



HISTORICO

Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter

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AUGUST 2012

Reservations, Photo Contest Deadlines Nearing

Emmy-Winning Documentary Film Maker to Headline September 7 Meeting Tied to History Through Arts Event

For the second year in a row, the Sangamon County Historical Society--in conjunction with the Old State Capitol Foundation--will hold "*Sangamon County History Through the Arts*," a two-day celebration on Friday, September 7 and Saturday, September 8, focusing on county history as expressed through the arts.

The Friday evening, September 7 portion of the two-day event, kicks off the Society's fall meeting season and includes a pre-program reception of sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and desserts by Carol Jean Fraase at 5:30 p.m., followed by a special screening of Alison Davis Wood's Emmy-nominated historical documentary, *Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency*.

Wood will introduce the film. Afterwards, she will be joined by James Cornelius, curator of the Lincoln Collection in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and Lincoln historian and author Guy Fraker to discuss

"*Doing It Right: The Art of Making Historical Documentaries*."

Wood has been producing national documentaries for over a decade. Her programs have re-



Wood Cornelius Fraker

ceived numerous awards including 14 Emmy nominations. In 1999 she won an Emmy for her documentary, *Walter Burley Griffin: In His Own Right* about the talented, but overlooked Illinois architect. In addition to an Emmy nomination for *Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency*, several of her other productions including *Gold Star Mothers: Pilgrimage of Remembrance* and *Ten Sisters: A True Story* were Emmy nominees.

Her documentary *Against the Wind*, the story of wheelchair ath-

lete Jean Driscoll's attempt to become the first athlete to win seven consecutive Boston Marathons, was named best Television Documentary in 1997 by American Women in Radio and Television. She was one of 20 producers selected to attend the 2001 **WGBH Boston** Producers Workshop, where she participated in extensive hands-on training with some of television's most experienced producers.

Wood began producing documentaries for the Big Ten Network when she joined Illinois' Division of Intercollegiate Athletics / Public Affairs in April of 2008. Her work for the Big Ten Network includes *Spark of Genius: The Story of John Bardeen* and *Larger Than Life: The Red Grange Story*.

A native of Springfield, Wood was the longtime producer and host of *Prairie Fire*, a cultural magazine series about the people and places of central Illinois.

Wood worked at **WILL-TV**

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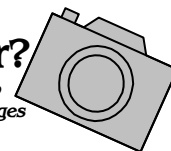
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WAR OF 1812
Soldier
Nathan Butler
Memorialized
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Sharp Shooter?

Enter Our Photo Contest. See pages 6 and 8.





We'll Be Off to a Great Start With Your Help

There's no down-time when it comes to the Sangamon County Historical Society. With September approaching, we're already on our way to a spectacular fall and winter crammed with great programs and activities, social events and more that you'll be learning about in the weeks and months ahead.

As president, I consider myself fortunate in working with a group of board members rich in experience who share a mutual love of history.

But that doesn't mean we hold a lock on leadership.

All members of the Society are welcome at board meetings, not just to sit on the sidelines, but to actively contribute to its discussions if they so choose. The September issue of *Historico* will list all the times, dates, and locations of board meetings.

You're also welcome to join any of a dozen standing committees...or suggest new ones like the Membership Relations Committee we've just created to cordially greet members and guests at the door when we hold program meetings. Don't be surprised if board members come up to greet you too. We really want to get to know you and encourage you to add your input into programming ideas, special projects, long-range planning, special events, publications, and a multitude of other areas that will keep the Society growing and vigorous in the years ahead.

We were among the early users of the electronic highway, first with our original website, www.sancohis.org (which is now functions as a back-up for specialized information and projects) and more recently, www.sangamonhistory.org, a site that is designed to manage our growing membership and everything that goes with it.

For those of you who are computer savvy, the new site is a quick way to learn about special events, make on-line reservations, even renew memberships. That doesn't mean we've abandoned you if learning to use a computer is not on your bucket list.

Historico will still arrive by mail (although it can be read on-line at both websites). But we have changed our postal address, something you need to make note of if you are sending in a reservation or want to contact us. The new address is: Sangamon County Historical Society, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.

Our new post office box is located at a more convenient branch than the one we had been using downtown, and to our delight, has a lower rental rate for an identical size box. That's going to be invaluable for Society members working on the "Sangamon County History Through the Arts" event coming up on September 7 and 8. (By now I hope you've read the front page of *Historico* and noted all the details!)

