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12th & State
4th & Maine

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Quincy and Adams County, Illinois, Est. 1896



The GOVERNOR'S POST

Winter
2021

CONTENTS



Christmas in Quincy, 1912



Wood and Keyes Find Brides



The Debutantes



*Community in Focus:
Camp Point*

Cover Photo: Image from a Christmas postcard from the early 1900s.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

TO FILL *THE* RANKS OF

Historical Society of Quincy & Adams Co.

☛ Museum Volunteer

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

☛ Governor John Wood Mansion Tour Guide

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

☛ Woodland Cemetery "Ghost" Interpreter

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

☛ Other Volunteer Opportunities

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

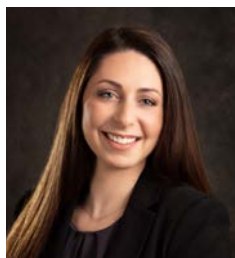


For more information call the Historical Society at 217-222-1835 or email at info@hsqac.org

Get to Know Board Members of HSQAC

Gabrielle Rober

Gabrielle Rober lives in Quincy, Ill., with her husband Nicholas and daughter Olivia. Gabrielle works at Winters, LLP where she helps businesses with their insurance needs.



Gabrielle Rober

She is passionate about being a part of the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County because of the rich history of the area. Gabrielle and her husband have made Quincy their permanent home after falling in love with the community back in 2015. She is honored to continue to serve on the Board of Directors as the Second Vice President.

Lynn Niewohner

Lynn Niewohner is a native Quincyian. She attended Notre Dame High School, Quincy College, and Illinois State University. Although she had studied to be a teacher, she spent her life working with older people until she became one. She joined the West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging in 1974, becoming Director on January 1, 1976. She retired after 44 years of service in December of 2018. She loves to travel and has been throughout the United States and to many European countries. Immediately following her retirement, she spent 34 days traveling around the continent of Australia. She is trying to stay busy volunteering at the Historical Society, the Public Library, and the Senior Center.



Lynn Niewohner

Terrell Dempsey

Terrell Dempsey is best known as a local attorney who practices law with his wife, Vicki. He was born in Kennett, Missouri, and moved quite a few times before graduating high school in Leawood, Kansas. Dempsey has a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Missouri. He excavated in what is now Truman Lake in Western Missouri under Dr. Raymond Wood and Dr. Donna Roper. During the school year he worked analyzing lithics and ceramics from the summer excavations. His undergraduate honor thesis was on colonialism and religious change. It was in Columbia where he met his wife.



Terrell Dempsey

The Dempseys have been very active in historic preservation. They restored a slave-built double dogtrot log house in Pike County, Missouri, and the old J.B. Brown Drugstore in Hannibal. In the 1980s the Molly Brown birthplace was literally caving in, so the Dempseys purchased the building from the Marion County Historical Society, paid for the restoration of the building, developed narrative displays, coordinated volunteer labor, and subsequently gave the museum to the City of Hannibal in 2007.

The Dempseys also purchased land where Grant and his troops camped in the summer of 1861 on the Salt River. The land was being ravaged by locals using it as a dump. The Dempseys gave it to the State of Missouri. The night Grant camped on Salt River played a key role in his development as a leader. He wrote in his memoir that he fretted all night about confronting Missouri State Guard troops the next day in Florida, Missouri. But when the Illinois troops rode into Florida, the Missourians had fled. Grant realized the enemy was as afraid of him as he of them. He wrote, "From that event to the close of the war, I never experienced trepidation upon confronting an enemy..."

Terrell Dempsey is the author of *Searching for Jim, Slavery in Sam Clemens's World* published by University of Missouri Press. He is vice-president of the Eells House Board of Directors and has authored the new video biography of Eells.

American history is in Dempsey's DNA. He grew up visiting historic sites with his family. His ancestor Davy Dempsey was captured by the British after the Battle of Camden in 1780 and upon release rode with Francis Marion in the Carolinas. His ancestor Abraham Westfall was in the Continental Army. He drilled with Von Steuben at Valley Forge and was present when Cornwallis surrendered. The Dempsey side of his family fought with Mississippi units during the Civil War, while his mother's people were equally divided between serving in the Union Army and Copperhead Democrats who sat out the war. His father was in the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed by the Japanese and was in one of the first class of people recruited into the new CIA. He served with the Joint Advisory Commission Korea. The 4th of July, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day are very important in the Dempsey household. The family's personal contributions to the building of our nation are celebrated, and a spirit of patriotism and civic responsibility is instilled in the young.

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Christmas in Quincy, 1912

The Broadway Fair department store decorated for Christmas. The store opened in 1910 at 1717 Broadway St. in Quincy and offered a variety of products including millinery, shoes, hats, ladies' and gentlemen's furnishings, and dry goods.

By Phil Germann

New Mexico and Arizona were admitted as states. The Girl Scouts was founded. The “unsinkable” R.M.S. Titanic sank in the North Atlantic. Baseball fans welcomed the opening of Tiger Stadium and Fenway Park. Dissident Republicans formed the Progressive Party only to see their candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, shot by a Milwaukee saloon keeper. The speech in Roosevelt’s breast pocket may have saved his life, but the “Bull Moose” lost the November 5 election to Democratic challenger, Woodrow Wilson. Roosevelt had to console himself that he finished ahead of the incumbent, President William Howard Taft.

As November rolled into December more than 100 years ago, Quincyans were less concerned with the European conflict between Greece and Turkey than with purchasing Christmas ham or turkey that would adorn their dinner tables. Local stores were filled with merchandise and seemingly every merchant attempted to lure shoppers with the largest sale of the year. Residents withdrew funds from their accounts at the Quincy National Bank and the Ricker National Bank, sacrificing the 3 percent compound interest their savings had been earning. Likely, many were enticed by A. Doerr’s Department Store at Sixth and Maine, which encouraged customers to “buy where holiday stocks are complete; holiday gift buying easiest;

holiday goods handiest to see; where the Christmas spirit of good cheer and helpfulness abounds from basement to roof.”

Red Cross Christmas seals were placed on sale Dec. 2 in about 25 Quincy stores, while nurses from Blessing Hospital worked in relays selling seals at a special stand in the post office from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. In the first three days, the nurses raised \$12.45 for the fight against tuberculosis in the Quincy area.

With winter fast approaching, the steamer “Keokuk” made its final round trip to Canton on Saturday, Dec. 7, and then was moored for the winter in Quincy Bay.

Quincyans received both good and bad news in early December 1912. The local economy was prospering, and, while inflation was seen as a threat, retail sales were high and unemployment low. Optimists forecast a 50 percent increase in downtown property values as the current prices were less than half of what similar property brought in Rockford, East St. Louis, Springfield and Peoria. Less welcome was the report that railroads would not be offering special holiday excursion rates during the 1912 Christmas season. The Quincy Daily Journal blamed the “heartless corporations” for ending the special two cent fares which had permitted families



The American Red Cross Christmas seal plan was a national program introduced in 1907. The seals were sold at post office locations and were placed on mailed letters and packages during the holidays.

to travel far and wide during previous Christmas seasons.

The Quincy YMCA opened its new building at Fourth and Jersey for public inspection the first weekend of the month, and, as thousands toured the building, a campaign to raise \$15,000 to furnish the building was announced.

Some began their holiday celebrations a bit early. A German immigrant appeared in police court on a charge of intoxication. He was found guilty and fined \$4.25 by Judge P.W. Reardon. The prisoner wailed. “It’s too much. In Pittsburgh, it is only \$2.00.” “You’d better get drunk in Pittsburgh next

time,” advised the judge.

