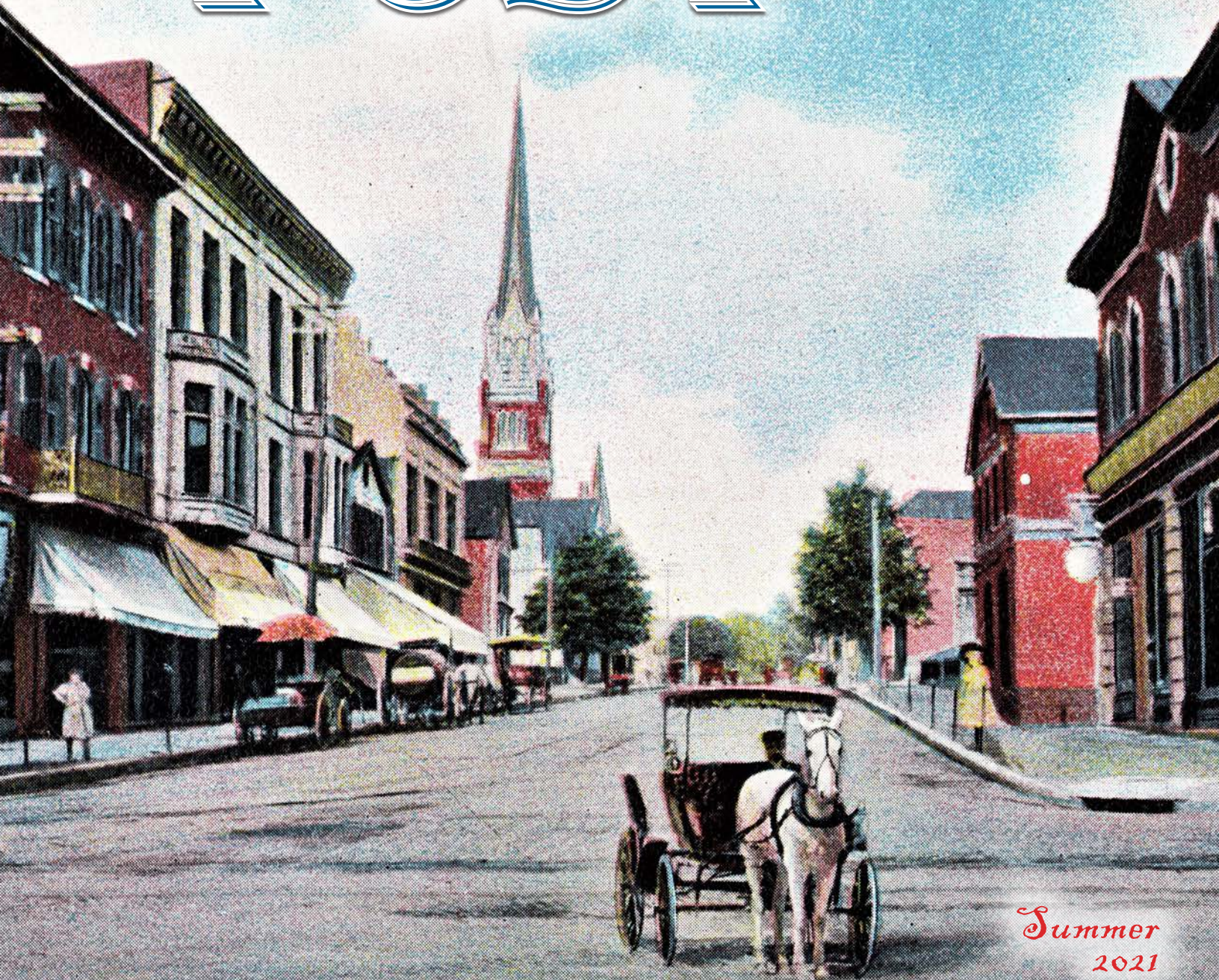
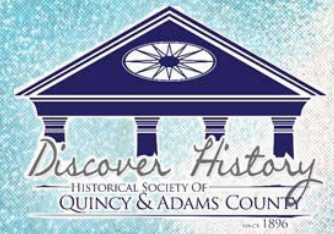


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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Quincy and Adams County, Illinois, Est. 1896

The GOVERNOR'S POST



Summer
2021

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Cover Photo: Image of "Caltown" - State Street, east of 8th Street from a postcard in the Historical Society's collection.

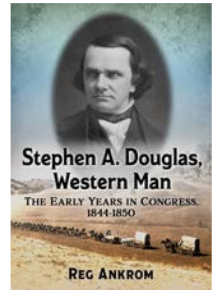
HSQAC 125th ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE



Reg Ankrom

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County will be held **Sunday, June 27, at 1:00 pm** at the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine, Quincy.

Following the meeting, popular local author Reg Ankrom will present a program on his latest book *Stephen A. Douglas: Western Man* which follows "The Little Giant's" early years in Congress. This is the second of Ankrom's three planned books on Douglas. The first, *Stephen A. Douglas: The Political Apprenticeship*, covered the decade he learned politics in Illinois, while a third book will discuss Douglas' final years as a politician up until his death.



There will be a book signing at the Museum following the program. The program is free and the public is invited.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINS TWO STATE AWARDS

The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County has been awarded the Best of Illinois History Award in two categories of the 2021 Best of Illinois History competition organized annually by the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS) of Springfield. The winning entries were *The Governor's Post*, the Society's quarterly magazine, and *Once Upon a Time in Quincy*, the weekly newspaper column the Society is responsible for coordinating and writing.



The Governor's Post, which began in 1977 as a modest two page typed letter distributed in house, has now grown into a 20 to 30 page, magazine style publication printed in full color and mailed to members. Content includes news of Society events and members, membership drive information, features, and stories of local and regional historical significance. Images from the Society's extensive collection of original photos, cards, and other visuals are used in the publication and on the covers.

The Once Upon a Time column which has been running since 2011, is published weekly in the *Quincy Herald-Whig's* Sunday edition. The column is coordinated by HSQAC President Arlis Dittmer and currently has 15 authors. Topics are historical, and stories focus on the region served by the *Herald-Whig*. Close to 500 articles have been published to date.

ISHS Executive Director William Furry said, "It is an honor to recognize your achievement and to share your work with all Illinoisans. You represent the Best of Illinois History for 2021. Thank you for your gift to the future of Illinois studies."

Get to Know Board Members of HSQAC

Iris Nelson

Iris Nelson grew up in northern Minnesota near the headwaters of the Mississippi River and has lived in the Northwest and the South. She has two grown children and three grandchildren.

Iris has a B. S. in history and an M. S. in Library Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She retired after serving as a reference librarian and archivist for 26 years at Quincy Public Library. In addition, she has researched and written numerous articles including publications in the *Journal of Illinois History* and has presented several papers/programs at Illinois library and history conferences.

Iris has been the Society's program chair and on the HSQAC board for six years. Currently she is also a board member of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Interpretive Center, Quincy's Lincoln Legacy Group, chairing the annual Lincoln in the District Festival, and is a past president of the League of Women Voters. She is dedicated to preserving local history through educational events and presentations.



Iris Nelson

Joe Newkirk

Quincy native Joseph Newkirk is a writer and photographer. After graduating from Quincy University with English Literature and psychology degrees, he began a fine art commercial photography business while working as a correspondent for *Catholic Times* in Springfield, Illinois. In 1993, he joined the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project and over the next 24 years wrote nearly 150 biographical articles about American military veterans. His creative writing has appeared in many literary magazines and the *Quincy Herald-Whig* has published a dozen of his illustrated travel stories. He contributes to the HSQAC's "Once Upon a Time in Quincy" column and presents narrated travelogues to organizations about the more than 30 countries he has visited.

Currently secretary of the HSQAC, he also serves on the boards of the Friends of the Log Cabins, Quincy Museum, and the Looking for Lincoln Legacy. He is an elected Adams County precinct committeeman and has volunteered for many years with the University of Illinois Extension, Salvation Army, and Score. An avid ham radio operator, he shares some of Quincy's illustrious history on worldwide broadcasts from his home station.



Joe Newkirk

administration certification from Northern Arizona University.

For many years Keppner resided in Kingman, Ariz., where he was an elementary teacher and then an officer with the Kingman Police Department. In 2007, he returned to Quincy to be near family and friends. He is very active in the areas Tri-States Civil War Round Table and the Historical Society, where he has served as chair of the HSQAC Education Committee for the past several years. He is also a popular Civil War soldier re-enactor and has presented many programs for the Society.

"After moving back home, I have developed a deep interest in local history and the Civil War in general," Keppner says. "I also love to travel, having taken numerous bus tours throughout the United States and a tour of Great Britain. I plan to do more trips as we get beyond the pandemic."

William Arp

William Arp, a lifelong resident of Quincy, previously served on the board of directors of Quincy Preserves for six years.

Arp is currently serving on the board of directors for the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, Q-fest, the City of Quincy Commission to Redevelop the Washington Theatre, and the City of Quincy Preservation Commission. He owns a 1920's era two-story stucco house in Quincy, and his grandfather remembers plastering the house that William now owns. His family had been plaster contractors from the 1920's through the 1970's, and their work included many homes, churches, commercial and government buildings, some of which are architecturally significant. This has inspired his long admiration for Quincy buildings and architectural styles.

William worked as a paramedic for the Adams County Department of Public Health for sixteen years and is currently full-time at John Wood Community College in the maintenance department. He enjoys working on his small farm south of Quincy on the old Hull-Warsaw road, riding antique motorcycles, and bicycling with his grandchildren.



William Arp

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Rich Keppner

Rich Keppner was born and raised in Quincy and attended Quincy Catholic Schools. He was a member of the last class of boys to attend the old Notre Dame High School at 8th and Vermont as freshmen, then graduate from the newly opened Christian Brothers High School. Following two years at Quincy College, he joined the Catholic religious community of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the founders of the University of Notre Dame. Keppner graduated from Notre Dame with a bachelor of arts in education. He also received a master's degree in education at Indiana State University and educational



Rich Keppner

How the Memorial Bridge was Built

By Dr. Justin Coffey

Stretching nearly one mile across the Mississippi River, the Quincy Soldier's Memorial Bridge has served the community for more than eight decades. Linking Missouri and Illinois via Route 24, the bridge is an integral part of daily life in the era of automobiles. But getting the bridge built was no easy chore, yet the construction and completion of the bridge fulfilled a decades-long dream of the people of Quincy.

Ever since the founding of Quincy, residents had faced the difficulty of traveling across the Mississippi over to Missouri. Travel during the first century was limited to boats and ferries, which worked well enough in a time before cars, but ferry travel still had its shortcomings, particularly in the winter when the river froze over. A railroad bridge, built in the late 19th century, represented an improvement, but with the boom of the automobile industry in the 1920s, the old bridge simply was unable to serve the increased traffic.

