



HISTORICO

May 2025

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Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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www.sangamonhistory.org | www.sangamonlink.org

The Underground Railroad in Pleasant Plains Wed., May 21 5:30 pm @ Farmingdale Presbyterian Church

The Society is hosting its third program on Underground Railroad activities in Sangamon County on Wednesday, May 21st at 5:30 at Farmingdale Presbyterian Church, 7971 Farmington Cemetery Rd., Pleasant Plains. They will focus on 5 brave people (and some of their relatives) buried nearby who worked pre-Civil War time to move slaves north to Canada. One of them had an interaction with President Lincoln, hiring him to represent him and his son. One of them, Jay Slater, had a house that is still standing on Lincoln Trail Road and is now owned by Anna Stone. Ms. Stone lived across the street from this house all of her childhood and moved away during her adult years but returned and has many interesting facts about how well and differently the house was built.



Rev. Billious Pond

The story of the underground railroad at Farmington began on October 25th, 1833, when a colony of 52 New Englanders, many of them abolitionists, arrived at

Springfield after a ten-week journey from St. Lawrence County in upstate New York. The Reverend Billious Pond served as their pastor during their ten-week journey. Others who will be honored and who were part of that group include Jay Slater, Thomas Galt, Stephen Child and Dr. John Lyman.

Both State Senator Doris Turner and Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman will speak on Illinois' research and attempts to create a permanent commission around this important work and all the individuals who were involved.



Home of Jay Slater on North Lincoln Trail

Highlights

May Program
May 21 at Farmingdale
Presbyterian Church
Underground Railroad
Activities in Sangamon
County

Summer Celebration -
Honors and Salutes June
10 at Vinegar Hill Mall

Following the program, those interested will proceed to the Farmingdale Cemetery, approximately one mile from the church, to place specially created Illinois Underground Railroad Conductor plaques at the graves of those honored. One plaque will also be given to Anna Stone to place on her property.

A special thanks to Illinois State Senator Doris Turner, Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman, author Dick Hart, Steve Bomke, Pastor Steve Smith and Anna Stone.

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer Celebration.....	5
New Website.....	6
Calendar	7

Mark your calendar for the May
Program at Farmingdale
Presbyterian Church



From the President's Desk



CINDA KLICKNA

I hope you will join us for our **Summer Celebration – Honors and Salutes (SCHS)** at Vinegar Hill Mall new event area to thank our outgoing Board members, Mary Mucciante and Elaine Hoff, welcome our incoming officers and new Board members, and congratulate grant winners. We will also have a short program about the history of Vinegar Hill and the laundry that operated there in the early 1900s. Do you know where the name Vinegar Hill came from?

As I end my term as President at our Celebration, I must pause to reflect on our amazing Board who works hard to bring you monthly programs (except when bad weather hits which unfortunately occurred in both January and February), and our yearly cemetery walk that always draws a large crowd. We have had a productive year –

with interesting programs, a well-attended cemetery walk, worthwhile grant awards, a new website, a soon-to-open exhibit in the County Building about the various court houses of Sangamon County, and partnerships with the Springfield Choral Society and the Dana-Thomas House Foundation.

I turn over the reins to Linda Schneider who I know will do an amazing job as the next president. Many know Linda from her years as an actor, not only at our cemetery walks but also on stage at the Hoogland and many other venues.

The Society takes a break for the summer, but programs are already scheduled for September and November, and the Cemetery Walk in October.

Finally, thank you to our members. It is due to your support that the Sangamon County Historical Society has been around since the 1950s.

Cinda

SCHS Board of Directors

2024-2025 Officers

President - Cinda Klickna

Vice President - Linda Schneider

Past President - Susan Helm

Treasurer - Sam Sgro

Secretary - Sarah Adams

Directors

Term ending 2025

Lee-Ann Burgener

Elaine Hoff

Directors

Term ending 2026

Mary Mucciante

Scott Pillsbury

Ruth Slottag

Directors

Term ending 2027

Brian Barstead

Mary Alice Davis

Kathy Hoffmann

Stephanie Martin

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Springfield, IL 62791-9744



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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 or www.sangamohis.org.

Send event announcements to: schshistorico@gmail.com

Marbold History

Barbara Van Dyke-Brown, a descendent of the Marbold family, presented the history of the Marbold family, the homestead in Greenview they called Elmwood, and the work of the Historic Marbold Farmstead Association in preserving the Marbold mansion.

