

hsqac.org  
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# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Quincy and Adams County, Illinois, Est. 1896



## *The* GOVERNOR'S POST

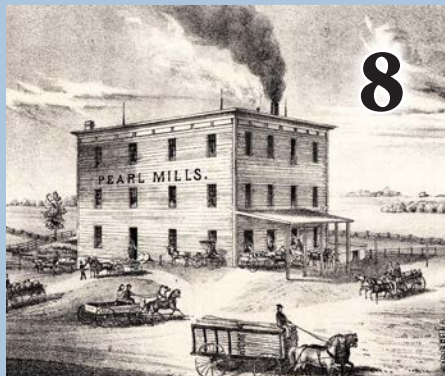
*Fall*  
2021



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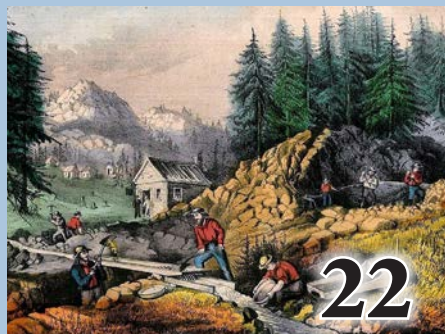
Col. George Iles: Pilot from Quincy to the World



Community in Focus: Mendon



The Origins of the Historical Society



John Wood Caught California Gold Rush Fever

Cover Photo: Image of the Governor John Wood Mansion from a postcard in the Historical Society collection.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

TO FILL *THE* RANKS OF

Historical Society of Quincy & Adams Co.

### ☛ Museum Volunteer

The Museum gets several visitors a day and the Society is in need of greeters and general support. Meet interesting people and be a part of explaining our history.

### ☛ Governor John Wood Mansion Tour Guide

Learn to become a tour guide for the Mansion. People come from all over the country to see the home and guides are needed. Tour guide training will be provided.

### ☛ Woodland Cemetery "Ghost" Interpreter

For those that enjoy acting or history, play a character in one of our cemetery tours.

### ☛ Other Volunteer Opportunities

There are many other ways to help the Society. Be a volunteer for the Education Program or write for our "Once Upon a Time" column in the Herald-Whig. Work on our beautiful grounds supporting the Master Gardeners.



For more information call the Historical Society at 217-222-1835 or email at [info@hsqac.org](mailto:info@hsqac.org)



# Get to Know Board Members of HSQAC

## Arlis Dittmer

Originally from Chicago, Arlis Dittmer lives on a farm in southern Hancock County. She and her husband bought a 1786 house in Massachusetts and brought it back in pieces to reconstruct on their farm in Illinois thus giving new meaning to their love of antiques. They raised four sons and have nine grandchildren.



*Arlis Dittmer*

Arlis is a retired health sciences librarian who spent most of her career at Blessing Health System. She graduated from the University of Illinois and has graduate degrees from Loyola University in Chicago and the University of Missouri, Columbia. With two degrees in history and one in library science, Arlis is an avid researcher and writer who has coordinated the Once Upon a Time column in the *Quincy Herald Whig* since 2014. She has been on the Board of Directors since 2016 and finds the history of her adopted area fascinating.

## Chuck Radel

Chuck grew up in rural Hancock County near Nauvoo. He attended Quincy College, accepted a teaching position at Quincy Junior High, and was an interdisciplinary team leader. He later became the district's transportation director and returned to Junior High as assistant principal. He has a B. S. and a M. A. degree in history and administrative certification. Chuck and wife, Gerry, have two children and two grandchildren. They enjoy travel and RV camping.



*Chuck Radel*

Radel taught U.S. history and enjoyed including local history in the curriculum. He also provided his Junior High students with several field experiences each year in order to make history come alive. Chuck led groups of 8th grade students on summer trips to Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, VA. For 30 years he organized and led large groups of students, parents, and sponsors on summer wilderness canoeing and camping trips in the Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada.

Chuck has been a Society board member more years than not since 1974. He has served as treasurer, vice-president, and several terms as president and is currently chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. He has helped accomplish a number of Society projects including coordinating the first couple of years of the "Once Upon a Time in Quincy" column in the *Quincy Herald-Whig*, creating the Lincoln Gallery, and facilitating the transition of the Gardner Museum to the History Museum on the Square.

Radel was appointed chairman of Adams County's U.S. Bicentennial Commission, which organized the

local 1976 celebration. He also served on Quincy's Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and helped create the new debate plaza, Looking for Lincoln wayside exhibits, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate Interpretive Center. Currently, he is vice president of the Quincy Park Foundation, a board member of the Interpretive Center and of Quincy's Lincoln Legacy, and Quincy's representative on the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Steering Council.

## Jack Freiburg

Jack Freiburg is a sixth generation resident of Quincy and a third generation independent insurance agent.



*Jack Freiburg*

His great, great, great grandfather, Anton Delabar, was from the first German family to come to Quincy. Jack graduated with honors in three years from Illinois State University and attended the graduate film school at the University of Southern California. He owned his own Independent Insurance Agency for 25 years and worked for another agency for the last years of his career. He retired two years ago.

His hobbies include attending auctions, buying and selling antiques, and hunting, fishing, and doing almost anything outdoors. He especially enjoys collecting items in the hunting and fishing field. He has traveled extensively visiting five continents and over 30 countries. He has been a Rotarian for 37 years, is a Past President of the Quincy Club, and is currently serving as a Rotary Assistant District Governor.

He is the proud father of three children and four grandchildren.

He is also proud of Quincy's history and architecture and hopes promoting these two Quincy treasures becomes one of the community's priorities.

### OFFICERS:

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# Col. George Iles: Pilot from Quincy to the World

By Linda Riggs Mayfield

The wording is eloquently simple on the gravestone at Sierra View Memorial Park in Olivehurst, Calif.:

GEORGE J ILES  
COL US AIR FORCE  
WWII KOREA VIETNAM  
Nov 6 1918 Dec 9 2004

The simplicity belies the magnitude of the influence of the man who was laid to rest there.

George J. Iles was born to Mr. and Mrs. George D. Iles of 1416 N. 14th just a few days before the armistice was signed that ended World War I. Quincy was largely a racially segregated city in 1918. Patrick McGinley wrote, "Although Quincy had the first anti-slavery society in Illinois and was Stop No. 1 on the northern leg of the Underground Railroad in Illinois, most of those who opposed slavery still

did not believe in the equality of African Americans. They opposed slavery but did not want to associate with African Americans in society, and did not want their children to associate with children of color in school."

In 1862 Colored School No. 1 was opened at 10th and Spring, and Colored School No. 2 was built next to it, then enlarged to replace it in May 1872. It was renamed Lincoln School.

A new two-story Lincoln School with 22 rooms and a capacity of 400 was built in 1910, but by 1933, about 30 percent of the black children attended other Quincy elementary schools, and only 126 were enrolled at Lincoln. Young George Iles attended Lincoln.

George played football and graduated from Quincy High School in 1935 and enrolled at Quincy College. In 1939, while still enrolled, Iles took the opportunity to earn a private pilot's license under the Civilian Pilot Training Program, thus becoming Quincy's first black pilot.

With Hitler gaining power in Europe, the United States was taking precautionary measures. Iles learned that there was a federal initiative to train black pilots for military duty. A segregated facility for the Army Air Corps program to train about 1,000 black men had been established at Tuskegee Institute near Biloxi, Miss. He applied in 1942 and was accepted into the program in 1943. So many doubted that black men could fly airplanes, the program was referred to as the Tuskegee Experiment.

A key leader in the program was Lt. Col. Benjamin Davis Jr., a graduate of West Point, and later the first black general in the Air Force.

Iles said, "Many people thought the Tuskegee Experiment would fail, but it didn't." He described Davis as "a very stern



*George J. Iles was born in Quincy in 1918. In 1939 he became Quincy's first black pilot when he finished a flight training program. He was accepted to the Army Air Corps Tuskegee Institute in 1943 and graduated in May, 1944.*

taskmaster because he knew that the future of blacks in aviation was riding on our success."

The program was a success--of the almost 1,000 men accepted, more than 900 completed the rigorous program and became Tuskegee Airmen.

Iles graduated in May 1944, receiving his commission and pilot rating. After several months of fighter training in South Carolina, he was sent to Europe in October as part of the 332nd Fighter Group, 99th Pursuit Squadron, organized and commanded by Davis.

The Tuskegee Airmen's assignment was to provide fighter escorts for the big bombers flying over Italy. A 1973 article in The Herald-Whig published shortly before the colonel's retirement summarized the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen: "In a 13-day period during World War II, the 99th completed 231 effective sorties out



*World War II war bonds poster featuring a black pilot. No African-American had ever served as a U.S. military pilot before the Tuskegee Airmen. The success of the program helped set the stage for the integration of the U.S. military after WWII.*





*The P-51C Mustang was used by several Tuskegee Airmen from July 1944 to March 1946. The airmen also flew the P-39 Aircobra, P-40 Tomahawk, P-47 Thunderbolt, and other American aircraft.*

of 246 airborne aircraft. They destroyed 12 enemy planes and got two probables during the same period. They lost one U.S. plane and two were missing.” Iles also flew missions strafing and dive-bombing ground targets in Austria and Germany.

