetery Walk - and written scripts about six women from Springfield. Their stories showcase an eclectic mix of lifestyles, interests, and accomplishments.



Nellie Brown Duff was a reporter in 1917 for the Illinois State Journal and later became interested in aviation. She bought her own plane and flew over the State Fair in 1921 releasing homing pigeons with messages. Portrayed by Mary Disseler.

Mary Ann Yezdauskas Sitki arrived in 1912 from Lithuania. She raised songbirds and exotic flowers to help her confront the losses of many of her children. Portrayed by Janet Margedant.



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## Highlights

**April Program**  
**April 15 at Lincoln Library**  
**The Marbold Farmstead - A Legacy in the Making**

**Grant Funds available for Historic Projects - deadline April 20**

**Check out the new website!**

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Mark your calendar for the March Program at First Presbyterian Church



# From the President's Desk




CINDA KLICKNA

The weather certainly hasn't cooperated this year! With below zero temperatures, we once again felt it wise to cancel the February program. Apologies to anyone who showed up. We send email notifications to those who have emails on file. Please see the section in this newsletter about how to add yours.

And, after much work, our new website is up and running! Please visit us.

Thanks to those who have either mailed or emailed responses to the survey. Please send yours as we welcome your ideas.

We are excited about the lineup of programs the rest of the year - partnering with the Choral Society, learning about the amazing restoration of the Marbold Farmstead, and once again honoring Underground Railroad conductors.



**Are you on File with Us???**

We want to keep you informed with occasional updates. Especially in the event of weather related cancellations. Please make sure we have your email on file.

If you have previously provided an email address, please make sure it is correct. You can log in to your account by going to the website and click on "Member Login". Under Don't Have Account, click Create One. Enter your name and email address and click submit. You will receive an email - click on the link to set a password and create your account.

You need to have an email on file to create an account. If we do not have your email address, please email it to [schsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:schsoffice@gmail.com)

Our annual June meeting will be taking a new approach in a historic site. Stay tuned.

*Cinda*

## SCHS Board of Directors

- 2024-2025 Officers  
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**SCHS Mailing Address:  
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You can download back issues of Historico in PDF format by going to our website: [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org) or [www.sangcohis.org](http://www.sangcohis.org).

Send event announcements to: [schshistorico@gmail.com](mailto:schshistorico@gmail.com)

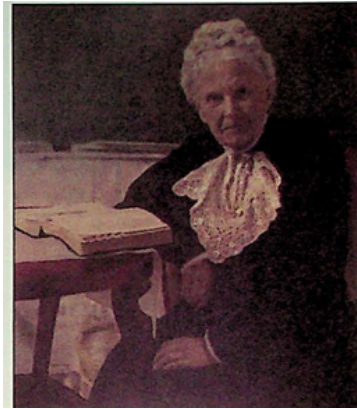
# Unsung Heroines - Continued



Mother Mary Joseph Woulfe, was born in Madeira, lived in Ireland and England, and came to Springfield in 1857 to open Ursuline Academy. Portrayed by Erica Smith.



Gertrude Wright Morgan was the first African American to graduate from Springfield High School in 1877, and later, with her husband, helped form the Boston chapter of the NAACP. Portrayed by Patricia Davis.



Carrie Post, called Aunt Carrie, mother of the Post Cereal founder, grandmother of Marjorie Merriweather Post, supported those in need and opened



Ruth Ellis, graduated from Springfield High School in 1919, and became the partner of Babe Franklin for over thirty years. A movie about her life at age 100 shared her story as a black openly gay woman. Portrayed by Christina Mauck.

her home to many. Her home later became the King's Daughters Home for Women. Portrayed by Tracy Petro.