The annual poultry show of the local Poultry and Pet Stock Association opened in Turner Hall on Hampshire Street. 1,200 birds were on display, and visitors marveled at an alligator egg incubator. The pigeon section was a highlight of the show. 40 loving cups were offered to the owners of the prized birds, and cash prizes ranging from 50 cents to \$7 were awarded.

The first ice was seen on the river the morning of Monday, Dec. 9. It was the coldest morning of the winter at 13 degrees. South Side Coal Company was selling coal for the furnaces of Quincy homes for \$3.50 per ton.

After occupying a structure on the north side of Maine Street since 1850, members of Quincy’s Unitarian Church voted to build a new edifice at 16th and Hampshire. It was to be modeled after a Kansas City, Missouri church.

One Quincy landmark was torn down, while others received facelifts. The 70-year-old former home of Henry Clay Work on High Street, just east of 24th, was demolished. As a small child, Work moved to Quincy with his father, Alanson Work, a faculty member of Quincy’s Mission Institute, an abolitionist institution. The elder Work was ordered to serve 12 years in the Missouri State Penitentiary for assisting fugitive slaves. Henry Clay Work penned nearly 100 songs, including “March Through Georgia,” and was a successful inventor, having patented a knitting machine, walking doll and rotary engine. As the High Street house was coming down, workmen were busy redecorating

the interior of the CB & Q depot at Second and Oak. Remodeling of the women’s waiting room was well under way. St. John’s Catholic Church on North 10th was completing a seven-month, \$7,000 interior decorating project. A special service was planned to explain the paintings adorning the walls.

A Hannibal, Mo., man staying at the Franklin House Hotel, 221 N. Fifth, walked out the second story window while asleep and was found wandering about in an adjacent alley. When he awoke an hour later, he was taken to his room suffering from scrapes and bruises, caused by contact with the frozen ground.

Well-known Quincy businessman, Clat Adams, offered to rent a three-room brick house on North 14th Street for \$6 a month.

As the temperature dropped, the Quincy Fire Department responded to many house fires, sadly without the services of Pawnee Bill, one of its fire horses. The big black stallion had been a fixture at the Number 6 station for three years, but died of pneumonia contracted on a night run.

The Boy’s Debating Club at Quincy High School on the southeast corner of 12th and Maine debated the question: “Resolved, that the United States Government should own and operate the railroads.” The decision was in favor of the negative, 13 to 9.

Many Quincyans patronized the city’s vaudeville theaters: The Bijou at 642-644 Hampshire and the Empire at 111-117 N. Eighth. In the days before Christmas, the “Old Soldier Fiddlers” (who were playing



Dick Brothers Beer Company offered to deliver a case of its pilsner beer to the homes of local residents for Christmas.

at The Bijou) packed Lippincott Hall at the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Home as the quintet of two Confederate and three Union Army veterans played and sang war tunes from the conflict half a century earlier. The audience showed its appreciation by loud and long applause.

As the days grew shorter and Christmas grew closer, Quincyans young and old looked forward to the arrival of Saint Nicholas and the celebration of Christ’s birth.

The week before Christmas more than a century ago was generally sunny and mild. Stores urged shoppers not to wait until the last minute lest shelves be bare and store clerks be required to work Christmas Eve. As visions of sugar plums danced in the heads of Quincy children, the city’s adults were carrying out their regular activities while making preparations for Christmas.

Dick Brothers Brewing Company offered to deliver a case of its pilsner beer to the homes of local residents. Davis Market, 219 N. Sixth, advertised pork chops and sirloin steak at 11 cents a pound. Model Clothing, 122 N. Fifth, offered men’s suits and overcoats for \$8.50-\$30. The Home Loan Co. in the Mercantile Building, 507 Maine,

Continued to next page...



The Quincy Fire Department responded to many fires in the winter of 1912, but sadly without the services of the well-known black stallion Pawnee Bill from Station #6 who died early that year.

Continued from previous page...

offered to be of assistance to those short of money for Christmas shopping.

The Vermillion Club, composed of South Side bachelors, held its annual election of officers at the club rooms at Eighth Street and Pretzel Alley. Dances were held in the days leading up to Christmas. The Pressmen's Hayseed Hop filled the Labor Temple, and the Socialist Party held its second dance of the season, also at the Labor Temple. Numerous private parties were held, including a Dec. 20 dance in the new warehouse of the Irwin Paper Company on the southeast corner of 3rd and Maine. All company employees were invited to attend.

There were few festivities for members of the Quincy City Council, which was busy updating the city code. The council voted to make it a misdemeanor to harbor a howling or barking dog. The number of saloons was limited to 152 until the city's population reached 50,500, at which time one saloon could be added for each 500 additional residents. Pool halls were required to close by midnight. The council defeated a motion to prohibit the erection of hitching posts in the downtown district.

Accidents between buggies and motorcars were a frequent occurrence. Drivers of the motorized vehicles were criticized for traveling over 20 miles per hour on the city's streets. Mayor J.F. Garner and Police Chief P.B. Lott met to form a traffic squad

to help prevent accidents. Officers were to concentrate where traffic was the heaviest - 5th and Hampshire, 5th and Maine, and Hampshire between Seventh and Eighth.

The Quincy Street Railway Co. laid tracks on Maine Street from 30th to 36th to bring the total number of miles of track to 25, quite a significant number for a city of 36,587 people.

On Friday, Dec. 20, Christmas programs were held in all of Quincy's public schools. QHS juniors held a sandwich sale during the noon hour to raise money for their class. They realized a substantial sum as they locked the doors of the building to insure maximum participation.

While December 1912 was a season of joy for many, a dark cloud hung over the Quincy community. Workers at Quincy's showcase companies went on strike for better wages and shorter hours. Some factories closed while others employed non-striking workers. Several days before Christmas, police stood guard at Knittel Showcase Works, 3rd and Vermont, in anticipation of trouble by striking woodworkers who had maintained a picket line for several days. Apparently, the spirit of Christmas prevailed as no trouble was reported.

Hours for Christmas Day were well publicized. Grocery stores and meat markets were open until noon. Drug stores were open all day, as were cigar stores and newsstands. The general delivery window at the Post Office was to be open until 11 a.m., and postage stamps would be available. Department stores, clothing and haberdashery stores would not be open at all on Christmas.

The 27th annual Stove-mounters' and Drillers' Ball was held Christmas Eve with 700 people filling Turner Hall to capacity.

Like most days that Dec. 25 was fair and mild. Not so wonderful for children, anxious to try out their new sleds or ice skates, but perfect for adults visiting friends or relatives in the country. The Salvation Army had been successful in its pre-Christmas efforts and supplied dinners to large crowds that assembled at its headquarters at 213 N. Fourth. The 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Christmas dinners at the Hotel Newcomb were well received. Guests had the opportunity to view the Newcomb's newly remodeled lobby with updated lighting, refinished woodwork, and central



The Quincy YMCA opened its new building to the public the first weekend in December 1912. Thousands of people toured the new structure.

couches upholstered in red leather.

In the days after Christmas, local merchants reported that practical gifts outsold less practical ones by a ratio of 2½ to 1. Merchants were taken off-guard by this circumstance and found themselves stuck with toys and other holiday articles.

The announcement of the closing of Bloomer and Michael Packing Company, 705 S. Front, was widely lamented. The company's presence was credited with keeping meat prices at a reasonable level in Quincy's markets. Not sold to Bloomer and Michael was an 815-pound hog raised by an Ursa Township farmer who received \$57.85 for the largest hog ever raised in Adams County.

As 1912 drew to a close, the Quincy City Council considered lighting street lights only until midnight on moonlit nights and all night long when the moon didn't illuminate the night skies. It was hoped that several thousand dollars could be saved for the city whose goal was to pay off the city's debt by 1916.