On a mission over Germany in February 1945, Iles’ plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire. He continued flying long enough to be in radio contact with his leader and was told to try to make it to Switzerland and land, but soon all communication ended. For months, no one knew if he had survived. His wife, the former Cornelia Elizabeth Vinton, living with her mother at 2026 Spruce, in Quincy, received an official letter notifying her that he was missing in action and that he had been awarded the air medal with one oak leaf cluster.

Actually, Iles had crash landed his plane in a field near Augsburg. He was immediately captured and eventually was sent to a huge, multi-national prison camp in Nuremberg where 10 of the Tuskegee Airmen were held.

The black pilots expected the Germans to be extra harsh to them, but Iles reported, “I went through several POW camps ... but the Germans treated me and the other

black pilots just like the white pilots. Iles later said, “It was our first experience of being treated equally, equally bad, but equally.” My friends and I thought it was very ironic, because everywhere else we’d been, we were segregated and treated as inferior. We had to get shot down to be treated as equals.”

When Germany evacuated the Nuremberg prison camp, prisoners were marched south for 10 to 12 days. They begged for food from the homes they passed. The aviators of an Allied bomber, however, mistook them for German troops and strafed them, killing 20 of the prisoners. The incident was devastating to some of the leaders, who, Iles said, “began to fall apart.” Enlisted men stepped up and cared for the injured and obtained food. One older farm woman invited Iles and some of the others into her home for a meal. He said she was more concerned about her grandchildren than politics--her grandson was on the German front lines.

The American prisoners, including the pilots, were liberated by Allied forces a few months later. Iles said, “When I returned to the United States ... there was still only one base that would accommodate black pilots, and that was Tuskegee.” He

returned to Tuskegee and became a pilot instructor.

George Iles was chosen for special military intelligence training in Virginia, and then sent to Army intelligence school at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. He received another promotion in rank. Iles and Cornelia had a son, Bruce Adrian. His wife and son joined him in Denver while he was in the intelligence school.

Iles continued his college education and graduated from Boston University with a bachelor’s degree in business in 1948.

Finally, in that same year, President Harry Truman signed an executive order ending segregation in the armed forces. By the time the family settled in Colorado, Iles had begun a long and highly successful career in the U.S. Air Force. He subsequently had assignments in several states and in Germany, Italy, England, Japan, Vietnam and Thailand, specializing as an intelligence officer.

Unfortunately, much of Iles’ history is not preserved in ways that are easily accessible to the public. Fortunately, family members kept extensive scrapbooks of newspaper clippings showing the recognition their



relative received when he returned to Quincy on visits throughout his illustrious career. In addition to recording the locations and length of his assignments, the clippings show him receiving recognition after recognition, including when he worked as an intelligence officer for Air Force reconnaissance in Europe and attended an air tactical school in Florida.

In Korea Iles was an intelligence officer in the Far East headquarters of the Air Force. Returning to the United States, he became an instructor in the Air Force Department of Intelligence Training. He received a Bronze Star for meritorious service.

In 1965, Iles was sent to Bangkok as a commander of the special intelligence unit. After Thailand he returned to the United States and served at Fort Belvoir in Virginia as head of the program's division of the 1127th Field Activities Unit.

Col. Iles was awarded the Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

While serving his country in the U.S. and around the world and accumulating numerous completed curricula in military education, Iles continued his nonmilitary education, as well. He followed his bachelor's degree from Boston University with a master's degree.

While stationed in Thailand, Iles endured a father's grief when his son, Cpl. Bruce Adrian Iles, died in action in Vietnam on May 15, 1967. Nevertheless, in an interview given only a few months later, Iles asserted his sense of obligation to complete the mission begun in Vietnam.

In 1973, after completing 30 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Army and Air Force, Iles retired. He and his second wife, Jola Marie Neesen, of Venlo, Holland, (also spelled Vola in the family clippings), and their son, Danny, settled in Marysville, Calif. Iles believed that the area offered the opportunity to create an organization to promote understanding and build character in children through sports. In 2000, he founded the nonprofit Iles Academy of Golf for Kids in Marysville with his good friend Fred Hayes. The academy was founded to teach children golf but also leadership skills,



*Iles pictured with other pilots. The Army Air Corps program at Tuskegee, Alabama, proved to be a tremendous success with more than 900 pilots completing the rigorous training and becoming Tuskegee Airmen.*



*Colonel George J. Iles Elementary School opened in 2018 in Quincy honoring the bravery and service of Quincy's Tuskegee Airman. The school's nickname is the Red Tails.*

sportsmanship, decision making and integrity.

Iles died Dec. 9, 2004, and was laid to rest in Sierra View Memorial Park in Olivehurst, California. In an interview with Hope Green for the Boston University weekly, he said, "I was always very proud that the first element in American society to integrate was the U.S. military. I think the Tuskegee Airmen had a hand in hastening the integration of blacks into the civilian world, because we proved during World War II that we could do the job as well as anybody else." He had served his country as a pilot, instructor and intelligence officer in three wars and on three continents, clearly demonstrating the

truth of his statement.

On Oct. 25, 2017, the Quincy Public Schools Board voted to name the new elementary school to be built at 3111 N. 12th near the Illinois Veterans Home in honor of Iles. Colonel George J. Iles Elementary School opened for the fall semester of 2018.

*Dr. Linda Riggs Mayfield is a writer, education consultant and editor. She retired from the associate faculty of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and is now the Literacy Outreach Specialist at John Wood Community College. She is a former officer on the board of the Historical Society.*



# CALFTOWN COOKBOOK RECIPE

"This recipe was given to me by Mrs. Charlotte Frank, the mother of Rudy Frank. It is an authentic German recipe from her many delicious recipes." Berta Rees

Rudolf Frank was the manager of the Lincoln-Douglas Hotel in Quincy from 1939 to 1953 when the hotel was bought by Schimmel Hotels. After leaving the Lincoln-Douglas, he served as manager of the Hotel Louis Joliet in Joliet, the LeClaire Hotel in Moline, and the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield. He moved to Arizona toward the end of his career and managed hotels in the Tucson area.

He was the former President of the Illinois Hotel Association and the Arizona Apartment and Motel Management Association. Mrs. Charlotte Frank lived in Quincy from 1949 to 1962 when she returned to Germany to live with her daughter. Mrs. Frank died at the age of 88 in 1969 in Stuttgart, Germany.

## MAULTASCHEN

From the kitchen of Berta Rees

### Ingredients:

1 lb. hamburger or cooked ham,  
ground fine  
Cooked chopped spinach  
Sautéed onion, chopped fine  
½ cup bread crumbs  
3 or 4 whole eggs  
Salt, pepper, nutmeg

### Directions:

Mix the above good and spread on  
noodle dough. Fold over noodle  
dough, press together and cut off

excess. Cook  
Maultaschen in  
salt water for 6 to  
8 minutes.

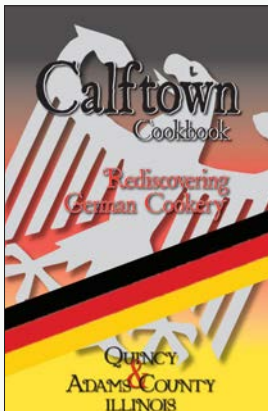
Can be served  
in soup or with  
buttered bread  
crumbs over it.

Also good when fried in melted butter  
to your taste.

Recipe available in the Caltown Cookbook.



*Editor's note: The traditional German dish Maultaschen (literal translation - mouth bags) is originally from Swabia, a southwestern region of Germany. While Maultaschen are similar to ravioli, they are usually larger -- 3-4 ½ inches across. The outer layer is pasta dough and the filling is a mixture of minced or smoked meat, spinach, onions, and bread crumbs plus seasonings such as pepper, parsley, and nutmeg.*



## Order Form



☐ \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 ea.  
Quantity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check and this form to HSQAC, 425 S. 12th St., Quincy, IL 62301. Cookbooks may be picked up at the HSQAC Office at 425 South 12th and at Quincy's History Shop, 332 Maine St. If you need shipping information, call the office at 217-222-1835.

## Rudy Frank's 'Playground' is Invaded by Bear

Otto K. Eitel, president of the Bismarck Hotel company in Chicago, and an uncle of Rudy Frank, manager of the Hotel Lincoln-Douglas here, told Thursday in a letter of how his elderly aunt from Amsterdam, Holland, escaped from a big brown bear which broke into a hunting lodge in the Wisconsin north woods.

Eitel owns the lodge on Owl Lake near Mercer, Wis., where a number of Quincyans have enjoyed summer vacations. Mr. Frank had gone to the lodge for the past 12 summers.

The "story of the bear" began Sunday evening when Mrs. Katie Sherhag, 74, Eitel's aunt, was alone at the lodge. After scratching

on the back door it retreated when Mrs. Sherhag shouted and turned on the lights. The beast didn't give up, however; it made a circuit of the building, standing on its hind legs and peering in each window before finally departing. Then the following night the bear returned and, instead of just scratching on the door, broke it down.

Mrs. Sherhag fled upstairs and telephoned for help. Meanwhile the bear made a shambles of the downstairs, breaking china and upsetting furniture. To make its visit complete, the animal helped itself to the food in the icebox, which it somehow managed to open.