By the late 1920s, city leaders were ready to act. At a city council meeting held in January 1928, the members took up a proposal that came from the Quincy Chamber of Commerce. The leaders of Quincy's business community had pushed for the building of a bridge, to be financed locally instead of by the federal government. The council agreed unanimously upon the idea. It voted to grant the right to build the bridge to the Kelly-Atkinson Company, a Chicago corporation, with the provision

that the city had the right to buy the bridge in the future. The Kelly-Atkinson Company agreed to build the bridge and accepted \$250,000 in bond payments. The city began a bond drive in the community to help furnish funds for the costs of the bridge, which the council had estimated to be about \$1.25 million. The bridge was named in honor of the men and women of the city of Quincy and Adams County who had died in wars fighting for America. The bridge was set to open by 1930.

On June 16, 1928, Mayor Weens turned the first spade of grass. The construction of the bridge was not easy. Digging began in June 1928, and the bridge would not be completed for another two years. The elements played a role in some of the delays, as winter conditions delayed some of the construction. There were also some unfortunate and tragic accidents. Four men perished during the building of the bridge, one by drowning. Finally, in May 1930, Quincy Memorial Bridge was open to the public. The first car to cross the bridge, on an official inspection trip on May 19, 1930, was driven by I. L. Pesses, engineer, who was accompanied by W. Emery Lancaster and Mayor Charles L. Weems. The original toll for crossing the bridge was 50 cents, a round trip fare that remained the same for over a decade. By 1945, the city had paid

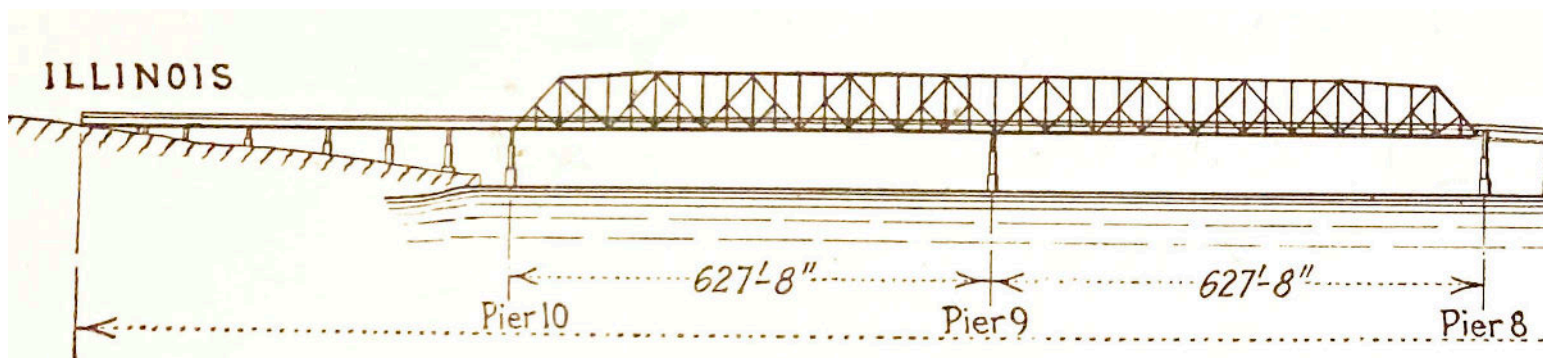
the outstanding bonds, and the fares for the bridge were eliminated.

During construction, a group of laborers dubbed the "Sand Hog" crew toiled some eight feet below the Mississippi. Working in arduous conditions, the laborers did a difficult job that required special skills. About two-thirds of the Sand Hogs were African Americans. They lived an itinerant lifestyle, moving constantly from place to place where new bridges were being built. During the building of the Memorial Bridge, the workers typically had one hour shifts, since being in an environment with an air pressure of 40 pounds meant that they could only be down there for a limited amount of time.

By the 1970s, the bridge, while still in good condition, with two lanes was simply not large enough to handle all the traffic. A new bridge was needed to alleviate the congestion. Bayview Bridge opened in August 1987, serving westbound traffic from Quincy into West Quincy. Although the Quincy Memorial Bridge remains structurally sound after 83 years in existence, there is the possibility that the



View from Maine Street looking west prior to the construction of the Memorial Bridge.



Construction began in June 1928 and in May, 1930 the Quincy Memorial Bridge opened to the public. The Mayor of Quincy Charles Weems



Early construction of the Memorial Bridge from the Illinois side.



Workers standing on top of the Quincy Memorial Bridge during its construction.



Erecting the main span of the continuous truss of the Memorial Bridge.



The Memorial Bridge as it nears completion looking west toward Missouri.

bridge could soon be replaced. In October 2012, the state of Illinois discussed the option of building a new, more modern edifice. The bridge remains as busy today as ever. Rodney Hart of the Quincy Herald-Whig noted that in 2009, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation, about 6,900 cars crossed over the Quincy Memorial Bridge each day.

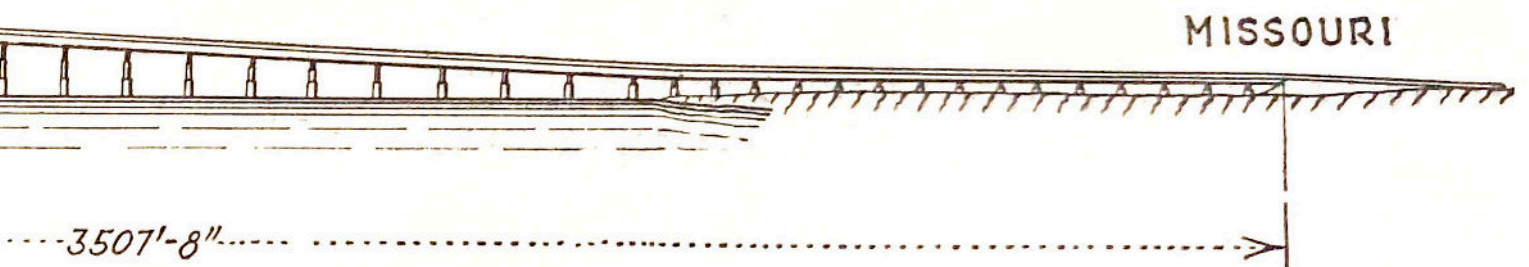
Anyone wishing to learn more about the history of Quincy Memorial Bridge can visit the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County at 12th and State. The Historical Society houses minutes of the annual meeting of the Quincy Memorial Bridge Company from 1942-1950. In addition, the Society has in its archives three scrapbooks relating to the bridge. One of the scrapbooks is composed entirely of photographs of the construction of the Bridge, while the two others have newspaper clippings and other assorted materials.



Digging for the construction started in June 1928 and the first rivet was set on April 15, 1929.

Justin P. Coffey is associate professor of history at Quincy University. He is the author of numerous articles on American history.

This article was previously published as a Once Upon A Time column in the Quincy Herald-Whig.



accompanied by engineers who designed the bridge drove the first car across the Memorial Bridge on May 19, 1930.



The H. Germann & Co. Drug Store was located at 801 State Street in the heart of the Calftown business district. The store sold medicine, paints, glass, oils, and other items.

The History of “Quincy’s Calftown”

Germans have been coming to America since the first English colony was established at Jamestown in 1607. Several German-speaking religious groups such as the Baptist Dunkers, Moravians, Mennonites, and Amish settled in the British colonies in the 1700s. German immigrants came to the American Midwest in droves throughout the 19th century, most leaving Europe due to political upheaval and for economic opportunity. From 1829 to 1870 more than 10,500 Germans settled in Quincy, with an additional 2,000 moving into other areas of Adams County.

Before the Civil War, the land south of York Street was vast pastureland, most of which was formerly owned by John Wood. Due to this, the area became known as the John Wood addition. Nearly 80% of the residents of the southwest section of town were of German descent, and many of those German families had calves and other animals in their yards. There were many talented craftsmen among the immigrant population, and Wood used them to construct his mansion. He often paid for their labor by giving or selling at reasonable rates plots of land in the immediate area, and there was such a strong relationship between John Wood and the German immigrants that he allowed all the

neighboring families to use the huge pasture south of his home for the grazing of their cows. At that time, almost every German family had a cow, and the area soon became known as “Calftown.”

Because of the rural nature of the setting, “Calftown” originally had a derisive connotation and many Quincyans viewed the south side of town as less cultured, but the well-kept homes, large families, organized businesses, and numerous churches gave the area a distinctive German feel, and the term “Calftown” soon became synonymous with the town’s German heritage.

It is important to note that German immigrants settled in all parts of Quincy especially in neighborhoods on the North End, but the large concentration of German families in “Calftown” made German heritage an inseparable part of its identity. The south side also became a center of commerce. The many businesses and markets on State Street quite often offered better products and fresher produce than comparable stores downtown, and the State Street stores were easily accessible which fostered greater activity and economic development in “Calftown.” The increased commerce coupled with the nice and orderly neighborhoods made the south side

not only a good place to shop but a great place to raise a family.

The “Calftown” moniker originally said with such disdain eventually became a point of pride. The areas of the town that are generally considered the limits of “Calftown,” although it is subjective, are south of York Street to Jackson Street and from Front Street to 14th Street. There were several sites and destinations in “Calftown” including St. Mary’s Catholic Church at 7th and Adams (now Blessed Sacrament), St. Paul Evangelical at 929 Monroe, the Peter Meyer Bakery on South 11th St., Gentemann Florist at 11th and Payson, Irving School, the Anheuser-Busch Office Building at 6th and State, the German YMCA at 9th and State, Salem Evangelical across the street, the Governor John Wood Mansion at 12th and State, the Dick and Bros. Brewery complex on York Street, and Woodland Cemetery on South 5th St. Several homes are adorned with the “Pride of the German Village Society of Quincy” plaques which celebrate the architecture of the southwest part of town. The term “Calftown” has been used for decades and has now come to represent the golden age of German heritage on the south side of Quincy.

The Sweet Music of A Million Roosters

Their Midnight Meledoy Brands Calftown with an Entirely New Name

A resident of that part of Quincy which for years has been affectionately dubbed as "calftown," rises to protest against the title which he claims is a mis-nomer. The other night he had his night's rest broken at about 2:30 o'clock, and there was no chance for him to go to sleep for an hour, not because of the noise made by the calves, but because there were several thousand roosters passing the morning's greetings.