No one was happier in the days after Christmas than the squirrels in Washington Park. John Musolino donated two barrels of pecans to Gotlieb Stoermer, the park's caretaker, to be fed to the little critters. Additional smaller gifts of a similar nature insured a sufficient supply was laid in to keep the squirrels well fed during the winter months.

New Year's Eve day was busy as many businesses were closed or closed early on Jan. 1, 1913. Of course, the drug and cigar stores remained open all day.

The city's annual report for 1912 showed 1,051 arrests, mostly for intoxication and gambling. There were 49 divorces during



The Bijou Theater located at 642 Hampshire St. in December 1912 featured "Old Soldiers Fiddlers" a quintet of two Confederate and three Union Army veterans which played and sang Civil War songs.

1912, and nearly 700 marriage licenses were issued. December was the driest month of the year with but six tenths of an inch precipitation.

December 1912 ended on a most surprising note with an event which carried over into the New Year. Capt. S.W. James of the Salvation Army was serving sandwiches at the unit's headquarters when the New Year's bells rang and a few unimpressive whistles were blown. The din was weak and lacked volume and harmony. The captain announced to those present that a parade was to start immediately. Blowing a coronet, the captain marched at the head of his army. A husky soldier with a large drumstick followed the captain, walloping a large bass drum with every step. Onto Maine Street the band marched, past the Newcomb Hotel. Windows flew open to "offer New Year's greetings" to the marching army from those whose sleep had been disturbed. At Seventh and Maine the army turned and proceeded towards Hampshire Street intending to bring the tidings of the New Year to the Hotel Quincy. At Hampshire Street, however, they were met by police officers Hendricks and Rice who requested silence. The police were ignored. Officer Hendricks snatched the large drumstick from the drummer. A discussion ensued, but the parade was not allowed to continue. "Take your party to the station, Captain," one of the officers said.

Raising his coronet to his lips, the captain sounded a retreat and led the way to the police station on the northeast corner of Third and Hampshire, playing as he marched.

Quincy's 1912 Christmas season had come to its conclusion.

Phil Germann is retired executive director of the Historical Society, having served 19 years. He is a former history teacher, a local historian and speaker, a member of several history-related organizations and a civic volunteer.



WORK CONTINUES ON LOUNGE/LIBRARY PROJECT

Progress continues on the "soon-to-be" lounge and lending library on the first floor of the HSQAC Visitors Center. To date, all furniture and carpeting have been removed from the area in preparation for the addition of the "new" reclaimed wood floor and other furnishings. The flooring planks are being milled by Amish carpenters and will be finished with linseed oil to mirror the floors of the Governor John Wood Mansion. Quincy contractor Dan Nutt and HSQAC Groundskeeper and Maintenance Manager Tom Billington are planning to install the floor in early November, then complete other necessary carpentry work on bookshelves and cabinetry.

The lounge has also been re-painted, and Halo flush-to-the-ceiling surface lighting fixtures will replace the previous can lights. Another unique feature will be the 4' x 6' oak mantel which was salvaged from the home of John Wood's nephew, William Berry, who lived at 24th and Locust in Quincy. The mantel will be outfitted with an electric insert and flanked by built in bookcases housing the Society's new lending library. The lending library's books will not be catalogued, and the lending policy will be "If you take a book, please leave a book." A huge wooden ceiling fan which mimics windmill blades is also being added to the room in addition to comfortable furniture, suitable for lounging; a research table; computer; and television screens. A mural depicting John Wood in battle from *Harper's Weekly* magazine will cover the entire south wall of the room.

One special final touch will be the installation of a coffee bar for members, guests, and Mansion visitors, with beverages from Refreshment Services Pepsi.

It is still hoped most of the project, which is being funded by an anonymous donor, will be completed prior to the Christmas Candlelight Tours of the Governor John Wood Mansion in December.



Above, left: Progress continues on the new lounge and lending library in the HSQAC Visitors Center. Above right: Wooden fan with blades mimicking a windmill has been installed in the lounge. Bottom right: A mantel salvaged from the home of William Berry will be added to the space, then enhanced with an electric insert.



“Feast of Reason and the Flow of Soul”

John Wood and Willard Keyes Find Their Brides

By Reg Ankrom

Among his many talents, Quincy founder John Wood knew how to throw a party. They could be one-nighters like the Christmas party at his month-old log cabin. Or they could be life-changing events like the connubial soiree that brought nearly two dozen young pioneers together on a balmy summer night in 1825.

Local historian Thad W. Ward recounted that Wood hosted the first Christmas party in what would become the city of Quincy on Dec. 22, 1822. The party occurred a month after Wood completed his one-room, 18 by 20 feet log cabin, which faced west from the southeast corner of today’s Delaware and Third streets. Ward wrote that about a dozen men straggled into

Wood’s cabin that night. They brought bear, venison, wild turkey and honey. According to Ward, Wood provided the whiskey--and the guests stayed all night.

By 1825, the year the Illinois General Assembly carved Adams County from Pike, the settlement that would become Quincy had 17 residents and families. There were 22 more homesteads in rural Adams County. Most county residents had arrived in the previous year. They were generally young people who were suited to the unregulated life at the western edge of Illinois.

It was said that no one knew deprivation because it was so common among them. Nature provided what was needed. Game

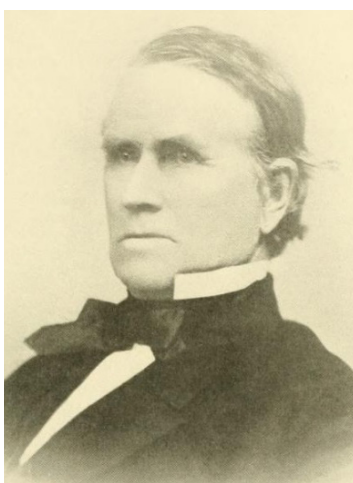
filled the forests, fish swarmed in the ponds, creeks and rivers, and cattle grazed in unlimited pastures. The rich soil of their small farms grew vegetables, grains and fruits.

John Tilson Jr. wrote in *The History of Quincy* that these young settlers knew each other and “were as social as distances would permit. ... Hospitality was the universal rule. Every man’s house was a free resort for the neighbor or traveler, though the latter be a stranger,”

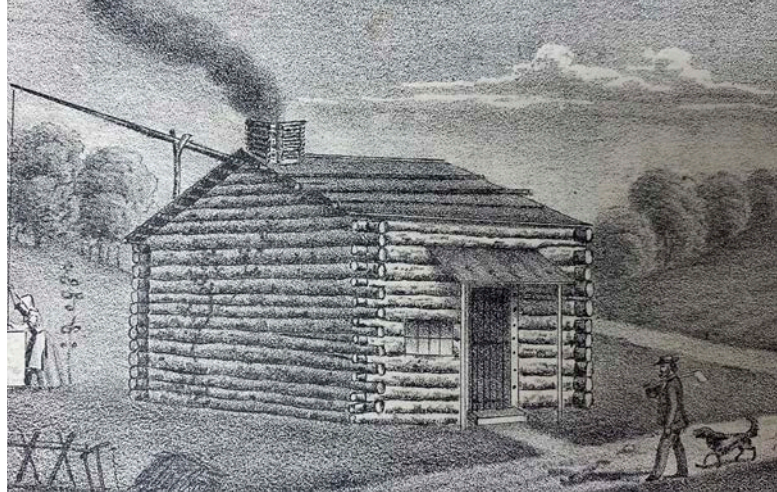
Strangers were expected to “unfold their budget of news, all that they had seen or known or had heard in his distant former home or learned on his way to the West,” Tilson wrote.



John Wood had many talents, including knowing how to throw a party. He hosted the first Christmas party in 1822 and the pioneer soiree in 1825.



