



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

## May Program at Lincoln Library

### April 15, 1909: The Day the Petticoats Stormed the Capitol

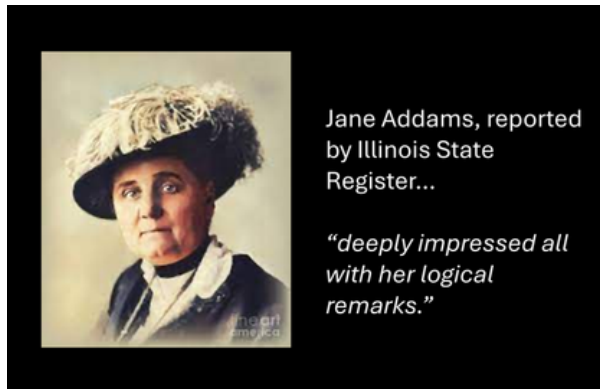
Tuesday, May 19

5:30 pm at Lincoln Library -  
Carnegie Room

The newspaper called April 14, 1909 "the day the petticoats swarmed the Capitol." Thousands of women from all over the state came to lobby for women's rights. Among those who came to Springfield was Jane Addams, along with over one hundred women who have unique stories. One even had her own railcar.

Cinda Klickna will present the many activities of the day, including a luncheon at Susan Lawrence Dana's home and an evening reception at Logan Place. We will be introduced to some of the women such as Jessie Stubbs whose father-in-law tried to undermine her work.

What do you think the Springfield newspaper The State Register wrote in its editorial?



Cinda is a former teacher and is a freelance writer for the Illinois Times. She often writes about Springfield history.



This will be our final spring program for 2026. Keep an eye out for our Annual Meeting in June, along with our fall programs starting in September 2026.

## Highlights

### May Program

May 19 at  
Lincoln Library  
Carnegie Room

### Annual Meeting

June 16, 5:30PM

### Grant Deadline

Extended - May 15

## IN THIS ISSUE

April Program Recap.....	3
Annual Meeting.....	4
SangamonLink Stories.....	5



If you have had a recent move, please remember to log into the website to update your address in the system, so you can stay up to date on Historico!

# From the President's Desk



LINDA SCHNEIDER

We had another standing room only crowd for our April 21 monthly program by Mary Alice Davis - Growing Up on Route 66. Many thanks to her and Susan Helm for a very interesting and entertaining program.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, it is just one of the many perks of your annual membership. Our membership year runs from June 1 - May 31, so it is time to renew your membership. You can renew your membership by visiting our website - [www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org) - or by mailing in your renewal with your check to P.O. Box 9744, Springfield IL 62791-9744.

The cost of a regular membership is \$30 and for that \$30 you receive 9 monthly newsletters, 7 monthly programs (with refreshments), the annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk in October, the annual holiday event in December, the annual meeting in June, and access to SangamonLink.

In addition, we award grants to other Sangamon County organizations for historical projects at our annual meeting in June. I think you would agree that you get a lot for your \$30. If you are so able, there are other membership levels including Pioneer for \$100, Settlers for \$250, Trailblazer for \$500, and Lifetime membership for a one-time fee of \$700.

Just a reminder that the last program for our 2025-2026 year is Tuesday, May 19 with Cinda Klickna presenting April 15, 1909: The Day the Petticoats Swarmed the Capitol. Hope to see you there!

*Linda*



## 2025-2026 Officers

President - Linda Schneider

Vice President - Scott Pillsbury

Past President - Cinda Klickna

Treasurer - Sam Sgro

Secretary - Sarah Adams

## Directors

### *Term ending 2026*

Ruth Slottag

### *Term ending 2027*

Brian Barstead

Mary Alice Davis

Susan Helm

Kathy Hoffman

Stephanie Martin

### *Term ending 2028*

Lee-Ann Burgener

Dawn Phillips

Ashley Yoggerst



Historico, published 9 times a year is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Springfield, Illinois.

Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society

You can download back issues of Historico in PDF format by going to our website: [www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org).