The crow of one cock overlapped the cock-a-doodle of another, and it was actually impossible to bat an eye between two crows. He tried to count the roosters in his immediate vicinity, but stopped when he reached 1,321, because the crows were coming so fast that he had to count by eights to keep up, and feeling that his memory was bending under the strain, he decided to quit while he still had the right figures.

As for the different crows. He never knew that there were as many individual expressions of "good morning" in rooster language. Some doubt seemed to exist on the proper pronunciation of the cock-a-doodles, as some would accent different syllables, while other added a syllable.

As to voices, there were basses of the profundo type, and every note of the chromatic scale was represented for two octaves, the tenor of some of the crows being close to a soprano, but that may have been due to the youth of the cavaliers, their voice not yet having "broken." With all this going on there was not a sound of any other description breaking the stillness of the night. The listener did not hear a single calf. Instead calftown he reasons it ought to be Chickenville, Roosterburgh, Poultrytown, Gallianapolis, anything that will give chickens their rights, but calftown - nev vurr.



Image entitled "Inquisitiveness Rebuked" is from a business trading card from the Ariosa Coffee Company. The item is in the Historical Society collection.

Originally printed in the Quincy Daily Herald on Friday, June 26, 1914.

CALFTOWN COOKBOOK RECIPE

"Mrs. James Poling Nielson's great grandfather, Philip Amen, came from Westphalia, Germany, in 1834. He was a wagonmaker. They came to Quincy, attracted by the stand of walnut and hickory timber and settled in Siloam Springs. There were many persimmon trees growing in the area and this recipe was a favorite. When Mrs. Nielson's grandfather, Francis Amen, retired from farming, he came to Quincy in 1905 and planted a persimmon tree in this yard at 2903 Maine for his wife, Mary Gruber Amen. His daughter, Mrs. Emily Amen Daugherty, lived in the house and when her daughter, Peggy, married Mrs. James Poling Nielson in 1927, he planted a persimmon tree for this bride at 1641 Jersey. It is still bearing persimmons which are used in this treasured family recipe. This is a pioneer recipe."

PIONEER PERSIMMON COOKIES

From the kitchen of Mrs. James Poling Nielson

Ingredients:

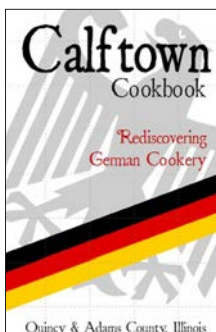
1 cup sugar
½ cup butter
1 egg
1 cup persimmon pulp
(remove seeds and mash pulp)
1 tsp. baking soda
1 cup chopped walnuts or hickory nuts
1 cup raisins
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. salt
2 cups flour



Recipe available in the Calftown Cookbook.

Directions:

Combine sugar and butter, add beaten eggs, add pulp with soda dissolved in it. Place nuts, raisins and spices in flour and add to mixture. Bake at 300° on greased cookie sheet until brown.



Order Form

☐ _____ \$10 ea.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Cookbooks 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.

Community in FOCUS

Payson, Ill.

Scarborough's Payson: 'Yankees' and 'Suckers'

By Linda Riggs Mayfield

The first half of the 19th century was a time of extensive population movement. Canals that connected the Atlantic with the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes with the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and Bounty Land grants in Illinois that were awarded to veterans of the War of 1812, allowed thousands of Easterners from New England to the Carolinas to head west. They left behind the traditions that they chose to abandon, and carried with them the values they hoped to pass on to future generations.

To many New Englanders, the value of putting down roots ranked very high, and community service was an expectation. Business was conducted formally, and frugality was admired. Education was worth sacrifice to achieve, and one's church and faith were integral in all parts of life. Many Southerners and new "Westerners" appreciated the opportunity to try a new place, and if it did not live up to expectations, use their freedom to try someplace else. Business could be done with a handshake, things could be borrowed instead of bought, and religion and education were private matters more than public ones.

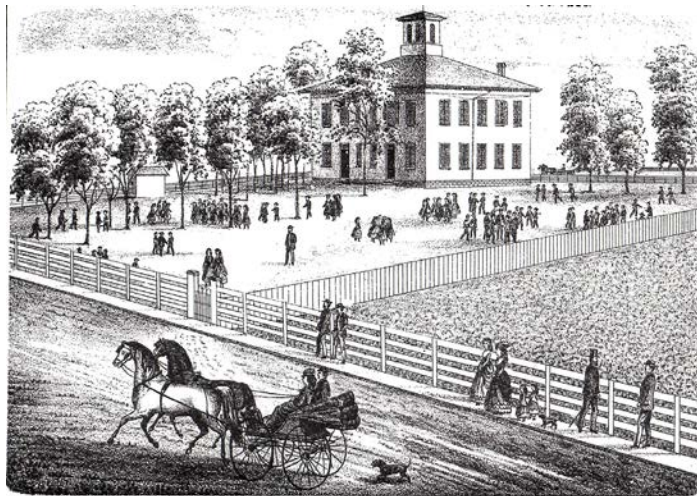
Each had a disdainful nickname for the other: In Illinois, New Englanders called the Southern settlers "Suckers," after the Mississippi River fish that migrated seasonally and scavenged, and the Southerners called the staid and frugal New Englanders "Yankees."

John Wood of New York came to the Illinois bounty land and built a cabin on the bank of the Mississippi in 1822. Soon he began finding and showing bounty owners their property and buying up tracts in what would become Quincy and Adams County.

On April 10, 1833, in West Hartford, Conn., another young man headed toward Adams County to survey the prospects there: Albigeance Scarborough, teacher, farmer, former militiaman, superintendent of the Sabbath school, and Deacon in the Congregational Church. He wanted a healthier climate and better land than New England offered, and the newly opened lands of Illinois promised both. By steamboats, trains, and stage coaches, he arrived in Quincy on May 7, 1833. With Dr. Richard Eells and two others, he rode to Rushville, and wrote to his wife, "To give a description in writing of the land I have just seen is beyond my talent, but I can say it is the best new country I was ever in." He visited Lewistown, Canton, Macomb, and Mendon before returning to Quincy. On May 27, he and John Wood rode southeast from Quincy to view available land. Then Albigeance returned to Connecticut.

Albigeance Scarborough moved from New England and founded "Paysonville" in 1835, 12 miles southeast of Quincy.

On June 7, 1833, John Wood rode southeast again, and with Edward Kimball and Brackett Pottle, recently arrived from New Hampshire, inspected four of the few remaining government-



The public school building was constructed in 1868. The building sat to the east of where the present stone grade school is currently located.

owned tracts left in the county. The next day the men purchased all 740 acres for \$1.25 an acre.

Back East, encouraged by Dr. Eells's letters, Scarborough made the arrangements and headed west in a wagon on Sep. 1, 1834, with his wife, Electa, their children, Albigeance Jr., 5, and Elizabeth, 1, and Miss Mary Woodruff. Coming through Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, and Springfield, they reached Quincy on Oct. 11, where they spent the winter.

But Quincy wasn't Scarborough's goal. He wrote: "I mean to buy all the choicest land as fast as it can be bot [sic]...for the purpose of keeping it out of the hands of non-residences and speculators... and let in good Yankees who are willing to come and help build up a church and society." In 1834-35, he purchased about 1500 acres about a dozen miles southeast of Quincy from ten different men, including 113 acres from John Wood for \$2 an acre, and in March, 1835, platted a town.

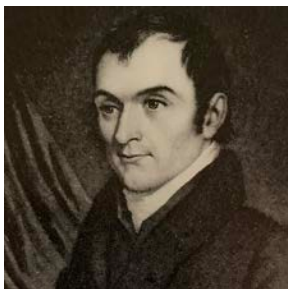
The Scarboroughs soon occupied a log cabin northeast of the town green, and almost immediately Albigeance began holding Sunday services. Settlers rode great distances to attend. Deacon Scarborough led by reading the sermons of Dr. Edward Payson of the Second Congregational Church of Portland, Maine, which were widely circulated in New England. He named his town Paysonville (soon shortened to Payson) after the preacher he admired so much.

New Englanders who had settled in the region moved to the new town: Brackett Pottle and Abner Perry from farms, Captains John Burns and Joseph Badger from Quincy. Other Yankees came: builder Jasper Whitcomb of Vermont in 1834, storekeeper David Prince of Connecticut in 1835. Charles Whitman, who built Payson's first frame house, Daniel Scarborough (Albigeance's nephew), Joseph Fielding, and Martin Seymour came from West Hartford, and Philo Ellsworth Thompson from Ellington, Conn.

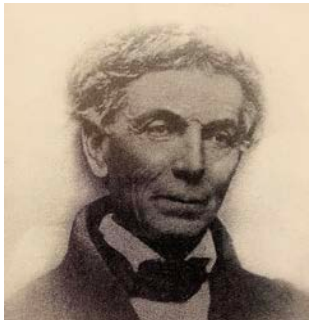
Thompson wrote, "This the village of Payson and as laid out seems formed by the God of nature for a town as they design it, and should building progress a few years as during the year past, it will soon be one of the pleasantest villages which this country produces." Albigeance's dream of planting a typical New England community in Adams County seemed to be becoming a reality.

But the nearby settlers from elsewhere brought different ideas. Southerners Woodruff Laurence and R. F. Edmunds had arrived in 1831, P. C. Benson and K. S. Nichols in 1832, Gabriel and Robert Kay in 1833, J. C. Bernard in 1834, and others followed.

Scarborough had been more impressed with the land than the people he encountered when he first inspected the region. He had written: "It was a section of country that is quite rolling land, rich and thinly settled...it is a section that I think will be settled soon



The town of Paysonville, later changed to Payson, was named in honor of Congregationalist preacher Dr. Edward Payson of Maine.



Albigeance Scarborough, the founder of Payson; was a respected horticulturist. He introduced the first successful grape vineyard in Adams County."



The town horse tank located in Payson outside of the general store. Artificial watering points were set up in many towns in the 1800s as a means to water horses while people were in town conducting business.

and I should like to see a church grow up formed on Christ as a cornerstone." But he also commented, "A majority of the people are indolent, ignorant, very slovenly, quite poor and live from hand to mouth without the necessities of life...in poor log cabins without much furniture and are very strongly prejudiced against the Yankees and doubly prejudiced against Presbyterians." Mary Prince, also a New Englander, later wrote, "Most of the inhabitants are from Kentucky, some are well informed -- many ... can neither read [n] or write and do not think it is of much consequence to send their children to school." Nancy Scarborough wrote of visiting a family who had never lived in a house that had windows. The cabin door was left open for light year-round.

Scarborough held high ideals for his planned town and he determined not to have a public sale of the town lots, but to sell "only to men of a particular stamp ..." That "stamp" was apparently educated Congregational New Englanders who intended to stay and build a community together: money from the sale of the 26 lots around the town green was designated to build a Congregational meeting house.