When three deputy game wardens arrived, they shot and killed the bear, which was standing near an icehouse, about 100 feet from the lodge. The Eitels plan to ship the bear to Chicago to have it stuffed.



Story originally printed in the *Quincy Herald-Whig* on Friday, July 22, 1949.



# Community in **FOCUS** Mendon, Ill.

## Connecticut Yankees decide to settle in Mendon



*Pearl Mills in Mendon was a steam flouring mill owned by the Bradley family. Daniel Bradley came to Illinois in the wagon train led by Col. Chittenden.*

*By Linda Riggs Mayfield*

The first settlers in what became Mendon Township in Adams County were farmers. The Ebenezer Riddle family's ancestors had come to Pendleton County, Kentucky, from Ireland in the 1700s. In 1829 Ebenezer came north and bought 320 acres of land in the southeast quarter of Section 9 in Mendon Township. By 1834 he had prepared enough hand-sawn wood to build what was almost certainly the first frame house there. Teenager John C. Hardy came from Tennessee in 1830 and established a farm in Section 29. He married in 1835 and years later was described as "one of the early, energetic, and enterprising citizens who have used their energies and exertions toward the county's improvement and prosperity...."

After the American Revolution ended in 1783 and the Constitution was finally adopted in 1789, the states turned their Western land claims over to the new federal government. The new country's economy was unstable, weather contributed to several years of poor crops, and the custom of

leaving one's land to the oldest son was still strong, so many of the young adults were eager to leave New England and head west. That first generation had challenges and opportunities that had never existed, and young families followed the rivers into the lands west of the Appalachians by the thousands.

Beginning about 1790, the great evangelistic revival called the Second Great Awakening had begun sweeping through New England, touching thousands of lives. Yale College in New Haven, Conn., was considered to be one of the centers for the religious awakening. Several of the first families who moved to Adams County did not intend to farm but to start new communities based on Yankee commitment to frugality, hard work, education and a local Congregational church.

In 1831 Congregational Deacon John B. Chittenden, who lived in a spacious house on Boston Street in Guilford, Conn., a few miles east of New Haven, organized five covered wagons and 36 people to travel to Quincy, Ill., to find a place nearby in which

to establish a new community. "In this undertaking he had two distinct objects in view; first, to establish, strengthen, and extend, the Christian religion, by the organization of churches, Sunday Schools, Bible classes, etc.; second, to better provide for his family of boys in a new country."

The journey was probably more daunting than anyone imagined. After a difficult three months of travel, the wagons were frozen in, near Hannibal, Mo. After three weeks there, Chittenden arranged for horses to be brought to tow the wagons to Quincy on the Mississippi ice. They arrived in December 1831, and the travelers spent their first night in Quincy in the riverside log cabin home of founder John Wood. The group stayed in Quincy for the winter, explored the area, and on March 2, 1832, Chittenden bought the southwest part of Section 11 of what would become Mendon Township from old French trader Jacob Gershong. A log cabin had already been built on the parcel, and about 10 acres of the prairie had been cultivated. The first settlers' child born there was Sarah Chittenden, the





As early as 1832, a school was organized in the Chittenden home, taught by Cornelia Burgess, one of the members of the party from Guilford, who later became the second wife of Willard Keyes, co-founder of Quincy with John Wood. In February, 1833, the Chittenden cabin also was the site on which the first Congregational church was organized in Illinois.

In 1833, Chittenden, Benjamin Baldwin and Daniel Benton platted a town and named it Fairfield, but soon changed it to Mendon when they learned that another Fairfield, Ill., existed. The citizens immediately constructed

the Union Meeting House, in which any congregation with a minister was welcome to meet. The new blacksmith, E.A. Strong, became a well-studied Episcopalian minister. The Congregationalists shared the building, constructed their own church in 1838 and then built a larger one in 1853.

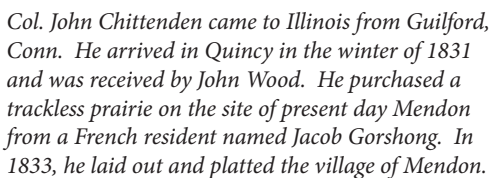
The vast Quincy District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which included Mendon, had been assigned to famed circuit rider Peter Cartwright in 1832. When the first Methodist church was organized at Mendon in 1839, Enos Thompson, from a family of barrel coopers near Paloma in Honey Creek

Township, became the preacher for the Mendon circuit. Salem Evangelical Church of Mendon was established in 1853, and the building was dedicated the following year. Other churches were established late in the 19th century.

Mendon's post office was recognized in 1834 with Abraham Benton, from Connecticut, as the first postmaster. His brother, Daniel, opened the first store. S.R. Chittenden, John's son, was also an early merchant, and the family continued to operate various enterprises, including a grain elevator and a bank, for generations.

The prosperity of the Mendon area made it an early political center. In the election of 1840, hundreds came from all over the region to attend a huge barbecue in support of the Whig candidate for president, William Henry Harrison. Orville H. Browning of Quincy, a friend of Abraham Lincoln, was the speaker.

In 1872, artist's drawings of the large, beautiful homes, great barns and fenced and well-tended yards of Orville E. Riddle and S.R. Chittenden, and the three-story residence of Dr. Young, were published. Virtually every record of the first five decades of the thriving community support the assertion published in 1879: "and within the next few years Samuel Bradley, John B. Chittenden, the Bentons, the Baldwins and other thrifty Connecticut Yankees came to the Prairie and formed there a prosperous settlement."



*Linda Riggs Mayfield is a researcher, writer and online consultant for doctoral scholars and authors. She retired from the associate faculty of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing, and is on the board of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.*





# SOCIETY CELEBRATES 125<sup>TH</sup> WITH CALFTOWN COOKOUT



The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County is celebrating its milestone 125th anniversary year with a **Caltown Cookout picnic** on the grounds of the Governor John Wood Mansion, on Sunday, September 19. The event is open to the public. **The celebration will run from 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm and will feature live music; German food; children's activities; book signings; free tours of the Governor's historic home; and self-guided walking tours of Caltown.** Food and beverage trucks will be available on the grounds, and the area's 7-piece premier horn band **Jukebox Reloaded** and classic rock group **Silver Bullets** will be performing throughout the event.

Dr. David Costigan, the Society's Historian in Residence and a long-time member, will sign copies of his book *A City in Wartime: Quincy, Illinois and the Civil War* at the event. Reg Ankrom, historian and former Historical Society Executive Director, will also be available to sign his latest book – *Stephen A. Douglas: Western Man*. Both books will be sold at the event and other local authors and books may also be available.

Some seating and an event tent will be provided, but guests are also welcome to bring lawn chairs.

The organization was formed on Friday, June 12, 1896, as the *Historical Society of Quincy, Illinois*. The first meeting was held at the Young Men's Business Association and drew an unexpectedly large crowd.

At that meeting a constitution was adopted and the first officers of the Society were elected, including Lorenzo Bull (president), James Woodruff (1st Vice President), General E.B. Hamilton (2nd Vice President), Thaddeus Rogers (Recording Secretary), S.M. Emery, Jr. (Corresponding Secretary), Edward Wells (Treasurer), Chauncey Castle (Auditor), and William Collins (Historiographer).

The charter was signed and submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State of Illinois on June 25, 1896. William Hinrichsen, the Secretary of State of Illinois, officially signed, acknowledged and filed the certificate on June 29, 1896, recognizing the Historical Society of Quincy, Illinois as a legally organized corporation under the laws of the state.

The Society has long been affiliated with the iconic Governor John Wood Mansion. In late 1906 the city approved a request to construct an alley near 12th and State which would have required the historic home to be demolished. In 1907,

however, Louise Maertz, a prominent member of the Historical Society, with the help of Daniel Wood, the son of John Wood, raised enough funds to purchase the Mansion and protect it. The Historical Society took control of the property in 1907 and has maintained the home ever since. For many years it served as the main address of the Society and housed the organization's many artifacts, including the original compass used by John Wood to explore the bounty lands and the first seal of the city. These items are currently on display in the History Museum on the Square at 332 Maine Street.

This historically significant home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and in 2007 was named one of Illinois' 150 most important architectural structures. In celebration of the 2018 Illinois Bicentennial, the home was selected as one of the Illinois 200 Great Places by the American Institute of Architects Illinois.

The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams has been recognized as an **Illinois Centennial Business** by the Illinois State Historical Society.

ISHS Executive Director William Furry says "I congratulate you and your Illinois centennial business for achieving a truly outstanding milestone-100 years of continuous operation in the Prairie State. Through economic downturns, depressions, adjustments, bumps, crashes, and countless minor and major crises, your company has succeeded for a century or more and has earned the respect of every business owner in Illinois and the Midwest. Our hats are off to you."

The Society will be honored by the ISHS at a public ceremony in Fall of 2022 when the COVID crisis is diminished.



# NEW LOUNGE, LENDING LIBRARY OPENING SOON

The “multi-purpose” room located to the right of the entryway on the first floor of the HSQAC Visitors Center is being redesigned as a lounge and lending library which will provide members, supporters and guests with a casual yet comfortable environment where they can relax, read, grab a cup of coffee, or study. The project is being funded by a private donor.