Mailed entries to the photo contest will be going to the new post office box as will reservations that are not made on line for the September 7 reception. I urge you to make your reservations quickly for the Friday evening event that really kicks off our meeting season, this time with delicious food and desserts before the program begins. Seating is limited and the speakers—Alison Wood, James Cornelius, and Guy Fraker—are sensational. Members of other history organizations and the general public will be able to purchase tickets for the evening, but with this issue of *Historico*, you get first dibs before the public gets details of the Friday evening reception at the Old State Capitol, so either go-on line or fill out the reservation form on page 7 and mail it in as soon as possible.

We're looking forward to the program and the free public Saturday event too, that will include lots of activities, the photo exhibit, mini-workshops, entertainment, displays, and artists demonstrating their skills, all indoors! The full schedule will be announced in mid-August and posted on-line and in the media. It will also be listed in the September issue of *Historico*. See you there!

Roger



Historico, published 10 times a year, is the official monthly bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society.

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, www.sangamonhistory.org.

Event updates also can be found on our **Facebook** page (www.facebook.com) and **Twitter** (www.twitter.com). Log in and search for *Sangamon County Historical Society*.

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor



MARKING HISTORY: Hot weather didn't deter participants in the dedication of a memorial marker at the Berlin Cemetery on July 21 for Nathan M. Butler who participated in the War of 1812. The event, part of a nationwide commemoration of the War of 1812, was sponsored by the Sangamon River Chapter, United States Daughters of 1812; Butler descendants Don, Bill, and Phil Springer; and the New Berlin Area Historical Society. Sangamon County Historical Society member Mary Payne Barringer, (above, center), president of the Sangamon River Chapter, gave the welcoming address. At right, SCHS members Don Springer (left) and his brother Bill, Butler's third great-grandsons, flank the new marker. *Donna Catlin photos*



Still Time to Catch ISHS Show by Illinois Artist Laureate

If you missed the July 14 opening of the Illinois State Historical Society's exhibition of paintings by Illinois Artist Laureate Kay Smith, don't fret. The display, "Holding Hands with History: The Life of Abraham Lincoln in the Context of Our National History, 1775-1865" can be seen through September 21 in the second floor gallery of the Abraham Lincoln National Museum of Surveying, 521 East Washington Street, Springfield, where the ISHS's offices are also located.

Smith's paintings, celebrating the life of Abraham Lincoln, are from her "American Legacy Collection." The exhibition is on display Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission to the museum is by donation; the exhibition is free with admission to the museum.

A painter of historic sites, Kay Smith has traveled extensively in Canada, France, England, Italy, Spain, Cuba and the length and breadth of the United States to paint our nation's historic events and landmarks. Her American Legacy Collection consists of 270 watercolor paintings and black and white drawings spanning 500 years of America's history. It is the largest collection of its kind ever done by a single artist in one medium, watercolor.

In 1994, in recognition of the importance of this work for education and preservation of our history/heritage, the Lincoln Academy of Illinois invested Smith *Artist Laureate of Illinois* as a life time appointment.

OFFICERS

President.....Roger Whitaker
Vice-President.....Claire Eberle
Secretary.....Mary Alice Davis
Treasurer.....Richard Herndon

DIRECTORS

Term Ending June 2013

Linda Bee
 Bruce Beeman
 Elaine Hoff
 Logan McMinn

Term Ending 2014

Patricia Davis
 Kathy Hoffmann
 Brenda Holmes
 Doug Polite
 Vicky Whitaker

Term Ending 2014

Donna Catlin
 Les Eastep
 David Grimm
 Ruth Slottag
 Francie Staggs

Presidential Appointees To Board

Marion Leach, Membership Relations Chair
 David Scott, Special Projects Chair

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Sangamon County Historical Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Gary & Cheryl Bushnell
Kimble Funk
Susan & Dennis Koch
Terry Ransom
Linda Roberts
Penny Wollan-Kriel
Arnette Whitehouse

Obituary

Georgia Northrup, 90

Long-time Society member Georgia L. Northrup died July 18 at age 90.