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

# April Program: "Growing Up on Route 66"



by Cinda Klickna

Mary Alice Posegate Davis shared stories of the A. Lincoln Motel at the April meeting of the Sangamon County Historical Society. Her father gave up his position as an industrial arts teacher at Dubois School and designed and built the motel which opened in 1946 at 2927 S. 6th Street, next to the still-standing Cozy Dog. Davis was 10 and says, "Dad had a wife and two kids, but he saw that it was after the war and people were starting to travel again and thought a motel would be needed. Families were taking trips on Route 66."

With a BA from Millikin and an architecture degree from the University of Illinois but no experience as a businessman, he designed the motel and became a wise businessman. He chose the name A. Lincoln after researching that Lincoln always signed his name that way."

The family moved into a large house and the motel was built next door, starting with with six rooms (additions were made over the next few years). Getting sheets for the beds posed a problem as stores were still rationing items. Davis said, "J.C. Penney's on the square allowed people to buy two sheets at a time. Dad rounded up all my aunts, uncles, and others, lined us up outside the store, and handed out the money; each went in and bought two sheets, came out and handed them to Dad."

Her father also built the Colonial Hotel on MacArthur, a hotel in Jacksonville and bought the Sea Captain motel in Ft. Lauderdale.

Davis, who shares that she will be 90 in August, remembers a lot about living at the motel. She and her brother took turns when the motel filled up by going to the sign out front and unhooking the small wooden "NO" to hang in front of "Vacancy." Later, a neon sign, the first made by Ace Sign Company, could be turned on and off by a switch in the office. She had a chenille bedspread that she had kept for sixty years; it has been donated to the Illinois State Museum. She remembers hauling towels up from the basement to hang on the line or helping her mother clean rooms. She remembers the many hitchhikers who stopped asking for a drink and something to eat; her mother gave them sandwiches and drinks – "in glasses as we didn't have paper cups then."



She remembers one time in the middle of the night going into the bathroom; someone who was renting a room had tied a bulldog to the claw foot tub. "To this day, I don't like dogs." She remembers Fred Lowery, a blind whistler who performed often at the Lake Club and stayed at the motel.

When she was 14 in 1950, her parents decided to move and hired managers to run the motel. After her father died in 1982, the motel was sold, operated until 1985, and demolished in 1996. Today, a Walgreens sits on part of the site.

The 2025 Rose Bowl parade had a float about Route 66; a reproduction of the A. Lincoln Motel sign was part of the float. At the State Fairgrounds there is also a reproduction sign in the Route 66 Neon sign park.

*All photographs by Ernie Slottag*

# 2026 Annual Meeting

## June 16 - 5:30PM

### Pasfield House - 525 S Pasfield St, Springfield

Please save the date for the 2026 Annual Meeting and Grants Recognition event on **Tuesday, June 16 from 5:30 - 7:30PM at the Pasfield House**. The cost for this event - for members and non-members - will be \$35 and covers the program and hors d'oeuvres. There will be a cash bar available and registrations may be made through the website ([www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org)) or through mail using the form below. **Registrations are due June 2.**



*ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION: Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. Please Print.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 per person = \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

## SCHS Out in the Community!

On April 15, SCHS President Linda Schneider presented a wreath on behalf of the Sangamon County Historical Society at the 70th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony commemorating the 161st anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln organized by the Death Day Association, Inc. The Sangamon County Historical Society was one of approximately 20 organizations presenting wreaths at Lincoln's Tomb.



## Revolutionary War Veterans Buried in Sangamon County



A marker on the Old Capitol Plaza identifies 27 veterans of the American Revolution who are buried in Sangamon County, but that figure probably identifies only half of the patriots whose final resting places are in county cemeteries.

Karl Reed, in a 2010 study done for the Springfield Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, reported that “best estimates conclude that between 52-54 patriots are buried in Sangamon County.”

Reed noted that his report leaned heavily on work done previously by Jacqueline and Harold Wright.

*... I discovered they had already spent nearly 25 years collecting the very information I was looking to include. The Wrights had visited all of the patriot graves in Sangamon County they could find and had taken pictures of the tombstones and grave markers. In addition they had attended many grave dedications over the years and again taken pictures and saved programs. Jackie had also researched the State Journal-Register newspaper (and its predecessor) files and copied articles about long-ago grave dedications. Jackie had also spent countless hours researching history books about Sangamon County and included that information. The Wrights had collected three 4-inch binders of material relating to patriots buried in Sangamon County and graciously allowed me to include their information. In addition, Jackie Wright had spent years serving on the Sangamon County Historical Sites Commission. This project could not have been completed without the Wrights’ knowledge, research, and dedication.*

Incomplete and/or conflicting records were a steep hurdle for Reed, the Wrights and other researchers. One of the great values of Reed’s study is that it reconciles such problems where it can and, when it can’t, spells out where gaps remain.