Additions to the room include built-in bookcases, coffee bar, and computer station, as well as a spacious conference-style table to accommodate research, study, or small gatherings. Comfortable lounge furniture with side tables will also be added and the space will be accented with wood floors and a fireplace. A highlight of the re-design is a wall to wall “Welcome” mural of John Wood, sword in hand and in battle in Monroe, Missouri. The image was published by *Harper's Weekly* in August 17, 1861, as “Rescue of Colonel Smith's Command at Monroe, Missouri, by Governor Wood of Illinois.”

Currently the room serves as a holding place for visitors touring the Mansion as well as an office space for two workers, small gift shop, display area, repository for donated items, and classroom for the education program. Relocating the offices will be necessary to complete the renovation, but the room will still maintain an open configuration suitable for educational programs. Visitors wanting tours of the Governor John Wood Mansion will still be able to schedule tours in the spot but will also be able to unwind in an inviting area before or after a tour.

The bookcases will be filled with books donated



*Jenna Niemann, Registered Interior Designer with Klingner and Associates of Quincy, proposed this design for the new lounge area in the HSQAC Visitors Center. A focal point of the room is a wall to wall mural from a drawing depicting John Wood's heroic rescue of Colonel Smith published in Harper's Weekly.*

by HSQAC members and staff. Books may be borrowed and returned at will, and no official check-out policy will be used. A very small, curated group of Mansion-related souvenirs will also still be available, but the inventory will be drastically reduced in an effort to encourage visitors to visit Quincy's History Shop in the Society's History Museum on the Square at 332 Maine.

The renovation is currently in the design phase, but staff are clearing the room and performing other necessary pre-construction tasks. It is hoped the project will be completed prior to the Christmas Candlelight Tours of the Governor John Wood Mansion in December.



*A new historical marker telling the story of Quincy's “Hospitality Corner” at 4th & Maine was installed at the History Museum and dedicated June 6.*

## MARKER CAPTURES HISTORY OF HOSPITALITY CORNER

On Sunday, June 6, the Society dedicated a new historical marker which tells the story of Quincy's 4th & Maine corner in narrative and photos. Three establishments previously located at 4th & Maine are the inspiration for the corner's recognition as the center of hospitality and commerce in the community: Rufus Brown's tavern, also the site of Quincy's first mercantile business; The Quincy House, once considered the most elegant hotel between Cincinnati and St. Louis; and the Newcomb Hotel which housed an upscale dining room complete with its own orchestra.

The marker was installed on the Governor John Wood Plaza at the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine, Quincy, near the dedication stone for the Newcomb Hotel, one of the few pieces salvaged from the structures located at that corner. Refreshment Services Pepsi of Quincy provided funding for the marker which was designed and installed by Classique of Quincy. Bergman Nurseries of Quincy also assisted with the installation of the piece.



Sponsored by the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County  
(217) 222-1835 or go to [www.hsqac.org](http://www.hsqac.org)

# WOODLAND CEMETERY 2021

# GHOST TOURS

EVERY SATURDAY IN OCTOBER &  
A HALLOWEEN NIGHT CIVIL WAR TOUR

October 2	Road to Freedom – Underground R.R. Guided Tour
October 9	Quincy's Civil War Legacy Guided Tour
October 16	Road to Freedom – Underground R.R. Guided Tour
October 23	Golden Age of Quincy – FULL TOUR
October 30	Golden Age of Quincy – FULL TOUR
October 31	Quincy's Civil War Legacy Guided Tour

**TICKETS ~ \$15**

Call 217-222-1835 to Make Your Reservation





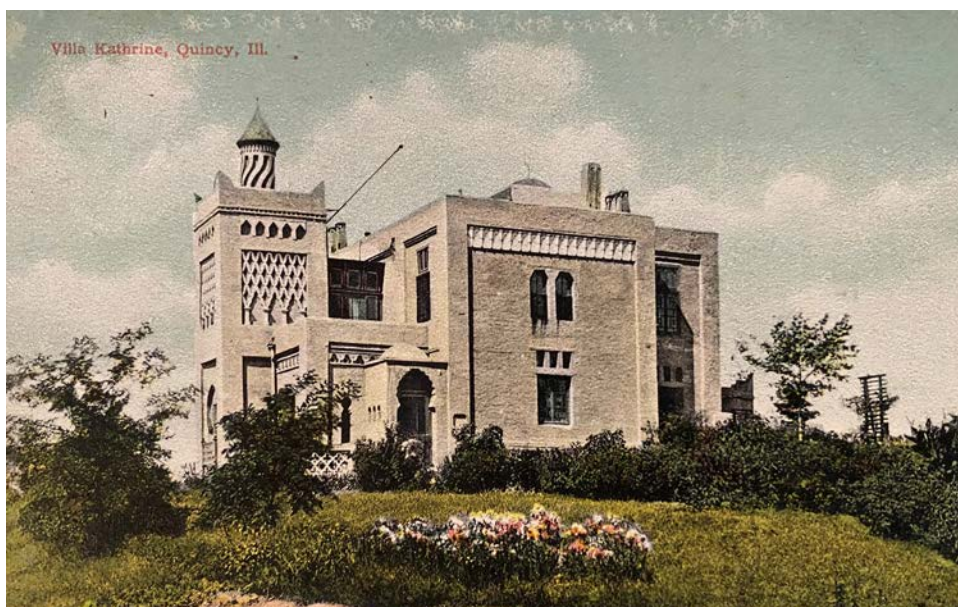
# GEORGE BEHRENSMEYER PROGRAM THIS NOVEMBER AT HISTORY MUSEUM

Anthony (Tony) Crane, past principal partner and officer in the Architectural-Engineering firm of Architecnics, Inc. of Quincy, will present **The Legacy and Influence of George Behrensmeyer-Quincy Architect** on Sunday, November 14, at 2 pm in the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine, Quincy.

The program will offer a look at the Quincy architect who established one of the early architectural firms in Quincy and whose lineage is still in operation today. Crane will follow the history of Quincy architectural firms from Behrensmeyer through present day, including profiles of principal partners of the firms over the years and the prominent

local and area buildings they designed. Original architectural drawings, photographs and exhibits will also be part of Crane's program which is free and open to the public.

Crane, semi-retired, currently practices as an architectural consultant. He is an emeritus member of the American Institute of Architects and is licensed to practice in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. Crane was awarded a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards certificate in 1979 and has served on the Culver-Stockton College Board of Trustees since 2011. He has been involved in the building design and development for numerous projects in the Tri-State area and in selected parts of the country.



(Top right) Quincy Junior High School, one of Behrensmeyer's most prominent buildings, was designed and built as Quincy Senior High School in 1932-33. Watercolor by Bob Cook. (Above left) The Villa Kathrine was built in the Mediterranean style for Quincy native George Metz and is the current home of the Quincy Convention and Visitors Bureau. (Above right) The Western Catholic Union Building, built in 1925 at 510 Maine, was Quincy's first skyscraper.

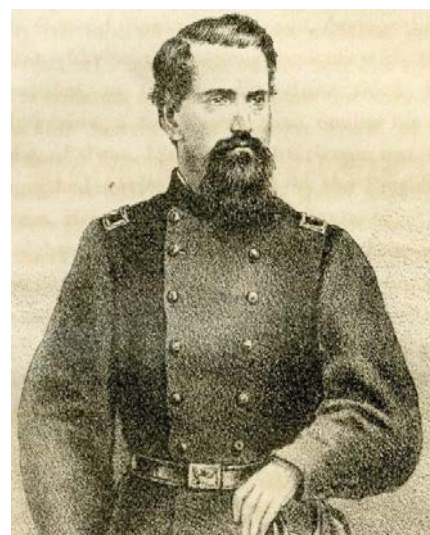
## PRINCE TO BE HONORED WITH GRAVE MARKER AT WOODLAND

Col. Edward Prince of Quincy is the next Civil War figure to be honored with a new gravesite marker in Woodland Cemetery as part of the Civil War Grave Restoration Project co-sponsored by the Historical Society and the Tri-States Civil War Round Table.

Edward Prince was an attorney in Quincy. At the beginning of the Civil War, he offered his services to the Union cause, and Governor Richard Yates appointed him cavalry drill master at Camp Butler

near Springfield. In June of 1862, Prince was promoted to Colonel in command of the 7th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. As part of Grant's siege of Vicksburg, Prince's regiment took part in Grierson's Raid through Mississippi in the Spring of 1863. Col. Prince retired from the Army in October of 1864 and returned to Quincy to continue his law practice and to pursue other enterprises as well.

The marker will be dedicated in October. Details will be announced later.





# THE ORIGINS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

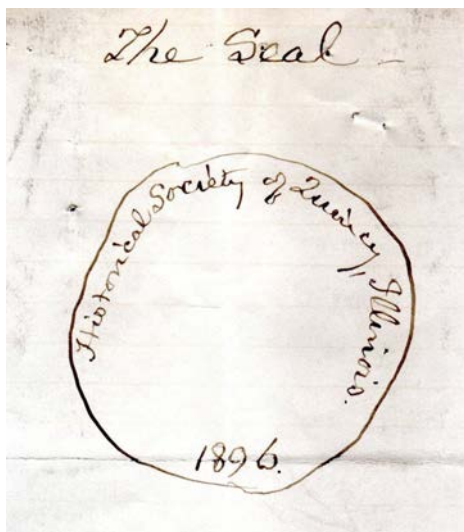
BY: ARLIS DITTMER

“Mr. S. H. Emery, Sr., is interesting himself in the organization of a historical society for Quincy,” said the Quincy Daily Whig on June 11, 1896. So begins the newspaper accounts of the origins of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. The article goes on to say, “The movement will certainly receive the most hearty approval of the public generally and will be accorded enthusiastic cooperation.”

