

hsqac.org
217-222-1835
12th & State
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Quincy and Adams County, Est. 1896



The GOVERNOR'S POST

Spring
2021

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The planned public reopening for the History Museum on the Square is scheduled for April 23, 2021.

Museum Grand Re-Opening

Membership Drive Scheduled to Kick-Off April 23

The Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County recently announced that the opening of the History Museum on the Square at 332 Maine Street is scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2021, and will feature a kickoff event from 4:00-7:00 pm. The global pandemic and corresponding state and local guidelines have made it imprudent to reopen the Museum earlier.

The HSQAC Exhibits Committee has been hard at work planning and creating upcoming exhibits. There will be two major exhibits to celebrate at the opening: the **Road to Freedom** and the **Golden Age of Quincy**. (See related story on page 14.) Both exhibits will include great stories, interesting artifacts, and many local connections.

The History Museum also has several permanent exhibits which will once again be open to the public, including Window onto the Square which tells the history of Washington Park and the square, as well as the Edward Everett Gallery which features 19th century watercolors of Quincy and the Mississippi River by Quincyan Edward Everett.

Following the opening, the History Museum on the Square will return to

regular museum hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

In addition to the exhibit opening, the Historical Society will present a series of programs on the Golden Age of Quincy. The first program will be on Sunday, May 2, 2021, at the History Museum. The presentation will be given at 1 pm and again at 3pm. Limited space will be available and there will be social distancing and seating restrictions. If you would like to reserve tickets for the program, please call the HSQAC office at 217-222-1835. The second program in the Golden Age of Quincy series will be held on Sunday, June 27, 2021, also at the Museum.

The HSQAC will also be launching its 2021-2022 Membership Drive at the kickoff event on April 23rd. Visitors will be able to renew their memberships at the reopening of the Museum and will also receive a gift certificate to Quincy's History Shop located on the first floor of the Museum.

Online membership is now available. Simply go to www.hsqac.org for details.

The membership drive will run from May through July 2021.

Get to Know Board Members of HSQAC

Brad Tietsort

Originally from the Kirksville, Missouri, area, Brad Tietsort lives outside of Camp Point with his two sons, Lane, ten, and Alex, seven. Brad has been with Dot Foods for 14 years; he is currently Senior Inventory Manager in the replenishment department.

With a degree in music education, Brad has stayed connected musically through the Quincy Symphony Chorus and just finished serving eight years on the QSOA Board of Directors. He also is a part of the Worship Ministry at The Crossing.

A life-long interest in history stems from a family spending a lot of time telling stories and putting together genealogies dating back to the 16th century. Naturally this has led to an interest in antiques and historical architecture. Brad has spent the last 15 years meticulously restoring his circa 1855 Italianate home, using original



Brad Tietsort

materials salvaged from historical structures across the Tri-State region.

In his spare time, Brad enjoys gardening, playing an antiques dealer doing shows across the Midwest, and working in his 125-tree apple orchard with his sons.

Lynn Snyder

Lynn M. Snyder is the Volunteer Museum Coordinator for the Society, where she

designs and prepares exhibits at the History Museum on the Square. She grew up on a family farm in the Fall Creek/Bluff Hall area and graduated from Quincy College with a degree in English literature.

Snyder was awarded an M.S. in library science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an M.S. in anthropology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a Ph.D. in anthropology/archeology from the University of Tennessee. She has also been the recipient of a number of grants and awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship to Greece, a Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Studies grant, and the Berlin Prize Fellowship from the American Academy in Berlin. She has more than 20 years of experience in museum collections and exhibit work, including serving as a pre-doctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, and later as a consultant and contractor in the Anthropology Division of the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum.

A devotee to research into Quincy and Western Illinois history in all periods, this is her second term on the HSQAC Board of Directors. She and her husband, Randy, live on a small acreage outside Marblehead (Millville) which is purported to contain several unmarked pioneer graves and a historic connection to the local Underground Railroad routes to freedom.



Lynn Snyder

Will Klingner

Will Klingner is a lifelong resident of Quincy, and an alumnus of Quincy Senior High. He was raised in an historic Queen Anne style home built in 1896 and completely renovated by his parents and grandparents in the early 1990s -- thus his exposure to Quincy's wonderful history began at an early age. Will holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri, a master's degree in hydrology and hydraulics from the University of Iowa, and a master's degree in business administration from Quincy University. He currently works as a professional engineer at the family-owned business, Klingner & Associates, P.C., where he primarily focuses on projects revolving around flood risk management. In addition to his active participation as Treasurer of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, he is a volunteer board member of several other community organizations, including The Friends of the Trails, The Western Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, and the newly formed Quincy Children's Museum.

Will and his wife, Lizzy, are busy parents of two young daughters three-year-old Harriet and recent arrival, Matilda. In his free time he enjoys traveling, golfing, and staying active on the Bill Klingner Trail. Will serves on the HSQAC Board of Directors due to his love of the community and his desire to preserve its storied history.



Will Klingner

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CORRECTION: There are no known photographs of Frank McWorter the founder of New Philadelphia, Illinois. The picture in the Winter 2020 edition of *The Governor's Post* is from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and is of an unknown African-American man with a horse near New Philadelphia, Illinois, in the 1800s. The photograph was provided to the Smithsonian courtesy of Pamela and Sheena Franklin.

Statue Brought Honor to ‘Unnoticed’ Military Leader

By Steve Schneider

George Rogers Clark was an important military leader in the Revolutionary War and is commemorated with an impressive statue in Quincy’s Riverview Park. The statue portrays a heroic figure confidently gazing across the Mississippi River toward land once the home of Native Americans, a vast territory tossed back and forth between France and Spain and then ceded to the United States by the terms of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

“It is said that the idea of the monument came to him (state Rep. Campbell Hearn) from a chance remark dropped by Henry Watterson, the famous Kentucky newspaper editor,” as quoted in Elizabeth Parker’s “History of the Park System of Quincy, Illinois.” Watterson mentioned to Hearn that “Clark had, as yet, been left unnoticed by the states which he had saved to the country... and resolved to work for ... a suitable statue in his honor.”

Responding, Hearn introduced House Bill 10 in early January 1907. The bill originally appropriated \$20,000 for the “construction and erection of a suitable monument” but was eventually reduced to \$6,000. The legislation was enacted May 23, 1907. A commission, authorized by the law, incurred \$5,826.56 in expenses with \$3,750 paid to sculptor Charles J. Mulligan, a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago and a student of Lorenzo Taft, for his “bronze work for monument.” The balance went to local businesses.

In May 1908, Mulligan presented six models to the commission. “The one chosen represents the hero (Clark) in youthful but mature manhood. Clad in the uniform of a Continental soldier

with his arms folded across his breast, leaning back slightly against a stone, he seems to view in retrospect the achievements of his career.”

Original plans called for erecting the statue “in the north end of Riverview Park.” However, E. J. Parker, president of the Quincy Boulevard and Park Association, called for a more prominent location, “where it would be seen distinctly from the river and the bridge.” Parker’s preferred site, however, was not in the park, so about \$9,000 was spent to acquire additional land that became known as George Rogers Clark Terrace.

The statue and its granite base arrived in December, and the statue “was swathed in cloths soaked in vinegar to bring out the peculiar luster of the bronze and was boarded in for the winter, thus to remain until spring when the unveiling exercises were to be held,” according to Elizabeth Parker.

The Quincy Herald reported that the May 22, 1909, dedication ceremony would feature Illinois Gov. Charles S. Deneen, Sen. Hearn, Quincy Mayor John A. Steinbach and “Master Rogers Clark Ballard, of Louisville, Ky., aged eleven years, and a great-great-grandson of General Clark’s sister,” who would unveil the statue.

Unfortunately, news arrived from R.C.



Postcard of the George Rogers Clark statue at Riverview Park in Quincy from the Historical Society Collection.

Ballard Thruston, the lad’s uncle, that the boy was seriously ill and unable to attend. Sadly, a telegram brought the news: “Little Rogers Clark Ballard died at two o’clock” on May 15, 1909.

Subsequently, Temple Bodley, another Clark descendant, was invited and declined, but he did commit his 12-year-old daughter, Ellen Pearce Bodley, to attend. Ellen, a great-great-niece of George Rogers Clark, was accompanied by her mother to Quincy.

“The day opened a little threatening (but) the sun came out bright later,” and soon “the weather was all that one could wish.” A crowd of about 9,000 people gathered for what the Quincy Daily Whig called, “the most auspicious general public celebration held in this city since the memorable dedication of the Illinois Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home ... in 1886.”

The festivities featured a parade, songs, an invocation and many speeches. Then Ellen stood on a table and pulled the cord releasing the draperies covering the statue. "There was a spontaneous outburst from the multitude that continued for some moments."

After the unveiling, E.J. Parker acknowledged the "artistic genius of the sculptor," and Sen. Hearn praised Clark's "remarkable campaign that destroyed British authority over the northwest territory." Finally, the monument was presented to Gov. Deneen who spoke glowingly of Clark's exploits.

A borrowed pitcher and tumbler on the speaker's table caught the eye of Mrs. Bodley, who asked if she might keep them. The hosts agreed and dispatched an emissary to their owner, whose pitcher and tumbler were on their way to Kentucky without her consent, to "negotiate ... a settlement ... in a manner mutually satisfactory." Ellen also received a "little spoon" as a symbol of thanks for her participation in the ceremony.

Ellen eventually married and had a son, George Rogers Clark Stuart, who noted in my interview with him that he knew about the Quincy statue although he had never seen it. Regrettably, he had no recollection of the pitcher, tumbler or spoon.

In 1991, vandals damaged several Quincy monuments, including Clark's, "leaving a trail of paint on the statue's stone base." The Clark statue was restored in 1993.

Several years later, Bill Hearne, Sen. Hearn's grandson, requested a rededication of the statue after discovering "memorabilia including the original handwritten manuscript of my grandfather's comments" for the original dedication.

The rededication occurred Aug. 3, 1996. Hearne recalled that there "was quite a crowd on hand." The program mirrored the 1909 event, featured the introduction of Sen. Hearn's descendants and remarks about Sen. Hearn by Phil Germann and about Clark by Judge Robert Hunter.

Clark's significance in history, specifically his 1770s conquest of the Illinois country, has been heralded



Clark led an expedition to Mississippi River settlements during the Revolution. Clark's campaign was instrumental in the Illinois Territory being ceded to the U.S. at the conclusion of the war.

by biographers for winning the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River in the Paris Peace Treaty of 1783. Other historians have more accurately judged Clark's contributions toward a Mississippi River border as supplemental to the diplomatic negotiations between Great Britain's Lord Shelburne and the United States' team of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Jay, and to the directions provided by the Continental Congress, specifically James Madison.

Regardless of which analysis one accepts, Quincy's statue of George Rogers Clark serves as a beautiful symbol of his important service during the American Revolutionary War.



General George Rogers Clark was born in Virginia in 1752 and died in Kentucky in 1818, the same year Illinois became a state.



Large crowd attending the unveiling of the General George Rogers Clark statue given to Quincy by the State of Illinois. The ceremony took place on a Saturday afternoon in the park on May 22, 1909.