Willard Keyes recalled that no festival could "hold a candle" to the couple's party organized by John Wood in 1825.



The log cabin built by John Wood in 1822 was the first house erected in the Gem City. The cabin was the setting for the first Christmas party in Quincy on December 22, 1822.

There were few diversions from the industry that life in the primitive West required. Hunting was one. Logrolling -- helping a neighbor erect his cabin and expecting that he would help erect yours -- was another. And there were occasional get-togethers, which when more formal were called pioneer festivals.

Willard Keyes, a Vermonter who with Wood of New York was a founder of Quincy, recalled that no festival could "hold a candle" to the one Wood organized in May 1825. Sixteen young people attended individually, but would find themselves pairing off during the party. There were enough married couples "to preserve decorum," said Keyes in his journal.

They arrived throughout the afternoon of a fine day. Hostess Margaret Brown Rose, who with her husband, Major Jeremiah Rose, and their 3-year-old daughter, Lucy, were the third permanent settlers of Quincy, set out a board of an ample feast. Wood volunteered to be master of ceremonies for what he called this "Feast of Reason and the Flow of Soul."

The young men earlier that day had prepared for an excursion up Boston Bay, which stretched for nearly 3 miles above Keyes' cabin a mile north of Wood's along the river. They positioned two large canoes side by side and lashed them together with transverse timbers. The craft was large enough for all to embark on the outing. Frivolity distracted the boaters from the gathering clouds that spread darkness like a thick linsey-wool blanket across the northern sky. It was the beat of thunder upriver that eventually roused them, and the boaters turned their craft and pulled

the oars in earnest to get back to shore.

Keyes wrote that as wind and rain overtook them, they landed the boat. The young men jumped overboard, helped the women out, and made their way running along a deer path lit by flashes of lightning for about a mile. They reached a cabin familiar to them, where the drenched young ladies were taken in and changed into dry garments lent them by the cabin's inhabitants. Wood concocted in a teakettle a drink made of aquavita, a distilled grain and potato liquor, with some sugar added. The women sipped the beverage, designed to keep them from catching a cold or fever. The elixir apparently worked. No one became ill.

Without explaining their activities during the rest of the night, Keyes reported that the next morning, the partygoers boarded buggies and horses to form a cavalcade that took a "grand excursion" for 2 1/2 miles before getting everyone home by noon.

Greater events occurred shortly afterward, or as Keyes put it, "Tall oaks from little acorns grow." He observed that "this Pioneer Festival did not end in smoke."

"Twice six congenial minds here found their mates," he explained in his journal, "and most of them tied the hymeneal knot within the year." Among the newlyweds were the party's organizers, Willard Keyes and John Wood.

First married were Miss Mary Grushong and George Campbell of Ursa Township on Aug. 18, 1825. With no licensed minister in the area, Keyes, a justice of the peace, officiated at the Campbells'

wedding, the first after the pioneer festival. Their son, Andrew Jackson Campbell, arrived Aug. 12, 1826. Called A.J. in the new county that bore the name of Jackson's nemesis, he was the first child born in Adams County.

On Dec. 22, 1825, Keyes married Laura Harkness, the daughter of Fall Creek Township farmers Ebenezer and Sarah Pierce Harkness. The couple had three children before Laura's death on May 8, 1832. Keyes would marry twice more: to Cornelia Burgess on March 5, 1834, and to Mary Folsom on March 29, 1836.

Wood married Ann M. Streeter, daughter of Joshua Streeter, who became one of Adams County's first justices of the peace, on Jan. 26, 1826. Wood's friend Keyes, then an Adams County commissioner, united the couple in marriage. After Ann Wood's death on Oct. 5, 1863, Wood married Mary A. Holmes, a widow, in June 1865.

Others who attended Wood's festival and married within a year were Amos Bancroft and Ardella Ames, Fernando Slayton and Louisa Hadley, Jotham Streeter and Olive Whipple, and Truman Streeter and Maria Jackson.

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

FROM THE COLLECTION

CAVALRY SABRE OF COLONEL EDWARD PRINCE



The cavalry sabre of Colonel Edward Prince was donated to the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County by the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Earel. The sabre was made by master swordsmith P.D. Lunescholss of Solingen, Prussia. The Solingen company was one of the oldest and most revered German manufacturers of swords and daggers. Their high quality weapons were imported by several contractors in the United States, including Tiffany of New York. The sabre is stamped with "CF" and a German eagle on one side and the name of the sword maker "Lunesscholss Solingen" on the other. The sabre was used by Colonel Prince during his service in the Civil War.

Edward Prince was originally from East Bloomfield, New York, and grew up on a farm in Payson, Illinois. After graduating from Illinois College in Jacksonville, he studied law in Quincy and went to work for Abraham Jonas and later James Singleton. After being mentored by these great local attorneys, he opened up his own practice. He was involved in several business endeavors in the Gem City, as well. He also traveled extensively in the South as a land purchasing agent before the Civil War.

When the Civil War started Governor Yates appointed him cavalry drill master with the 7th Illinois Cavalry. After distinguishing himself at Port Hudson and in other engagements, he took part in the daring Grierson cavalry raid through Mississippi which was part of the U.S. Army's siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Colonel Prince was mustered out at the end of his term of service in October 1864. He had a very impressive military career during the Civil War in which he was wounded in action on two occasions.

After the war he returned to Quincy, and in 1873 he was contracted to build Quincy waterworks which supplied the city with water. He eventually sold his interests in the water works company to the city of Quincy for a huge profit. In addition to his legal training, he was an expert civil and mining engineer. He was responsible for supplying water to a large mine in Rawhide, Nevada, which made the gold mine operational. He was also invested in real estate in Colorado where he opened a hotel.

Prince was a cultured man. He helped establish the Empire Theater and served as the President of the theater for many years. He could read Greek, Latin and Dutch and was fluent in French, German, and Spanish.

The sabre of Colonel Prince is in the Historical Society collection and will be on display in the new lounge/lending library when the room is completed.



Master Gardener Jan Leimbach speaking in the gardens of the Governor John Wood Mansion with the host of *Illinois Stories*, Mark McDonald. The PBS program explores the people, places, and events in Central Illinois.

ILLINOIS STORIES RETURNS FOR PROGRAM ABOUT MANSION GARDENS

On August 19th, Mark McDonald of *Illinois Stories* returned to Quincy to film a tour of the Governor John Wood Mansion gardens. Volunteers Jack Ball, Janet Summy, and Jan Leimbach, along with Board member Jack Freiburg and Garden Coordinator Beth Young, walked the grounds while explaining the contents and purposes of each of our three educational plant plots ----- the Parlor Garden, the Herb Garden, and the Prairie Grass Garden.

Of the three areas, the Prairie Grass garden might be the most unusual as it has been designed to show visitors exactly the types of tall grass and native plants which greeted the first settlers of Quincy. As their names imply, the Parlor Garden and Herb Garden display medicinal and culinary herbs used by our early residents and the typical flowers that were grown to beautify homes of our Adams County ancestors.

The program has been broadcast several times and is available on our website and our Facebook page. Thanks, Mark, for your continued efforts to support our work.



Edward Prince Marker Dedicated

U.S. Grant Living Historian Dr. Curt Fields offered comments about the life and contributions of Colonel Edward Prince at the dedication ceremony for an historic marker at Prince's gravesite at Woodland Cemetery. The event was held at the conclusion of Civil War Symposium III held October 9 in Quincy and Prince's sabre was used in the ceremony.