At the urging of his brother who lived in Petersburg and the death of his wife, John Marbold came from Germany to New Orleans in 1847. From there, he set off for Petersburg, – first on a paddlewheel, then a stagecoach, arriving in Elkhart, and finally by oxcart to Petersburg. In 1850 he bought 200 acres of land and built his brick home. He helped other German immigrants get a stronghold in the area, hiring men to help make bricks on site or work the farm. The farm expanded over the years to 4000 acres and was passed to his son, Henry who started the Greenview Marbold Bank, and later, in 1915, to his grandson Benjamin (Van Dyke-Brown's grandfather). Benjamin became the President of the Marbold Bank but lost his wealth - and his home - after the bank failed in 1927.



Above: Barbara Van Dyke-Brown
Right: The Marbold Farmstead

Photos by Ernie Slotag



The home was rented until the 1950s and then remained empty for many years; some restoration occurred in the 1990s. For years the house and land sat empty and fell into disrepair – the roofline sagged, windows had been broken out, brush covered the foundation, and the interior had been damaged by rodents and termites as well as looters who had ripped out fireplace mantels etc.

A group of concerned citizens in Greenview formed the Marbold Association and purchased the house in 2012. Since then, with fundraising, events, festivals, and donations, the group has been able to complete major restoration. Van Dyke-Brown presented before and after pictures of the work which included rebuilding the summer kitchen and carriage house, removing roofs from several outbuildings to shore up the brick structures, rebuilding the conservatory that had fallen in, plastering, dealing with termites and rodents and much more.

“There is always more to do, but we have come a long way. The parlor is now completely furnished, and the summer kitchen is a working kitchen where we bring groups of school children to learn about what life was like on a farm.”



Photos by Ernie Slotag

To learn more about The Marbold Farmstead, events and fundraising activities, visit
www.historic-marbold-farmstead.org

Reisch Charities Donates to the Sangamon County Historical Society



Mary Alice Davis, Chair of the Cemetery Walk, and Cinda Klickna, SCHS President, accept the donation from Reisch Charities

Photo by Ernie Slotag

George Reisch, Roy Mayfield, Jeff DeGeal, Chuck Costello, Rob Malaway, and Vince Salvo, members of the Reisch Brew Crew, a Springfield based collectors club dedicated to the history of the Reisch Brewery, presented a \$1000 check to the Society at our April 15th program. George Reisch, a former brewer at Anheuser-Busch and descendent of the Reisch Brewery family, said, "We want to give you the money to help with your annual cemetery walk."

Reisch Brewery started by Franz Reisch in 1849 in Springfield. The complex included eleven buildings which stood on the present site of the SIU School of Medicine. Generations of the family ran the operation, including Ed Reisch who was the last brewmaster. He left Springfield in 1963 to work at Pabst Brewing Co. in Milwaukee. The Springfield operation closed in 1967.

The Brew Crew formed in 2008; there are over fifty members from all over Central Illinois who collect beer-related items and help preserve Springfield's brewery history. Roy Mayfield, founder of the Brew Crew, and others worked to convince George Reisch and his family members to recreate the Gold Top beer brand.

Reisch Charities formed as a 501c3 in 2019 and that year, when Ed turned 100, the family surprised him with the first taste of the beer that hadn't been brewed in over 50 years. Reisch said, "This was just going to be one run, but people kept asking for it so now it is brewed in Wisconsin, and we have it available all over." The Reisch Charities is a 501c3 and proceeds are donated to not-for-profits in the Springfield area.

In addition to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Edwards Place and Sucker State Preservation, a group that preserves gravestones, received donations.



2025-2026 Board of Directors

President: Linda Schneider

Vice President: Scott Pillsbury

Secretary: Sarah Adams

Treasurer: Sam Sgro

Past President: Cinda Klickna

Thank you to outgoing board members
Elaine Hoff and Mary Mucciante!

Welcome to incoming board members
Dawn Phillips and Ashley Yoggerst!



Please join us on June
10 at 5:30 pm at Vinegar
Hill Mall to celebrate
and salute our board
members



10
JUNE

5:30
PM

SUMMER CELEBRATION – HONORS AND SALUTES

VINEGAR HILL MALL
107 W. COOK ST. | SPRINGFIELD, IL

ENJOY HORS D'OEUVRES AND DRINKS, HEAR ABOUT THE HISTORY OF VINEGAR HILL MALL (ONCE THE EDWARDS & CHAPMAN LAUNDRY, OPENED IN 1905), CELEBRATE THE SCHS'S GRANT RECIPIENTS, HONOR OUTGOING SCHS BOARD MEMBERS AND SALUTE NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.

★ REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.MEMBERS.SANCOHIS.ORG/EVENT-CALENDAR

★ EMAIL: SCHSOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

★ MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 9744 | SPRINGFIELD, IL 62791-9744 ★

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Tickets _____ @ \$35 per person = \$ _____

New SCHS Website



The new website is live! We hope you like it!