HSQAC VIDEOS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Even though the Society cancelled its annual Christmas Candlelight Tours of the Governor John Wood Mansion this year because of a surge in COVID-19 cases, a holiday presence was maintained by releasing a new series of videos in December narrated by Governor and Mrs. John Wood.

The videos, which featured area physician Dr. Tim Jacobs as Governor John Wood and KHQA anchor Rajah Maples as Anne Streeter Wood, were shot on the 12th Street campus and featured the grounds of the Mansion as well as the Mansion's interior.

Some were designed around a holiday theme, such as John Wood's first Christmas in Quincy and the Christmas tree at the Newcomb Hotel. Others told stories surrounding items from the Society's Collection, including Dr. Daniel Wood's (father of John Wood) sword which he used during the Revolutionary War; the Wood family Bible; and the table from the Orville Browning home where Lincoln dined when he was in Quincy for the debate with Stephen Douglas. The bell from the Lord's Barn, the first church in Quincy, was also highlighted in the videos. The bell currently hangs in an alcove on the south side of the Mansion.



(Above) Governor and Mrs. John Wood, Dr. Tim Jacobs and Rajah Maples, were featured in videos produced by the Society for the holiday season. (Right) The Governor John Wood Mansion was decorated for the Christmas Candlelight Tours, but all tours were eventually cancelled because of the pandemic.



(Photo by Tim Spencer.)

The videos were released and posted on social media and the Society's website before the holidays and will be available in the John Wood Mansion section of the website in the future.

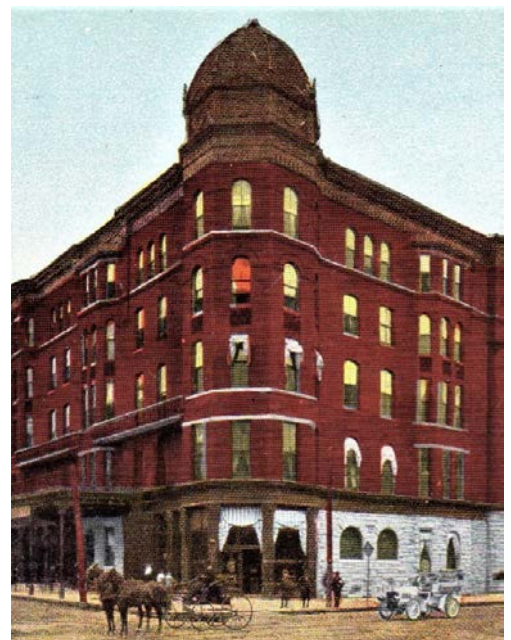
NEWCOMB HOTEL CHRISTMAS TREE DONATED TO HSQAC

A Christmas tree used for many years in Quincy's Newcomb Hotel has been donated to the Historical Society by Ted Kemner, owner of the hotel. The tree was set up in the Newcomb and decorated for many years by Dee Bernam.

The large bottle brush style tree is approximately 7 feet tall and was adorned this year with its original decorations by HSQAC staff. It was displayed in the Meeting Room of the Visitors Center in Quincy throughout the holiday season.



Newcomb Hotel Christmas tree donated to the Historical Society by Ted Kemner, former owner of the hotel.

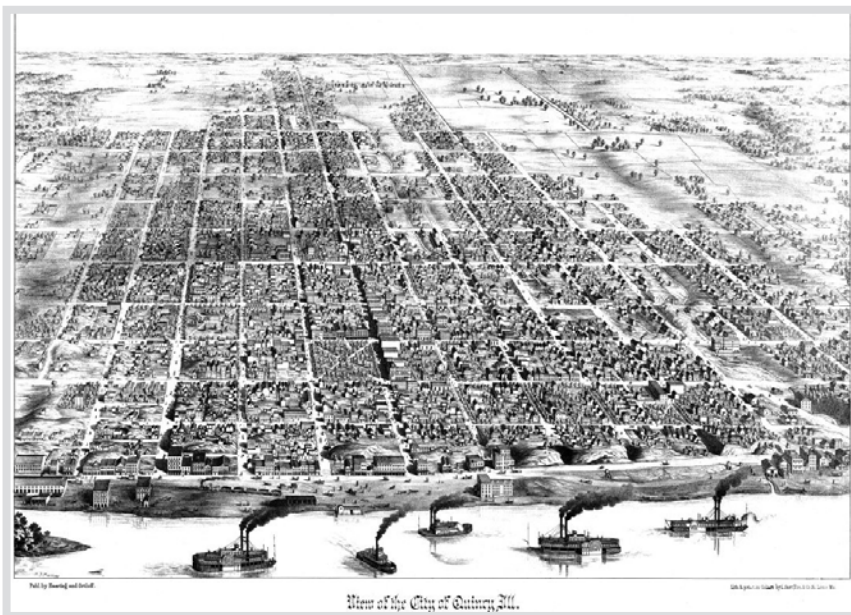


The grand 5-story Newcomb Hotel designed by St. Louis architect Isaac Taylor was funded by Gem City Paper Mill owner Richard Newcomb.

View of the City of Quincy, Ill. Prints Available



View of the City of Quincy, Ill. Map below, circa 1860; above, circa 1878.



The Historical Society now has prints available of the View of the City of Quincy, Ill. map, circa 1860. One of the original maps hangs in the Governor John Wood Mansion. The map was drawn by Haerting and Ortloff and originally printed by L. Gast Bro. & Co. of St. Louis, Missouri. This rare and highly detailed map includes images of five steamships on the Mississippi River – the Quincy St. Louis; Quincy & Keokuk Packet; the Pike Hannibal & Quincy Packet; the Fanny; and the Dievernion St. Louis, Quincy & Keokuk Packet. The buildings on the map offer a glimpse of daily life in downtown Quincy in the 1860s. Buildings identified on the map include John Wood & Sons, Prentiss & Caldwell, the Quincy House, E.K. Stone Wholesale Boots & Shoes, the Quincy Brewery, the Tremont House, John Wood's Octagonal House, Quincy Tribune, and many more. The prints are priced at \$15, but the Historical Society is offering the prints for only \$10. Color prints of the 1878 map are available in the History Shop and measure 22"x28". The black and white prints measure 18"x24".

Order Form

View of the City of
Quincy, Ill. map, circa 1860



☐ _____ 1860 print, \$10 ea.

☐ _____ 1878 print, \$10 ea.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Maps may be picked up at the HSQAC Office at 425 South 12th, Quincy. If you need shipping information, call the office at 217-222-1835.



Mail check and this form to HSQAC, 425 S. 12th St., Quincy, IL 62301.

Community in FOCUS

Liberty, Ill.

For Faith and Freedom: Settling in the Land of Liberty

By Linda Riggs Mayfield

The first permanent settler in what was to become the city of Quincy is well-known: In 1822 John Wood built a cabin on land he had purchased from land speculator Peter Flinn.

Lesser known are Daniel Lisle and his family, who — also in 1822 — became the first settlers in what is now Liberty Township. Lisle built a horse-powered mill on his property, a critical factor for the growth of a community, and settlers did come. A post office was established with the name of Liberty.

A. H. D. Buttz arrived in 1831 and built a log store, thought to be the first in the region, although other sources claim his was second and that D. P. Meacham built the first. In the 1870s, Buttz's son was still operating the store, by then in a large, two-story brick building.

Adams County was in the federal government's Illinois Military Tract. Some settlers arrived with full ownership granted by the government, some purchased bounty land from owners and some were "squatters" who risked living on land they didn't own, hoping to purchase it later. Records show that in Liberty Township, others simply seized the opportunity to live free on the government's land—and one tried to sell it.

In 1830, a small group of Mormons became squatters southeast of Liberty and called their community Montgomery, but they stayed less than a year. After purchasing the land, A. H. D. Buttz tore the buildings down.

Paris T. Judy laid out lots to sell in Section 20 of Liberty Township, but it was discovered that he did not own that land. In 1836, a Mr. Dudley, who had actually purchased the tract, laid out the town of New Liberty on it. The post office was moved there, and the name was changed for a time to match the location.

Adams County's earliest settlers tended to be individuals and families who were Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Baptists from New England and Kentucky. Liberty was unique because most of its early settlers were members of a single Church of the Brethren congregation who came from what later became Union County, Illinois.

The Church of the Brethren, also called Dunkards, German Baptists or German Baptist Brethren, had established a congregation in Kentucky under the leadership of the Rev. George Wolfe. He had been a preacher in Pennsylvania before moving west, but records do not indicate that any of his own 12 children were converted under his ministry. The later conversion of George Wolfe Jr. impacted



A.H.D. Buttz, one of Liberty's founders (front row, far left) pictured with his family, circa 1865. (Photo source: "This is Liberty, Illinois" by Merle D. Hartsfield.)

Adams County and the State of Illinois.

In 1803 George Jr. married Ann Hunsaker in Kentucky, aslave state. Soon after, with Ann's brother, Abraham Hunsaker, George Jr. made a wilderness trip into the Northwest Territory, where slavery was not allowed. They chose a site, and in 1808 their families and others left Kentucky and moved to near what would eventually become Jonesboro, in Union County, Illinois.

Shortly after the great earthquake of 1811-12, religious revivals surged in the area, and at a Methodist revival meeting, George Jr. was one of more than a dozen individuals who "made a confession of religion."

Recognizing the doctrinal differences between the Methodists and the Dunkard faith of his father, George Jr. sent Abraham Hunsaker back to Kentucky for a preacher to come and baptize the converts.

One was soon located, and after the baptisms, a church was organized. George Jr. was ordained and became its leader. The little group built the first Dunkard church in Illinois.