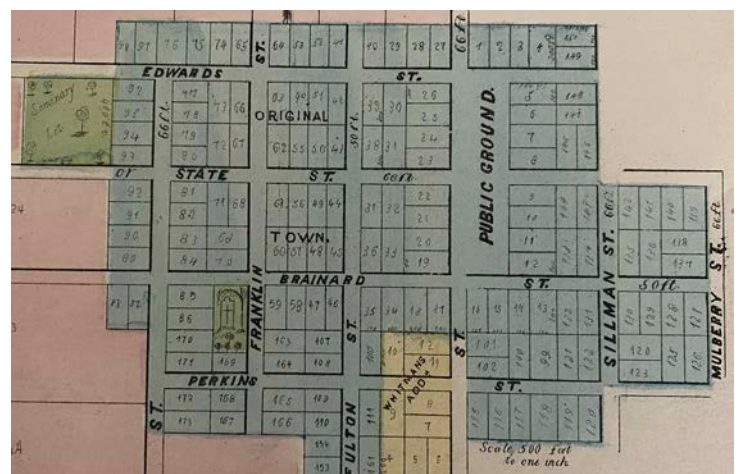
That was not a popular decision among his Southern neighbors, but soon the Deacon showed that he would consider differing opinions. On March 10, 1836, a meeting of Yankees and Suckers was held in his home that culminated with a resolution that "the restriction heretofore laid on the sale of the lots west of the town connecting them with the town lots be removed." When the lots were sold in August, however, only those around the green were sold, virtually all to Yankees.

Philo Thompson wrote, "There is generally in this country a strong prejudice existing between Eastern and Western people and circumstances here have rendered the Suckers highly indignant against the Yankees." By the following year the indignant group laid out a rival town one-half mile north of Payson on land owned by J. C. Bernard, formerly of Kentucky, and one of Scarborough's first acquaintances. They announced a sale of 100 lots on April 1,

1837, in "West Union." The Yankees of Payson knew two towns that close together could not both survive, and called another meeting, "as they felt anxious to do all in their power to abolish existing prejudices."

The men reached a compromise that laid the foundation for a strong future for Payson. An administrative group of both Yankees and Suckers was appointed, lots were added and resold, money was set aside for a school, and Albigeance sold half interest in his unsold lots to J. C. Bernard. In addition, Deacon Scarborough personally donated the land for the school and for a cemetery.

There is evidence that Albigeance Scarborough's willingness to compromise and to abandon prejudices presented a model that was followed. In 1838, the township's first postmaster, R. B. Hibbard, was from Vermont, but the first justice of the peace, Milus Gay, hailed from North Carolina and in 1850 the first township supervisor was Robert Kay, a Virginian who had come to Payson by way of Kentucky.





Civil War Symposium III

**Scheduled for
October 8 & 9**



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

Readers will be interested in the return of our Civil War Symposium to be held this coming October 8th and 9th. All six presentations will take place at the KROC Center commencing at 7:00pm Friday with Dr. Timothy B. Smith who will discuss Grierson's Cavalry Raid, an important part of the Grant's capture of Vicksburg. Grierson's Raid offers a local connection, though, as Benjamin Grierson lived in Jacksonville where he was a music instructor and a band leader. Prior to that, he had operated a grocery in Meredosia, Illinois. Interestingly enough, when Grierson was a child, he was kicked and seriously injured by a horse; he overcame this fear eventually however and served in a cavalry unit throughout the Civil War and afterwards as a leader of Buffalo Soldiers in the American West.

Dr. Smith will be followed Friday night by Brian Fox Ellis who will

appear as Walt Whitman. Ellis is a popular figure in Civil War circles and gives programs about many aspects of the war. At 8:00 am Saturday, a local quartet of amateur historians will present brief sketches of important Adams County Civil War figures: Rob Mellon, Executive Director of the HSQAC, will discuss Governor John Wood; Rich Keppner, HSQAC board member, will present information about Captain Sterling Delano; Dr. Tim Jacobs, Commander of the TSCWRT, will talk about Dr. Samuel Everett, the first Union physician killed in the war; and Beth Young, member of HSQAC and TSCWRT, will tell of the importance of Louise Maertz, a Civil War nurse.

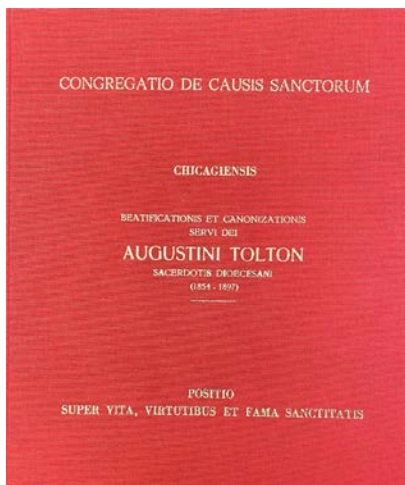
Following this early bird program, at 9:15 am, Dr. Samuel Wheeler, Director of History Programs for the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission, will assess Robert Todd Lincoln's connections with the war.

At 10:30 am, Tim Good, author of several well-received Lincoln books, will talk about the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Like Wheeler, Good has appeared in our previous symposiums and is a nationally-recognized expert in Lincolniana. Our final activity will be at 1:15 pm when Dr. Curt Fields, the official National Park Service U.S. Grant impersonator, will speak about Grant at Vicksburg.

We remind you that it is unusual to have all of these experts in one event, and we are so pleased that they have agreed to participate. Remember, Civil War Symposium III is free and open to the public, BUT you must make reservations by calling the HSQAC at 217-222-1835. Also, please remember that this event is subject to any COVID-19 restrictions/guidelines applicable at that time.

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.

HSQAC Receives Tolton Positio



Father Augustus Tolton

The HSQAC recently received a much-appreciated gift from Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. One of our researchers needed information about Father Augustus Tolton, the 19th Century diocesan priest from Quincy, and was wondering if there was any way to obtain a copy of the Catholic Church's Positio, the collection of documents compiled to support a person's possible elevation to sainthood in the Catholic Church. Bishop Perry is the church official who was in charge of the preparation of the Tolton Positio and its delivery to Rome.

One of our volunteers heard of the need and offered to contact the Bishop to see if there was any way that we could purchase a copy of the bound document collection. Realizing that only a few volumes were printed, staff was doubtful, but our volunteer knew Bishop Perry, and we thought it worth a try. The phone call was made, and "voila" the next morning a package appeared unexpectedly at the Society. Upon opening it, Rob Mellon was surprised to see a pristine, beautiful Positio in his hands. Bishop Perry agreed with our request and "overnighted" the much-desired book to the Society. Needless to say, we thanked Bishop Perry profusely and invited him to tour the Mansion and The History Museum any time.



Bishop Joseph Perry; the original St. Boniface Church shortly after the 1959 fire.



Governor's Gardens

If you are interested in gardens, stop by the Mansion this summer. Our volunteers are weeding, planting, and trimming various flowers and shrubs in preparation for lots of visitors. Our parlor plots are cared for by Jan Leimbach, who is researching additional 19th century cultivars to be incorporated into the area as well as maintaining plants currently thriving there. Some of the interesting specimens include cornflower, gas plant, rose mallow, and black-eyed susan. Terri Hanlin, Rolla Wike, and Robin Thomson have been preparing our extensive herb garden which contains plants used for medicinal purposes as well as for cooking. Some of the more unusual species here are feverfew, tansy, and catnip as well as "standards" such as lavender, sage, and rosemary. We frequently incorporate discussion about these herbs in our student programs and youth tours. Finally, we offer visitors a chance to experience a real prairie grass expanse in an area along the south side of our campus at the Mansion. All the cultivars there are native to 19th century Illinois and include some very unusual species such as rattlesnake master, little and big bluestem, sneezemaster, Ohio spiderwort, and blue indigo. Jack Ball tends this plot for us.

We also maintain some planted areas at The History Museum at 332 Maine. These plots are not as botanically interesting nor are they 19th century authentic, we hope that they make the corner of 4th and Maine more attractive. We continue to upgrade these plots as money permits, and we are so thankful for the volunteers who assisted in the recent plantings there. This crew consisted of Jack Ball, Mary Ann Freeman, Janet Enroth, Kathy Shanks, Beth Young, and Norm and Nancy Boone, as well as several QU students completing community service hours. We would also like to thank the five local businesses which supplied this year's plants for the Museum campus. A "shout out" goes to South End Plants, Bergmans, HyVee on Harrison, HyVee on Broadway, and Boone's Farm.

Civil War Grave Project Filmed

By Beth Young

On April 29, 2021, Mark McDonald of the popular PBS series *Illinois Stories* was in town with his photographer to film a brief documentary regarding the “Civil War Grave Restoration Project,” a joint venture of the HSQAC and the Tri States Civil War Round Table (TSCWRT).

Since 2016, five graves at Woodland Cemetery have been included in this refurbishment activity. [Earlier, the TSCWRT alone dedicated an informational marker at the cenotaph of Dr. Samuel Everett, a Quincy native who was the first Union physician killed in battle during the Civil War. He was shot at Shiloh in 1862.] In 2016, William A. Richardson’s tombstone was repaired, and an informational marker was placed at the site. Richardson, originally from Kentucky, was a Mexican War veteran, a US Senator, and a Territorial Governor of Nebraska. He died at his home in Quincy in December 1875.

Two years later, military tombstones were erected at the graves of William Dallas and his wife Virginia Winn Dallas Trevan. Dallas fought in the 55th Massachusetts during the Civil War and settled in Quincy shortly thereafter. He was Quincy’s first black police officer and was killed in the line of duty in 1876. These two unmarked graves were located by Woodland sexton Eric Bruns and Harrison Monument owner Perry Harrison.

An additional two Civil War figures were honored in 2019. Martin Hawkins, a Medal of Honor recipient and member of the 33rd Ohio, participated in Andrews’ Raid



Mark McDonald of *Illinois Stories* (right) discusses Civil War grave project with Dr. Tim Jacobs, HSQAC member and Commander of the Tri-States Civil War Round Table. (Photo courtesy of Illinois Stories, Randy Phillips.)

in April 1862 which involved the famous theft of the locomotive “The General” from Confederate forces in Marietta, Georgia. After the war, he moved to Quincy, married, and died in 1886. An informational marker was installed at his grave. The fourth burial site utilized in our Graves Project was that of General James Dada Morgan who moved to Adams County from Massachusetts in 1834. In Quincy, he became an important leader and businessman who served his state and his country in the Mormon War, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. During the last conflict, Morgan participated in battles at Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Bentonville, as well as in Sherman’s March to the Sea.

