



HISTORICO

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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

Cemetery Walk September 29

“Echoes of Yesteryear: A Walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery” will be held from noon – 3:30 p.m. Sunday, September 29. (The last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.). The free walking tour is sponsored by the Sangamon County Historical Society in cooperation with Oak Ridge Cemetery, 1441 Monument Avenue, Springfield. Seven actors dressed in period costumes will tell the personal stories of individuals buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery who made significant contributions to our community’s early history.

Attendees will be transported by bus to the first gravesite, then walk to the others before boarding the bus back to the parking area. The walk is approximately one-half mile.

The event is free and open to the public; however, donations are suggested.

Parking is available in designated areas and refreshments will be available for purchase.

See more on page 5



Highlights

Cemetery Walk
September 29
at
Oak Ridge Cemetery

September Program
September 17
at
Springfield Art Association

****NEW LOCATION**
for Fall programs**

Programs Return September 17 - NEW Location!

Monthly programs resume on September 17, with a presentation on “Quite a City of the Dead: The Rise and Fall of Springfield’s Hutchinson’s Cemetery”.

Join Illinois State Museum curator of history, Erika Holst, to learn more about the rise and fall of Hutchinson’s Cemetery, from its start in 1843 as undertaker John Hutchinson’s “side hustle,” through its heyday in the 1840's and 50's, to its decline in the latter part of the 19th century, and finally to its second and third acts as a park and eventual site of

Springfield High School. Learn about those who were buried at Hutchinson’s, then moved and re-buried at Oak Ridge, and how they were remembered – and sometimes forgotten.

IN THIS ISSUE

Grant Recipients.....	3
Annual Meeting.....	4
Cemetery Walk	5



Has your contact information changed? Please let us know any changes.

From the President's Desk



CINDA KLICKNA

filled with our own specialties – Lincoln and Route 66, horseshoes and Maid Rite, the Dana-Thomas House and the Rees Carillon, plus our own loch -Lake Springfield with the Lincoln Memorial Garden along its shore. There is so much to see and do in our own backyard.

cemetery walk, and has started planning the Holiday reception and programs into 2025.

Join us and tell your friends about what the Society offers.

We hope you like our new Historico design! Thanks to the Illinois Education Association Print Shop, we have been able to add color *and* reduce our costs.

Cinda

I had the opportunity to travel this summer to Ireland and Scotland. They may have their bagpipes, haggis (I avoided), lochs, and castles, but it struck me that every place has its own history, fun, and food. Sangamon County is

As we start out our 2024-2025 year, we need to appreciate the interesting places and items that make Sangamon County unique.

The Board has already set a full schedule of free programs for the fall, as well as our always popular

Transportation Hub – Display of Court Houses

The Sangamon County Historical Society has provided a display of Sangamon County courthouses inside the new Transportation Hub at 111 S. 11th St. Thanks to Stephanie Martin, manager of the Sangamon Valley Collection and Society board member, for her work in researching and finding photos of the various buildings that housed county government offices. The first building, a 20-foot-long log cabin, stood on the northwest corner of Second and Jefferson Streets, and served the county from 1821-1825. Three other courthouses served the area until the fourth major building – what we now call the Old State Capitol – was built in 1845-1846. The photos and artifacts will be on display throughout the fall.

Alvera Knox Leaves Donation to the Society

The Sangamon County Historical Society has received a generous donation of \$45,000 from the estate of Alvera Knox (1936-2023) who was a long-time member of the Society.



Alvera was employed as a school librarian in Springfield District 186 for 26 years. She served on the committee formed by the Springfield mayor and the city council in 1994 to recommend ways to memorialize Springfield's 1908 Race Riot. The major products of the committee were the design of the Race Riot Walking Tour and the creation of "Springfield Had No Shame," a video used to educate Springfield students about the riot which was recently shown at Lincoln Library.



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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.sangcohis.org.

Send event announcements to: schshistorico@gmail.com

Grants Awarded at Annual Meeting

The Sangamon County Historical Society awarded three grants at the annual meeting on June 15th. The grants were presented by committee chair, Scott Pillsbury.



Oak Ridge Cemetery

Oak Ridge Cemetery was awarded \$600 for six Springfield underground railroad conductor grave markers. In the last year a statewide task force was created, led by John C. Ackerman, County Clerk of Tazewell County, to recognize the dangerous work of being an Underground Railroad Conductor in Illinois. Six conductors were honored at the Society's May program for their work in Springfield, IL and in Sangamon County. The grant will fund the gravesite markers for these brave men, recognizing their place in history.

newspapers were combined as South County Publications. The Review ran from 1900-1901 and the Argus ran from 1922-1934.