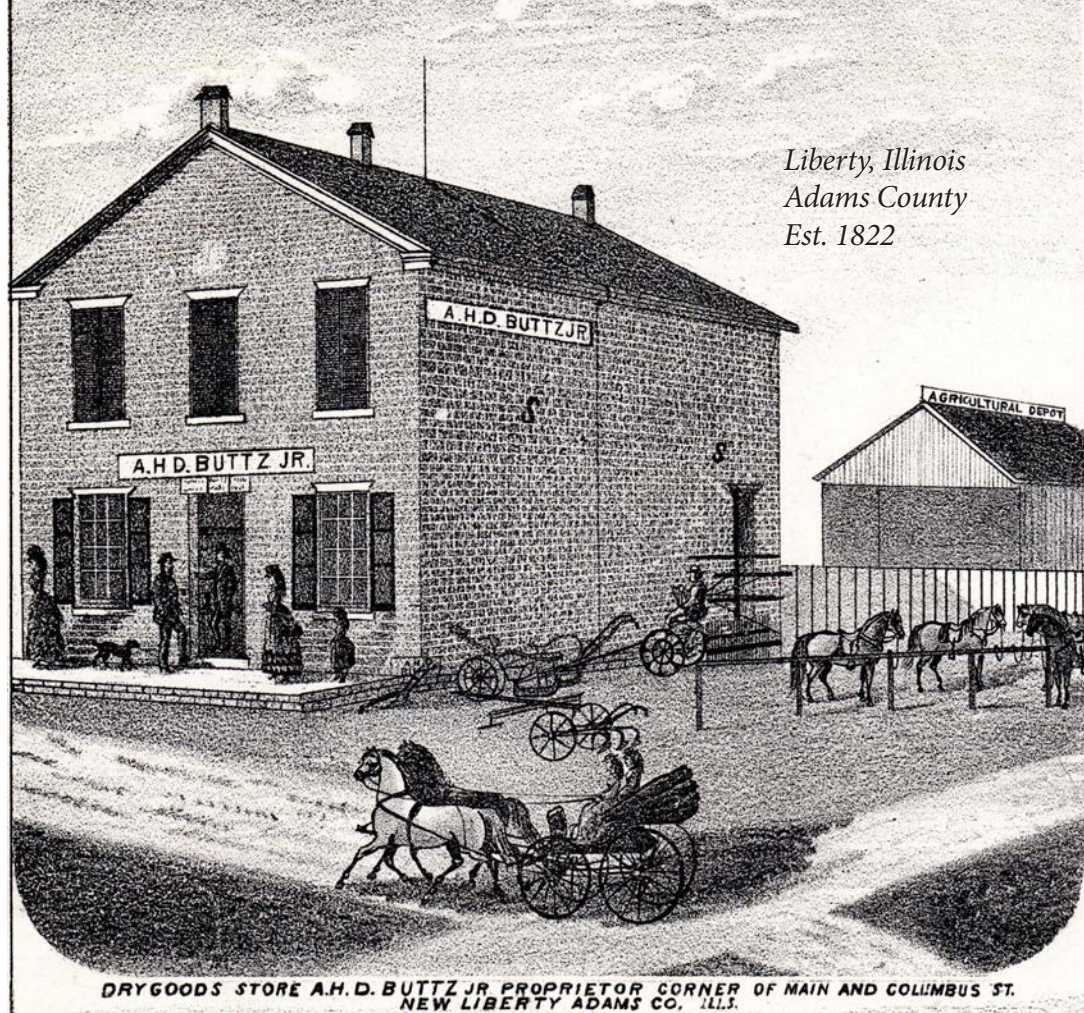
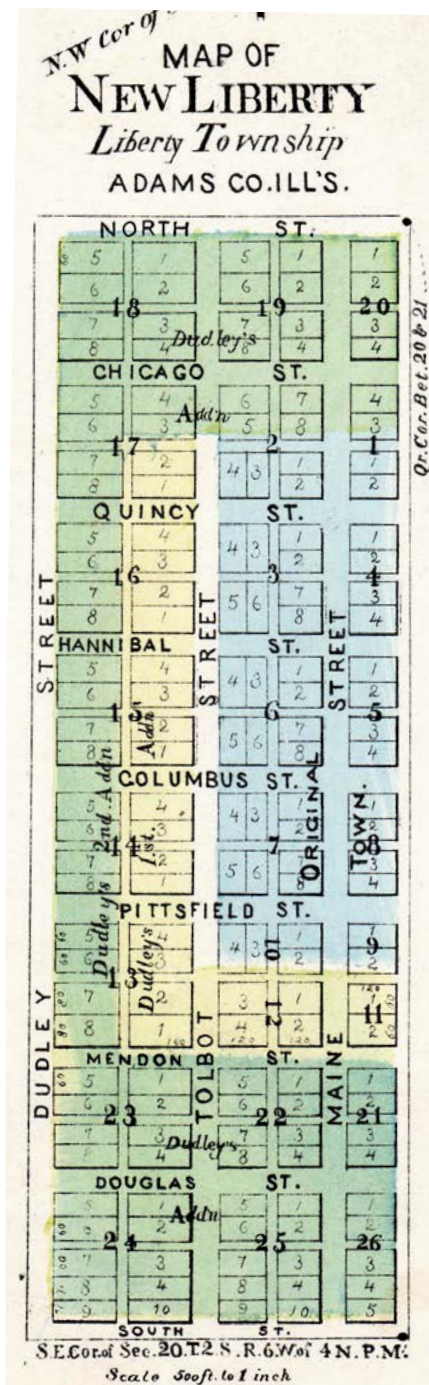
In 1827, the families of the congregation began moving to Adams County, which had been organized in 1825. The first settlers included the Hunsaker, Wagle, Lindbaugh and Hendricks families, followed by the Ebbert, Vancil, Walker and Lierly families.

The Rev. Wolfe arrived in 1831 with about 30 more Brethren from Union County and helped construct the Mill Creek Church west of Liberty. The first wedding in Liberty Township united Jacob Wagle and Catherine Hunsaker, officiated by the Rev. Wolfe. The village of Liberty was formally surveyed in 1836.

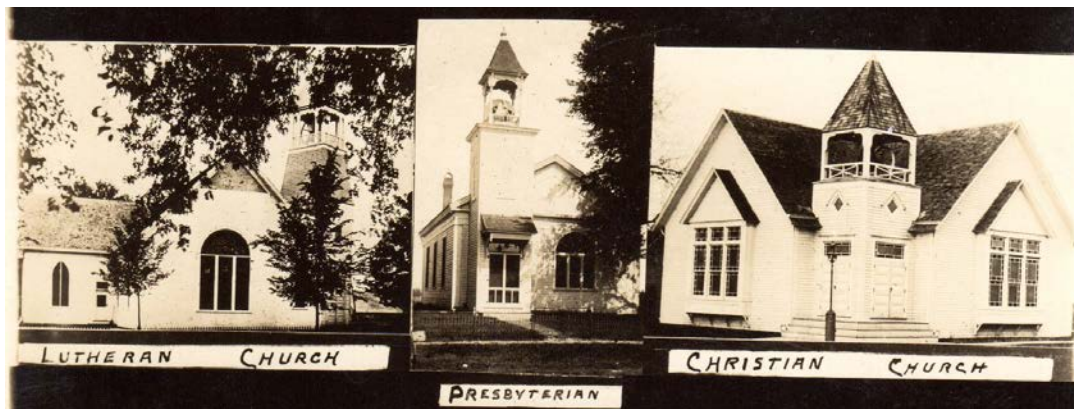
The Wolfe family of Liberty Township was to have an important influence in early Illinois politics.

An ardent opponent of slavery, the Rev. Wolfe rode to Springfield to convince legislators to not allow the new state of Illinois to become a slave state, as many Southerners hoped. Some credited him with doing more to see that initiative blocked than any other individual.

His son David served as a pastor in Liberty, the county supervisor and as a representative in the state legislature.



Liberty, Illinois
Adams County
Est. 1822



In the next generation, Fred Wolfe presided as a judge in Quincy.

By 1874, the Church of the Brethren near Liberty had more than 200 members and purchased land at the edge of the town to build a new church. Additional Brethren congregations were started near Barry, Loraine and Kellerville. In 1894 the name was officially changed from Mill Creek Church to Liberty Church. The Liberty Church celebrated its sesquicentennial in 1981.

As the population grew, Liberty Township added schools and churches. The Liberty Presbyterian Church and the Christian Church were both organized in 1852 and held services in the brick schoolhouse built that year.

Pleasant View Baptist Church began in 1853, and the East Union School was built in 1869.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberty (called Zion Evangelical Lutheran in some sources) was organized in 1854 (or '55), meeting first in "the Campbellite church," then in the Presbyterian Church's building that had been built in 1854.

A Lutheran pastor from Quincy came to preach in a home on Tuesdays for several years. Lutherans built their own church in 1870. Early Catholic services were held in family homes, and St. Brigid Catholic Church at Liberty was built in 1870.

Liberty prospered and slowly grew. Many present names and traditions can be traced to the earliest settlers in Liberty Township who had a strong enough commitment to personal and religious liberty to seek it in the place they lived and the name of their town.

Civil War Symposium III

Scheduled for October 8 & 9

By Beth Young

This year's program will feature two nationally-known experts, Dr. Timothy B. Smith and Dr. Curt Fields, both of whom come to us from the State of Tennessee. Smith, a history professor at the University of Tennessee, will discuss General U.S. Grant and the Battle of Shiloh.

Considered an expert on this subject, Smith has worked for a number of years for the National Park Service at Shiloh and has written several books on the subject. These include *This Great Battlefield of Shiloh*; *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish*; and *The Untold Story of Shiloh*. He has also penned *Horse Soldiers*, a detailed look at Benjamin Grierson's 1863 cavalry raid through Mississippi. This work might be of particular interest to area residents, as General Grierson ran a produce store in Meredosia, Illinois, and taught music in Jacksonville, Illinois, before the war.

Fields, an authority on Ulysses Grant, will speak about Grant and

his Vicksburg Campaign. Dr. Fields has appeared in Quincy twice and has been very well received. He appeared as Grant in the February 2020 special "Evening With Grant" held at the O'Donnell Cookson Celebration of Life Home and at the Youth Symposium II, both of which were sponsored by the HSQAC and the TSCWRT. He travels the nation portraying Grant and is the National Park Service U. S. Grant impersonator. He has also been featured in many conferences and symposiums, at the Grant home in Ohio, and at the 150th anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Fields is a retired public school teacher and administrator.

Three additional speakers are scheduled for Symposium III. These include Timothy Good, who will discuss the Lincoln Douglas Debates; Brian Ellis, who will impersonate poet and Civil War nurse Walt Whitman; and Dr. Sam Wheeler, who will talk about Robert Todd Lincoln in the Civil War. Each of these men has appeared in our previous symposiums, and each

has impressive credentials.

A special "Early Bird" program will be offered Saturday morning before our first "official" event of the day. Four notable local historians will present vignettes of Quincians who made substantial contributions to the Civil War. Arlis Dittmer, President of the HSQAC, will discuss Louisa Maertz, a Civil War nurse; Dr. Tim Jacobs, Commander of TSCWRT, will speak about Major Samuel Everett, Civil War physician; Richard Keppner, Board Member of the HSQAC, will present information about Captain Sterling Delano; and Rob Mellon, Executive Director of the HSQAC, will explain the importance of John Wood.

Friday night's kick off will begin at 7:00 pm with Dr. Smith, followed at 8:15 by Brian Ellis and Walt Whitman; Saturday will feature "Early Birds" at 8:00 am, followed by Dr. Wheeler at 9:15, Tim Good at 10:30, and Curt Fields at 1:15 pm.



(Left to right) Dr. Timothy B. Smith; Dr. Curt Fields; Timothy Good; Brian Fox Ellis; and Dr. Sam Wheeler

All events of Symposium III are free, but RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY CALLING THE HSQAC at 217-222-1835. The Symposium is paid for by donations to the Society; anyone wishing to be listed in the program as a benefactor should use this same phone number to contact the Society for details.

FROM THE COLLECTION



Tenk Hardware Company

By Jean Kay

A Clipper double bit axe was recently given to the Historical Society and will be added to the Collection. This is one of a number of Clipper tools that carries the logo of a Maltese cross with the name Tenk in the center. In addition, a hand crank clothes wringer called Gem City was included in the donation. This early wringer was patented in 1888. Stamped on the front was Tenk Hdwe. Co.