The goal was to collect and be a safe place for documents, pictures, books, and the ephemera related to normal life.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Hopkins Emery had lived in Quincy from 1855 to 1896 where he had known many of the early pioneers of Quincy. He had served the Congregational Church as pastor and had been a Chaplain for the Union Army. His idea to form a society came from his later years spent in Taunton Massachusetts where he lived at the time and helped organize a historical society. His other inspiration was a gift from Thomas Pope of a large document called The Early Ecclesiastical History of Quincy. At the organizational meeting, it was suggested that Mr. Pope read this document at the second meeting of the Historical Society in July, 1896.

The first meeting was held June 12th



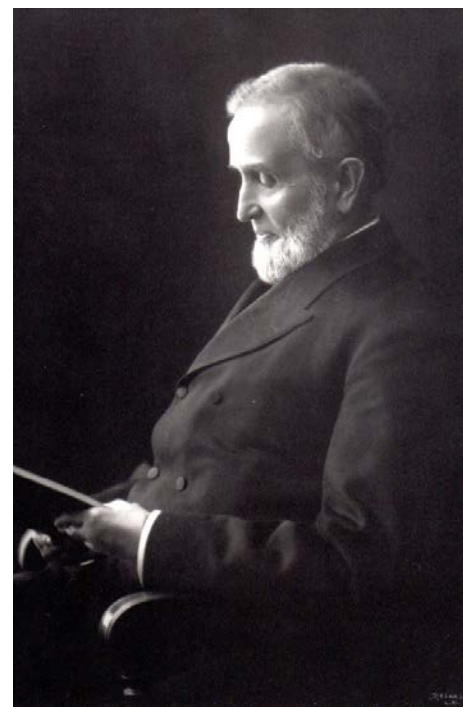
The Society board officers created a seal and wrote the following message to the members under the seal, “The wise men and women of the Society must put their minds together, and contrive something representing the early history of Quincy to go inside the above Seal.”



(Left) Reverend Dr. Samuel Hopkins Emery lived in Quincy from 1855 to 1896. Although he moved from the city the same year the Society was founded, he was the driving force behind the creation of the organization. He was made an honorary member of the Historical Society at the first meeting. (Right) Lorenzo Bull moved to Quincy as a boy in 1833 and spent the rest of his life serving the community. He was a volunteer firefighter, member of the American Art Union, banker, trustee of the Woodland Home for Orphans, organizer of the Quincy streetcar system, president of the Northern Cross Railroad, and the first president of the Historical Society.

at the Y. M. B. A. (Young Men’s Business Association), a group that later became the Chamber of Commerce. Sixty Quincy citizens signed the call for the meeting with ninety-five interested persons attending the first meeting. Lorenzo Bull was the chairman and Timothy M. Rogers, the secretary of the meeting.

A constitution was presented at the first meeting which contained the name and object of the organization, the membership, officers, meetings, quorum, and amendments. The constitution was read twice and adopted. The officers were elected with Lorenzo Bull as president. He and the other eight officers; two vice-presidents, two secretaries, a treasurer, an auditor, librarian, and historiographer, constituted the board of directors. They were to meet monthly while quarterly membership meetings would be held. The sixty people calling for the meeting were charter members. Membership dues were \$1 annually or \$10 for life membership. People living outside of the city limits became corresponding members. They also



elected the Rev. Dr. Emery and Captain Henry Asbury, a Quincy pioneer who had recently moved, as honorary members.

The Quincy Library offered their balcony room for the historical society’s collection which Dr. Emery commented upon in a letter sent to the Quincy Daily Whig October 15, 1896. While appreciating the gift, he felt the collection would soon outgrow such a small place. Emery preferred a fire-proof building which could be found or built with community donations “where treasures can be stored for the benefit of coming generations.” He then mentioned Mr. Pope’s July talk on Quincy church history which began with Jabez Porter whom he called “the pioneer preacher of Quincy.” The Reverend Porter did not live long. His bible eventually found its way to Dr. Emery who gave it to the society. Thus began what Emery felt would be a long line of “treasures placed in your custody as a historical society.”

Only five months after the historical society was organized they received a





*Louise Maertz was an active member of the Historical Society and led a campaign to save the Mansion from demolition in 1906. Through her efforts and with the help of Daniel Wood, the Society was able to take ownership of the home in 1907. The Mansion is the largest and most important artifact in the collection of today's Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County.*

letter from the Rev. S. D. Peat, publisher of *The Antiquarian*, who encouraged the organization to get involved with saving the mounds south of Woodland Cemetery. According to the November 22nd 1896 Quincy Daily Whig his letter said, "Quincy is called the 'Gem City,' but those mounds are the gems which crown the bluff..." Using flattering language about the city, he talked about the series of mounds in the county which could be seen if the community could save the "ancient" mounds and build a tower on them. The society made him an honorary member. Later, after a petition drive, the city purchased 10 acres of the mounds.

The society encouraged the reading of scholarly papers at their quarterly meetings. At the first annual meeting in January 1897, Col. William H. Collins presented a paper on Gen. James G. Morgan, his life and war experiences.

Newspaper accounts of the membership meetings mentioned the speakers, the importance of preserving a community's history, and the early items given to the Society. Some of those early gifts included

the Jabez Porter bible mentioned above, the 1834 church bell which belonged to the "Lord's Barn," a compass used by John Wood when he arrived in Illinois in 1821, the first brick made in Quincy in 1829, and the first seal used in the office of the Clerk of the Courts from 1833-1835.

In March of 1897, the American Historical Association, which had been formed in 1884, held a three day meeting in Quincy. The March 31, 1897 Quincy Daily Whig said the association meeting was held in Quincy, "for the reason that this society has done much to foster and encourage the study of American history..."

The spring quarterly meeting read the aforementioned letter of the Rev. Dr. Peat about the mounds in Quincy and passed a resolution urging the city of Quincy and the Park and Boulevard Association to preserve the mounds.

Unfortunately the July quarterly meeting was postponed due to the heat and the Society met again in the fall where Lorenzo Bull read a paper about the early

abolition movement in Illinois. After the paper, members recounted their personal reminiscences of the anti-slavery movement. One memory was of meeting held in the Congregational Church on Fourth Street known as the Lord's Barn. A pro-slavery mob attacked the church during the meeting. According to the October 6, 1897 Quincy Daily Whig, "Arms were provided within convenient reach and the whole platform under the pulpit was filled with clubs made from hickory hoop poles..." Those attending the meeting rushed out to defend themselves, including E. B. Kimball, whose wife remembered being in the church and recounted the event to Mr. Bull. When the church was torn down, the clubs were still there under the platform.



*Maertz*



## FROM THE COLLECTION



### JOHN WOOD'S CALIFORNIA GOLD QUARTZ CANE

A beautiful gold quartz cane was given to John Wood by D.G. Whitney when Wood visited California in 1869. Whitney arrived in Quincy from Ohio in the 1830s and soon became one of the leading merchants in Adams County. He owned several businesses including a store on the west side of the square, a distillery, a warehouse on the river, a grist mill, and several country stores. After significant financial difficulties in the late 1840s, Whitney decided to head west and regain his fortune during the California Gold Rush. While he never fully recaptured the wealth and status he had in the Gem City, he did experience moderate success in California. Whitney and Wood remained friends and when John Wood visited California in 1869, D.G. Whitney presented him with a gold quartz cane. It is engraved on the gold panels of the knob with, "To John Wood, Sept. 9, 1869, D.G. Whitney."

Gold quartz is one of the rarest forms of natural gold in the world, so it was a very special gift. It became fashionable to craft gold quartz into decorative stones to be placed in items, especially canes and walking sticks. Canes like the one Whitney gave Wood appeared primarily in California during the Gold Rush years between 1848 and 1864. The items were created to commemorate gold mining success or general business success in California. The canes were often presented to friends and visiting dignitaries from the east as symbols of the art and history of the Golden State.

The cane was prized by Governor Wood and remained in the Wood family until John Wood III donated the item to the Historical Society in November, 1907, when the Society took ownership of the John Wood Mansion. The cane reminds us all of the adventurous spirit and interesting life of the city's founder.



*HSQAC President Arlis Dittmer and 1st Vice President Jack Freiburg, accept a grant check at Community Foundation ceremony.*

## HSQAC RECEIVES GRANT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County received a grant through the Community Foundation's 2021 Competitive Grant program at a ceremony hosted by the Historical Society at the Governor John Wood Mansion on August 17. Representatives from forty area nonprofits in the Foundation's 12-county region in Illinois and Missouri attended the ceremony held on the Mansion grounds and received grant funding this year.

The Historical Society's award, for \$4,691.66, will be used to improve HSQAC's technology plan.