For more than 50 years, the Lowder, Illinois native was a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association, serving on its board and later as an emeritus board member. She received the ALA's highest honor, the Logan Hay Medal in 2008 for her contributions to its mission. Active in numerous organizations, she was for many years a docent at several Springfield landmarks including the First Presbyterian Church and the Governor's Mansion.



FULL HOUSE: Members turned out in full force for the June 21 Annual Dinner at Clayville. Tables were decorated in red, white and blue.



PRESIDENTIAL MOMENT: Sally Cadagin (above, right) who served as president of the Society 10 years ago, greets the Annual Meeting crowd as out-going president Nancy Chapin applauds. Cadagin arranged the annual meeting program that included a pre-dinner tour of the Cartwright Methodist Church in Pleasant Plains. At right, Chapin holds a framed photo by Donna Catlin of the covered bridge at Sugar Creek, a parting gift from the Society.

Donna Catlin photos



AT THE HELM: Roger Whitaker (right), newly elected president of the Sangamon County Historical Society, addresses the annual meeting. Whitaker, a Life Member, previously served as chair of the Society's finance committee and on the program committee. A native of Virginia, Illinois, he holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri. Other officers and board members—also all unanimously elected at the annual meeting—were: Claire Eberle, vice-president, Richard Herndon, treasurer, and Mary Alice Davis, secretary and directors were Donna Catlin, Les Eastep, David Grimm, Logan McMinn, Ruth Slottag, Francie Staggs, and Vicky Whitaker. The seven new directors will fill one to three-year terms, joining seven other directors who are continuing in their positions. This year's meeting also featured an auction that raised over \$1,400 to support Society projects and programs. The auction, co-chaired by Elaine Birch and Vicky Whitaker (center right) included several guest auctioneers including Pleasant Plains Historical Society vice-president (below) who raised the bidding ante on a colorized sketch of Clayville's Broadwell Tavern held by Birch. Below right, Brenda Holmes collects checks from successful bidders.



Annual Meeting Held At Clayville Draws Full House



Reception, Screening, Discussion and Photo Contest to Kick Off Fall Meeting Season As Society Gears Up for Major Arts Celebration

(Continued from page 1)

(PBS). She holds a masters in Journalism from the University of Illinois.

Tickets are \$30 per person and can be made through the Society's website, www.sangamonhistory.org, or by mailing your check and the form on page 7 to our *new* post office address: Sangamon County Historical Society, **Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744**. Reservations and payment must be received by **Saturday, September 1**. Since seating is limited, last-minute walk-ins will not be accommodated.

The reception and program will be held in the Foundation Hall on the lower level of the Old State Capitol, with direct access from the parking garage underneath the building, which will remain open past its usual closing time to accommodate the meeting, but charges an hourly fee. Free, nearby street parking is also available. In addition to entering the building directly from the underground garage, you will be able to enter the Old State Capitol from the north or south doors and after check-in, will be directed to the elevators that will take you to the Foundation Hall level.

On Saturday, the event that this year is dubbed "*Sangamon History Through the Arts II*," takes on an entirely different persona. The free, family-oriented indoor event, co-

chaired by Mary Alice Davis and Vicky Whitaker, will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will include about a dozen well-known local artists demonstrating or performing history-oriented works in the special setting of the Old State Capitol, displays by nearly a dozen Sangamon County history organizations, craft activities for children, and a series of 30 minute "how to" walk-in workshops on topics ranging

also wanted to offer area history organizations an opportunity to do more than display pamphlets and photos. This year, they will be able to raise money for their own efforts by selling items from their gift shops that the public would not normally see unless they visited their sites or were members." The Society will be selling the books it publishes on local history.

In addition to the displays, performances, demonstrations, and workshops, the public will also be able to view winning entries in the Society's **Photo Contest** in which Sangamon history is the prime theme. The contest, open to the public, was announced last week, with an **August 17 deadline** for submissions. For contest details go to the Society's special photo contest website: contest.sancohis.org to download the rules and an entry form. Photos can be entered digitally via that website or by mail. Rules and forms are also available at the Old State Capitol and at the **State Journal Register**, the contest's media sponsor.

Winners of the competition, in two separate categories (standard photography and digitally altered photography) will be announced at the Friday evening reception where they will be presented with cash prizes of \$100 (first place), \$50 (second place) and \$25 (third place) in each category. Friday evening attendees will get a preview of the winning works and the finalists in each category.