Tenk Hardware was established between 1863 and 1865 by Henry and John Herman Tenk, sons of German immigrant parents. Their retail hardware store was located at 512 Maine. When it closed in 1957, it had been in business for at least ninety-three years. The wholesale part of the business, located at 121, 122 and 123 South Fifth, continued until 1967. In 1919 it was said the wholesale part of the business was the largest between St. Louis and St. Paul and Kansas City and Chicago. Its Tenk Clipper line of merchandise was famous throughout the Midwest.

We are delighted to add to the Collection these items from a long time Quincy business.



(Left) Gem City hand crank clothes wringer stamped with Tenk Hdwe. Co. (Right) Vintage Embossed Tenk's Clipper double bit axe, famous throughout the Midwest.



Donna Foley

THANK YOU, ARDATH POTTS!

HSQAC member Ardath Potts from Quincy saved the day! Potts had read the story "Mystery of the Quincy Tea Towel" in the Winter 2020 issue of The Governor's Post which detailed a woman's search for information about a decorative tea cloth that tells the history of John Wood and the city of Quincy. The artist was "Ruth H." and the art was produced by Robert Darr Wert's Country Prints Studio of Northfield, Mass., the story explained. Wert, a print maker and textile designer who made linens, towels, table cloths and framed prints, graduated from the Cleveland School of Arts. The article ended with an appeal to Governor's Post readers to provide the Society with information about the item or actually donate one of the unique towels to HSQAC for the Collection.

Ardath Potts called Collections Manager Jean Kay in December and volunteered to donate her framed Quincy, Illinois-themed "tea cloth" to the Society. Thanks, Ardath, for this one-of-a-kind donation to the Society!

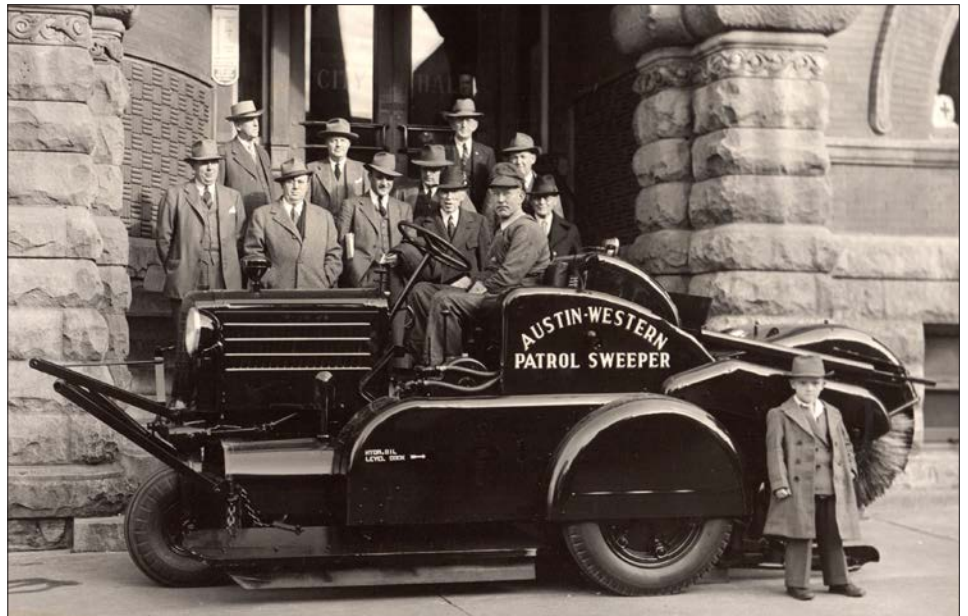
Pictured above is HSQAC's Volunteer Research Department Cataloguer Donna Foley with a framed version of the Quincy Tea Towel recently donated to the Society by Ardath Potts.

The Great Gutter Snipe Street Sweeper Debate of 1940

By Rob Mellon,
HSQC Executive Director

The massive expansion of cities in the 19th century led to many problems, ranging from extreme poverty to the spread of filth and disease. Even though the importance of removing refuse and cleaning streets became essential to public health in the mid-to-late 1800s, street sweeping goes back many decades. Benjamin Franklin is often credited with being the first person to advocate for large scale cleaning of streets. While he was living on Craven Street in London, he saw a poor sickly woman sweeping a section of the street. He offered to pay the woman if she would sweep the entire street as an experiment to determine how long it would take a person to clean the street. The woman returned in a few hours which astonished Franklin. He deduced that a team of younger, stronger men could sweep the street in a fraction of the time and clean all the streets of London. In short order the plan was put into place and the first "street sweeper" vehicle was produced which gathered large clumps of mud and trash as the workers moved down the street. Franklin, a man always interested in public safety and health, transplanted the idea in America when he returned from England.

As American cities began to grow they became the front lines on the battle to contain disease and sickness. At the onset of the Civil War and at the urging of individuals like Florence Nightingale, the Congress created the United States Sanitary Commission in 1861. This was a privately funded and operated relief agency dedicated to ensuring clean and safe hospitals and camps. Quincy had several groups dedicated to this effort and organized a large sanitary fair in Washington Park in October 1864. Lessons learned from the war led not only to sanitized hospitals but also to an effort to limit human waste, refuse and standing water in populated areas. From the mid-1800s cities on the east coast started to place a great importance on public sanitation. These strategies quickly spread to cities across the United States. It became clear that cleaning the streets not only limited the personal inconvenience and nuisance of dust, but soon led to



City of Quincy officials receive the Austin-Western Street Sweeper at City Hall.

increased business with store fronts on cleaner and safer streets.

The city of Quincy followed the example of many other cities and started sweeping the streets. Later a board of public works was formed as the automobile led to the paving of more streets in the city. By the late 1930s several cities had moved to a motorized street cleaner often referred to as a "Gutter Snipe." In Quincy, at the end of 1940, controversy over the specific matter of purchasing a motorized street sweeper developed when a committee of Quincy City Council members recommended the purchase of the "Gutter Snipe" for \$4,275. After a review of equipment used by other area communities similar in size, it was discovered that there was a large variance in what other cities were paying for a motorized street sweeper. Rock Island had purchased a machine for \$3,400 while the neighboring city of Moline purchased the exact same machine for \$4,700. Another city had bought a similar machine for as little as \$3,250. As one can imagine this caused a great deal of consternation among the alderman. The *Herald-Whig* reported, "Alderman Otte, at the close of Alderman Gerdes' report on the mercurial price of the 'Gutter Snipe' voiced the opinion of many a Quincyman when he declared: 'It don't look right to me!'" They tabled the topic for one week. After a very contentious debate and what a local newspaperman referred to as a major rumpus, the aldermen refused the purchase outright and Quincy went back to the antiquated push broom method to sweep the city streets. This of course did not end the complaints of many citizens regarding debris on the streets.



City worker cleaning streets in front of West's Food Market at 706 North 8th.

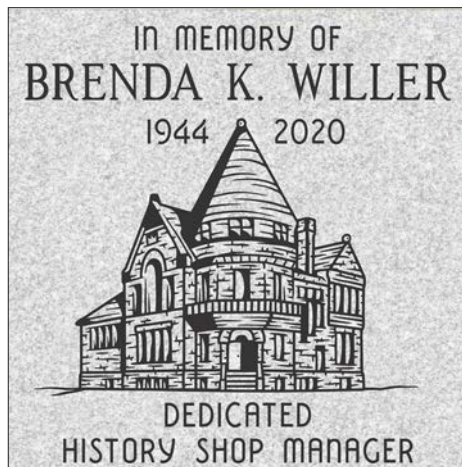
In 1941, the Quincy City Council again took up the issue of purchasing a motorized street sweeper. There were a handful of bids from local companies. The Elgin Sweeper Company submitted bids for two machines -- a smaller and a larger one. The smaller engine bid was \$5,951 and the bid for the larger Elgin machine was \$7,333. The City Council instead voted to accept the bid from the Western Equipment & Supply Company of Rock Island with a low bid of \$4,261. Avoiding another rumpus like the one in 1940, the city council voted 10 to 2 to buy the Rock Island firm's pick-up machine called the Austin-Western sweeper. The City Council was on hand at City Hall when the gleaming new street sweeper was delivered and started its service continuing the long tradition of cleaning up the city streets. Several machines have been purchased over the years by the city of Quincy since the original Austin-Western began its dedicated service, but no subsequent purchase and debate has ever equaled the great Gutter Snipe debate of 1940.

HSQAC Remembers Brenda Willer

Brenda Willer, manager of Quincy's History Shop at the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine, passed away Tuesday, November 17, following an illness.

Brenda was bright, cheerful, funny and extremely talented. She set the tone for Quincy's History Shop by stocking many unique and local items and developing interesting and attractive displays. Her major focus this year was establishing a web site for the gift shop so the public could purchase Society merchandise online at hsqac.org. She just finished the project recently, and it is now up and running. This online version of Quincy's History Shop is the result of her many hours of planning and organizing as well as a testament to her ability to connect with her customers' interests and needs.

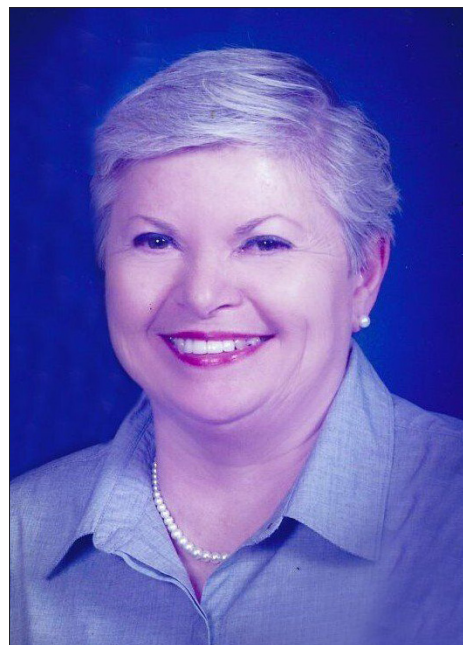
Brenda also operated the Osage Orangerie in the Governor John Wood Mansion's Visitors Center for many, many years. She was an excellent seamstress and



Design of the granite paver being installed in honor of Brenda Willer at the John Wood Plaza at the History Museum.

detailed craftsperson . . . and she will be sorely missed.

A paver will be installed in her honor on the John Wood Memorial Plaza at the History Museum. The paver was designed by Harrison Monuments and is being



Brenda K. Willer

installed by Bergman Nurseries, both Quincy companies.

A memorial fund has been established for Brenda. Contact the HSQAC Office at 217-222-1835 if you wish to donate.

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Governor John Wood Mansion

Take a tour!

New Exhibits Coming to the History Museum

After a period during which small repairs to walls and floors and a thorough cleaning and refreshing were completed, the History Museum on the Square will open in Spring 2021 with a number of new exhibits, plus expansions and additions to nearly all areas of permanent exhibits.

By Lynn Snyder

SCULPTURE GARDEN

Outside the Museum, new signage will be installed in the Sculpture Garden and Memorial Plaza which will present the story of the “Newcomb corner” at 4th and Maine and the nearly 200 year history of successive hotels on the southeast corner of this busy downtown intersection. The sign will be placed near the Newcomb Hotel dedication stone which was given to the Historical Society after the famous local hotel was destroyed by fire in 2013. Signage which tells the story of the “Menke” stone lion carved years ago by a member of the Menke Stone and Lime Company family is also planned.