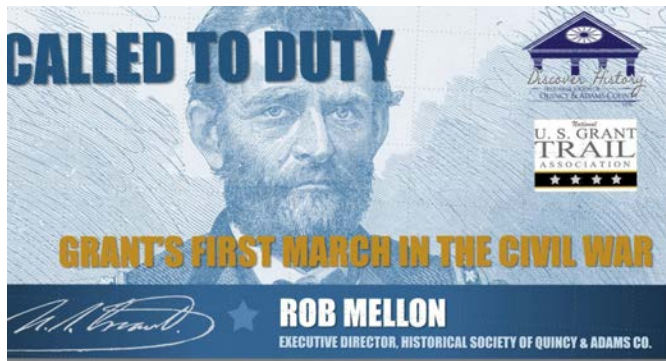
Upgrades will include the installation of hardware appropriate for the management of current research and accounting requirements as well as the addition of improved digital storage for photographs, documents and architectural designs, eliminating the need to rely solely on USB thumb drives.

The increased technological needs of the Society are due in part because of the burgeoning online research capabilities the Society is now able to offer the public through its updated website and other social media platforms. "The project would significantly enhance the organization's ability to serve the public and protect and preserve our shared history," the grant application states, a benefit not only for Quincy and Adams County but for the entire region.

This grant was funded by The Quincy Foundation Fund and the Dennis R. and Barbara L. Williams Fund for Arts and Education through the Community Foundation.



# MELLON SPEAKS AT ULYSSES S. GRANT SYMPOSIUM



Rob Mellon, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County and also a Major in the U. S. Army Reserves, was a speaker at the 8th Annual Ulysses S. Grant Symposium sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council in St. Louis.

The presentation, Called to Duty: Grant's First March in the Civil War, covered Grant's journey with the Twenty-First Illinois Volunteer Infantry as they made their way from Springfield to Quincy on July 3, 1861. The journey took eight days, since the newly minted Colonel Grant decided to march his troops instead of use the available railroad. Mellon discussed the facts as well as the tales that have evolved through the years.

## COSTIGAN'S BOOK A CITY IN WARTIME NOW AVAILABLE

The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County has coordinated the publication of Dr. David Costigan's doctoral dissertation, *A City in Wartime: Quincy, Illinois and the Civil War*, as a 230 page book. Photos curated from the Collection by staff and members were added to the work, as were detailed photo cutlines and glossy front and back covers. Private donations from several of Costigan's former students and supporters funded the project.

The book delves deeply into the effect of the war on Quincy and covers such topics as the politics of that time, border issues between the free state of Illinois and the slave state of Missouri, and problems arising during the downturn and eventual resurgence of the economy. Throughout the book, the Civil War contributions of several important Quincy citizens are discussed.

Costigan, a Professor Emeritus at Quincy University, holds degrees from the

University of Notre Dame and Illinois State University. Originally from Bloomington, Illinois, he arrived in Quincy in the fall of 1957, having been hired by Quincy College to coach baseball and to teach American history. He retired from athletic responsibilities in 1969, but continued to teach until 1996. In retirement, Costigan has offered a number of POLIS classes at the University and has continued involvement in several community groups. Currently, he is Historian in Residence for the Historical Society as well as a member of that organization; he also serves on Quincy's Lincoln Legacy committee and Lincoln-Douglas Debate Interpretive Center Advisory Board. Previously, Costigan was a member of Quincy's Bicentennial Committee and a founding member of the Tri-States Civil War Round Table. He was also inducted into Quincy University's Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

A revered educator who has interested hundreds of students young and old in the history of this country, Dave Costigan

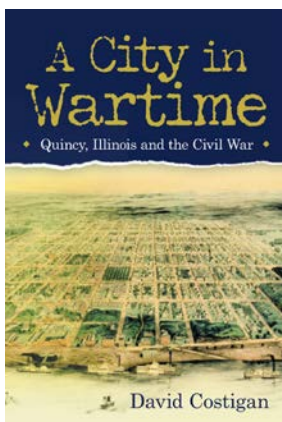
continues to mold minds. Comments from former students and co-workers include remarks such as: "a consummate educator," "a valued colleague," "a very motivational history teacher," "a man who greatly influenced my life," and "one of the best."



Dr. David Costigan,  
Professor Emeritus at  
Quincy University

*A City in Wartime* is available at Quincy's History Shop in the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine and the Visitors' Center at 425 South 12th.

A "Meet the Author Book Signing" is planned on the John Wood Mansion grounds on September 19th in conjunction with the Society's 125th Anniversary Celebration.



### Order Form

☐ \_\_\_\_\_ \$18.35 ea.  
Quantity Shipping - \$5 per book

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Mail check and this form to HSQLAC, 425 S. 12th St., Quincy, IL 62301. Books may also be purchased at Quincy's History Shop at the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine, Quincy.



# MEET OUR “ONCE UPON A TIME” AUTHORS

## Beth Lane

Beth Lane, a writer and businesswoman living in Quincy, retired as Executive Director of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County in 2016 and now owns and operates Still Waters Float Center in Quincy.

She is the author of the popular true crime story *Lies Told under Oath* about the Pfanschmidt family murders that took place at a farm near her childhood home.



Beth Lane



Phil Reyburn



Dr. Linda Mayfield

## Phil Reyburn

Before childhood immunizations, I had contacted chickenpox, measles, and the mumps. But the most contagious of all diseases struck when I was age 9 ---- I caught the history bug. School children in the 1950s were immunized to prevent polio, smallpox, etc., but no physician or scientist has yet to find a cure for the “history virus.” Back in the day, all Hoosier elementary students studied Indiana history in the 4th grade. From then on, I was hooked. My book reports were always about famous Americans or events. From being a poor student and a non-reader, finding history forever changed my life.

I was born and grew up in Kokomo, Indiana, graduating from high school in 1966, followed by college where I was a history major, obtaining B.Sc. and M. Sc. degrees from Indiana State University in 1970 and 1974.

While in graduate school, I took the Civil Service exam, which resulted in a job with the Social Security Administration. I set out in life to be a history teacher, but needing a secure job took precedent. What I thought would be my vocation became my avocation.

After college and before being transferred to Galesburg, Illinois, I served six years in the Indiana Army National Guard.

Twenty-six of my 30-years with the Social Security Administration were spent in Galesburg, Ill. where I worked as the local office field representative.

In 1971, Pat, a Kokomo native, and I were married. In fact, we were in the same high school class, but we were not acquainted until we met while back home doing our student teaching. Pat is a 1969 Ball State University graduate and has a Master of Library Science degree. Over the years, she has been very helpful in all my history research endeavors.

We have two boys, Matthew, who lives and works in Chicago and Adam, who is a physician here in Quincy.

Over the past 41 years, I have been involved with four book projects; edited a Civil War series for the Galesburg newspaper; and have had a few magazine and journal articles published.

For me, being a lifelong history student, has also led to a very interesting and fulfilling life.

## Linda Mayfield

Dr. Linda Riggs Mayfield has served several terms as an officer on the HSQAC Board of Directors. She holds degrees

in history and education. After teaching in the US and Santiago, Chile, she was employed as professional staff and associate faculty at Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing for 19 years and also taught at Culver-Stockton College and Quincy University.

She is now a literacy outreach specialist at JWCC and also works as a research and writing consultant for doctoral scholars, educators, and authors. Her articles have been published in academic journals and the popular press, in addition to the *Herald-Whig* “Once Upon a Time” column and *The Governor’s Post*. Dr. Mayfield hosts the historical web site SeekingSiloamSprings.com, which focuses on the resort community of Siloam that existed in eastern Adams County from 1883 to 1947, where Siloam Springs State Park is now located. The Isariah Mayfield family was the first to settle in Beverly Twp. in 1834, and Dr. Mayfield’s grandchildren are now the eighth generation of Mayfields in Adams County. Linda and her husband, Brian, retired administrator of Quincy Christian School, have four adult children, eleven grandchildren, and eight llamas.

*The Once Upon a Time column is coordinated by HSQAC President Arlis Dittmer and has been running since 2011. There are currently 15 authors, and close to 500 articles have been published as weekly columns in the Quincy Herald Whig’s Sunday edition.*

*The column was recently recognized by the Illinois State Historical Society with a Certificate of Excellence in the Best of Illinois History competition.*

*Current authors include: Reg Ankrom, Heather Bangert, Terrell Dempsey, Melissa DeVerger, Arlis Dittmer, Kent Hull, Greg Kreinberg, Beth Lane, Linda Mayfield, Rob Mellon, Iris Nelson, Joe Newkirk, Phil Reyburn, Lynn Snyder, and Beth Young.*



# PRESERVING AND DIGITIZING THE SCHOTT COLLECTION; A PROFILE OF LIFE IN A MISSISSIPPI RIVER TOWN IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

BY LYNN SNYDER

On August 19th, David Joens, Coordinator of the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB), and two of his staff members made a site visit to the Historical Society to check on the status of our Schott Photograph Collection Project which involves the scanning and digitization of approximately 2000 film negatives from the collection. Those involved in HSQAC's project include Jean Kay, HSQAC Archivist; David Adam, Schott Project Scanning Technician; and Lynn Snyder, Schott Project Director.