Above: Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair and Cindy Boehlke with Prairie Skies Public Library

Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, the Belles

The Thomas Reed Memorial Carillon was awarded \$1,000 to produce an educational video that can be used in school classrooms. The primary audience is K-6 grade school children with the video being shown in their music class as a tie in with the Illinois State Music Learning Standards. The video will be 15-30 minutes including scripted storytelling and music, and will be available on You Tube.



Above: Mike Lelys with Oak Ridge Cemetery and Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair

Prairie Skies Public Library District

The Prairie Skies Public Library District was awarded \$1,000 for the digitization of microfilm for three newspapers surrounding Pleasant Plains: The Pleasant Plains Press, the Review, and the Argus. The Pleasant Plains Press ran from 1922 to 2020, then was combined with the New Berlin Bee before several



Above: Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair, Emily Lynch, Cindy Anderson and Betty Waymire with Thomas Rees Carillon

2024-2025 Officers
 President - Cinda Klickna
 Vice President - Linda Schneider
 Past President - Susan Helm
 Treasurer - Jerry Smith
 Secretary - Sarah Adams

Directors
Term ending 2025
 Lee-Ann Burgener
 Elaine Hoff
 Larry Stone

Directors
Term ending 2026
 Mary Mucciante
 Scott Pillsbury
 Ruth Slottag

Directors
Term ending 2027
 Brian Barstead
 Mary Alice Davis
 Kathy Hoffman
 Stephanie Martin

**SCHS Mailing Address:
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 Springfield, IL 62791-9744**

2024-2025 Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

Members and guests gathered on the patio of the Island Bay Yacht Club for the Annual Meeting on June 15. Mary Alice Davis, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the 2024-2025 slate of officers, which was approved unanimously. The full board list is on page 3.



Lifetime achievement awards were presented to Roger and Vicky Whitaker for their years of service and dedication to the Society. Roger handled the website and Vicky did the newsletter for years. Both served as president of the Society.



Mike Kienzler was recognized for his 10 years of service to Sangamon Link.

Above: Vicky and Roger Whitaker receive Lifetime Achievement Awards from Vice President Ruth Slottag

Above: Mike Kienzler delivers remarks after being recognized for 10 years as editor of Sangamon Link.



Board Members: Jerry Smith, Elaine Hoff, Mary Alice Davis, Ruth Slottag, Scott Pilsbury, Mary Mucciante, Susan Helm, Sarah Adams and Lee-Ann Burgener

Brian Barstead joins the Society Board

We welcome Brian Barstead to the Board. Recently retired after 37 years as a private wealth manager with Ameriprise, Brian has been involved in many projects in the Springfield community. He has been active in the Springfield Sunrise Rotary since 1990 and currently is the assistant area Rotary Foundation coordinator for downstate Illinois clubs. He has always had an interest in history and has spearheaded several initiatives over the years – the 70th anniversary of the Springfield Municipal Band in 2006 and the Rotary’s Hats Off to Mr. Lincoln art project in 2008 in which artists designed large and small fiberglass stovetop hats. Many can still be seen around town. With Brian’s background in finance and fun projects, his talents will be a welcome addition to our board.



Echos of Yesteryear Cemetery Walk

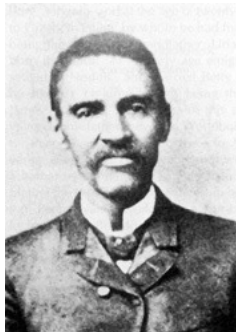
September 29

at Oak Ridge Cemetery

Costumed re-enactors will portray the following historic figures at the Cemetery Walk:

Susan Moore (1841-1907) was a young blind woman living in an Arkansas orphanage during the Civil War. In 1864 she and other Civil War refugees were moved to Springfield where she became a resident at the Home for the Friendless, which was originally established to house impoverished elderly women and orphans.

John J. Bird (1844-1912), a political activist who supported Black civil rights, was elected Police Magistrate in Cairo, Ill., before moving to Springfield. He worked as a janitor at the Statehouse and became the first African-American trustee of the University of Illinois more than a decade before the school enrolled any Black students.



Emma Bressmer (1860-1941) served as Vice President of Bressmer's Department store after her father and brother died. A full-fledged department store, it was one of the most important stores in Springfield for nine decades, carrying quality furniture, toys and clothing for people of all ages.

Pauline Deutsch Redlich (1849-1883) was the daughter of the first Jewish rabbi in Springfield, Bernard Deutsch. Twenty families formed the Springfield Hebrew Congregation in 1858. Rabbi Deutsch, an immigrant from Bohemia, served the congregation from 1866 to 1878.