THE SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and THE OLD STATE CAPITOL FOUNDATION
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN

Celebrating

**SANGAMON
COUNTY HISTORY
THROUGH
THE ARTS II**

**LIVE MUSIC, ART
DEMONSTRATIONS, MINI
WORKSHOPS, PHOTO
CONTEST WINNERS, EXHIBITS
AND MUCH MORE
FOR ALL AGES!**

*In the Old State Capitol State Historic
Site, 1 E. Old State Capitol Plaza,
Springfield, Illinois.*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8

10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

FREE

For information: www.sangamonhistory.org

from preserving old books, photos, furniture, quilts, and clothing to recognizing Abraham Lincoln signature forgeries.

"We wanted to expand the offerings and try some new activities," said Davis, "including the workshops and children's crafts. We

RESERVATION FORM

"SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORY THROUGH THE ARTS II"

Special Preview, September Program, and Reception

Friday, September 7, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Old State Capitol Historic Site, Springfield

This special Friday night preview will include an exclusive showing of the Emmy-nominated documentary, *Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency*. The documentary will be introduced by its producer, Emmy-award winning filmmaker Alison Davis Wood. A panel discussion, *"Doing It Right: The Art of Making Historical Documentaries,"* will follow. Joining Wood on the panel will be James Cornelius, curator of the Lincoln Collection in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and Lincoln historian and author Guy Fraker. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception in the Foundation Hall lobby where you'll dine on sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by Carol Jean Fraase. You'll also be able to view the top entries in this year's "Sangamon County History Through the Arts II" photo competition and learn who took top honors in the photo contest. Proceeds from the event will help provide continued support for the work of the Society and the Sangamon County History Through the Arts II co-sponsor, the Old State Capitol Foundation.

Tickets are **\$30 per person**. (No tickets will be mailed. Your name will be on a list at the door). Reservations and payment must be received by **September 1**. You can make a reservation and pay **on-line** by going to the Society's website, www.sangamonhistory.org. If you prefer to mail a check (payable to the Sangamon County Historical Society), use the order form below and mail it to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744.

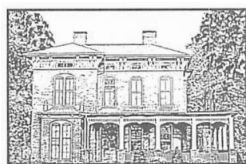
Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ tickets to the Friday, September 7 reception.

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City** _____

Phone: _____ **e-mail:** _____

sangamon county historical society friends and sponsors



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**Our names are Jilly and Duncan
And We Love History**

The Community Learning program at Lincoln Land Community College offers a non-credit curriculum related to interpretation about people, animals, nature, and cultural artifacts. Fall 2012 programs are:

- **Combining 1st and 3rd Person Voices** - Kathryn Harris as Harriet Tubman. *Performance and Workshop Thurs., Sept. 20*
- **Interpretation: The Nature of Action in Language** - Mark Hardiman, LLCC Professor of Theater. *Sat., Oct. 20*
- **Overnight trip to Connor Prairie, Indiana and "North Star" UGRR experience.** *November, 2012*



Other offerings, including those leading to certification follow, in association with the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). For information, call 217-786-2432.



Sangamon County Historical Society
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**Society Members Invited to August 7 Reception
At LLCC for Traveling Exhibit on Lincoln**

Members of the Society are invited to attend a Tuesday, August 7 opening reception at Lincoln Land Community College for “*Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*,” a traveling exhibit from the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association that examines the historical context in which Lincoln served as president.

The reception will run from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union of Menard Hall on the LLCC campus, 5250 Shepherd Road.

Lincoln Land Community College’s Philip and Mary Kathryn Trutter Museum and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site are co-hosting the LLCC exhibit that will be on display through September 14.

Themes featured in the exhibit include the Civil War as a constitutional crisis, secession, slavery, civil liberties and legacy. The exhibit ends asking whether visitors have been faithful to the legacy of ideals Lincoln left for our nation—equality, freedom and democracy.

THE SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO ENTER A

PHOTO CONTEST

BEING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND THE OLD STATE CAPITOL FOUNDATION'S SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORY THROUGH THE ARTS II

CONTEST DEADLINE

AUGUST 17

Entry fee: \$15

To download Contest Rules and
Entry Information go to:

www.contest.sancohis.org

Rules and entry forms also can be picked up at the Old
State Capitol and
the State Journal Register.



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