



# Historico

The newsletter of the Sangamon County Historical Society  
 308 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701  
[www.sancohis.org](http://www.sancohis.org) 217.522.2500

March, 2009



## Artist and Architect Will Lead Tour of Willard Ice Building March 7

The Willard Ice Building at 101 West Jefferson will be opened for a tour by members of SCHS Saturday, March 7 at 10 am. The group will be led by Michael Dunbar, Coordinator of the Art in Architecture Program for the State of Illinois, and Earl "Wally" Henderson, retired partner of Ferry and Henderson Architects.

Designed by Ferry and Henderson and A. Epstein and Sons of Chicago, the Ice Building is structured around a three story atrium that, along with an impressive art collection, diminishes the governmental look but functionally accommodates the Illinois Department of Revenue staff and operations. Both men were involved in the design and construction of the space.

While overseeing the commissioning of art in Illinois public places for the past three decades, Dunbar has also become one of the Midwest's most visible and highly respected artists. His work is seen at universities, parks, and public plazas. A retrospective of his art is presented in the 2006 publication *Michael Dunbar* by Suzanne Deats (Published by Fresco Fine Art Publications).

In addition to being a leader in the design of contemporary structures, Henderson is widely acknowledged as a pioneer in restoration architecture. He is the author of many professional articles and a frequent guest speaker on topics such as built environment issues and planning considerations.

Phone 522-2500 for reservations. The number of participants is limited.

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## Springfield Breweries Will be Featured at March 17 Society Program

The Historical Society's March Program will be about the numerous breweries that once operated in Springfield during the nineteenth century. Many Springfield residents easily recognize the Reisch Brewery name because it operated for over 100 years in the city. However, this brewery was not alone and actually had some competition from other breweries during the later 1800s.

Springfield Historian Curtis Mann will give a power point presentation about these other Springfield brewers and their interesting history. The program will begin at 7 pm in the Lincoln Library Carnegie Room.

For a preview, visit these web sites:  
[www.springfieldbcca09.com](http://www.springfieldbcca09.com) and  
[www.reischbrewcrew.com](http://www.reischbrewcrew.com).

### *Note from Nancy*

We hope that you found some/many of the programs surrounding Lincoln's birthday interesting. There were certainly a great number and a great variety of programs! I found it most difficult to sort through them all to find what would be the most interesting to me. Undoubtedly there was at least some one program for everyone!! Most particularly we hope you enjoyed Bob Davis' Jamieson Jenkins. Bob has worked long and hard gathering the information he has on Jenkins.

On page one you will read the details of the March program to be presented by Curtis Mann. Curtis has gone from researching mills all around Sangamon County to brothels in Springfield and now to breweries! He is certainly demonstrating his versatility of interest! The March program will be the last at the Carnegie Room this spring.

The April program will be held at the newly enlarged Chatham Library. The Chatham Library serves a constituency three or four times as large as any other in the county, and its newest addition reflects that. One part of the addition that is particularly appealing to local historians is a local history room. The Chatham Library local history room will not only be a repository for manuscripts, books, pictures, and other materials such as collected at the Sangamon Valley Collection, but Chatham will also collect and display material items. They already have a start with a few items from the Chatham and/or southern Sangamon County area such as the original cash register from Lick Elevator and a WW I uniform. We are hoping to enhance the new collection with copies of our society publications. In addition Curtis Mann, director of the Sangamon Valley Collection, and Kathryn Harris, Library Services Director at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, both past presidents of the Society, are combing their holdings for material that might be duplicated for their new Chatham "cousin." We would also ask all members from the southern part of the county to check to see if they have any materials that could be contributed that reflect their family's time in the area. Please contact the SCHS office at 522-2500 if you have any contributions of publications or items as we would like to present as many appropriate materials as possible to the Chatham Library at our April meeting.

Our May meeting will be held at the Illinois State Museum's research center on 10½ Street (more later), and the annual meeting will be at a Blind Pig (check Wikipedia for a definition)! I hope you find it a fun spring of programs! *Nancy*

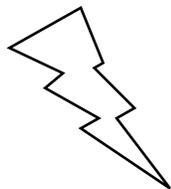
## **Volunteers Wanted**

### **Program Hosts/Hostesses**

Volunteers to provide refreshments for the May 19 program. Please contact Jane Vetter at 364-4826.

### **Book Sellers**

Volunteers to sell SCHS books at the ISHS Symposium in Jacksonville, March 26-28. Please call the office at 522-2500.