J.F.C. Schott, son of Johann (J. B.) Schott who began a small tannery and saddlery in Quincy in the 1850s, followed his father in the saddlery business. However, J.F.C. was also interested in all aspects of life in the Quincy area: family life, fishing and boating, hunting, camping, hunting mushrooms, and the growing interest in automobile ownership and travel. And because the Schott Saddlery also bought rye straw to stuff their popular Noxall horse and mule collars, J.F.C. also became familiar with local Illinois and Missouri farmers from whom the company bought tons of straw each year. Beginning at the end of the



ISHRAB staff learn details about the scanning project from Schott Project Director Lynn Snyder (far right) and Schott Scanning Technician David Adam (second from right).

19th century through the 1930s he recorded what he saw and experienced, first with a glass plate negative camera and then a series of film negative cameras.

When the Historical Society was able to purchase a large portion of J.F.C.'s original negatives in the early 2000s, we began a project to preserve the beauty and historic record of this collection through digitization and cataloging.

By the end of 2021, thanks to funding provided by two grants (2018, 2020) from ISHRAB, we will have scanned nearly

3000 glass plate and film negatives, and developed a finding aid to the collection. Using Past Perfect on line programming, obtained through an ISHRAB grant to the Historical Society in 2012, we will soon be able to make both the finding aid and a sample of this diverse and beautiful collection of images better known, more accessible, and appreciated by a wider local, regional and national audience.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to ISHRAB for their continuing support of the mission of the Historical Society and the Schott Collection Project.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Quincy & Adams County

*Preserving the Past. Ensuring the Future.*

**hsqac.org**  
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**Visitors Center**



**Livery** 12th & State St.



**Governor John Wood Mansion**

Take a tour!



# CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM III



Sponsored by  
Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County  
Tri-States Civil War Round Table

**OCTOBER 8-9, 2021**

**Kroc Center, 405 Vermont Street, Quincy, Illinois**

**Free and Open to the Public**

**Reservations Required**

**Call 217-222-1835**

Music by  
The Pike Pipers  
&  
Rhonda Basinger

History Museum & Quincy's History Shop, 332 Maine  
Governor John Wood Mansion & Lincoln Gallery, 425 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Open 3-5 pm, Friday  
Open 2-4 pm, Saturday

## **SCHEDULE, KROC CENTER**

**Friday, October 8**

**Check-in/Ticket Pick-up - 6:15 - 7 pm**

Dr. Timothy B. Smith- Grierson's Raid - 7 pm

Brian Fox Ellis- Walt Whitman - 8:15 pm

**Saturday, October 9**

Quincy Vignettes-Four Local Historians Talk about Quincyans Involved in the War - 8 am  
(Coffee & Underbrink's pastries will be served from 7:30-8 am before the Quincy Vignettes program.)

Dr. Sam Wheeler-Robert Todd Lincoln's Civil War - 9:15 am

Timothy S. Good-The Lincoln Douglas Debates - 10:30 am

Dr. Curt Fields-Grant and Vicksburg - 1:15 pm

For details call  
217-222-1835  
Or contact  
[susid@hsgac.org](mailto:susid@hsgac.org)

*Reserve your ticket soon as we will be following Illinois COVID protocols with regard to seating space.  
Masks are required.*



## ERNEST WOOD: A BRILLIANT MASTER OF MANY STYLES

Ernest Wood was one of the most gifted architects in the history of the city of Quincy. The many homes he designed in the Gem City demonstrate that he was adept at a variety of architectural styles. He did not restrict himself to any particular style, but instead became a master of many. Four of the homes that show the versatility of Wood are 2000 Jersey Street; the Newcomb-Stillwell Mansion, now the Quincy Museum at 16th and Maine; 129 East Avenue; and 2003 Jersey Street.

The home at 2000 Jersey is an impressive stone structure with a Georgian design. The 129 East Avenue home was originally the

residence of Emery Lancaster and is in the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Prairie School style of architecture. The Quincy Museum building, originally the home of the Newcomb family, is a semi-Rhenish castle built with granite stone, and the home at 2003 Jersey is in even another architectural style. Ernest Wood also designed several commercial buildings including the State Savings and Loan & Trust Company, Levering Hospital in Hannibal and many of the schools in the area. Wood was a valued member of the community and was a life member at the Historical Society. His brilliant designs are still an integral part of the architectural landscape of the city.



Ernest M. Wood's drafting table was moved from George Irwin's residence into the Ernest Wood addition of the History Museum on the Square in August.

## SOCIETY RECEIVES ERNEST WOOD'S DRAFTING TABLE

The Society has received architect Ernest M. Wood's drafting table as a bequest from the estate of George Irwin, HSQAC president for several years. The piece was moved from Irwin's former residence, a carriage house at 1636 Hampshire, to the Ernest Wood addition in the History Museum on the Square at 332 Maine.

Fischer Builders of Quincy moved the desk, building scaffolding inside the home to facilitate the move from a loft above the 2nd floor. It was then lifted over a railing to the second floor and out a second floor window where a crane moved it to

the builders' truck to be delivered to the History Museum.

Wood (1863-1956) began his career as a draftsman for architect Harvey Chatten of Quincy. The two collaborated on the Richard F. Newcomb House, a Richardsonian Romanesque home located at 1601 Maine in Quincy and now home to the Quincy Museum. Beginning in the 1900's, Wood became interested in the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School style and he is primarily responsible for bringing that style to the area. Wood's office and studio building at 126 North 8th Street was his first example of Prairie School style in Quincy.



THANK YOU, ROLLA WIKE! HSQAC member Rolla Wike of Quincy has donated a sign to the Society from the Quincy Free Public Library and Reading Room at 332 Maine Street in Quincy, now the History Museum on the Square. The wooden sign is approximately 2'x 1' and features stenciled letters painted gold and spelling out "Young Adult's Room."



Pictured above left to right: Mary Ann Freeman and Jack Ball show the front and back of the new t-shirts.

## Governor's Gardens

On July 19th HSQAC honored eleven of its gardens volunteers with a tasty Appreciation Luncheon at the Mansion's Visitors' Center. The menu, prepared by staff, included a number of salads, taco fixings, roast beef and ham sliders, and a variety of desserts and beverages.

The volunteers were joined by several members of the Society's Board and staff who thanked the gardeners for their efforts to beautify both of our campuses. Honorees were also presented with colorful green and yellow tee shirts signifying their horticultural work for the Society.

A number of new plants have been added to the gardens at the History Museum on the Square and the Governor John Wood Mansion this year, and Master Gardener Jack Ball has crafted new signage for the species in the Mansion's Herb Garden, Prairie Grass Garden, and Parlor Garden.





*John Sutter built a water powered sawmill on the American River in Coloma, California. His carpenter, James Marshall, found flakes of gold in a stream in 1848. Although the two attempted to keep the find a secret, thousands of fortune seekers flooded to Sutter Mill once the news got out.*

## John Wood Caught California Gold Rush Fever

BY: REG ANKROM

In late 1848, Quincy newspapers reported a gold strike in the unorganized territory of California.

By Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1848, The Quincy Whig's editor filled five of seven columns of the newspaper's second page with more than a dozen stories and vignettes about what had happened since James W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in January.

It was enough to entice Quincy founder John Wood. Once before, he had tried mining. In 1827, he moved wife Ann Marie and their first child, 10-month-old daughter Ann, to Galena in northwest Illinois to mine lead. By the end of the year, the Woods, unsuccessful, returned to Quincy.

Wood sensed opportunity, however, in the stories from California. On January

30, 1849, The Whig informed readers that Wood, his sons Daniel, 20, and John Jr., 19, and 13 others, including Quincy postmaster Dr. Samuel Rogers and his nephew George, would leave the city within the week for California. By April 10, 40 more from Quincy and 26 from the county followed.

"The most of them go out to see the country, and seek their fortunes, and will be absent probably two years," The Whig stated. "The best wishes of our citizens, we are sure, go with them. Mr. Wood, as one of our best and most enterprising citizens, and public officers, is connected with our community by ties that can never be severed."

At New Orleans, the Wood company boarded the steamship Galveston for San Francisco. An engine problem forced a three-month stay in Honduras. They were delayed another 20 days at Panama,

where 2,000 others awaited passage to San Francisco.

The Wood party arrived at San Francisco on July 18 and made it to Sutter's Mill on Aug. 11. Daniel Wood had written in what the newspaper called a "rather desponding strain" that several of Wood's crew had been stricken by a form of malaria. Charley Poling of Mendon was among those who took sick. The paper reported that the illness had decreased profits. John Wood had been prospecting for several days and returned "without making anything."

Wood was frustrated. He told his son he "had almost made up his mind to return" to Quincy.

"The gold here is in abundance," S.E. Heaton of Marcelline wrote more optimistically to his father Patterson. Success, he said, would just take more effort than they thought. "Some curse the



day they came here -- having worked a few days and not succeeding. ... I have not dug any full day but what time I have dug my average is \$9 per day." He sent his father a sample of the gold dust.

Wood supervised 40 men, who over three weeks dug a waterway more than 1,000 feet long on a fork of the American River, 12 miles from where Marshall discovered gold.

Wood drew up by-laws, which called for nine hours of work per day, and equal shares in the enterprise's success.

"Prospects are highly favorable for our succeeding well, though we may fail and not be paid for our trouble," wrote James Heslep of Peoria to a brother who lived in Quincy. "The job is a hard one, and all acquainted with John Wood, full well know that he allows no time to be lost by the men while they are working. He urges us all the time."

John McClintick of Quincy wrote his wife that it was the hardest work he had ever done.