The fifth individual honored in this Grave Restoration Project was Louise Maertz, a Quincy native whose generosity and service were exceptional. A member of Dorothea Dix’s Army Nurse Corps, Maertz served tirelessly at Vicksburg, New Orleans, and

Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. She was also a community activist and was instrumental in saving the John Wood Mansion from destruction at the beginning of the 20th century.

The HSQAC and the TSCWRT are pleased that Mark MacDonald brought *Illinois Stories* to Quincy once again in order to cover this continuing worthy project. We also thank six local experts who appeared in the program to discuss the importance of each of the six individuals honored with the grave restoration. These six people were Dr. Tim Jacobs (Everett); Reg Ankrom (Richardson); Jim Rost (Dallas); Rich Keppner (Hawkins); Rob Mellon (Morgan); and Arlis Dittmer (Maertz). Beth Young was also interviewed regarding the history of the project.

Anyone interested in donating to support the purchase of the informational markers should call the HSQAC at 217-222-1835.



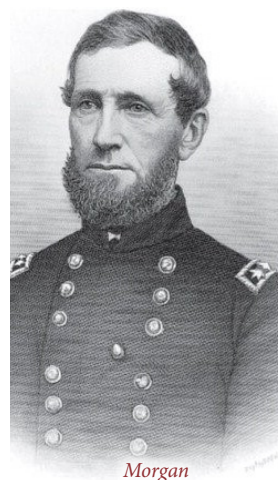
Richardson



Dallas



Hawkins



Morgan



Maertz

Marker Unveiled for Civil War Army Nurse Louise Maertz

On 12 May 2021, the HSQAC, in affiliation with the Tri States Civil War Round Table, dedicated an informational marker at the Woodland gravesite of Louise Maertz, a Quincy native who was a member of Dorothea Dix's Civil War Army Nurse Corps. Maertz served at Vicksburg, New Orleans, and St. Louis during the conflict, nearly ruining her own health in the process.

Attendees were welcomed by Rob Mellon, Executive Director of the HSQAC. The brief ceremony included remarks by Dr.



Louise Maertz served in Vicksburg, New Orleans, and St. Louis during the Civil War.

Brenda Bershears, President and CEO of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and Health Sciences, who noted the importance of Maertz and her connection to Blessing Hospital in the late 19th century. Bershears was followed by Arlis Dittmer, President of HSQAC, who outlined Maertz's life and Civil War service, as well as her contributions to the City of Quincy. Dr. Tim Jacobs, Commander of the CWRT, Rich Keppner, an HSQAC Board member, and Danyelle Harrison-Henning of Harrison Monuments then unveiled the marker, and military honors were offered by members of American



Dr. Brenda Bershears, President and CEO of Blessing Rieman College of Nursing and Health Sciences, speaks at the dedication of the Louise Maertz marker at Woodland Cemetery. (Photo courtesy of Blessing Hospital, Steve Felde)

Legion Post #37 Honor Guard who fired shots and played "Taps" in honor of Maertz's service.

This service was the fifth in a series completed by the HSQAC and the TSCWRT as part of their "Civil War Grave Restoration Project." In each of these ventures, we have worked in conjunction with Harrison Monuments and American Legion Post #37, and we thank these two groups for their generous support. All expenses for each grave restoration are paid for through private donations; anyone wishing to help underwrite the costs should contact the HSQAC at 217-222-1835.

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Governor John Wood Mansion

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THE GOLDEN AGE OF QUINCY AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM ON THE SQUARE

The new “Golden Age of Quincy” exhibit at the History Museum, 332 Maine, celebrates the growth of Quincy during the late 19th century -- the legacy companies and industries which stimulated its growth; the public institutions and parks that opened during the period; and the diverse neighborhoods of fine homes and impressive business blocks that developed as the city grew in population and prosperity.

Between the nationwide financial panics of 1873 and 1892, Quincy experienced a growth burst, celebrated in the local newspapers as “Booming” and on the streets by Fall Celebrations and Street Fairs. Thousands of visitors were attracted to the community, highlighting cultural and civic associations as well as the local robust and growing commercial and industrial complexes which supported the city’s growth and fame.

From its beginnings, Quincy’s location, at the western edge of the Illinois country and agricultural developing Bounty Lands and adjacent to the mighty Mississippi River, made it an ideal location for industries and companies providing services and goods for those taking part in the westward expansion of the nation.

Packing plants, saw and grain mills, foundries, wagon, saddlery, harness and farm implement makers, breweries and distilleries --- all were perfectly positioned to receive raw materials and ship finished products via river steamboat traffic or rail to local consumers as well as those heading west.



One of the most popular features in the exhibit is a wagon made by Knapheide Wagon Company of Quincy. At approximately 11 feet long and six feet tall, this is one of the original wagons built by the company which was founded in 1848. The wagon is on loan to the Society by Knapheide Manufacturing Company.

In this period, a number of small local wagon shops, harness makers, and stove manufacturers were able to grow and prosper and, through the ensuing 19th and 20th centuries, become nationally and internationally known companies.

This was also a period of social and cultural growth, as Quincy grew into a town renowned for its many beautiful parks and public institutions such as the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home (1885), the Boulevard and Parks Association (1887), Free Public Library and Reading Room (1888) and Historical Society (1896).

This exhibit focuses on iconic objects and images illustrating the growth of some of the pioneering families and legacy companies of the period, as well as some of the challenges presented to a mixed population of city dwellers, rural farmers, company and business owners, and simple shop keepers and laborers.

Changing exhibit elements and programming accompanying the exhibit will be announced through the HSQAC web site, and we invite you to come and explore this most interesting period in Quincy and Adams County history with us.



Items in the exhibit include (L to R): Barrel stamp used by Anton Delabar who built the first brewery in Quincy in 1837; items used in Quincy’s tobacco industry, established by the Harris brothers in 1862; cook stove from the Gardner Collection, representative of the stoves made by the 10 companies located in Quincy by the end of the century.

Ackerman Retires

Bob Ackerman, groundskeeper and facilities manager at the Society, has retired. In addition to serving as “chief mower and landscaper” for many years, Ackerman was also the primary tour guide for the Governor John Wood Mansion and operated the Mansion’s gift shop in the HSQAC Visitors Center. A native Quincyan, Ackerman attended the Quincy public schools and graduated from Quincy College with a degree in history. Following graduation, Ackerman worked in sales and purchasing for several electronic companies, most recently Klaus in Quincy where he was manager. He began at HSQAC in 2015 upon retirement from Klaus. Initially he was planning to volunteer for the Society but his interest in history and affability soon landed him the position he enjoyed for 5 years.

“I will miss working with the HSQAC staff,” Ackerman said when asked about leaving HSQAC for his retirement. “And I also enjoyed working outdoors on the beautiful Mansion grounds.”

Ackerman will continue to guide tourists around the Mansion sometimes, he said, “Just not every day and especially not every Saturday!”



(Above) Bob Ackerman (right) with Dr. David Costigan (left), one of his history professors at Quincy College, and Rob Mellon, HSQAC Executive Director, also one of Costigan’s students. The three attended the Society’s first Civil War Symposium in 2018. (Right) Ackerman and Research Librarian Jean Kay in the Governor John Wood Mansion in front of the official portrait of “John Wood as Governor” which Ackerman donated to the Society. The picture is positioned above the desk which Wood used while he was Governor of Illinois.



HSQAC Welcomes New Employees

Talmage (Tom) Billington of Ewing, Mo., has been hired as the new HSQAC groundskeeper and facilities manager. Billington has a certificate in the building trades from Kirksville Area Technical Center. He has twenty years of experience in building maintenance and property management and is skilled in the areas of electrical, plumbing, building automation and carpentry. He also has experience in waste management and water purification and owned and operated Quality Parking Garage Cleaning in West Alton, Mo. Welcome, Tom!



Tom Billington

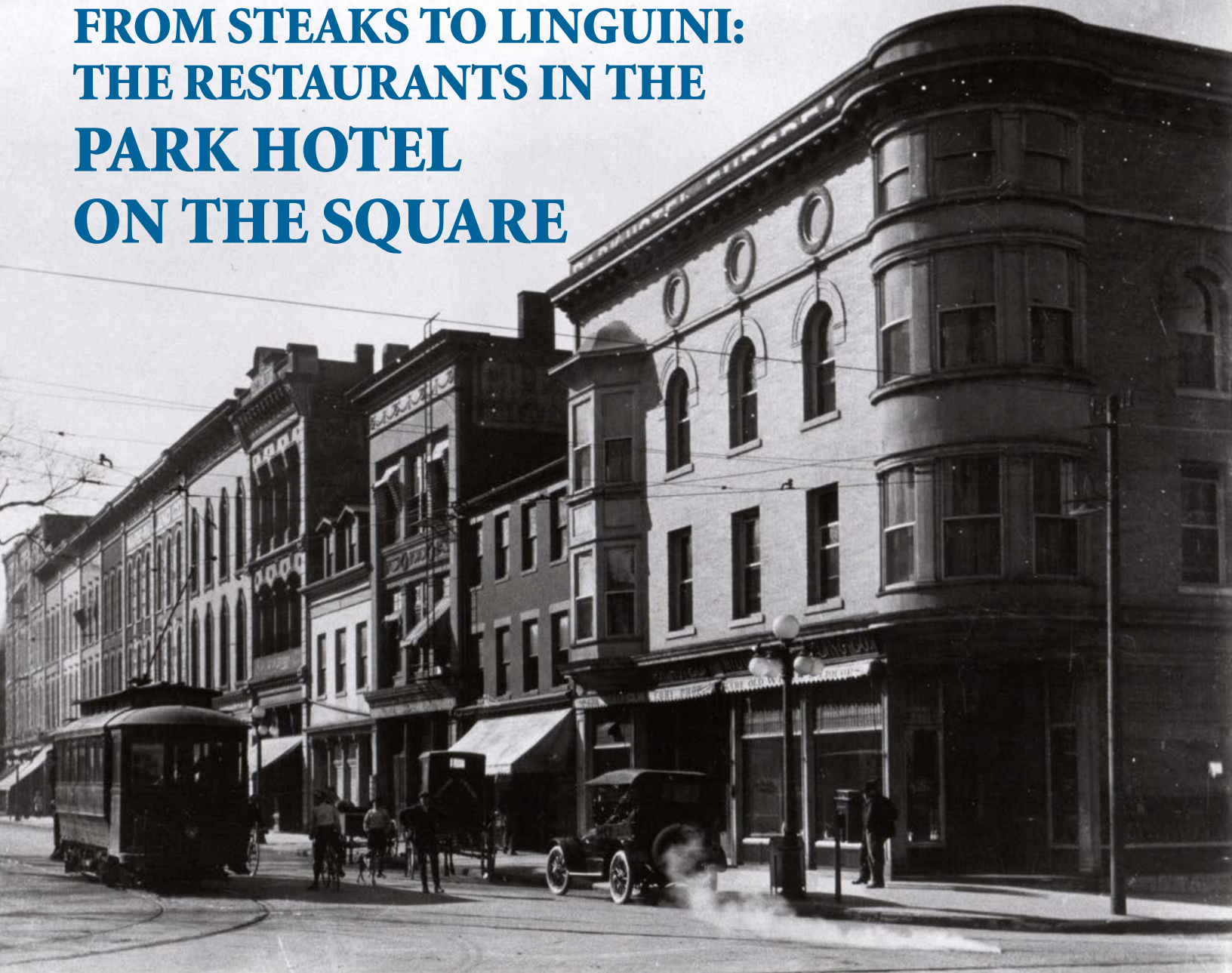
Amber Smith of Quincy has joined the HSQAC staff as Manager of Quincy’s History Shop, the gift shop located in the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine. She is a Quincy