## **NEWS FLASH**

**Nancy Chapin reports that she is recuperating from a hip fracture and doing fine.**

**Board Meeting  
March 11, 2009, 5 PM  
Lincoln Library Carnegie  
Room South**

### **OFFICERS**

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William Hughes

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#### **HISTORICO CONTRIBUTORS**

Nancy Chapin

Bill Furry

"Wally" Henderson

Curtis Mann

Roy Mayfield

Carl Volkmann

Roberta Volkmann

Thomas J. Wood

#### **WEBMASTER**

Terry Cameron



## SCHS Spring Programs at a Glance

March 7, 2009	Tour of architecture and art in Willard Ice Building	10 am Willard Ice Building; members only; reservations required
March 17, 2009	"Breweries in Sangamon County" presented by Curtis Mann	7 pm Lincoln Library Carnegie Room North
April 14, 2009	Tour of remodeled Chatham Public Library	7 pm Chatham Public Library
May 19, 2009	Oral history of Illinois agriculture by Dr. Robert Warren	7 pm Illinois State Museum Research Center
June 16, 2009	Annual Meeting	Time TBA Blind Pig

### Lincoln's Neighbors Featured in February Program

The February SCHS meeting at the Lincoln Home Visitor's Center was in two parts. First Robert and Patricia Davis portrayed Jamieson and Elizabeth Jenkins, neighbors of the Lincolns. Then Site Historian Tim Townsend presented "A Journey to Greatness," the new film that introduces visitors to the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

Using a power point presentation with maps and contemporary photos, Robert Davis as Jamieson Jenkins retraced his journey from Guilford County, North Carolina, to Springfield, Illinois, on the Underground Railroad. He introduced the audience to several heroes along the route. These included: Rev. John Rankin of Ripley, Ohio, whose home was a haven for hundreds of fugitive slaves; John Parker, a freed slave whose bravery as a conductor on the Railroad is legendary; and John Birney of New Richmond, Ohio, who published an antislavery newspaper at

great personal cost. While in character, both Robert and Patricia Davis recalled several incidents from Jenkins' life in Springfield. As a drayman, Jenkins had many opportunities to serve as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. According to the *Sangamon Journal*, in January of 1850 he took a group of slaves to Bloomington in a stagecoach. The couple joined Second Presbyterian Church which had many members who were active abolitionists. On February 11, 1861, it was Jamieson Jenkins who drove the Lincoln family to the Great Western depot where they departed Springfield for Washington, D.C. Responding to questions after their presentation, the couple expanded on several facts and described the research process that created their performance.

Tim Townsend encouraged the audience to look at the several exhibits about other neighbors and friends of the Lincolns throughout the Site. As an introduction to the film, he acknowledged the many talented individuals and the ideal settings Springfield provided. This updated interpretation of Lincoln's life in Springfield

### "Patchwork of People" Series Resumes

*Central Illinois: Patchwork of People*, the popular lunch and learn series sponsored by the UIS SAGE Society and the Illinois State Historical Society, will resume March 17 in rooms C/D in the PAC at UIS. The buffet luncheon begins at 11:30 am, and the presentations will be from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.

The March topic is "How Their Diversity Enriched Us." Kathryn Harris will speak on, "In Search of Freedom: African Americans in the 19th Century Sangamon County," and Rabbi Barry Marks will present, "The Jewish Experience in Springfield."

The cost of the lunch and presentations is \$20, but the presentations are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested. To register or obtain more information, visit [www.uiiaa.org/uis](http://www.uiiaa.org/uis) or call 206-7395.



replaces the film that was shown at the Site since 1976. New equipment has been installed in the theater to accommodate the latest formatting and technology. After Townsend's brief remarks, the audience viewed "A Journey to Greatness" while watching for recognizable faces and familiar backgrounds.

SCHS Vice President David Scott presided, Jack Alexander introduced the guests, and Bill and Jane Vetter provided refreshments.

# DONATIONS

David and Laurie Farrell

Nancy and Chick Chapin in honor of Sally Robinson's birthday

# MEMBERSHIPS

**NEW MEMBERS:**  
Les Eastep

Paul W. Mueller

## Saint-Gaudens Lincoln Arriving Later

The small casting of "The Standing Lincoln" described in last month's *Historico* was not available for viewing at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site during February. Because of scheduling conflicts, the statue has not arrived from the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire, according to Susan Haake of the Lincoln Home staff. Haake anticipates the arrival of "The Standing Lincoln" at the Lincoln Home Site in the spring in time for the summer tourist season.

### Did You Know..



### 100 Years Ago

- ◆ the average wage was 22 cents per hour?
- ◆ the average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year?
- ◆ an accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year?
- ◆ a dentist \$2,500 per year?
- ◆ A veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,00 per year?