If you have not yet created a login to access the Member Info Hub, please take a moment to do so.

Member Info Hub

Members can log in to the Info Hub to:

- Update contact information
- View and register for events
- View and pay invoices
- View and upload resources

To log in to the Info Hub

- From the Home Page, click Member Login
- If you have not set up your account, under "Don't have an account", click "Create One"
- Enter first name, last name and email address
- If a match is found in the database (we must have your email on file), you will receive an email to create a login. Within this email there will be a link to create your username and password. Admins will NOT have access to your password.
- If no email match is found, you will receive notice that the account cannot be created. Please provide an email address to be able to proceed.

Please log in to the Member Info Hub and make sure your information is correct so you don't miss out on anything!



Your Membership Benefits in Your Hand!



If you want to access the Info Hub from your cell phone, download the Member Plus App.

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.



The app is available in iTunes and Google Playstore.

To register for events:

Click Register
Enter email and click click Go
Click Continue
Select # of tickets and click Continue
Select attendee (If more than 1 attendee, enter their name)
Enter payment information
Click Pay Now



Thank you to Susan Helm for representing the SCHS at the Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony on April 12.



Calendar

A Heads Up Guide to Area History Events

Save the Date!



Send announcements, information, photos and illustrations to schshistorico@gmail.com.

**May 10, 9am to 3pm:
Hammer-In & Chuck
Wagon at Clayville
Historic Site**

Blacksmiths will be demonstrating and teaching their craft. Also enjoy a taste of history with the chuck wagons



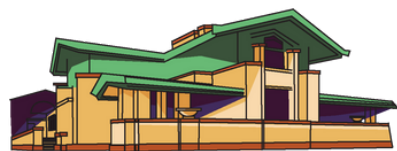
**May 12, 12:00 pm: An
Afternoon with Thomas
Jefferson at the Illinois
State Museum. Free.**

Thomas Jefferson
(portrayed by Kurt Smith)

is visiting the Illinois State Museum on Monday, May 12th for a Lunch and Learn style program where he will discuss his time during the American Revolution, his thoughts on being President, and his hopes for the "Western Lands" of Illinois. You are welcome to bring your lunch to eat during the program, but lunch is not provided.

**May 17, 10am: Armed
Forces day at Illinois
State Military Museum**

The Illinois State Military Museum will host Armed Forces Day Military Vehicle Show. Get an up close look at their military vehicles and their modern versions. The Living History Detachment will be on hand to answer questions.



Dana-Thomas House Foundation

**May 19, 5:30 pm at
Lincoln Library:
Frank Lloyd Wright's
Organic Architecture
and its Positive
Influence on Mental
Health & Creativity**

Dr. Dieser, Professor at the University of Northern Iowa, will discuss how nature inspired Frank Lloyd Wright, and how it affects our mental health.

**May 28, 6:00 pm at
Lincoln Library**

Mary Harlan Lincoln's mother-in-law was known around the world - Former First Lady, widow of the martyred President Lincoln. But the two Mary Lincolns did not always have a cordial relationship, and after a long illness, Mary Todd Lincoln died on 16 July 1882. Now, after years of separation, the surviving Mary Lincoln must sort through the possessions left by the elder Mary Lincoln. This emotionally charged and deeply personal act opens memories from their shared past. Join Laura Keyes, as Mary Harlan Lincoln, for this informative and inspiring presentation on May 28th 6PM at Lincoln Library, Springfield's public library.

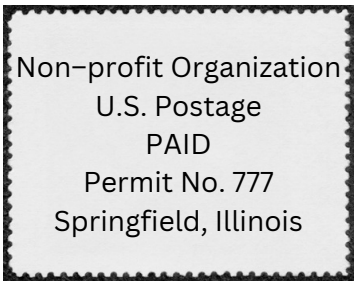


Reminder:

The SCHS will not hold programs over the summer. Programs will resume in September.
The Historico will also resume in September.

Sangamon County Historical Society
P.O. Box 9744,
Springfield, IL 62791-9744

Return Service Requested



Sangamon County Historical Society 2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. All memberships cover adults and children 16 and over living at the same address. Be sure to list their full names. Please Print.

Your Full Name _____

Spouse/Significant Other First Name _____

Spouse’s maiden name where applicable _____

Your e-mail _____

Your address _____

City, State , Zip _____ Phone _____

Choose Your Level of Membership: ☐ Regular (\$30) ☐ Pioneer (\$100) ☐ Settler (\$250)
☐ Trailblazer (\$500) ☐ Lifetime (\$700 one-time fee) ☐ College/University Student (individual) (\$20)
☐ This is a GIFT (Name of recipient, mailing and e-mail address):

☐ I am adding a donation to the Society in addition to my membership in the amount of \$_____