native and has a passion for Quincy’s history and unique architecture. Her studies in art history at Culver Stockton College enriched her appreciation for art, design, architecture, history, and sociological trends. She is an artist herself as well and has received recognition and awards at several galleries and art exhibits throughout the Tri-States. As the former owner of Rosewood Custom Framing, she became an entrepreneur for several years doing picture framing and working with other artists for rotating exhibits in the gallery space. By developing partnerships with the Art Center and doing several volunteer art projects for the community since she was a teenager, she learned the value of being connected to the community and building relationships. Welcome, Amber!



Amber Smith

FROM STEAKS TO LINGUINI: THE RESTAURANTS IN THE PARK HOTEL ON THE SQUARE



By Lynn Snyder

The Park Hotel, presumably named for its location at the northwest corner of the Square in the heart of downtown Quincy, was one of several hostelrys in Quincy and Hannibal with the same name. The Park Hotel on the Square was built in 1913 and first owned and operated by Mike Schimmel “well known restaurant proprietor,” who opened a “café” in the building on the ground floor. The floors above, according to a contemporary newspaper account, contained a total of 45 rooms finished in quarter-sawn oak and furniture of “mission-oak style.” Each room was furnished with

hot and cold running water and the space was “all light and airy and of large dimensions.”

While these details may have been accurate when the building was originally erected, in later years the footprints of the rooms, exposed during renovations, suggest much less than “large” size. Further, because state law required that all hotel rooms have a least one emergency egress in addition to the door into the hall, a number of inner rooms were grouped around a centrally located light well, with full size windows looking out onto nothing but the open, empty, roof-to-ground shaft.

Soon after its opening, however, ads in the local papers were touting “the Best Short Order House in the city at the PARK HOTEL,” although, service in the dining room was at least temporarily interrupted in August of 1914 when the new restaurant manager, a married man, disappeared with one of the waitresses, “petite, pretty and 16” year old Greta.

In 1918 the hotel again changed hands, being leased and operated by Harry J. Wilkinson of Wellington, Kansas. Although in subsequent years the hotel and restaurant continued to operate, it did not gain the reputation

of such grand locations as the Quincy House or the Newcomb, located just one block to the South on 4th. However, in November of 1922, the local papers noted the presence at the hotel of a “champion checker player” of London, England, three times champion of England, who also tied (a draw) for the world championship in 1914.

At the time of its next sale, in 1925, the hotel was described as having 42 rooms, “two with bath, on the second and third floors, twelve of which are inside rooms.”

None-the-less, the restaurant and saloon (bar) in the Park retained its reputation for fine steaks and chops through the early 1960s.

When the lease for the very popular Tiramisu restaurant ran out last year in the 130+ year old Lessem Building at 3rd and Hampshire in Quincy, the owners decided to move onto the Square and purchased the former Park Hotel, 131 North 4th.

The current owners and staff of the new Tiramisu Italian restaurant in the Park Hotel building, combined, represent more than 160 years of experience with this restaurant in Quincy. Owner Roberto Stellino, chef Armondo, Lupe, Billy and Steve have been with Tiramisu since the year of its opening in 1996, while others, including co-owner Illija Cucuk, Ramon, Dawn and Kerry are more recent additions. All, however, says Illija Cucuk, are happy with the move to 131 North 4th, and look forward to many more years “to serve Italian dishes on the Square.”



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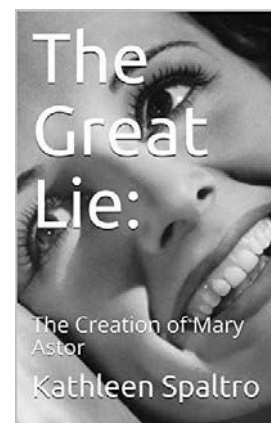
RISTORANTE ITALIANO

THE GREAT LIE: THE CREATION OF MARY ASTOR NOW AVAILABLE AUTHOR COMING TO QUINCY IN SEPTEMBER

When Kathleen Spaltro was researching the early life of Illinois-born American short-story master J.F. Powers in the communities of Jacksonville, Rockford, Quincy, and Chicago, she was startled to learn that actress Mary Astor was born and raised in Quincy. Spaltro discovered that the Quincy Public Library holds “Mary Astor Papers” in its “Marian Kesler Collection.”

Thus began Spaltro’s research for a biographical article that, after its publication, evolved into a book project. She is the author of biographical articles about such figures as Preston Sturges, Orson Welles, and Frank Capra, among many others. Her new biography of Mary Astor, *The Great Lie: The Creation of Mary Astor*, is now available in paperback and Kindle editions from Amazon.com. The first chapter in the book, “Lucile,” begins, and the last chapter, “Rusty,” ends, with a central focus on Quincy.

Kathleen Spaltro will give a presentation on *The Great Lie: The Creation of Mary Astor* as part of the Historical Society’s 125th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 11:00 am on the grounds of the Governor John Wood Mansion at 12th and State in Quincy. You will be able to meet the author during a book signing inside the John Wood Mansion at noon. There is a plan to show John Huston’s classic film *The Maltese Falcon* starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor on the grounds of the Mansion at 5:00 pm during the 125th Anniversary Celebration on September 19.





Jean Kay (left), Research Librarian and Archivist, assists Hsqac member and writer Beth Young in the Research Library of the Society's Visitors Center. Members have exclusive access to the Research Library and staff.

Mission Statement

The Society's mission is to provide for the education of its members and others about the history of Quincy, Adams County, and the surrounding area. The Society is committed to the collection and preservation of documents and other physical objects related to local history. Preserving the society's historic structures and their history are key priorities.

RESEARCH AND THE COLLECTION- KEY TO SOCIETY'S MISSION

By Susi L. DeClue

My job description as Office Manager at the Historical Society includes answering the phone-- a task which is daunting only upon occasion -- like when I'm taking reservations for popular Society events such as the Woodland Cemetery Tours, Civil War Symposium, or the Christmas Candlelight Tours: A few days before these events, I can be on the phone literally all day long.

The rest of the time, however, I am answering the phone at a more leisurely pace, jotting down a few notes, and more often than not transferring the call to Jean Kay, our Collections Manager and Research Librarian. When I answer those calls, the conversation usually begins with "I'm not sure who to talk to about this but..." Once I hear that phrase, I almost automatically send the call to Jean at Extension 307. "This is Jean," she says, and the other end of the conversation could range from requesting information on a historic home recently purchased to asking about photos of a flood to questions about a former Quincy business to genealogical questions to "I have ananything" and would you be interested in it for the Collection?" The answers to these questions are often fascinating to those of us in the office but

more than that, they make up a vital part of the fabric of the Historical Society-- because the answers to these questions, whether about research or donations to the Collection - come from the sources in our Research Library or from the knowledge of our Collections Manager/Research Librarian herself and are a priority of our Mission.

The Society's Research Library is located in the Visitors Center across from the Governor John Wood Mansion and contains a diverse mix of books, records, maps, magazines, atlases, journals, and scrapbooks. Reference materials include city directories from 1848; death records; several volumes of Quincy Illustrated; History of Adams County from 1879; cemetery directories; census records and many more. The Library also houses thousands of historic photographs, some from as early as the mid 1850's. Digital copies of these photos, available for a fee, are often requested by writers and researchers. A variety of the Society's photos may also be viewed online at hsqac.org. All members of the Society may use the Library free of charge and also have exclusive access to library staff. Non-members may request assistance from

library staff but there is an hourly fee.

The Society also holds the architectural records and reference library resources from the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design at 332 Maine which is now operated by Hsqac as the History Museum on the Square. These architectural records often include historical information about Quincy homes and businesses and are a reliable source for many queries. The Library's holdings also feature several collections, including the Schott Collection, a group of thousands of images of life in the Quincy area taken by John Frederick Carl Schott beginning around 1899.

Naturally there have been a few changes in the research area through the years. Kay has kept up with them all, the most obvious being that online access and digital photos are now available. She appreciates the ease of obtaining online information and the multitude of topics, but cautions not to assume all online research is correct. Information gathered online does give you a clue, certainly, but should never be accepted as fact without further research. Another important thing to remember about research, Kay says, is that while many people think their families' lives are

ordinary and not interesting, this is never true. What went on in everyday life years ago is intriguing today just as our lives will be to our descendants. Virtually everybody has a story to tell, she believes, and research is the way to discover that story-the more research, the richer the story.

In addition to phone calls, some researchers visit with Jean about their project when they walk through the door of the Visitors Center while others give her a topic and then schedule a return visit. Recent research topics have included original images of historic homes; genealogy; and history of local businesses. Kay also confirms facts and finds photos for the Society's *Governor's Post* and *Once Upon a Time* column.

Our general email account info@hsqac.org also brings in many research and informational requests and Jean handles those too. Recently we have been asked about the following via our info account:

- Jackson Elementary School at 8th and College
- A 1913 film "Quincy, Ill. in Motion"
- Info and photos of Quincy native Al Demaree (pro baseball player and cartoonist) for WGN radio in Chicago
- Scan of an aerial view of Quincy for a book on historical preservation by a University of Illinois professor
- Request from the Chicago Jewish History journal
- Names of students enrolled in the Mission Institute
- Origin of a Baldwin lapel pin
- Origin of Quincy, Ill. stove plate
- Public domain status of an October 13, 1858, photo of the Lincoln-Douglas debate site on Maine between 4th and 5th by a film company
- How to run a museum in an historic building
- Images of the interior of the Morgan-Wells House

Through this informational account we also receive photos of items from people who would like to donate to the Society's Collection but are not sure of the process. As Collections Manager, Kay appreciates this email format. It works well for selecting items for the Collection, she says, because she can usually tell quickly if we could use the item, then guide the donor through the rest of the donation procedure

in a couple of minutes. The primary criterion for inclusion in the Society's Collection is whether the piece has "local" significance for Quincy and Adams County. Duplicate items are also considered, Kay says, and sometimes, but only with the donor's consent, duplicate items can be sold in the Society's gift shop whose sales also support the Society's mission.