## Rochester

New Englanders were a distinct minority among the early settlers of Sangamon County, but they dominated the early commercial and industrial development of the Rochester area. The Sattley brothers, Archibald and Robert, established a Yankee presence on the edge of Fork Prairie as early as 1819. The Sattley brothers and their wives, the twins Eliza and Harriet Hawley, were Vermont natives, as were their neighbors John T. Benham, Samuel Williams, John and Maria Lock, the widow Phoebe Taft and her extended family, Caleb and Sarah (Taft) Sherman, Abner and Ann (Taft) Tracy, and Munson Carter. From New Hampshire were Samuel H. Stevens, his wife Lucetta (Putnam) and her sister Zilpha Kimball.

Born 1812 in Charlestown, New Hampshire, Samuel H. Stevens joined with Lewis Sargent and the brothers Benjamin and Samuel West to bring the modern wonder of steam power to Rochester. Beginning in 1834-35, the partners (all New Englanders and all in their early 20s) bought several tracts of land around Rochester and began work on a grist, lumber, and carding mill. Like many other millers of the time, they also distilled and sold whiskey. Their mill was in full operation by the spring of 1837 when this advertisement appeared in the *Sangamo Journal*:

#### WOOD CHOPPING

The subscribers will pay fifty cents a cord for wood chopped for the steam mill at Rochester. The wood is handy; board cheap and payment prompt.

SARGENT, WEST & STEVENS  
Rochester, March 28, 1837.

The presence of the steam mill was noted in John Mason Peck's *Gazetteer of Illinois of 1837*: "Rochester, a town site in Sangamon county, at the junction of the North and South Forks of the Sangamon River, ten miles east of Springfield, on the principal road to Decatur. It has a steam and other mills, and twenty-five or thirty families, and a post office."

The Sargent-West-Stevens mill was said to have turned out some of the best flour in the state. But the partners were apparently rather sharp-dealing businessmen: farmer John Lock recalled that although he had donated timber and labor for the building of the steam mill, its owners charged him .25 a bushel, cash-on-the-nail, to grind his corn at a time when corn was selling for only .10 per bushel.

In March of 1835 Samuel Hunt Stevens bought 160 acres of Federal land about three miles east of Rochester. Stevens married Lucetta Putnam in 1836, and the following year he hired Andrew F. Hollenbeck to help build a tidy stone house for him and his bride. Andrew, a Massachusetts native, was the brother of Lawrence V. Hollenbeck who platted Rochester in 1831. The house was built from blocks of brown limestone quite similar to that used to construct the Old State Capitol which was begun about the same time. It included a built-in bread oven and an indoor well. In 1841 a stone schoolhouse was constructed in Rochester using stone from a quarry on the South Fork owned by Samuel Williams. Stevens' house may have been built with stone from the same quarry – or even by the same builder. The house was occupied until 1954. It stood empty nearly 50 years at which point the Rochester Historic Preservation Society acquired it, disassembled it, and rebuilt it at the Rochester Village Park. The beautifully restored "Old Stone House" is now used to host community events. TW

## Springfield Tourism--1852

*Editor's Note: Below are excerpts from a letter recently acquired for the Sangamon Valley Collection. It is written by Mark Bangs to his wife Nellie. Mr. Bangs was in Springfield on a business trip and stayed at the American House Hotel.*

*The elite American House Hotel, the largest hotel in Illinois in that day, was built on the southeast corner of Sixth and Adams Streets by Elijah Iles. Directly across the street from the State Capitol, it served as a gathering place for legislators and visiting dignitaries.*

American House,  
Springfield, Illinois  
Friday eve just candlelight & before tea

January 30, 1852

My dearest Nellie,

Now I want to set down in our little home in Lacon and relax myself. As can be done only in the society of a bosom companion. The gray evening closes stealthily and passively over this muddy city. The footfalls and clatters in the street have assumed a homeward sound... The fact is I have been perambulating the muddy streets of Springfield for a good part of the day; thinking of a great many things.

The gong says come to supper - please excuse for a little while I take a little corn bread and a cup of tea and maybe my ide will be brighter. A desideratum certainly - you will say - maybe "Rather a long supper" I seem to hear you say, well it was somewhat elongated, I confess. That roast potatoes and that corn bread and that cup of tea - to say nothing of two or three yes four or five nice ladies who sat opposite me at table - were most decidedly satisfactory. You won't be jealous now will you, for none of them looked half (to me) as attractive as your own dear self - of course I mean the ladies and not that roast potato etc.