Alfred Piquenard (1826-1876) was a Frenchman who became a captain in the US Civil War, where he commanded a company of construction engineers. In 1870 he moved his family to Springfield and embarked on a career in architecture, which included designing the new Illinois State Capitol.



Ellen Huntington Henkle (1853-1919) was, in her day, considered to be Springfield's best singer. Born into a very musical family, she began singing at the early age of three. Because of her family lineage, she and her sisters were among the charter members of the Springfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.

Reed "Kidd" Waddell (1860-1895) was a smooth con artist and jack-of-all-trades international hustler who is often credited with inventing the gold brick fraud. He actually sold the Brooklyn Bridge. A precocious criminal, he was indicted at the age of 17 in connection with a confidence game in Carlinville. He was shot to death in Paris, France.





SAVE THE DATE

Monthly programs are **FREE** and open to the public.
Cemetery Walk is **FREE** and open to the public.
Annual Meeting and Holiday Party are **Member only**.

**SEPT.
17**

5:30 pm
Springfield Art Assoc.
700 N. 4th St.

Hutchinson Cemetery

Presenter: Erika Holst, Illinois State Museum Curator of History

Hutchinson Cemetery was the first private burial ground in Springfield, established in 1843. After closing in 1874, bodies were removed to Oak Ridge Cemetery. Springfield High School was built on the site in 1917.

**SEPT.
29**

12:00-3:30 pm
Oak Ridge
Cemetery

Echos of Yesteryear Cemetery Walk

Take a step back in time with the annual cemetery walk at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Learn about Springfield residents and their contribution to our history.



Free and open to the public.

**OCT.
15**

5:30 pm
Springfield Art Assoc.
700 N. 4th St.

Moving Pillsbury Forward

Presenter: Chris Richmond

Pillsbury opened in 1929 and employed 1,500 workers in 1950. It was sold to Cargill in 1991 who operated until 2001. The property was sold for scrap in 2008. Hear about the impact of the Adams St. fire and what is planned for the future.

**NOV.
19**

5:30 pm
Springfield Art Assoc.
700 N. 4th St.

The Conkling Family

Presenter: Allicent Smith, Retired Teacher and Dana Thomas House Volunteer (IDNR 2023 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Recipient)

James C. Conkling, a lawyer and friend of Abraham Lincoln, was one of 15 original directors of the National Lincoln Monument Association.

**DEC.
10**

5:30 pm
The Inn at 835

Holiday Party

Bell Miller, a turn-of-the-century local businesswoman and florist to Springfield's high society, will "host" our Holiday Party at the Inn at 835. Members will enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres in the warmth and beauty of the Aristocracy Hill site. This is a **MEMBER ONLY** event.

Calendar

Save the Date!



A Heads Up Guide to Area History Events

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

Friday, Sept. 6: Lincoln's New Salem Bluegrass Concert - 6pm. Sunday, Sept. 7: Music Festival - 10am-4pm. Free to attend!



Sept. 21 & 22: Edwards Place Fine Art Fair. Saturday from 10am to 5pm; Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Free to attend.



Sept. 7: Illinois State Military Museum Through Time from 10am to 4pm. Free to attend - donations appreciated.



Sept. 21: Clayville Fall Festival from 9am to 4pm. Free to attend - donations welcome.

Sept. 7 & 8: Marbold Farmstead Festival from 9am to 3pm. See the restoration progress of the 1850 mansion, enjoy food, music, vendors and tours. For more information: www.historic-marbold-farmstead.org



Sept. 29
Echos of Yesteryear - A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery.
12pm to 3:30pm.
Free to attend. Donations accepted.

Sept. 10 - Day trip to St. Louis. Visit destinations that enlighten us on the life of Ulysses S. Grant at different points in his life, and hear about Grant's first Civil War assignment.

For information on ISHS Day Trips, visit www.historyillinois.org or call 217-525-2781.

Sept. 14: Her Majesty's Regency Ball at The Pasfield House from 7pm to 10pm. Tickets at www.facebook.com/theapasfieldhouse/events



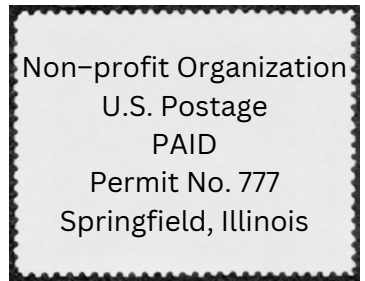
October 4: New Salem Candlelight Walk

October 13: Oak Ridge Cemetery Tree Tour

October 18: Unsolved at Edwards Soiree Mystery Dinner Theater

October 26: Fall Festival at Lincoln's New Salem

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 \$ _____