Walk-in visits from potential donors are also fairly common. Some donors leave their item and their name but others prefer to remain anonymous. Recent acquisitions include:

- Glass tray from the Lincoln-Douglas Centennial celebration
- Tenk clipper axe
- Gem City wash tub wringer
- New Gipsy Stove
- Record books from the Work House;
- Silver plated soup tureen
- Newcomb Hotel Christmas tree
- Framed Quincy-themed tea cloth
- Paper case for cigars
- Two andirons

- Items from Temple B'nai Shalom
- Tin ceiling fragment

Kay has been fascinated by research since she was young and remains fascinated by it today --likewise her interest in the history of vintage items and collectibles. Her childhood memories of her grandmothers' conversations and their homes piqued her initial desire to "find the answers" and also provided the foundation for a wonderful career researching and handling the Collection at the Historical Society where the depth of her knowledge and interest are truly valued. So remember, if you have a question or if you would like to donate an item, please call or email us or drop by the Historical Society. We will get back to you but it might not be today because I just transferred another call to Jean, the rollover line is now ringing, Jack Freiburg is coming up the stairs with a box of wonderful Quincy memorabilia, and we just got 5 new emails in the info account.....

FROM THE COLLECTION

The Society is pleased to announce that a music stand belonging to John Wood has been accessioned into the Collection. The item was a bequest from the estate of HSQAC Past President George M. Irwin who died in November 2020.

The stand is approximately four feet tall and features a cast iron base and wooden music rack. It has been placed inside the Governor John Wood Mansion by the melodeon in the Music Room and can be viewed on the Mansion tour.





FROM ELKS HOME TO ELKTON APARTMENTS & THE PATIO ONCE AGAIN

By Lynn Snyder

The original Quincy Lodge of Elks, No. 100, was organized in 1888, and for many years met in rented or leased space. By 1905, however, a movement began to construct a stand-alone, Elks Home building in the heart of the city.

In 1910, a plan was developed to partner with a theatrical “syndicate” to build a combination theater and Lodge. Although this idea never came to fruition, its inspiration was in keeping with the goals of the first Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The group was organized in New York City in Feb. 16, 1868, for actors, entertainers and vaudevillians who sought to meet without hindrance of the city Blue

Laws. The organization also provided inexpensive lodging and occasional financial support for the needy of their trade.

By 1920 the Quincy Lodge No. 100 began looking for a dedicated Lodge building and decided to locate on property they already owned near the northeast corner of 4th and Jersey. The architectural plans submitted by Quincy architects Harvey Chatten and Martin Geise called for a four story building with club rooms, a public restaurant with two private dining rooms, and a custodian’s apartment on the first floor. On the 2nd floor would be card, billiard and “lounging” rooms surrounded by dormitory rooms toward the edges of

the building, each with its own window onto the street, and lavatory with shower.

The center core of the two upper floors would hold the grand lodge hall, two stories high, the ceiling of which would reach above the roof line, with large plate windows giving light to the room below. Around this core would be additional “dormitory” rooms, as on the 2nd floor.

An electric passenger elevator and a dumb waiter from the lodge kitchen would reach from the ground floor to the trellised roof garden along the west and east sides of the building, complimented by a “wide, open porch” on the east side.

This building, with some modifications,

was completed at a cost of over \$120,000, raised through donations, dues and contributions of members, in addition to several building loans to the local Lodge. The cornerstone was laid at the 2nd floor level on the southeast corner on March 29, 1923, and the building was opened for Lodge use in January 1925.

Furnishings for the small dormitory rooms were provided by the local W. T. Duker Company. They were described as “walnut metal “combination chifionier and desk” also of metal with baked walnut wood-patterned finish.

The ballroom was first used in Feb. 1925, and the first two dormitory tenants moved into the building in April. The dining room and restaurant were opened in June, and late in the month it was noted in the local papers that only four dormitory rooms remained unfilled.

Although the Elks worked hard to retire their building debt, the effects of the Great Depression proved insurmountable and by 1932 they were renting space in the building, and their major creditor was threatening to foreclose. In November of '32 the Elks were meeting in leased rooms on the 7th floor of the Hotel Quincy. Their building at 4th and Jersey was sold at public auction on Nov. 26 to their St. Louis bondholders, who leased it to local hotelier Norman Gordon.

In 1935, when Gordon applied to the city for a liquor license, four nearby “character building” associations -- the YMCA, YWCA, Cheerful Home, and Little Theater -- filed protests. Further protests were lodged when it was rumored that Merle “Turkey” Jobe and P.E. “Slick” Ewing, two local men suspected to have been associated with the operation of rural roadhouses during prohibition, had bought interests in the operation. Mayor Lenane subsequently refused the request.

By the early 40s the building, with a new lease and now called the “Hotel Elk,” was open, with dining room and bar offering fish fry dinners for \$.30, Sunday family dinners (duck, turkey, chicken, aged steaks) for \$.55, plus “a delicious variety of table d’hote dinners at \$.65 to \$.90.”

In 1949 David and Rita Neiswender became the owners of the building, which they renamed “The Hotel Elkton,”



The Patio features a private dining room named in honor of Mildred Gates, Tanner's longtime friend, employer and supporter. “Millie” was a farm girl at heart and was dedicated to her garden and family, Tanner remembers. Thanks to her generosity, he was able to attend Illinois College, making him the first in his family to pursue a college education. The room seats 12 and is outfitted with hand painted GUCCI wall covering featuring white herons and fireflies and offering a lovely, outdoorsy vibe, a nod to “Millie.”

and the ground floor nightclub area, “The Terrace Room,” was renamed “The Patio.” While The Patio became a city landmark, the hotel portion of the building slowly morphed into small apartments, and in 2010 was renamed the “Elkton Apartments.”

After 60 years in business and successfully shepherding the restaurant and building through two major fires, the Neiswender family announced that as of December 2019, they would be retiring. They began the search for someone to lease or purchase the business and/or building.

In a most happy co-incidence, a former Quincy native, Ryan Jude Tanner, and his husband and partner Jay Krottinger, heard of the Neiswenders’ retirement plans, and by March of 2020 had completed the purchase of the building and restaurant complex. This was a homecoming with deep meaning for Tanner, of the Tanner Music family. His grandmother, Velma “Tennessee” Tanner, had been a long-time employee

of the Neiswenders, and one of The Patio’s best loved servers. At the time of the sale, Mark Neiswender commented of Ryan’s association with The Patio, “I remember that he used to sit in the kitchen and eat ice cream.”

While Tanner and Krottinger are presently making much needed renovations to the Elkton Apartments, they have vowed not to ask any of the present residents to move. And, because of Ryan’s deep feelings for The Patio, a Quincy icon and favorite dinner spot for so many years, they have extensively renovated and restored the restaurant, and are once again inviting Quincy and area residents to join them for dinner or drinks and continue a Quincy tradition.



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'Bunny' Tibbetts Sits in Lincoln's Lap

By Iris Nelson

Abraham Lincoln was very fond of children and a local story reflects how a young boy was tagged with a nickname from Lincoln that stayed with him for a lifetime ... at least in the Quincy area.

A newspaper account of an otherwise undocumented visit of Abraham Lincoln to Quincy casts 3-year-old Charles Tibbetts, son of Joshua Tibbetts of Payson, as a central character. The story comes from a newspaper clipping without a date or the newspaper identified. Although the resource is unverifiable the report is intriguing with a strong likelihood of it describing an actual incident. There are other anecdotal undocumented accounts of Abraham Lincoln coming to Quincy in 1860 as well as a 1909 article in the *Quincy Daily Whig* reporting his 1860 spring visit.

The headline for the Tibbetts story reads: 'Bunny,' now 86, Recalls Sitting on Lincoln's Lap. The subtitle states that the "Retired Doctor Has Vivid Memory of Visit." The story is written by a reporter who hears the description of the event as told by Charles. Even when he returned to visit in Quincy in his eighties, the news was that 'Bunny' Tibbetts was back in town.

The story relates that Mr. Lincoln had stopped to spend a Sunday afternoon with his cousins, Joe and Bill Hanks, who lived four miles from the Tibbetts' home. Joshua Tibbetts, a friend of Lincoln's, was notified of Lincoln's arrival, and young Charles accompanied his parents for a visit. Mr. Tibbetts related that he had liked Lincoln and soon was "climbing all over him." Lincoln took Charles up on his lap and called him 'Bunny.' Tibbetts assumed he was called 'Bunny' because he was hopping around and couldn't sit still. The moniker stuck. It was the only time Charles saw Lincoln.

His father remained a good friend of the President and would visit him in the capitol. The article goes on to describe a role that Joshua Tibbetts played during the Civil War when he traveled to Washington to help a regiment of Quincy's soldiers who drilled in the city square but had no guns. A visit to the governor in Springfield had not gotten arms even though there was an arsenal of guns at the capitol, as they were the property of the federal government. Permission had to come from Washington. Tibbetts was admitted to see Lincoln, told him of the situation and was referred to Gen. Winfield Scott. The general, however, declined the request, and Tibbetts went back to the White House. Hearing about the rebuff, Lincoln then promised to "fix that!" The end of the account says that Lincoln wrote a release for the guns as commander in chief and the regiment got its guns.

Quincy and the nation also share a history with a descendant of Charles J. Tibbetts through his nephew, General Paul Tibbetts, the pilot of the Enola Gay that bombed Hiroshima, Japan, ending World War II.

We are proud of the many significant connections Lincoln had with Quincy and the surrounding area. The undocumented visit



by Lincoln in 1860 and the experience of "Bunny" Tibbetts might encourage us to speculate how much remains unknown in our Lincoln story.

Happy Birthday Dr. Costigan!

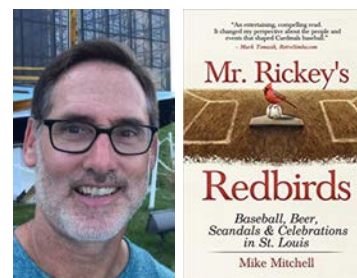


HSQAC hosted a small reception to honor Dr. David Costigan on his 90th birthday, Wednesday, March 24, at the Visitors Center in Quincy. Dr. Costigan has served as Historian in Residence for the Society for many years. Attendees enjoyed a sweets and treats table and shared stories and memories with Dr. Costigan and his wife Mary. Happy birthday, Dr. Costigan!