Candlelight Tours 2021

Governor John Wood Mansion
Sponsored by the Hal and Kathy Oakley Family

Ghosts of Christmas Past

Friday, December 10, 2021

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Friday, December 17, 2021

Saturday, December 18, 2021

Sunday, December 26, 2021



Free tours

Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County



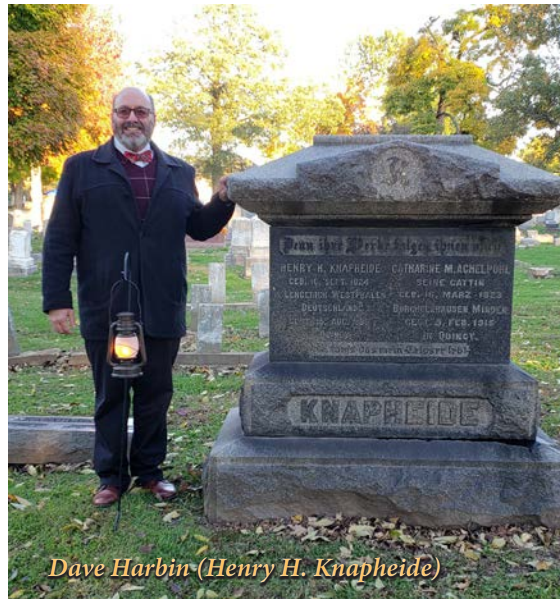
*Mark Snider and Erica Broeckmeier
(Richard and Anna Newcomb)*



*Tamy Cassidy
(Margaret Ruff)*



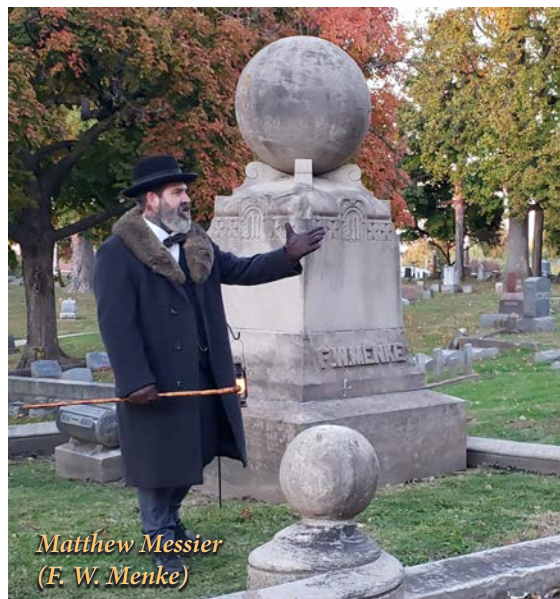
Woodland Cemetery Tours 2021



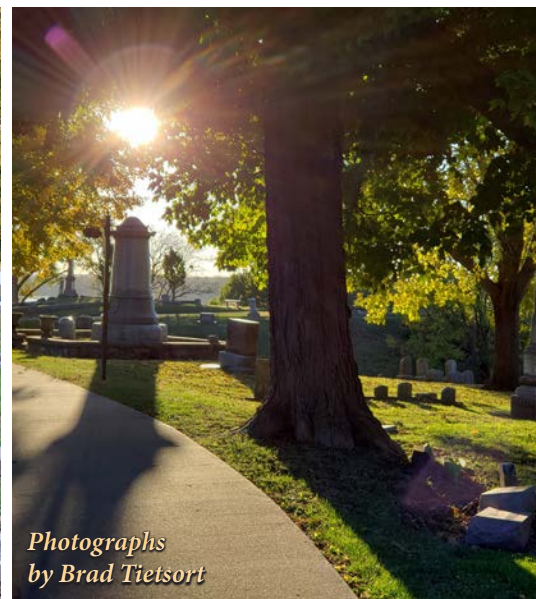
Dave Harbin (Henry H. Knapheide)



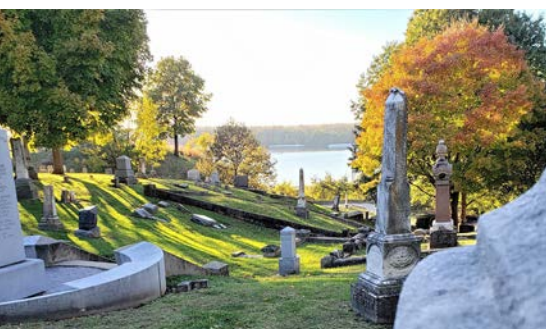
*Alicia Carsten
(Elizabeth Parker)*



*Matthew Messier
(F. W. Menke)*



*Photographs
by Brad Tietzort*



QUINCY'S WOODLAND CEMETERY

A STUNNING BACKGROUND FOR SOCIETY'S TOURS

The Historical Society's Woodland Cemetery Tours were a rousing success, with approximately 800 attending the popular October event. A total of 31 tours featuring three separate themes were offered on Saturdays and on Halloween this year: Nation at War-Quincy and the Civil War which focused on the impact of Quincyans on various aspects of the Civil War; the Golden Age of Quincy, featuring re-enactors portraying business leaders during the late 1800's, dubbed the Golden Age of Quincy; and Road to Freedom, which offered the stories of area residents involved in the Underground Railroad.

On each tour, groups of up to 30 were led through the cemetery by guides who provided background information along the route to the gravesites specific to each theme. The tours were scheduled from dusk until dark, with lanterns, the setting sun and the approaching darkness adding a somber element to the stunning, hushed environment of Woodland Cemetery.

Re-enactors in period attire placed at the various gravesites throughout the cemetery then told each group anecdotes about their lives and their connections to Quincy.

Tour guides included Bob Ackerman, Bobette Cawthon, Heather Bangert, Vicki Ebbing, Rob Mellon, Tim Schieferdecker, Rodney Hart, Lynn Niewohner, and Brad Tietfort.

In the Quincy and the Civil War tour, re-enactor Barb Ippensen played the role of Mother Leebrick, Civil War nurse, and was assisted by Leslie Reynolds Fowler. Alicia Carsten portrayed Kate Gale, wife of steamboat engineer Aurelius Gale, while Rich Keppner was Civil War soldier Francis Moore and Dr. Tim Jacobs portrayed Dr. Orson Crandall, a surgeon during the Civil War.

During the Road to Freedom tour, Alicia Carsten and Susan Peters portrayed Mrs. Lydia Van Doorn Littlefield, sister of John VanDoorn, a primary organizer in the Underground Railroad in Quincy, and

Tom Sholts was Mission Institute founder David Nelson.

Re-enactors for the Golden Age of Quincy tour included David Harbin as Henry Knapheide, founder of The Knapheide Wagon Company, now Knapheide Manufacturing Company; Mark Snider as Richard Newcomb, organizer of the Quincy Paper Company, with Erica Broekemeier as his wife, Anna; Matthew Messier as F. W. Menke, founder of Menke Stone and Lime Company; Tamy Cassady as Margaret Ruff, of Quincy's Ruff Brewing Company; and Alicia Carsten as Elizabeth Parker, daughter of prominent Quincyan Lorenzo Bull.

Those who assisted with tickets and event setup and teardown included Arlis Dittmer, Jan Hummel, Iris Nelson, Patti Mellon, Kevin Steinkamp, William Arp, Gabrielle Rober, Lynn Snyder, and Kennedy Mellon. Lynn Snyder, Iris Nelson and Rob Mellon provided research and scripts for this year's tours.

CALFTOWN COOKBOOK RECIPE

My great grandparents (Mr. & Mrs. Michael Loos) came from Germany to settle here near Mill Creek in Melrose Township. The great grandparents of my late husband, Walter, came to live near Fowler.



LEBKUCHEN – CHRISTMAS COOKIE

From the kitchen of -Selma Schroeder. Recipe available in the Calftown Cookbook.