Wall we did get here last night but the mud! O' my country!! For about ten miles after we left Middletown, where I wrote you last, the going was passably good - but the rest - 12 miles - into Springfield was beautifully muddy - Well we went 12 miles about 5 hours - Springfield is a mud hole and that's a fact. What it is in a dry time I will not undertake to say - what it is in a wet time can be seen now but not readily said. I hope it may be better by the time we wish to leave it and wait with patience for the realization.

Mr. Terrill and my humble self are very comfortably settled in the third story of the American; with a nice fire like unto that we had in Ottawa. Our room is very much such a room only a little narrower - two windows - one on each side of the fireplace, with a bed in either corner; two washstands, writing table, looking glass, 5 chairs, and a pair of other articles of chamber furniture whose great utility - particularly when in the third story of a great house in a muddy city - forbid a more particular mention. Mr. T. is taking a cat nap and Mr. B. is writing to his well beloved spouse. The dogs bark watchfully, within the servants sing and rattle the dishes in the dining room. Our cheerful fire laps its lithe flaming tongue smoothly around the ragged lumps of coal in the grate and purrs and patters as dreamily as a nest of kittens. I do love an open fire - so sociable, so quieting helps on a reverie so nicely.

Hark! Here it rain? Well it has looked like it almost all the afternoon. I hope the bottom will fall out of the streets so as to let the mud dry up and this rain will help settle the roads. Do you distribute my love to all the good folks? Here's more for distribution. I can safely trust it in your tried hands. Give brother the particulars with his share.

And believe me to remain

Mark.



Plaque on Sixth and Adams Streets

## State Historical Society Plans Annual Symposium

The Illinois State Historical Society will host its 29th annual symposium March 26-28, 2009, at Illinois College in Jacksonville. The symposium will feature more than 20 sessions by noted Lincoln scholars presenting new historical research about Abraham Lincoln and his contemporaries in Illinois, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War.

Keynote speakers include Lincoln scholars Dr. Wayne Temple, Dr. Michael Burlingame, Dr. Mark Steiner. Wayne Temple is the Retired Chief Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives and has written many books and papers on Lincoln including Abraham Lincoln and Illinois' Fifth Capitol, Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet, and Lincoln's Travels on the River Queen during the Last Days of his Life. Michael Burlingame is the Sadowski Professor of History Emeritus at Connecticut College and author or editor of a number of books about Lincoln including Lincoln Observed: Civil War Dispatches of Noah Brooks, published by Johns Hopkins, and The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln. Mark Steiner is the author of An Honest Calling: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln (2006, Northern Illinois University Press), and professor of law at Southern Texas College of Law.

Other symposium activities include the banquet and tours of the Governor Joseph Duncan Mansion, the Illinois School for the Deaf, Woodlawn Farm, and other Underground Railroad sites in Jacksonville. Publications of SCHS will be available for sale. Workshops and seminars for teachers and museum professionals will be interspersed throughout the program, and Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) will be provided for educational professionals. Registration for the three-day symposium is \$50 if paid by March 1. Meals are not included in the registration fee, and should be reserved in advance. More information, including additional registration options, is available on the Society's website, [www.historyillinois.org](http://www.historyillinois.org) or by calling 217-525-2781. BF

**Sangamon County Historical Society**  
**308 E. Adams Street**  
**Springfield IL 62701**



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**MARCH**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>6-7</b>	<i>The Spirit of Lincoln</i> -a new musical by Ken Bradbury and Roger Wainwright which tells the stories of Central Illinois people whose lives have been touched by the 16th president.	8 pm Hoogland Center for the Arts; information-info@scfta.org
<b>7</b>	SCHS member tour of the Willard Ice Building (see page 1)	10 am Willard Ice Building
<b>11</b>	A Discussion with the artist Don Pollack-an evening of artistic reflection on the exhibit "The Lincoln Project"	5:30 pm Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Union Theatre, free admission; reservations required, 217-558-8934
	"Archaeology at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site" - Presented by Dr. Vergil E. Noble, Midwest Archeological Center, NPS	7 to 8:30 pm Illinois State Museum
<b>17</b>	<i>Central Illinois: Patchwork of People</i> - "How Their Diversity Enriched Us" (see page 3)	11:30 am to 1:30 pm Public Affairs Center, University of Illinois Springfield
	SCHS monthly program: Springfield Breweries (see page 1)	7 pm Lincoln Library Carnegie Room
<b>26-28</b>	Illinois State Historical Society 29th Annual Symposium (see page 5)	Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois; information- <a href="http://www.historyillinois.org">www.historyillinois.org</a> or 217-525-2781.