The Menke stone lion.

ERNEST WOOD ADDITION

Major efforts were expended to improve the Ernest Wood addition of the building. A wall of cabinets was carefully removed to reveal an untouched western wall and nearly 400 additional square feet of exhibit wall space. In this area, we have remounted and extended our exhibits on the Underground Railroad in Western Illinois with a focus on the participation of free persons of color and freedmen and women which led to the success of this Western Illinois system of roads to freedom. Included is the story of the Tolton family and son Augustus who would become Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first black priest in North America. Also featured are the lives of Dr. David Nelson, founder of the Mission Institute in Quincy, and the teachers and students he influenced, many of whom also participated in the Underground Railroad.

Another portion of the Underground Railroad exhibit will be dedicated to the story of the connections between the people of Quincy and the small Pike County town of New Philadelphia. The display will emphasize New Philadelphia founder Free Frank McWorter and his family in 1839 as they lived their own lives and aided escaping slaves to freedom.

FIRST FLOOR MAIN EXHIBIT HALL

A new exhibit will be opening on the first floor in the main exhibit area this spring. The “Golden Age Of Quincy: 1870s through 1900” explores the age of growth and gracious living in the rapidly expanding Mississippi River town of Quincy, Ill.

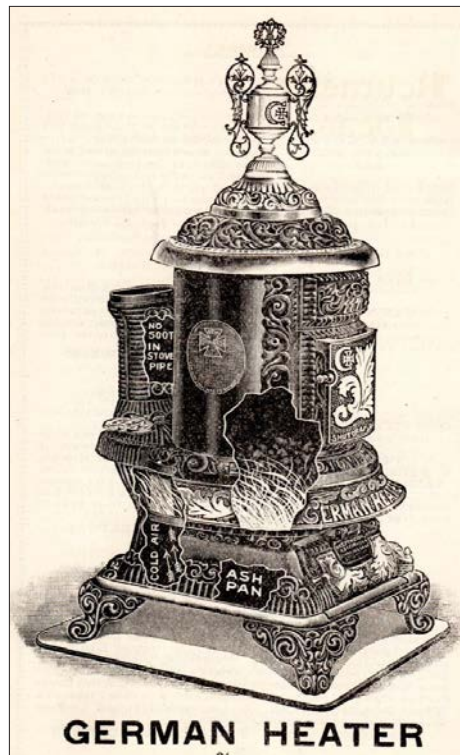
With easy access to increasing riverboat traffic and participation in railroad access fostered by the Internal Improvements programs, Quincy’s pioneering families and businesses entered a period of nearly explosive growth and building in this era. Those pioneer families and businesses took advantage of the geographical position of the city -- along the Mississippi, at the western edge of the expanding American frontier—and the availability of abundant local natural resources (timber, stone and soil) to develop factories, foundries, and mercantile businesses. They then built their functional and expansive homes in locations along Maine Street and Park Place to the east.

This period also saw the establishment of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home to the north of the city and a number of public facilities including the Free Public Library and Reading Room at the southwest corner of the square. The growing system of public spaces was fostered by the Boulevard and Parks Association while home town banking was represented by the Ricker and Granite Banks building on the square. As many as ten stove foundries, lumber and flour mills and railroad depots and warehouses were located along the lower, riverside reaches of the city.

Stories of many of these pioneering families and businesses will be featured in the “Golden Age of Quincy” exhibit.

2ND FLOOR EXHIBITS

In the Edward Everett Gallery, new signage will explore the association of the Everett family home (shown in one or more of Everett’s watercolors) with the Underground Railroad. His riverfront scenes also include areas of the city where citizens of Quincy aided runaway men and women seeking their freedom.



The German Heater, an example of one of the many stoves made in Quincy during the “Golden Age.”

In the main exhibit area of the Stained Glass Gallery, the story of the families and congregation of the Jewish community of Quincy will be explored through papers and objects recently donated to the Historical Society by the members of Temple B.nai Sholom (Children of Peace) when it was recently deconsecrated.

And in association with the Window onto the Square exhibit, the long history and sometimes sad fate of the hotels of the “Newcomb corner” will be further explored through recent documents and artworks, including records of the final celebrated hotel on that corner, the Newcomb.

We are also planning a series of programs and events to accompany these new and expanded exhibits, so please join us beginning in late February, through the spring and summer of 2021.

The History Museum is open to the public free of charge in keeping with the mission of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.

Building and Grounds Update

Maintaining the historic buildings and grounds entrusted to the Historical Society requires constant attention and considerable financial support from the community. Several projects have been completed this past year and many more are planned for warmer weather. This past summer the wood siding and trim on the south side of the John Wood Mansion, alcove and steps were repaired and painted. "We routinely address this need by evaluating one side of the Mansion each summer," Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Chuck Radel explains. This coming summer the two metal roofs and the metal-lined box gutters of the Mansion will be painted and the tar seams sealed. In addition, the Livery's wood trim and screen vents in the gable ends will also be repaired, and the trim, doors, and windows painted.

Thanks to the generous support of the George Lewis family, restoration work has been scheduled for this coming season on the 1835 Log Cabin. Vintage logs have been obtained to replace rotted ones. An Amish crew has been lined up to replace the logs, mend the chinking affected by the repairs, replace deteriorated thresholds, and spray the exterior and interior with a preservative/insecticide. A local masonry contractor will then raise a stone entrance step and reset foundation façade rocks that have moved.

Recently, water issues at the entrance of the History Museum were corrected. Rupp Masonry recut the drainage groove across



The south side of the Governor John Wood Mansion, painted this past summer by Paul Womack & Sons Painting, competes with the snow for the most pristine white. (Photo by Tim Spencer.)

the front of the stone balcony floor. This groove had weathered away over the years, allowing rain water to pour directly onto the front steps. Rupp secured the balcony railing and caulked the balcony seams. In addition, they waterproofed the stone of the front steps to slow the weathering and caulked the seams.

Also at the History Museum, work has been completed on the Ernest Wood Addition at the south end. Cabinets along the west wall have been removed and designated for future storage use in the basement, allowing for much needed additional display space. The flat roof has been repaired in order to correct a couple of leaks, and the room plaster repaired and painted. A new vent was installed in the ADA restroom in order to improve circulation and heating. Grant funding has also made possible the expansion of the WiFi network at the History Museum so that the signal will reach the rest of the first floor, the second floor, and the mezzanine.

We look forward to increased service to visitors and staff.

As we plan for the future, we anticipate continued needs for maintenance and preservation. Some of these may be major as we address repairing the roof of the History Museum, correcting water leakage in the museum's basement, and at some point replacing the shake roof on the John Wood Mansion. On-going repair measures, painting, lawn and landscape work, routine building and grounds maintenance, property insurance, security service, safety inspections, and utilities continue to draw on our resources; however, properly preserving the historic buildings and grounds under the care of the Historical Society is a significant part of the Society's mission and an expectation of the community. We strive to deserve that trust.



(Left to right) The Livery; 1835 Log Cabin; Front Door of History Museum on the Square.



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Be sure to follow us on Facebook at Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County.

HORSE GETS NEW HEAD AFTER MANY YEARS!

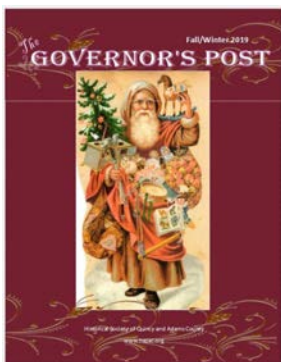
I was encouraged by HSQAC Museum Coordinator Lynn Snyder to pass along the inside story behind the lighted image featured in the window at the History Museum on the Square during the holidays in 2020. The window was the central 2nd floor tower window overlooking Washington Park (John's Square) and the image filled the window, all nine feet of it.

By Susi L. DeClue

If the “Father Christmas with Toys” illustration showcased in the window at the History Museum on the Square at 332 Maine looks familiar, that’s because it was used on the cover of *The Governor’s Post* newsletter, Fall/Winter 2019 edition. Last year when we needed a cover shot for the newsletter, Jean Kay, our Research Librarian, discovered this picture of a Father Christmas figure with toys in a scrapbook in the Society’s archives. There are of course several scrapbooks in our collection, but this particular one was donated by Mary Kay Blazel of New Berlin, Wisconsin, formerly of Quincy.

I really loved the illustration and at first did not really notice that the horse did not have a head. I kept thinking that there was something unusual about the picture, but it was so bright and interesting that my initial thought that it would make a great cover shot for the winter newsletter prevailed—problem solved!

Is it necessary to say again that I didn’t really examine the illustration very closely? Once I did, however, and realized the little horse had no head, I, of course, panicked. Then I thought maybe I could fix the problem and no one would be the wiser -- so I began searching through our archives for a picture of a similar-sized horse, but one with a head. Naturally it needed to be



The original “Father Christmas with Toys” image from the scrapbook.

the same color and style. I finally found one I thought would do, made a copy of the new horse picture, cut off its head and attached it to the Father Christmas illustration for the cover.

Once we copied the image, you literally could not tell it was not the horse’s original head. It is a bit smaller, perhaps, but the angle of the cut did seem to fit the body perfectly, making the cover shot complete. If you examine the printed picture closely you will also notice that some of the background is missing at the left edge of the image towards the bottom. That is because our original image was frayed along the edge. The white color visible on that side is the color of the paper on which the image was printed. This is not too objectionable, however, and only adds to the vintage aspect of the image, in my opinion. I often wonder, though, if I had not given the horse a head, would anyone have noticed?



Complete “Father Christmas with Toys,” enlarged to fit the front balcony window of the History Museum, then backlit to emphasize the brilliant colors of the figure at night. (Photo by Rich Keppner.)

This year the wonderful vintage Father Christmas image was captured again for the holiday window presentation in the History Museum by John Hummel of Classique, with lighting by Rupp Rental. Although the initial image was cropped, then enlarged to completely fill the dimensions of the Museum’s window, the horse remains—with his head! We would like to express our appreciation to these fine Quincy companies for making this image come to life and spread joy to the community this holiday season. We would also like to thank the horse who is now back in his scrapbook, head attached.

BIG DAY AS GEMS SURPRISED CARDS

Excerpt from article originally published in the Quincy Herald-Whig Sunday, February 11, 1968.

"Bring on Chicago, or the Reds."

That was the banner headline in the *Quincy Daily Herald* Sept. 26, 1919, for the previous afternoon the semi-pro Quincy Gems defeated the St. Louis Cardinals, 7-4, at the old League Park.

Memories of one of the highlights in Quincy's colorful baseball history were recalled recently as representatives of the 1967 world champion Cardinals visited Quincy.

Among those present for the luncheon for the Cards was Ferd Niemann, who played third base in the game here nearly 49 years ago.

His brother, Steve Niemann, went all the way on the mound for Quincy, limiting the Cardinals to six hits, including one by Redbird second baseman, Rogers Hornsby. Steve Niemann also hit a double off St. Louis lefty Jake May.