Ingredients:

2 cups molasses
2 cups honey
2 cups sugar
2 cups butter
2 cups ground nuts
4 tsp. baking soda, dissolved in
just a little water

Grated rind and juice of 2 lemons

1 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. coriander seed
1 tsp. cloves
10¢ worth of cardamom seed
(in years past, these were bought
whole and crushed)
1 cup ground citron

Directions:

Mix dough as stiff as for bread dough. Let set about a week; then make into long rolls. Let stand until next morning and slice to bake or cookies may be rolled and cut. When baked, make a glaze of sugar and water and glaze, if desired. These are better if baked early and ripened a few weeks.

Order Form

☐ _____ Quantity \$10 ea.

Shipping -
\$5 per book

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

**Great
Gift Idea!**





125th Anniversary Celebration



Photographs by Lisa Wigoda



In September, more than 300 dropped by the **Calftown Picnic** held on the grounds of the Governor John Wood Mansion to celebrate the Society's **125th Anniversary**. Attendees had free range of the campus and could tour the Mansion and 1835 Log Cabin ; buy gifts from Quincy's History Shop; bid on Silent Auction items; and visit with three local authors on hand for book signings—Dr. David Costigan, Reg Ankrom and Beth Lane. Proclamations

were read by State Senator Jil Tracy and Quincy Mayor Mike Troup and Abraham Lincoln (re-enactor Max Daniels) was also available to offer his congratulations and mix with the crowd. Throughout the afternoon, kiddies played on pop-up displays from the Children's Museum, and guests heard two great local bands—Jukebox Reloaded and Silver Bullets—while they visited with friends and enjoyed German food provided by caterer extraordinaire 8te Open.



CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM III

Approximately 130 people attended the recent Civil War Symposium III, an event co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County and Tri-States Civil War Round Table and held at the Kroc Center in Quincy. Those present appreciated the talents of a variety of speakers who covered topics as diverse as Walt Whitman's poetry and Colonel Benjamin Grierson's cavalry raid through Mississippi in April 1863.

The entire symposium, paid for in total by private donations, is a key educational program of the Society and the Round Table. This year's speakers included two nationally-known Civil War experts- -Dr. Curt Fields, the National Park Service's official U.S. Grant re-enactor, and Dr. Timothy B. Smith, a respected author of several Civil War books and a faculty member at the University of Tennessee. Regional speakers included Dr. Sam Wheeler, Director of History Programs for the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission; Brian "Fox" Ellis, a Whitman impersonator; and Tim Good, author of *We Saw Lincoln Shot and The Lincoln Douglas Debates*.

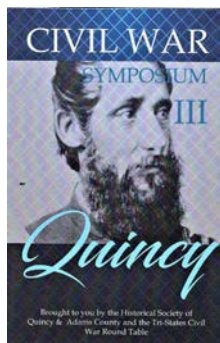
As part of the symposium, an evening picnic for speakers and invited guests was held on the Governor John Wood Mansion lawn before Friday's events, and attendees were treated to a delicious meal catered by 8te Open. This gathering allowed local history buffs to meet and speak with our presenters.

A new feature of this year's symposium was the author's signing project. Books written by several of our speakers, as well as Dr. David Costigan's new volume, *A City in Wartime: Quincy Illinois and the Civil War*, were available for sale and for authors' signatures. This proved to be popular and will be continued at future events.



Symposium speaker Timothy B. Smith and his daughter, Leah Grace, pictured by the 1835 Log Cabin at the symposium speakers' picnic held on the grounds of the Mansion.

A concluding event of Symposium III was the dedication of an informational marker at the grave site of Colonel Edward Prince in Woodland Cemetery (see page 10). This dedication was part of the Grave Restoration Project sponsored jointly by the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County and the Tri-States Civil War Round Table. It was the seventh grave so honored. The next dedication will be held in May 2022 at the grave of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Thomas John Higgins Jr., a Barry, Ill. native who is buried in Holy Family Cemetery in Hannibal, Mo. Check HSQAC social media later for a specific date and time for this event.



U.S. Grant Living Historian Dr. Curt Fields pictured at the Civil War Symposium III with (left) Rich Keppner and (right) Dr. Tim Jacobs. Fields was one of the key note speakers, while Keppner and Jacobs were speakers at the Early Bird session Saturday morning.



HSQAC volunteer Paul Soebbing and a QU student working on the grounds of the History Museum during Quincy University's Community Service Day.

STUDENTS HELP HSQAC ON QU SERVICE DAY

On Wednesday, October 6th, the Historical Society participated in Quincy University's annual Service Day, an event in which students and staff go into the community to assist in a variety of projects. Athletes from both the men's and women's tennis teams and their respective coaches, Ethan Arns and Laura Gutierrez, were assigned to the Society to complete three important projects

Society volunteers Chuck Radel, Rich Keppner, Jack Freiburg, Tom Keppner, Paul Soebbing, and Beth Young worked with fourteen members of the men's team as they weeded, raked, trimmed and dug nine pickup truck loads and seven trailer loads of garden and landscaping refuse which were hauled to the city's disposal site. These young men also transplanted hostas and roses on the grounds.

This long overdue project represents the first step in a planned 2022 upgrade of our downtown campus at 332 Maine. Next spring new plantings will be added, and steps will be taken to expand the architectural sculpture garden at that location.

The second group of students was composed of members of the women's tennis squad. They worked with Jan Leimbach, Terri Hanlin, and Jack Ball to prepare the three Mansion gardens for winter. They also "rebricked" the design of the popular parlor garden on the Mansion's north face.

A final group of members of the women's team was assigned to the interior of the Mansion where they washed windows and cleaned many of the large pieces of silver serving ware with guidance from Bob Ackerman and staff member Jean Kay. The HSQAC is indebted to these fine young athletes for all of their effort. Way to go, Hawks!

SOCIETY RECEIVES ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

In honor of achieving the 125th anniversary milestone, the Society was recently awarded several certificates.

The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County was recognized by the Illinois State Historical Society as an Illinois Centennial Business. To date, more than 1400 Illinois companies and not-for-profits have reached this milestone.

To verify the founding date and name of the not-for-profit, the Society was required to submit primary source documentation, including minutes of early board meetings. The Society was able to provide recorded minutes from the first general meeting on June 12, 1896; the second general meeting held on July 14, 1896; and the first regular quarterly meeting on October 6, 1896. Copies of the Articles of Incorporation from the State of Illinois and images of John Wood, Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Emery, Thaddeus Rogers, and the Society's facilities were also submitted.

In addition, the Society received the Illinois State Senate Certificate of Recognition from Senator Jil Tracy which reads "The Illinois Senate of the 102nd General Assembly of the State of Illinois acknowledges the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County in recognition of its 125th anniversary, celebrating the collection and preservation of document and other physical objects related to local history for over a century 1896 – 2021 – and extends its congratulations and best wishes on this momentous occasion."

Quincy Mayor Mike Troup also presented an official proclamation from the City of Quincy which declared that September 19, 2021, was a day of Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County and encouraged all citizens "to honor and reflect upon the deep heritage that has been embraced and preserved by five generations of Quincy Historical Society volunteers for the benefit of those yet to come."



The Society received certificates from the Illinois State Historical Society; the City of Quincy; and the Illinois State Senate in recognition of its 125th anniversary.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Quincy & Adams County

Preserving the Past. Ensuring the Future.

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Museum on
the Square**

4th & Maine St.



Cabin



Visitors Center



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Governor John Wood Mansion

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& More!

Take a tour!

Meet Our 'Once Upon a Time' Authors

Dave Dulaney

A native of Quincy, Dave Dulaney grew up attending Quincy Public Schools until graduating from Quincy Senior High



School. He began his college career locally at Culver-Stockton College, transferring to Truman State in order to complete his Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. Upon graduation, Dave began a twenty-year career in retail management, working for K-Mart Corporation for several years before moving to Wal-Mart where he was eventually elevated to Store Manager. During his career he participated in several new store openings and resided in seven different states.