## **Songs for the Unsung: Springfield Heroines**

**Friday, March 21st, 7:30pm, First Presbyterian Church**

**The small ensembles of the Springfield Choral Society join forces with actors from the Sangamon Historical Society, interweaving life-narratives of significant Springfield women with thematically-related works by female composers.**

**Tickets (\$15, online or at the door): <https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/schorals/events/1157>**



## **Additional Springfield Choral Society Events:**

**Songs for the Unsung: Festival Concert**

**Saturday, March 22nd, 7:30pm, First Presbyterian Church**

The full Springfield Choral Society joins with an ensemble of instrumentalists to present the spectacular Dixit Dominus of Marianna Martines, a friend of Mozart's who is finally also being recognized as his peer.

Works by Ysaye Barnwell, Kim Baryluk, Andrea Ramsay, Clara Schumann, and Ethel Smyth round out this rousing program.

Tickets (\$15, online or at the door): <https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/schorals/events/1158>

**Saturday, March 22**

Dana-Thomas House Tours featuring a tour focused on Susan's women's rights work, musical selections sung by SCS members, and a brief theater piece by Leigh Steiner.

Tour times are: 10:30 am; 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm and will last 60 minutes each.

# Mark Your Calendar



April 15 at Lincoln Library

The Marbold Farmstead - A Legacy in the Making

The Marbold Farmstead was established with the purchase of the property by John H. Marbold in 1851. John, an immigrant from Badbergen, Germany was an experienced farmer and livestock breeder. He traveled to Menard County at the recommendation of his brother to relocate his family. A widower, John was the father of 3 children, who arrived with him. He established a homestead on the current site that would carry on for 3 generations. Located just off Route 29, the Marbold home remains a landmark in the community.

In 2004, community members and other interested parties came together to determine how the property might be saved. With the property purchased in 2012, the Association is dedicated to creating a living history farm, focused on the agricultural history of the area from 1880 - 1910. The Association has worked diligently to first preserve and then restore and rebuild, while providing educational opportunities for young and old to learn more about the historical and agricultural significance of the Marbold Farmstead during this period.



Reminder: No programs are held in June, July and August.



May 21 at Clayville Historic Site

The Underground Railroad

A program on underground railroad activities in Sangamon County will be presented for the third time on Wednesday (not our normal Tuesday), May 21st at 5:30 at the Clayville Historic Site, 125 C. Hwy. 9C, Pleasant Plains. Several conductors buried at Farmington (Farmingdale) Cemetery will be remembered. Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman will once again represent the previous statewide commission's final report and share the status of the work moving forward. Following the ceremony, interested audience members will travel to the cemetery to place the specifically created markers on the conductors' graves.

***Please note this is on a Wednesday, one day later than our usual schedule.***



The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10 at Vinegar Hill Mall. Join us for the Installation of Officers, Grant recipient presentations, and more.

# Grant Funds Available for Historic Projects



The Sangamon County Historical Society is now taking applications for funding historic special projects within the county that carry out its mission, which is to preserve and promote interest in the history of Sangamon County.

Last year the Society gave grants to the following: Prairie Skies Public Library District for the digitization of microfilm for three Pleasant Plains surrounding newspapers, Pleasant Plains Press, The Review & The Argus; Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation for six Springfield Underground Railroad Conductor Grave Markers; Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, The Belles Group (Rees Carillon Society) to help produce an educational video to be used in the classroom for K-6th grade students to tie in with the Illinois State Music Learning Standards.

Applications can be found on-line at [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org). Click on “Grants.”

Completed forms can be submitted online or mailed to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Special Projects Committee, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.

The deadline is April 20, 2025. Award winners will be announced at the Society’s Annual Meeting. For more information, contact the Sangamon County Historical Society at 217-525-1961.



Have you completed the SCHS survey?

Please be sure to send us your completed survey which was in the February newsletter. We want your input, which will help us plan future programs and events.



Take the survey online at <https://bit.ly/historicalsurvey>

# New SCHS Website

CHECK IT OUT



Our new website is now live!

The Home Page features “hot buttons” - an easy and quick way to get to the most important pages. This includes Events, SangamonLink, and other important items.