ST. LOUIS AUTHOR TO GIVE PRESENTATION ON BRANCH RICKEY AT THE MUSEUM

Golden Age of Quincy Series



The Golden Age of Quincy Series continues on **Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm** at the History Museum on the Square. The July program will feature Mike Mitchell, author of *Mr. Rickey's Redbirds: Baseball, Beer, Scandals, and Celebrations in St. Louis*. In the history of the St. Louis Cardinals one figure towers above all, despite never taking

an at-bat or never pitching an inning for the team: Branch Rickey.

Mitchell will discuss how Branch Rickey took St. Louis from being a struggling franchise to one of the most dominant teams in the National League. There will also be a presentation from a local historian on the Golden Age of Quincy's baseball

past. There will be several vintage baseball pictures and artifacts on display at the event, as well. The author Mike Mitchell will be available for a "Meet the Author" book signing event following the program. Copies of *Mr. Rickey's Redbirds* will be available for purchase at the event.

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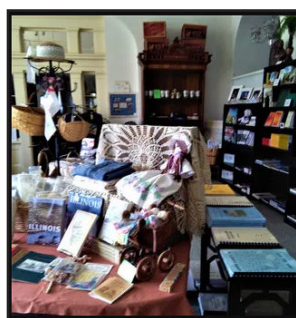
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Brewer's Invention Transformed Beer Industry

By Jeff Terry

At one time it is believed that the Ruff Brewing Company was Quincy's second largest brewery, producing about half the volume of Dick's Brewing Company.

What makes the Ruff Brewing Company famous worldwide is not its beer, but an inventive family member.

Casper Ruff (or "Rouff" as it was sometimes spelled) was born in Weiler, Alsace. In 1837, like many of his era, Ruff set out for opportunity in America.

In 1855, Ruff purchased property at 12th and Adams in Quincy. He erected a brewery at that site. This location was chosen because "nearby springs provided clear and cold water."

Initially, the business was dubbed the Union Brewery. Ruff, one of Quincy's pioneer brewers, died in 1873. In 1882, the brewery was incorporated and became known as the Ruff Brewing Company.

While Casper Ruff would be known for years as opening one of Quincy's first breweries, it would be his grandson, William J. Ruff, who made the family business well known. William was a pioneer in beer pasteurization.

On Jan. 28, 1865, William Ruff was born in Quincy to John and Annie Ruff. William received his education in the parochial schools of Quincy.

He was a natural student and would be considered a prodigy by any standard. Amazingly, he entered the Gem City Business College at age 12. Three years later he postponed his formal education because of the death of his father. William entered the brewing business as an apprentice, carefully learning the trade of his father and grandfather. As he demonstrated with his success in school, William mastered the various branches of the brewing trade in just three years.

Always craving for the opportunity to learn, William made a brewing pilgrimage to Germany to study the chemistry of brewing. He left Quincy on May 16, 1883, and made his way to Worms, Germany, where he studied. It was at this time that William made what would become his most famous discovery and, in time, secure the Ruff Brewing Company its place in brewing history.

William "conceived the idea of pasteurizing beer by automatic control of the process." For a short time, William remained in Germany as an instructor, teaching his groundbreaking pasteurization method.

Upon his return to Quincy, William assumed the role of superintendent and brew master of his family's brewery. William was eager to implement his pasteurization process at home. On July 19, 1898, William Ruff would be awarded a patent for his pasteurization method.

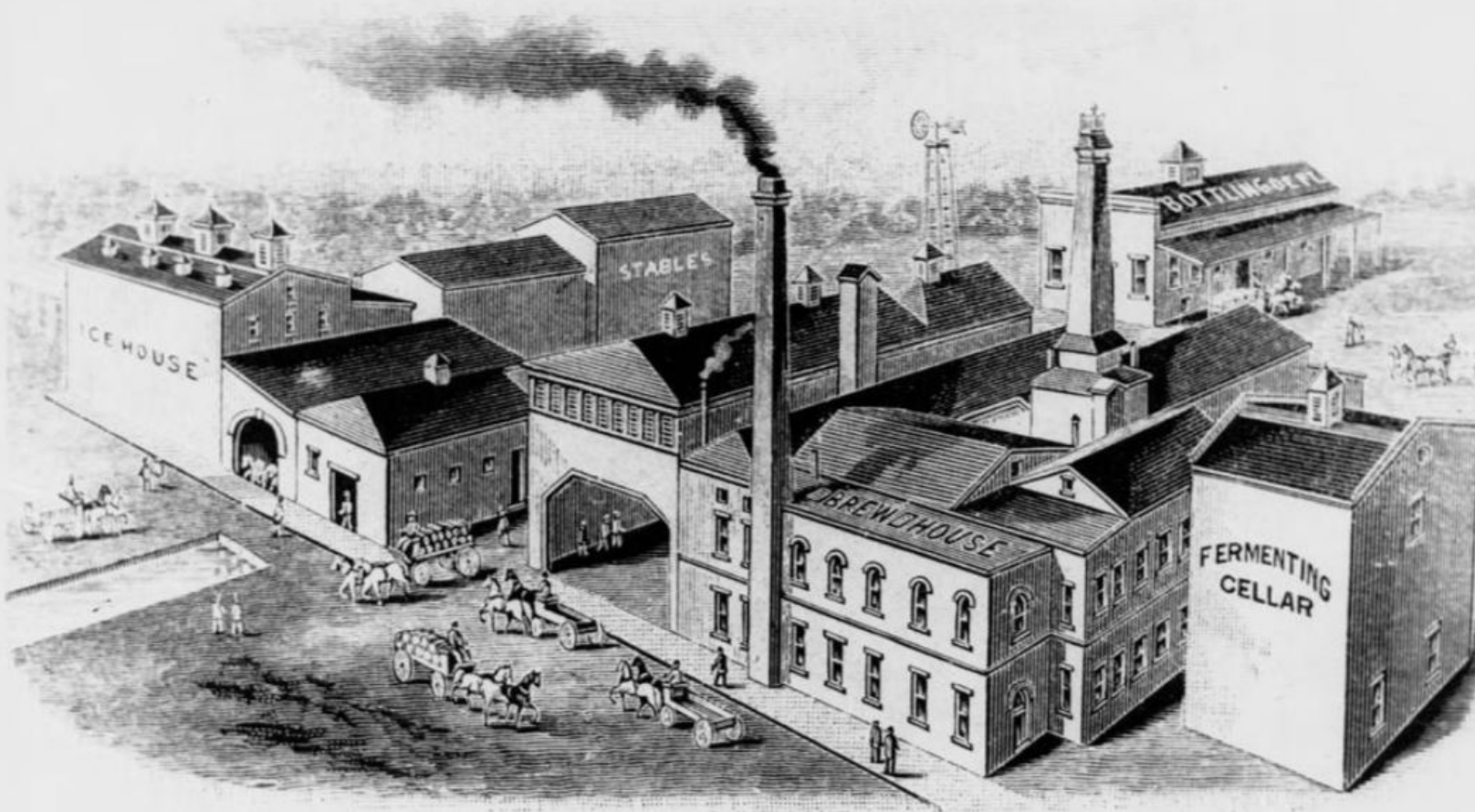
According to his patent specifications, William's new method sought to improve and streamline the pasteurization process of bottled beer. According to his patent filing, when beer is normally produced and ready for market it must be sufficiently preserved until it can reach the consumer. Some brewers used chemicals; others used pasteurization, whereby the beer was heated with steam or water to a certain temperature. This increased temperature would sterilize the beer before shipment. William believed this process was inefficient because when beer was heated too quickly, the bottles would shatter. Likewise, once the beer was sufficiently heated it needed to be cooled; however, if the beer was cooled too quickly, the bottles would shatter. Therefore, cooling had to be done gradually, and this exposed the beer to the damaging effects of heat, which compromised taste.

William's patented invention consisted of a tank and various pipes and valves. The bottled beer was placed in the tank, which was filled with water. Steam was then introduced, which caused a circulation of water through the tank and the pipes surrounding the bottled beer. This circulation of water was continuous and allowed the bottled to be heated gently to the desired temperatures.

Similarly, once heated to the optimum level for pasteurization, the tank drained the hot water, while gradually introducing cold water in the same manner that



Casper, Jr. and John Ruff with their wives (left); a Ruff wagon loaded with barrels of beer (center); the main office building of the Ruff Brewing Co. (right)



RUFF BREWING CO.

Casper Ruff purchased the property at 12th and Adams St. in 1855 and established the Union Brewery. The brewery later changed its name to the Ruff Bros. Brewery and several generations of the Ruff family operated the business. William Ruff, Casper's grandson, traveled to Germany to study brewing and later invented a beer pasteurizing machine which gained international acclaim.

cooled the bottles quickly without breaking them.

William Ruff's patented machine would become known industry-wide as Auto-Positive Ruff Pasteurizer Machine, Patent No. 607,770.

William Ruff refused to sit idle, and in 1917 he again applied for and was granted a patent for an improved barrel for shipping beer and other bottled liquids. This improved barrel included a removable top, which allowed the beer to be removed much more easily and greatly increased the life of the barrel, saving the brewing company money.

William Ruff's inventions were not limited to the beer making industry. During World War I, he took an interest in improving safety devices in aeronautics. William invented a quick-opening, variable-speed parachute. He also attempted to invent a method for preventing airplanes from catching fire.

In 1906, William Ruff assumed management of the Ruff Brewing Company and equipped it with the best technology. Under his leadership, the company saw many profitable years.

With Prohibition, the company was forced to close. Once Prohibition ended, the company reopened. However, like many breweries of the time, the Ruff Brewing Company could not survive the post-Prohibition industry competition.

In 1925, William Ruff died, and the Ruff Brewing Company was eventually purchased at public auction in 1927 for \$30,000.

According to "Breweries of Quincy, IL – 1837-1850," William Ruff's patented pasteurization method "revolutionized the industry by preserving beer without the use of chemicals." It would find its way into the "largest breweries in the United States, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa."

William Ruff loved Quincy and was highly involved in the Park and Boulevard Association, and was "influential in raising the first money for the purchase of South Park."

While other breweries in Quincy may be better known, the inventions of William Ruff transformed the beer making industry and forever cemented his legacy as one of Quincy's greatest inventors.

Jeff Terry is a native of Quincy and a lawyer with Schmiedeskamp, Robertson, Neu & Mitchell LLP. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.

This article was previously published as a Once Upon A Time column in the Quincy Herald-Whig.

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