After changing careers, Dulaney returned to his place of birth, seeing Quincy as offering a special quality of life unequal to that in any of the places he lived while in retail management. In Quincy his career changed to sales and distribution, which eventually led him to the ownership of a small business franchise. He retired over a decade ago.

Dave's love of local history began in his youth when historian Carl Landrum, the long-time writer of a *Herald-Whig* Sunday column, came to his parents' home to interview them about the historic home in which they were raising their family. The modest home was built on the same foundation as Boscobel, a twenty-six-room mansion that belonged to General James Washington Singleton. While his parents' home was much different than the Singleton's mansion, the basement of the home remained the same. It contained the original brick-lined wine cellar where Singleton stored his fancy wines. His mother used it to store fruit and other produce from the orchard and garden.

Landrum was also interested in the large carriage house and orchard that remained from the estate. Singleton was known for raising prize horses and cattle as well as entertaining important people and politicians at his home. Mark Twain, General Sherman and Robert Lincoln were just a few of his celebrated guests. The Landrum articles would remain an important part of Dave's connection to Quincy.

Upon returning to Quincy, he became involved with the Historical Society, serving on the HSQAC Board of Directors for nearly twenty years. In addition to board duties, he has been a local program speaker to regional civic groups on historical topics such as: Steamboats, Railroads, Breweries and Historical Photography. During the time he was a director for the Society almost all of his summers were spent giving tours of the John Wood Mansion to guests of the Society.

In addition to speaking, guiding Mansion tours and writing articles for the Society, Dave is a member of many history-related organizations.

Reg Ankrom

Reg Ankrom, for 30 years a member of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County and in 2011 and 2012 its ex-



ecutive director, said his grandson Vincent best summed up his decade-long interest in history. After Reg led the boy on their annual tour through the HSQAC's John Wood Mansion, Vincent told Reg, "Grandpa, you really are history."

Reg's interest in history began after his early retirement in 2000 from Ameren Illinois, for which he had served as superintendent of the utility's largest area headquartered in Quincy. He leveraged his expertise in the energy business to create an ethanol project development firm and for the past decade has helped downstate Illinois municipalities develop and operate electric aggregation programs.

McFarland Publishing Co. has issued the first two of a three-volume biography Reg is writing about 19th century U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas. The award-winning *Stephen A. Douglas: The Political Apprenticeship, 1833-1843*, was published in 2015, and *Stephen A. Douglas, Western Man: The Early Years in Congress, 1844-1850* was released this past April. Working now on the third volume, Reg is a contributor to the Society's weekly history column in the

Herald Whig and is a frequent speaker on Lincoln, Douglas, and antebellum America.

Reg and his wife, Jane, have lived in Quincy since 1989.

Beth Young

Beth Young, former HSQAC board member and current member, retired in 2019 after



50 years of teaching in the Quincy Public Schools, at John Wood Community College, and at Quincy University. Since then, she has put her skills to work for the Society by researching and writing a number of articles for the *Governor's Post* and *Once Upon a Time*, as well as for *Illinois Heritage*, the magazine of the Illinois State Historical Society. Her areas of special interest are American history and literature from 1830 through Reconstruction.

While employed in education, Beth taught education, history, and English classes and was a librarian. She was also the QHS Scholastic Bowl coach and helped her teams bring home three IHSA State Championships.

Her work with the Society includes initiating and developing the Civil War Symposium, coordinating the Grave Restoration Project, spearheading the U.S. Grant marker drive, and working in the gardens at both of our campuses. She also enjoys speaking to groups about her research.

In addition to her affiliation with the Society, Beth is a member of the Tri State Civil War Round Table, the Church of St. Peter, the Ladies of Charity, the Muddy River Herb Guild, Master Gardeners, and the IHSA Scholastic Bowl Hall of Fame. She formerly served on the Quincy Public Library and Habitat for Humanity boards and the Quincy Human Rights Commission.

In addition to her research and writing, Beth's hobbies include reading, bicycling, walking, flower gardening, and enjoying her dog Stanley.

The Once Upon a Time column is coordinated by HSQAC President Arlis Dittmer and has been running since 2011. There are currently 15 authors, and close to 500 articles have been published as weekly columns in the Quincy Herald-Whig's Sunday edition. The column was recently recognized by the Illinois State Historical Society with a Certificate of Excellence in the Best of Illinois History competition.

SAENGERFEST 1877

In the early 19th century the sangerbund or singing group social reform movement developed in Germany. The movement used large choirs to express political viewpoints. National gatherings of German singing societies called Saengerfests became incredibly popular in Europe. The festivals usually were accompanied with a parade, balls, and other events associated with German culture. The success of the events prompted Christian churches to adapt the festivals for spiritual worship.

Germany immigrants brought the sangerbund tradition to America with the first German singing society being formed in the Germantown section of Philadelphia in 1835. The singing groups began performing together in a public Saengerfest. The largest festival in the Midwest occurred in Cincinnati in 1838. The tradition spread to the south with New Braunfels, Texas, holding a Saengerfest for many years starting in 1853.

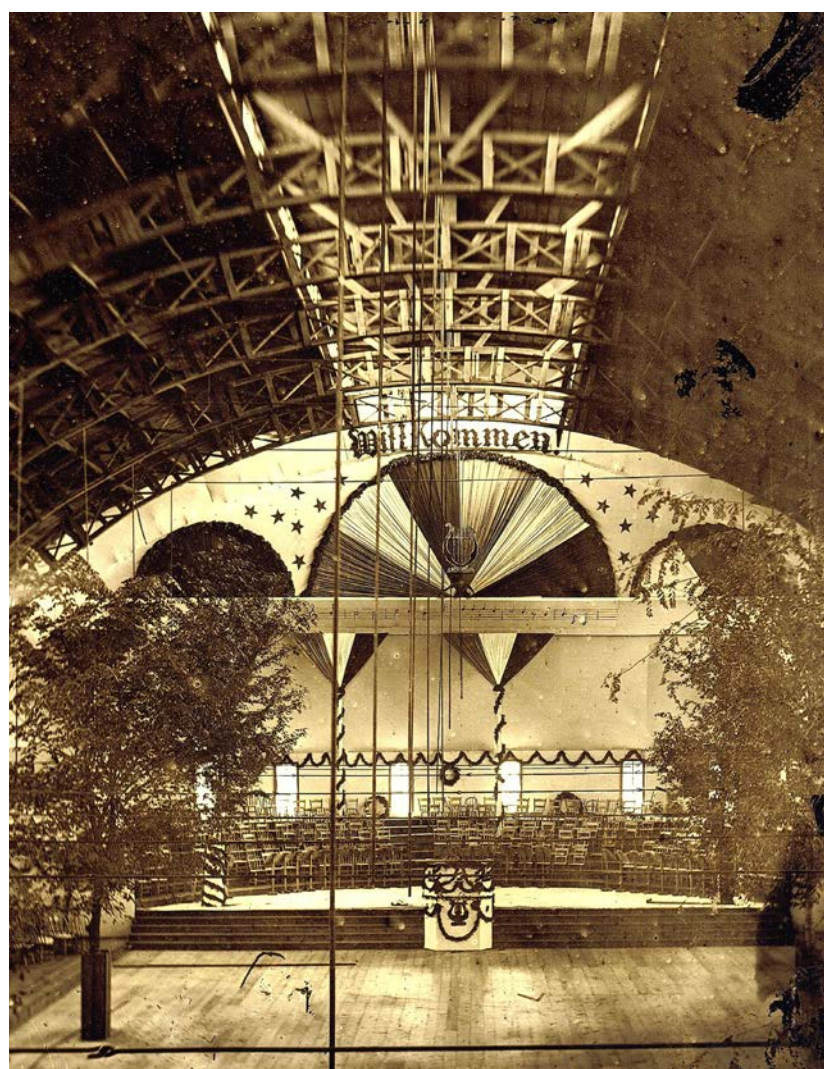
In the 1870s and 1880s, singing as recreation developed in Quincy, and several groups were formed, many in the German tradition. After a successful Saengerfest in Cincinnati in 1873 which featured the New York Orchestra led by Theodore Thomas, local leaders in Quincy began to plan to have a major singing festival in the Gem City. The Third Illinois State Saengerfest was awarded to Quincy, and the city hosted the festival June 5-8, 1877.