The Events page features easy online registration and payment. Payments will be processed through Stripe, one of the top payment processors with a high level of security. Once you register for an event, you will receive an email confirmation. You will also receive a reminder email closer to the event.

Do you need to update your contact information? All you have to do is log in to the member portal. From there you can make edits, register and pay for events, renew your membership and much more.

There is also an app! Download the FREE Member Plus app from the App Store or Google Play.



With the app you can easily stay up to date with events, news and other information, update your contact information, pay open invoices and access resources. The app also offers push notification. For example, in the event that a program is cancelled due to weather, you would receive a direct notice on your cell phone.

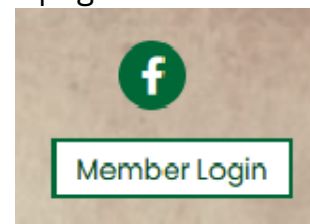
News and resources are easily accessible. Are you a researcher? Check out all the links available to assist with your research projects!

Can't get enough of the annual Cemetery Walk? Can't wait until the next one? Check out the countdown timer, or pictures of past events.



Need to log in to the Member Portal? The home page has easy access at the top. There's also a quick link to the SCHS Facebook page.

Is there something you would like to see on the website? Just let us know!



# Calendar

A Heads Up Guide to Area History Events

Save the Date!

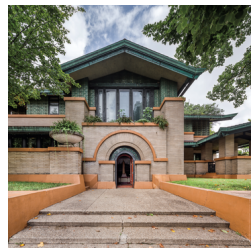


Send announcements, information, photos and illustrations to [schshistorico@gmail.com](mailto:schshistorico@gmail.com).

**March 6, 6:00 pm at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum: Combee: Harriet Tubman, The Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom During the Civil War.**



A chapter often overlooked in the story of Harriet Tubman is her daring service as a spy for the US Army during the Civil War. Doors open at 6pm; Program at 6:30. Free, but advanced registration is required.



**March 7, 5:00 pm at Dana-Thomas House:** The Illinois State Museum and State Historic Sites kick off Game Nights at the Dana-Thomas House with Dungeons and

Dragons. Free. Register in advance to secure your spot.

**March 20, 6:00 pm: Art History Happy Hour at Springfield Art Association**



Enjoy a glass of wine and listen to a lecture by a local art expert. Vachel Lindsay presented by Marianne Stremsterfer. Doors open 5:30 pm. Free.



**March 22, 3:00 pm: Louisa May Alcott at Lincoln Library.** Meet the prolific American author in this 45 minute performance and learn about the experiences from

which she drew her inspiration for her novels, short stories and poems. Free to attend.



**March 28, 7:00 pm at Edwards Place: Victorian Game Night.**

Learn card and dice games of the past. Winners receive prizes! Hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine included. Free. 21+ only.



**Ongoing "Something So Horrible, The**

**Springfield Race Riot of 1908" at Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum.**

*The exhibit clarifies what happened and why, and seeks understanding of how 1908 speaks to today.*



**April 11, Dana Thomas House Foundation Dinner and Program with storyteller Timothy Totten - *The Perilous and Amazing Journey of Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel in Japan.***

Master storyteller Tim Totten is returning after requests from last year's attendees. Totten will share the amazing engineering feat in building the hotel for the Emperor of Japan and the many dangers that threatened it. \$90 DTHF members, \$100 non-members. Appetizers, three-course meal, wine with dinner. Cash bar. Purchase tickets at [www.dana-thomas.org/special-events](http://www.dana-thomas.org/special-events)

**April 25 to April 27; Fri. & Sat. at 7:30 pm and Sun. at 4:00 pm:**



*Mr. Lincoln* at The Hoogland Center for the Arts. The one-person play features both the folksy wisdom of Lincoln's biography and the transcendent grandeur of his nation-healing words as president, healing that was cut short by an assassin's bullet.