The Gems' top hitter, before a crowd of 1,400, was left fielder George (Skinny) Sohn, who rapped three singles. Quincy had only six hits, but took advantage of five Cardinals errors and five walks.



These Quincy Gems, a semi-pro team, recorded one of the all-time Quincy baseball highlights by taking a 7-4 win over St. Louis Cardinals in a post-season exhibition game here Sept. 25, 1919. Gems are from left, George Sohn, Ed Krueger, Steve Niemann, Gerald Wegs, Ferd Niemann, Ted Simon, Henry Ochs, Lawrence Winking, Babe Grussemer, Boots Mast, Elmer Frese, Doc Grussemer. Front Row, Jack Connell and Tom Lenane, manager. Catcher Alva Williams not pictured. (Photo, Historical Society Collection.)

Tommy Lenane was manager of the Quincy team and St. Louis was led by Branch Rickey.

The Gems' batting order for the memorable game had Doc Grussemer in center, his brother Babe, in right, Eddie Krueger at shortstop, Alva Williams, catching, Sohn in left, Ferd Niemann at third, Elmer Frese at second, Henry Ochs at first, and Steve Niemann pitching.

Williams had caught with the Washington Senators at the time Walter Johnson was the fireballing star of the team – and the league and Ochs played with the Kansas City Blues. Other members of

the squad were Gerald Wegs, Lawrence Winking, Frank Heckenkamp, and Jelly Ryan.

The Cardinal batting order had Joe Schultz in right, John Smith in left, Milt Stock at third, Hornby at second, Austin McHenry in center, Fritz Mollwitz at first, Doc Lavin on short, Art Dunn catching and May pitching.

The win over St. Louis earned Steve Niemann a contract with the Chicago White Sox and assignment to Des Moines. He returned to Quincy after two months though, to join his brother Ferd in the wholesale grocery business.

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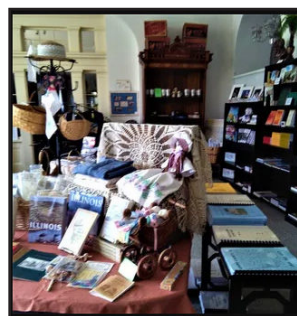
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Looking for a special gift?

Quincy's History Shop inside the History Museum on the Square is the place to find one-of-a-kind gifts including books by local authors, souvenirs featuring Quincy locations and history, and much more!





The Committee for the Re-Election of the President was implicated during the Watergate scandal. A descendant of the prominent Cox family of Quincy, Archibald Cox, Jr., investigated the illegal activities that occurred during Richard Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

Quincy Descendant Prosecuted a President

By Jean McCarl Kay

The diary of Quincy's Orville Hickman Browning – U.S. senator, friend and counselor to President Lincoln as well secretary of interior for President Andrew Johnson – was published in 1927 by the Illinois State Historical Library. The two-volume diary covers the years 1850 through 1881 and has become a valuable source of information for Lincoln scholars. Many familiar Quincy names are mentioned in its pages, yet some names over the intervening years have been lost. Such is the case with the Cox family.

Quincy – Friday, June 17, 1853 – Charming day. At work in office. Cox and wife took tea with us. Mrs. Browning, Mrs. Cox, Miss Bettie and self went to Kendall's Hall at night to see McAllister.

Quincy – Tuesday, September 6, 1853 – Cloudy and in consequence of the rain last night cool. Mrs. Cox and boys dined with us, and they and all of Mr. Erskines family took tea. At work in office.

So read entries in Browning's diary for a couple of summer days. There were frequent visits by the Coxes, who were not further identified in the diary for nearly a

decade. Orville and Eliza Browning spent many hours with the Cox family. Who were they?

Apparently Theodore Calvin Pease, the editor of the Browning diary, didn't know. Although he identified most other Browning associates whose names appear in the diary, Pease had no such enlightening commentary about this Mr. and Mrs. Cox.

Browning offered a few clues, and eventually their identity was revealed with this entry on Dec. 10, 1859. The notation revealed a close Browning-Cox relationship:

"Jno. (Note: In the diary, this term was used for Jonathan) C. Cox came this evening to stay with us till Mrs. Cox's return, who has gone East to spend the winter."

By the time of the entry, Cox, eleven years Browning's junior, had become one of Browning's proteges and closest friends.

John C. and Anna Rowland Cox had left Philadelphia in 1846 to settle in Quincy. Although John was a lawyer by profession, when he came to Illinois he purchased a farm fronting on Twelfth Street and

extending from Cedar to Locust, naming the property Glen Annie. Here the family – sons Harry and Rowland, daughter Annie John, and Anna's brother Joseph G. Rowland – lived in a country house on the road north out of town.

The Cox family, though settled in the west, still had many ties to the east. When Harry and Rowland were old enough, they were sent east to further their education, which Browning related in this diary entry: August 14, 1859 – "Cox just got home from Princeton where he had placed his boys at college."

Once Abraham Lincoln was elected president, Browning used his relationship with Lincoln to seek positions for many of his friends. He recommended John C. Cox for the job of auditor in a governmental department, but Cox did not receive the coveted spot. Cox had an interest in politics, having run unsuccessfully for the legislature in 1852 and 1854.

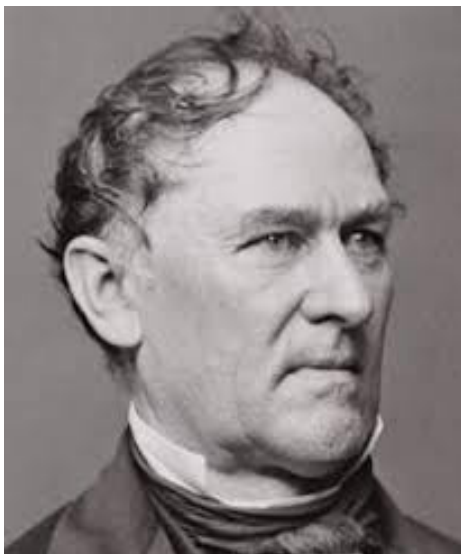
In 1861 Browning was appointed senator to serve the remaining two years of the late Stephen A. Douglas's term. Now a resident in Washington, D.C., Browning visited Lincoln often and used his influence with



Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox being interviewed by members of the press. Cox had subpoenaed the Nixon secret tapes from the White House, but was soon after fired during the "Saturday Night Massacre."

the president to seek positions for other friends, including an officer's commission for Rowland Cox.

After President Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865, Vice President Andrew Johnson assumed the presidency. In June of 1866 Browning was still attempting to get Cox an appointment. This time it was a mission to The Hague. Then on July 27, 1866, President Johnson informed Browning that he wished to send Browning's name to the Senate for nomination as secretary of the interior. Quickly confirmed, Browning could at last provide a much-wanted position for his friend. John C. Cox became clerk to the secretary of the interior.



Orville Hickman Browning hired his friend fellow Quincyan John C. Cox as a clerk when Browning became the Secretary of the Interior during the Andrew Johnson administration.

Browning attempted several times during 1868 to have President Johnson nominate Cox as Commissioner of Patents but to no avail. John and Anna Cox would have been comfortable with such a political appointment. Anna's father, Judge Joseph G. Rowland, had served on the Supreme Court of Delaware and also had served in the state legislature.

At the end of President Johnson's term, the Brownings returned to Quincy, but the Cox family remained in Washington. Their two sons had established a successful law firm dealing in trademark and copyright law in Washington. With none of the immediate family members left in Quincy, part of the Glen Annie farm became a subdivision called the John C. Cox Addition.

The Quincy Herald reported that John C. Cox did visit his Glen Annie farm in Quincy once more, returning the day before his death on March 30, 1872. The obituary likely was written by editor Joseph G. Rowland, Anna Cox's nephew and Quincy mayor. Dear friend Browning had called on Cox the evening of his arrival home but did not see him. Browning went home but in a short time was summoned by Mrs. Cox to return. He reached Cox's bedside to see him breathe his last. Browning's last service to his longtime friend was to act as pallbearer at his funeral. The burial was in the Woodland Cemetery. Resting beside him is his son Harry, who returned to Quincy to die in 1878.

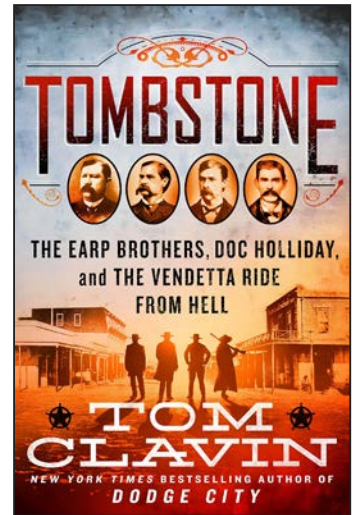
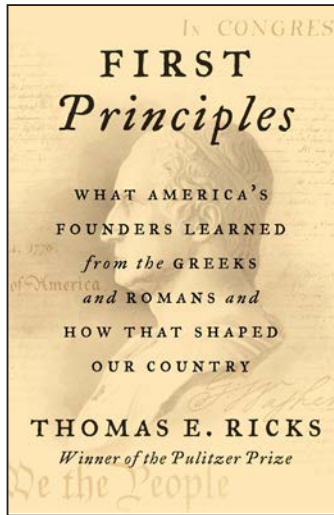
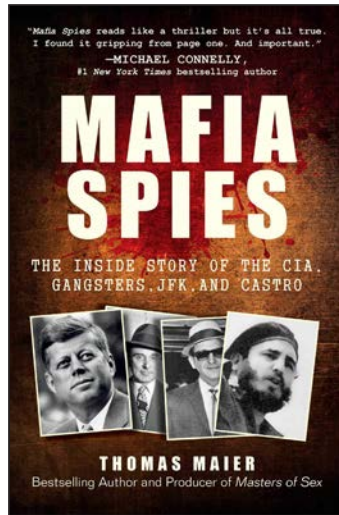
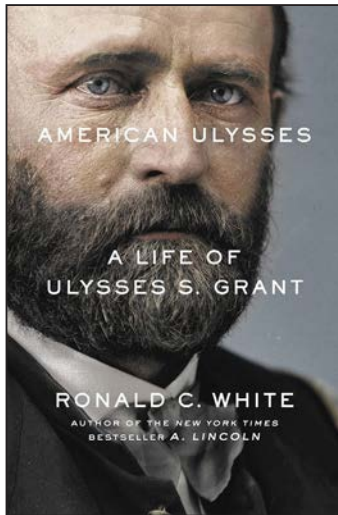
Rowland Cox remained in the east, married and had several children, including a boy named Archibald, who married Frances Perkins. She was a granddaughter of William M. Evarts, a lawyer for President Andrew Johnson at the time of his impeachment in 1868.

Archibald and Frances had a son, who also was named Archibald. This child, the great-grandson of John C. and Anna Rowland Cox of Quincy, was Archibald Cox, Jr., who would serve as U. S. solicitor general under President John F. Kennedy.

On May 19, 1973, Archibald Cox Jr., accepted an appointment as the first Watergate special prosecutor during the administration of President Richard Nixon. The president fired Cox in what became known as the "Saturday Night Massacre" when Cox's investigation led to a subpoena of tapes of the president's Oval Office conversations. It led, ultimately, to the only resignation of a U.S. president.