Reed identified a total of 54 possible Revolutionary War veterans. (see list on page 6). However, one of those listed, Absalom Baker, moved from Sangamon County to Madison County, where, Reed wrote, he probably is buried . Several others were buried in Sangamon County prior to 1839, when the county was reduced in size, creating, among others, Logan and Menard counties. As a result, the graves of a half-dozen patriots originally buried in what was Sangamon County now lie in Menard and Logan counties. Those names remain on Reed’s list.



The study includes service details and locations of the graves, where available, as well as Reed’s sources and where readers can learn more about each veteran.

# SangamonLink Stories (continued from page 5)

Reed's list:	Kelley, Henry	Thomas, James W. (Menard County)
Archer, Bennett	Lewis, Messenger	Turley, James (Logan County)
Baker, Absalom (probably buried Madison Co)	Lockridge, John	Turner, Archibald
Baker, Isaac	Lucas, Abram (Logan County)	Waddell, James
Brandt, Reuben	Massie, Thomas	White, John (Menard County)
Broadwell, Moses	Massie, Thomas	Young, John
Bryan, George	Maxcy, Joel	
Burton, John	McDaniel, Luann	
Campbell, Enos	Meredith, Davis	
Carver, Christian	Miller, Christian	
Cassady, William	Millington, Peter	
Clark, Bazel	Nance, Zachariah (Menard County)	
Clifford, Michael	Overstreet, John (Menard County)	
Cooley, Jabez	Owsley, Henry	
Crowder, Philip	Owsley, Thomas	
Davis, Aquilla	Peake, John	
Deardorff, Henry	Penny, William	
Dingman, James	Pulliam, George	
Fisk, Robert	Purvines, John	
Foster, Nathaniel	Ralston, William	<i>SangamonLink was created to put the rich history of Sangamon County – home of Abraham Lincoln and the capital of Illinois – at people's fingertips. This online research hub is edited by Mike Kienzler.</i>
Haggard, James	Royal, Thomas	
Hail, Harley	Sayre, John	
Haile, William	Shutt, Jacob	
Harrison, Ezekiel	Simms, Gideon	
Jones, William	Stringfield, John	

////////////////////////////////////

## Sangamon County Historical Society 2025-2026 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# 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).



**May 15: Vintage Gala and Fashion Show-Off**  
Benefit that includes food trucks and cash bar @ Ace Sign Co.  
217-522-8417  
**Springfield Center for Independent Living**

**June 6: Centennial Route 66 5K**

Registration required.  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Springfield/CentennialRoute5K> @ Illinois State Fairgrounds



**May 16-17: Old Capitol Art Fair**  
Annual art fair downtown. FREE.  
217-553-5564

OLD CAPITOL ART FAIR



ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**June 9: History Belongs to All of Us Lecture**

Brian Mitchell - "Migration and Immigration." Free, but Registration required.  
**Illinois State Historical Society**



**May 16: Road Trip to Culver House in Decatur**  
Self-drive/carpool. FREE, but must register: 217-498-7304.  
**Illinois State Historical Society**

**June 13: WWII Event**  
FREE - Donations Appreciated.  
217-761-3910  
**Illinois State Military Museum**



**May 21-24: The 64th Annual International Carillon Festival**

Concert every night. FREE.  
217-546-3853  
**Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon**



**July 1-5: HCFTA presents "1776"**  
Tickets required.  
217-523-2787  
**Hoogland Center for the Arts**

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

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



## ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 16 - 5:30PM PASFIELD HOUSE  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

## GRANT DEADLINE EXTENDED

MAY 15 - INFORMATION ABOUT  
APPLYING ON [SANCOHIS.ORG](http://SANCOHIS.ORG)

## Want to get involved?



Consider joining a committee. It's a great way to give back while preserving and promoting Sangamon County history.

### **Committees:**

Programs/Special Events  
Membership  
Grants  
Cemetery Walk  
Finance