"Myself and one more of the men, after packing our machine, tools, and dinner over the highest kind of mountain, went to work picking the dirt out from among the rocks, digging and carrying the dirt, rocking the cradle ... jerking back and forward a box of dirt and throwing on water at the same time, under the hottest sun I ever felt."

The consolation, McClintock wrote, was the shining dust that settled to the bottom of the cradle. He was elated by the \$52 he got for his first day's work, "and after dividing it made but small wages after all."

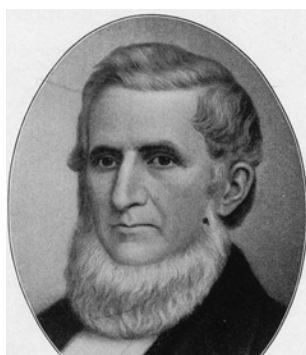
Heslep said Wood looked 10 years older than he did when they left Quincy. He had been disappointed, as had many others. "That there is gold in the country, is placed beyond a doubt; but it requires hard and constant labor to obtain it, and then in smaller amounts than was obtained last year. ... The most of the rich places have been worked over hastily and the cream taken off; yet any man of industry can make his ounce per day, clear of expenses. All of those that are here from Quincy have done so thus far, and some more." A man earned \$15 an ounce for his gold.

Unlike John Wood, who paid \$1.75 a day for room and board, most men wrapped themselves in blankets and slept under trees. There was little of the formality of Quincy. "We live and dress and look like heathen and barbarians," Heslep said, "every man in a dirty red flannel shirt, and pantaloons so often patched that it would puzzle even the most acute to determine the original color of the material, and no one pretends to shave, except, I believe, Mr. Wood."

The men were up at daybreak, took their pan to the race and washed dust until breakfast. They stopped for dinner and quit at sundown.

Heslep learned an important lesson where gold was virtually all one thought about. "Everybody is for self in this country. All are after gold, and no one can afford to lose any time to wait on his sick friend. Nowhere has the almighty dollar more influence than here."

The Whig reported on Feb. 26, 1850, that Wood, his sons, and several of his company returned the previous Tuesday after four months of mining. The editor said he had been asked at least 20 times about "the size of the pie" the prospectors brought back. With no answer, he speculated "they have come back very well satisfied with the trip."



*John Wood led a group of Quincyans including his sons Daniel and John, Jr. to California gold rush. After a three month delay in Honduras and another 20 days in Panama, the Wood party arrived in San Francisco on July 18, 1849.*



*Within a year of the discovery of gold, 80,000 "forty-niners" arrived to the goldfields of California. By 1853, more than 250,000 people went to the Golden State seeking their fortune. The rush ended in 1855.*



*Many prospectors from the Midwest, including John Wood, sailed down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, then out to the Caribbean. The gold seekers then risked disease as they marched across the Isthmus of Panama where they boarded another ship that sailed up the coast of California.*

Reg Ankrom is a member of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. He is a local historian, author of a prize-winning biography of U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas, and a frequent speaker on Douglas, Abraham Lincoln and antebellum America.



# “Foreword in ‘40” Campaign Attempted to Spur Economic Development during the Great Depression

During the Great Depression just under two years from the United States entering World War II, civic and business leaders in Quincy started a program to advertise the city and spur on investment. The “Foreword in ‘40” campaign was designed to advertise Quincy to people outside of the town and awaken civic consciousness to the residents of the Gem City. The program’s committee was created from members of several local groups and service clubs. An office was opened in the Chamber of Commerce Building and was furnished with equipment purchased with donations from local businesses. Gem City Business College volunteered stenographic support. “Forward in ‘40” produced pamphlets that provided information about Quincy, welcomed newcomers, and highlighted business opportunities. The group produced several signs and put up billboards as well. A fundraising effort included a stamp program. Local manufacturers, merchants, and individuals were encouraged to purchase stamps to put on

their correspondence and packages. The stamp featured a workman on a green background stepping off from Quincy with “Forward in ‘40” prominently across the top and “A Greater Quincy Movement” across the bottom of the stamp. Sheets were produced by union printers and sold in sheets of ten. The cost per stamp was one-cent. Women’s clubs and Quincy business women were asked to take a leading role in promoting the stamp program. The proceeds from the stamp sales went back into the program to increase promotion of the city to include radio advertisements. The program also invited manufacturers and business leaders to their meetings to discuss problems with unemployment and possible solutions to the economic troubles facing the city during the Great Depression. The General Chairman of the Executive Committee of “Forward in ‘40” was Fred Scharnhorst, the Finance Committee Chairman was Elmer Miller, and the Executive Secretary was O.D. Cole. Moorman Manufacturing granted



Cole a leave of absence to help run the daily operation of the program. The Historical Society has one of the stamps in the collection, but if anyone has a full sheet of stamps, brochure, poster, or other items they are willing to donate, the Society would be appreciative. The Historical Society is trying to expand its Great Depression-era and World War II collection.

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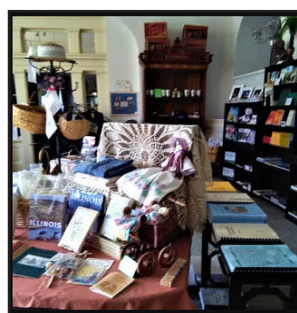
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# QUINCY'S HARRY FLEER, JR., STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN

Harry Fleer, Jr. was born March 26, 1916, and grew up in Quincy. He was a talented student who was active in the band and the debate club while a high school student in Quincy. His academic success led him to attend Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he was involved in musicals and radio productions in addition to performing as an orchestra singer. In 1939, he won a scholarship to attend the Max Reinhardt Workshop in Hollywood, California, a three-month course that covered stage, screen, and radio performances. The program was dedicated to discovering new talent from around the country, and Harry Fleer was one of the few from Illinois to win a scholarship.

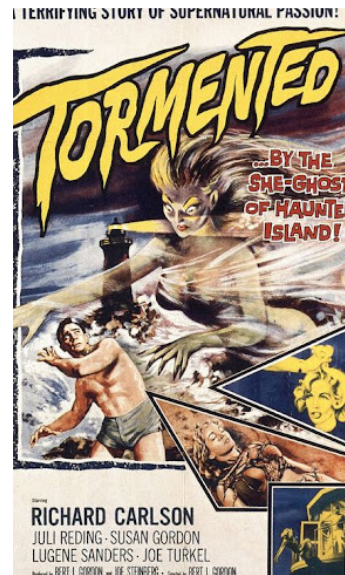
In the early 1940s, Fleer moved to New York City to further his stage career. In January, 1942, just a little more than a month after Pearl Harbor, Harry Fleer enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Hancock, New Jersey, and served during the war as a Warrant Officer. Several other actors also served during WWII, including Jimmy Stewart, Kirk Douglas, Clark Gable, Paul Newman, and Ronald Reagan -- so Harry Fleer from Quincy, Illinois, can be added to that list of distinguished entertainers that served during the war.

After his military service, Fleer developed a successful career in the entertainment industry, performing on stage, on the big screen and on radio. He appeared in more than 60 movies and television shows from 1955 to 1994, including *Death Valley Days* which featured true accounts of the Old West and became one of the longest running Western programs in broadcast history. He was featured in several episodes of *Death Valley Days* between 1957 and 1960. Most notably, in 1958, he played Wyatt Earp in "Birth of a Boom," a story about claim jumpers in the Nevada mines.

Then in 1957, he had the role of Secretary of War Jefferson Davis in "Camel Train," an episode about an experimental program to use camels in the American Southwest. He also portrayed General Douglas MacArthur in the television series *Black Sheep Squadron* in 1970, which starred Robert Conrad and Dana Elcar. His movie catalog includes *Tormented* in 1960, a horror film about a man who was haunted by a former girlfriend whom he let plunge to her death so she would not interfere with his engagement to another woman.

Fleer married and started a family in California. His daughter, Alicia Fleer, became a model and actress, appearing on episodes of the *Bionic Woman* in 1976 and the *A-Team* in 1986.

Fleer was active until 1994, the year of his death. That year he appeared in *Little Giants* with Rick Moranis and Ed O'Neill. His last film was *The St.*



Poster advertising *Tormented*, a horror movie directed by Bert Gordon and released in 1960. The movie starred Richard Carlson, Juli Reding, and Susan Gordon. The role of Frank Hubbard was portrayed on screen by Harry Fleer.



(Above) Harry Fleer, Jr. was born and raised in Quincy and went on to appear in more than 60 movies and television shows. He also performed in several plays and musicals on stages in many major cities, including in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

*Tammany Miracle* which featured Mark-Paul Gosselaar (Saved by the Bell) and Soleil Moon Frye. Harry Fleer died in Woodland Hills in Los Angeles, California, on October 14, 1994, and is buried at Oakwood Memorial Park in Chatsworth, California.

## Amish Crew from Missouri Completed Work on 1835 Log Cabin



The restoration work on the north side of the 1835 Log Cabin has now been completed by William Miller and his crew, a group of Amish carpenters from Rocky Comfort, Missouri.



Vintage logs from a cabin in southern Missouri have replaced the rotted logs, and the area was rechinked by Miller's crew in late July.



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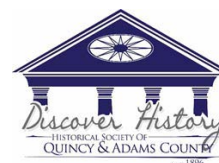
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