Before his death in 2004, Archibald Cox, Jr., who traced his lineage to 19th century Quincy, was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Bill Clinton.

Jean McCarl Kay is the research librarian and archivist of the Historical Society and editor of the Great River Genealogical Society quarterly, The Yellowjacket. Among her research interests are early Adams County families.



History Ago Go Podcast Marks Milestone

Downloaded in 50 Countries and 100s of Cities Across America!

The history podcast **History Ago Go** hosted by Rob Mellon, the Executive Director of the Historical Society, has been extremely well received. The podcast has produced more than 50 episodes and has featured several *New York Times* best sellers as well as Pulitzer Prize winners. The show has been downloaded in more than 50 countries and hundreds of cities across the United States. The first episode of **History Ago Go** kicked off with local historian and author Reg Ankrom who covered the *Political Apprenticeship of Stephen Douglas* in July 2020.

Former Mayor Chuck Scholz has a recurring bonus show on the podcast, **Tales from the Gem City**. He has discussed such varied topics as Father Tolton; presidential visits to Quincy; the invention of Mountain Dew; and the unlikely friendship between Senators Barry Goldwater and Paul Simon. The most frequently downloaded episodes are *Reaganland: America's Turn 1976-1980* with *New York Times* bestselling author Rick Perlstein, and *Istanbul, Not Constantinople* with Patrick Hotle, Culver-Stockton College history professor. Local historians Scott Giltner, Wendell Mauter, Justin Coffey, Tim Jacobs, Iris Nelson, David Harbin, Lynn Snyder, Terrell Dempsey, Phil Reyburn, Nancy Benz, and Mike Moyers also have episodes on a variety of topics ranging from Adolph Hitler to Mark Twain to Blue Devil Basketball.

History Ago Go is very proud to have had numerous award-winning authors and nationally recognized historians as guests. There have been shows on Ulysses S. Grant with Lincoln and Grant historian Ronald White; the philosophy of the Founding Fathers with Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Ricks; the Apollo moon landing with James Donovan; and JFK's coming of age with Harvard professor Fredrik Logevall, another Pulitzer Prize winner. A very popular recent show on the book *Tombstone* with *New York Times* bestselling author Tom Clavin has been downloaded many times.

Nationally recognized journalists have also had episodes, including famed reporter Thomas Maier who discussed his book *Mafia Spies* and Larry Tye who covered *Demagogue*, his biography about the life and long shadow of Joe McCarthy. The podcast even had an episode on the history of the 2000s sitcom *The Office* with *Rolling Stone* writer Andy Greene.

If you love history you will certainly enjoy the **History Ago Go** podcast. There is virtually something for everyone and tons of content, both informative and interesting. The podcast can be accessed simply on all of the podcast directories including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Pandora, and others. Simply subscribe to the show on the directory that you use and get new material immediately when it is released. There are many new episodes



Moderated by Rob Mellon
Eclectic interviews with historians, authors and other interesting guests.

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coming up including shows on JFK vs. Dulles, the Quincy Gems, the historical impact of the mosquito, and the history of the University of Notre Dame.

SOCIETY WORKING TO REPLACE SCABBARD ON CLARK STATUE

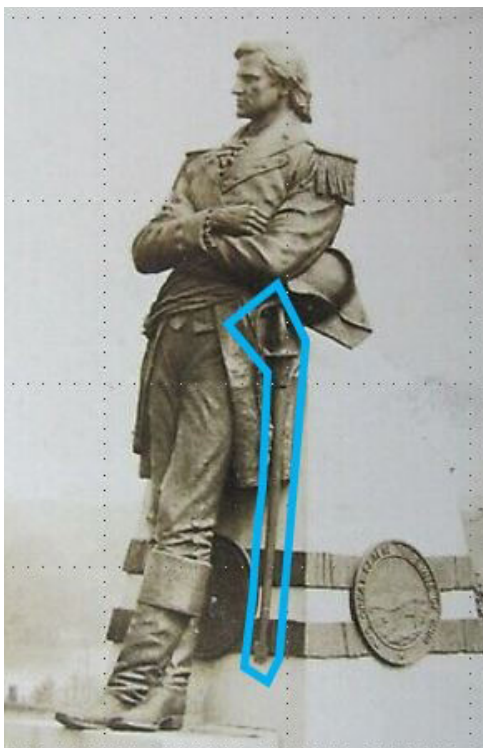
By Dr. George Crickard

The Winter 2020 edition of "The Civil War Monitor" dedicated a section to the role of monuments and statues in telling the history of the United States. This issue currently sparks great debate. But also, we cannot forget that these are works of art as well. As one author stated "... the great majority of America's statues do not receive the conservation treatment as often as they should, if ever, and the result is a fragile memorial landscape..." ("If We Care About Monuments, We Should Take Care of Them." Pg 22-24. Sarah Beetham.) It was this call to action that ignited my interest in Quincy's monuments.

The George Rogers Clark statue has graced Riverview Park since its dedication in May 1909. I see it often when cycling through the parks. He is posed majestically wearing his Continental soldier uniform looking southwest at the territory he helped claim for the United States. Unfortunately the scabbard from the original design is currently missing. In early dedication photos, the sword/scabbard hangs from waist level to his mid-calf. Sometime in the mid 1930's, the lower half was lost. We can find no reference as to whether it was vandalized or damaged by weather. If anyone has information about the lost scabbard, please contact the Historical Society.

Enter fellow Quincy native, sculptor, and artist, Andrew Jumonville, owner of Jumonville Atelier in Bloomington, Ill. Our families were close growing up and I reconnected with him at his Abraham Lincoln statue "The Convergence of Purpose" dedication in Bloomington on October 2010. I contacted Andrew in December 2020 and he was eager to assist.

The goal of the Historical Society is to have the statue brought back to its original splendor to be followed with a rededication of the monument and symposium on George Rogers Clark. The Society has contacted members of the Quincy Park Board who are excited about the statue restoration project.



Original view of the George Rogers Clark statue with scabbard outlined.



George Rogers Clark statue as it is currently, showing the broken scabbard at his mid-calf.

We hope to present a plan for replacing the scabbard to the Park Board in the spring.

If you are interested in helping the HSQAC with this project, please contact Rob Mellon at 217-222-1835 or rmellon@hsqac.org.



HSQAC Sites Added to New Website

The Looking for Lincoln website Explore the Land of Lincoln, (www.lookingforlincoln.org) has recently been redesigned to give visitors an overview of the hundreds of Lincoln and Lincoln-era locations in the state, including the History Museum on the Square, The Governor John Wood Mansion, and the HSQAC Visitors Center Lincoln Gallery in Quincy, all operated by the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.

Viewers can access EXPLORE in the main menu in order to search for communities by name, then click on the community name and all sites in that community are displayed. The Looking for Lincoln Wayside Exhibits located in each community are also described, and a map with a corresponding legend pinpoints the sites and markers by location. Sites are also outfitted with codes representing their different features, such as Good for Kids, Self-Guided and Guided Tours, Historic House, Underground Railroad, and more.

The website also features a section called Pre-Planned Itineraries for those wanting to visit the various Looking for Lincoln communities throughout the state. A Quincy, Illinois Gateway Trip – Lincoln and The Civil War Era- is included and features the History Museum, Lincoln Douglas Debate site, Dr. Richard Eells' House and All Wars Museum. A Quincy Area trip which highlights the Lincoln Wayside Exhibits in Quincy plus side trips to Nauvoo and Pittsfield is also listed.

John Leonard Roeder: Age at Death a Mystery

One of the scrapbooks in the Historical Society's collection has a story from the *Quincy Daily Herald* dated July 24, 1909, about Quincyan John Leonard Roeder. At the time of his death it was reported that Mr. Roeder was the oldest man in Illinois at 109 years old. According to Roeder, he was born in Grossheubach, Bavaria, Germany, on January 21, 1800. At age 8, he started an apprenticeship as a cobbler with his father, and this remained his profession for the rest of his life.

*By Rob Mellon
HSQAC Executive Director*

His story continues that when he was 15, he was denied enlistment into the German Army to fight Napoleon Bonaparte, but entered service as an orderly for Prussian Field Marshall Blucher. His service took him to the Battle of Waterloo with General Blucher who joined forces with the Duke of Wellington to defeat Napoleon. John Roeder even claimed that General Blucher ordered him to deliver a message to Napoleon during the Battle of Waterloo. This is where the fantastical story and account of Mr. Roeder starts to strain under scrutiny.

In order to verify Roeder's story, the Historical Society reached out to Alexander Mikaberidze author of *The Napoleonic Wars: A Global History* who, after reviewing the Roeder account, stated, "I have not seen any evidence that Blucher tried contacting Napoleon – he wanted the man captured and shot, so not sure what the letter would have been about. Even if there was an attempt to contact him, a fifteen-year old would have never been entrusted with such an important missive." Professor Mikaberidze went on to say that John Roeder was the son of a common shoemaker, and that an individual from such a humble background would not have been allowed to serve as an orderly for a Prussian Field Marshall.

John Roeder immigrated to the United States with his wife in 1844, first going to Philadelphia, Pa., then to St. Louis, and then up the Illinois River to Pike County where he found a job chopping wood for a few months. In the spring of 1845 he arrived in Quincy. He was 44 years old. Roeder was married to Marie Appolonia

Dehm for many years, but the couple was not able to have children. They did adopt a young girl named Hannah Heitland in 1852.

When Hannah was 10 years old, she and her mother worked for Orville and Eliza Browning in Quincy. Later in her life she told a story about when she met Abraham Lincoln. When Lincoln was in Quincy for the famous debate with Stephen Douglas, he had dinner at the Browning home. During the meal Hannah served a batch of fresh biscuits that her mother had made to those at the dining table. The biscuits were such a hit that they were soon devoured, so Eliza Browning whispered to Hannah to have her mother make another batch of biscuits. It was not long before Hannah delivered a second batch of piping hot biscuits to the table and they went up as fast as the first. Hannah overheard Lincoln say, "Why this batch is better than the others." She also remembered Abraham Lincoln having a conversation with the Brownings where he denounced slavery.

John Roeder began working in Quincy soon after his arrival. He started a shoe and boot making business on State Street between 6th and 7th streets. His business did relatively well and he used to brag that he made all of the shoes and boots for John Wood. In fact, he said he made Wood a special pair of boots when he became the Governor of Illinois in 1860. His profession also allowed him to meet other prominent Quincy residents such as Orville Hickman Browning, William Richardson, General Benjamin Prentiss, and Jackson Grimshaw.

Whether the cobbler Roeder actually made all of the boots for John Wood or



John Leonard Roeder was believed to be the oldest man in Illinois when he died in 1909.

knew all the prominent Quincyans of the day it is hard to say, but there is no question his shop was only a few blocks from John Wood's Mansion. Roeder worked at his shoemaking shop for many years. Hannah urged him to retire when he was 75, but he continued to work on and off until he was 90. Appolonia Dehm Roeder died in 1867. John Roeder never remarried.

His adopted daughter Hannah grew up in the Roeder home at 300 Payson Avenue and married John P. Liebig in 1868. Liebig owned a coal company in West Quincy called J.P. Liebig & Sons. The company was in the drayage business which moved containers from boats to wagons and wagons to boats on the Mississippi River. The business managed by John and Hannah's three sons was involved in storage, ice, wood, and coal.

During his later years, John Roeder continued to work in and around his home. He lost the sight in one of his eyes when a splinter flew into his eye as he was sharpening pea-sticks. He eventually lost sight in his other eye and was completely blind for the last five years of his life. It was said that he would not let a day go by without a glass of beer and also that he smoked a pipe religiously until at age 90, when he put his pipe down and never



Battle of Waterloo (1815). John Roeder claimed to have served as an orderly for Prussian General Blucher during the battle and to have been asked by Blucher to deliver a message to Napoleon.

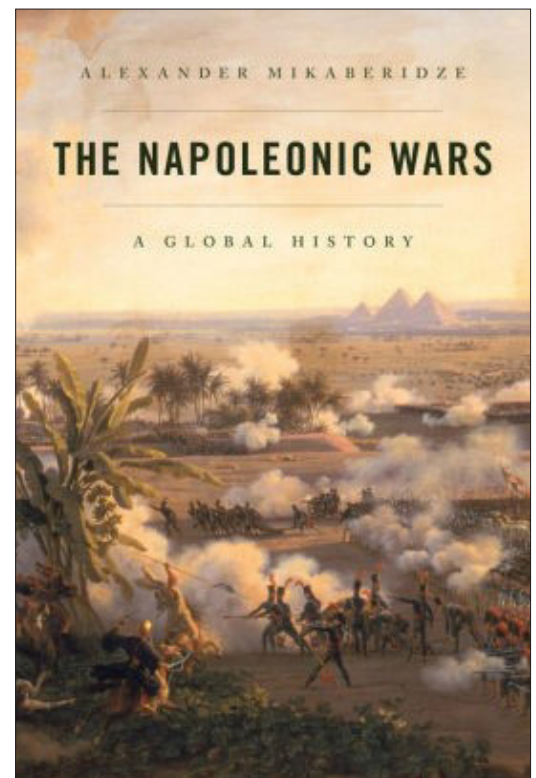
It was said that he would not let a day go by without a glass of beer and also that he smoked a pipe religiously until at age 90, when he put his pipe down and never smoked again. When asked about how he lived so long, he said he did not use medicine and always kept his feet dry.

smoked again. When asked about how he lived so long he said he did not use medicine and always kept his feet dry.

The final mystery takes us back to the beginning of the story. Was John Roeder really the oldest man in Illinois when he died in 1909? A review of the census records indicates that in 1860 it was reported that he was 46 years old. That would mean that he was born in 1814 and not 1800. That would also mean that he was only 1 year old when the Battle of Waterloo was fought in 1815. One thing we are certain of is that General Blucher did not send a toddler to deliver a message to Napoleon during that momentous battle. A look at the 1880 census shows that John Roeder was 64 that year, so he became two years younger between the census of 1860 and the census of 1880.

Finally, the census of 1900, which was the last census before his death in 1909, indicates that John Roeder was 100. This would account for the *Quincy Daily Herald* story suggesting Roeder was the oldest man in Illinois when he died. The records do make it clear he did immigrate to the United States in 1844. It is just unclear how old he was when he arrived.

We might never know for sure if John Roeder was the oldest man in Illinois when he died, or if he met Napoleon while delivering a message during the Battle of Waterloo, or if he made John Wood's boots, or even if his adopted daughter met Abraham Lincoln while delivering biscuits to the Browning dinner table, but we do know that John Leonard Roeder lived an interesting life and if he were here today he would tell us just that.



The Society extends its thanks to Alexander Mikaberidze, author of The Napoleonic Wars, for reviewing Roeder's account.

Stone Rubbing at the Quincy National Cemetery Reveals a Story About a WWII Hero

This winter a gentleman from Ohio requested the help of the Historical Society in locating the grave of a relative, Dennis W. Pruski, who was killed in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima on February 27, 1945. The request came from a man who wanted to see the grave stone rubbing of his loved one before he died. The grave was located at the Quincy National Cemetery at 3701 Maine Street in Quincy. Rich Keppner, HSQAC Board Member, and Rob Mellon, Executive Director of the HSQAC, found the grave, made the rubbing and sent it to the family in Ohio.

CPL Dennis Pruski was part of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. His unit was deployed to Auckland, New Zealand, in 1943 and participated in several campaigns in the Pacific including Bougainville, Northern Solomons, the Battle of Guam, and the Battle of Iwo Jima. Soldiers involved in these campaigns saw some of the most intense fighting during World War II.

Iwo Jima became extremely important during the U.S. island-hopping campaign across the Pacific. Operation Detachment was initiated to capture the island of Iwo Jima and the two vital airfields on the island. The plan called for the

Marines to take the airfields, which would provide immediate emergency landing for American aircraft as well as serve as a launch point for future bombing raids against Imperial Japan.

The amphibious landing began on February 19, 1945. Several Marines distinguished themselves during the bloody battle, including members of the Navajo code talkers who sent hundreds of messages without error during the conflict. The 3rd Marine Division was committed to the battle on February 25, 1945, and was able to take the second airfield on February 27. CPL Pruski was killed during this assault, fighting with the 3rd Marine Division.

Interestingly, the famous image of the six U.S. Marines raising an American flag atop Mount Suribachi occurred on February 23, 1945, four days before the Marine assault on the second airfield where CPL Pruski was killed in action. The U.S. forces were not able to clear the island of Japanese resistance until the middle of March in 1945.

During the battle, 6,800 American Sailors and Marines were killed in action. Most of those killed from the Marine 3rd and 4th Divisions were buried in temporary military cemeteries on the island. Of the estimated 20,000 Japanese



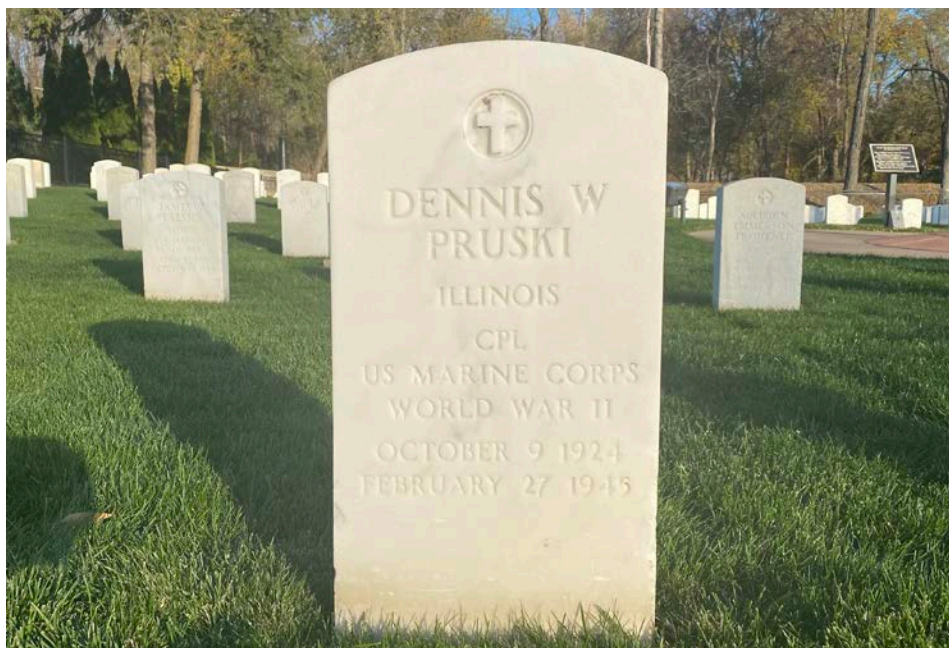
HSQAC Board member Rich Keppner retrieving the gravestone rubbing of CPL Dennis Pruski for his family in Ohio.

defenders of the island, only 1,083 survived.

After the war, the bodies of many Americans who were killed in action were scattered across several continents or lost at sea. The U.S. government launched a massive global effort to return the bodies of American service members lost during the war -- Return of the World War II Dead Program—which ran from 1945 to 1951.



(Left) Famous photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal of six U.S. Marines planting an American flag on Mount Suribachi. Interestingly, CPL Pruski was killed in action four days after this famous image was taken. (Right) 7,000 Sailors and Marines were buried in the temporary Iwo Jima cemetery after the battle in 1945. The U.S. repatriated the bodies as part of a government program to return service members killed in action during WWII to the United States.



Gravestone of CPL Dennis Pruski who was buried in 1948 at National Cemetery in Quincy.

It was designed to search battlefields, temporary military cemeteries, and aircraft crash sites for those missing in action.

The remains of CPL Pruski were returned to the United States and buried at the Quincy National Cemetery on April 22, 1948. The service was held in the Freiburg-Haugh funeral home with Thomas Hickey, commander of Quincy American Legion Post No.37, in charge of military rites. Reverend Oswald Casper, O.F.M., served as chaplain, and members of the American Legion Post served as pallbearers. Mrs. Caroline Pruski of Chicago, the mother of CPL Pruski, attended the services. Dennis Pruski now lies in rest alongside veterans from other wars at the Quincy National Cemetery.

The Quincy National Cemetery itself has an interesting history. Over the course of the Civil War, five military hospitals were established in Quincy. Many of the soldiers were buried in a special section of Woodland Cemetery set aside for these fallen heroes. That plot became Quincy's first national cemetery.

In the 1890's, however, the grading of Jefferson Street began, and when heavy rains eroded the cliff along the north edge of the cemetery, some of the grave sites were exposed.

At first plans were made to build a retaining wall at Woodland Cemetery,



The Quincy National Cemetery located at 3701 Maine St. in Quincy.

but it was eventually decided to purchase a portion of Graceland Cemetery on the east side of the city and move the remains of the Civil War soldiers to that location. At that time, Graceland Cemetery extended further north across what eventually became an expansion of Maine Street.

During the first quarter of 1900, three hundred and nine bodies were exhumed and moved to the new location. Far more challenging than moving the bones of the soldiers, however, was the movement of the four eight-thousand-pound cannon barrels. It was also far more time consuming.

The half-acre Quincy National Cemetery east of 36th Street at Maine was officially dedicated on Decoration Day 1900. Today, there are approximately seven hundred veterans buried at the cemetery, including CPL Dennis Pruski.



Proper materials maintain a lasting artifact.

How to Make a Grave Stone Rubbing

Doing a rubbing of a grave stone is an interesting and inexpensive way of making a keepsake. Use middle weight non-fusible interfacing. Light weight interfacing may rip, and heavy weight will not give a good impression. For a rubbing material, colored wax works better than chalk. Dark colored jumbo crayons can also be used. Blocks of rubbing wax can be found on-line or in art stores.

Place the cloth over the head stone and secure tautly with masking tape and/or with the help of an assistant. Then rub all the engraved areas of the head stone with the rubbing wax or the side of the crayon with moderate pressure.

You can then spray the finished rubbing with hair spray to seal the wax, certainly necessary if you use chalk instead of wax.

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