In preparation for the state-level event Quincy constructed a grand, elaborate structure at 13th and Maine Street called the Quincy Saengerfest Building. The massive edifice was built as a temporary structure and was made entirely of lumber. The hall could hold 3000 people, and the gigantic stage had room for 600 singers and a 70-piece orchestra.

Quincy was the place to be in the summer of 1877. The Saengerfest was one of the largest events in the history of the city. The event attracted 30 singing societies including the Chicago Germania Maennerchor and the St. Louis Arion des Westens. The 70-piece orchestra was led by Hans Balatka of St. Louis and Professor John E. Hoefer a Quincy pianist and music teacher. The Quincy groups featured were the Aeolian Quartet and the Quincy Maennerchor which had 200 singers. When all of the choirs combined there were an amazing 600 voices.

The event started on Tuesday June, 5 1877. There were three grand concert and two grand matinees with general admission tickets costing \$1.00 and reserved seats \$1.25. Visitors could also watch rehearsals which started at 9:00 am each day for 50-cents. To spur attendance, all railroad lines reduced rates to come to Quincy, and the Keokuk Northern Line Packet Company offered 33% off all tickets to their steamers coming to Quincy for the event.

There was a picnic on Friday morning at Singleton Park at 30th and Maine and a grand ball in the Quincy Saengerfest Building on Friday evening. The picnic was open



Bottom Left: The Quincy Saengerfest Building was located at 13th and Maine Street, but was deconstructed shortly after the event. Above: The grand hall could hold 3,000 people and the stage was large enough for 600 singers or a 70-piece orchestra.

to the public and tickets costs only 25-cents. The cost of the Saengerfest ball was \$3.00 a couple.

The performances were second to none with the 70-piece orchestra playing Weber's "Oberon Overture" and Wagner's "Rienzi Overture." The Quincy Maennerchor featured 200 voices and opened the program with "Singer's Greeting" by Brandt. The St. Louis Arion Singing Society sang "Calm Sea" and "Happy Voyage" and the Chicago German Singing Society performed "A Legend from the Rhine." The combined choir of 600 singers and the orchestra closed the festival with "Pilgrim's Chorus" from "Tannhauser" by Wagner. The hall was filled to capacity for every performance.

The Quincy Saengerfest was a social success, but financially costly. Even though the 3000 seat hall was filled for each major performance, the event was \$7,500 (1877) in debt at the conclusion. The construction of the Quincy Saengerfest Building alone cost \$5,000. Adjusted for inflation the debt would have been around \$200,000 in 2021 value. The beautiful Quincy Saengerfest Building remained at 13th and Maine for only about a year when it was deconstructed and the lumber was returned to the contracting company to help settle the debts from the event. Local singing groups continued to perform in the area for many years, but none would match the size and the scope of the Third Illinois State Saengerfest in the summer of 1877.



The Debutantes consisted of girls from elementary school to high school. Eventually the group would be comprised of 42 playing members, a color guard, a majorette, and 12 substitutes.



The Debs first performance was at Washington Theater in 1955. The group is pictured in front of the theater entrance. The marquee was advertising Audie Murphy in "To Hell and Back."

The Debutantes

Quincy's All Girl Drum and Bugle Corps

By Rob Mellon

"I liked what I saw so-o-o I became a Debutant"

Historically, the military has used musical instruments to signal units and provide entertainment. This tradition goes back to the earliest days of the American military with the drum and bugle corps of the Civil War and Spanish-American War, which were actually descendants of the ancient drum and fife corps from the American Revolution. With the advent of radio bugling, however, signaling units became obsolete, and the military sold equipment to veterans' organizations such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Also, John Philip Sousa had made military marches popular throughout the country in the 1880s, increasing the interest in forming civilian drum and bugle corps after World War I and World War II.

Quincy caught on to this trend in the 1950s, when the American Legion Post #37 of Quincy sponsored an all-boys' drum and bugle corps called the Legion Trojans. Then in November 1954, the Quincy V.F.W. Post #5129 sponsored an all-girls' drum and bugle corps called the Debutantes -- or "Debs" for short. This was truly a very unique group, because, while many drum and bugle corps had formed throughout the country since the 1920s, there were very few all-girl groups.

The Debutantes were made up of girls from elementary school to high school. Eventually the group would be comprised of 42 playing members, a color guard, a majorette, and 12 substitutes, but the size of the group in the beginning was much smaller. Amazingly, only a few of the girls who joined the Debs had musical experience. In addition, while race relations in the country were strained in the 1950s, the Debutantes were integrated from the beginning.

The Debutantes began practicing diligently on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evening and on Saturdays and Sundays in the afternoon. They used the Athletic Field at 16th and Jersey during the week and the Quincy College (University) Athletic Field on

the weekend. Herb Wellman was the director of the drum and bugle corps; Harry Allen was the business manager; Charles Winking was the musical director and bugle tutor; and Hugh Soebbing was the drum tutor. Mr. and Mrs. Milton Engles were the chaperons; the mascot was little Charlann Winking; and Betty Kay Boeing was the majorette. The Debs' first performance was at the Washington Theater in 1955 while the Audie Murphy movie "To Hell and Back" was playing. They practiced throughout the fall of 1955.

With several drum and bugle corps being established in the 1950s, rivalries started to develop, leading to local, regional, and even national competitions. Not surprisingly, the Debutantes finished last in their first competition due to their lack of musical experience. Through hard work and dedication, however, they began to finish in the top five in most competitions. In 1956, the Debs competed in Wood River, Jerseyville, Belleville, and Springfield, finishing third in Wood River and Belleville. They also performed at several parades and events in the area, being recognized as one of the few all-girl drum and bugle corps in the entire country.

By 1957, the corps was performing all over the Midwest, including on Michigan Boulevard in Chicago and in towns in Wisconsin and in Ohio. Their "Fatigue" uniforms were replaced by striking new uniforms which consisted of black trousers neatly tucked into white boots, a black leather belt with a chrome buckle, and a red, long-sleeved blouse with a white scarf forming a "wing" over the left shoulder. The caps were black with a white plumes. The highlight of the season was the Debutantes' performance at Wrigley Field in Chicago at halftime of the Bears-Packers game on November 10, 1957. The Bears beat the Packers that day 21-14, and over 47,000 people watched the Debutantes' performance.

The corps' travels were extensive, but not without incident. When they were returning from a long trip in the summer of 1957, their equipment truck was sideswiped and overturned.



Program from Bears-Packers game at Wrigley Field where the Debutantes performed before a crowd of 47,000.



The Debutantes performed throughout the Midwest during the 1950s. They are pictured here during one of the many parades the Debs performed at in Quincy.

Fortunately, there were no girls injured and 1958 was as busy as 1957 had been. They led the State V.F.W. Parade in 1958 and also performed during Bob Hope Day in Quincy when Hope came to town with his wife to receive an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Quincy College. The Debs welcomed Bob Hope at the Washington Theater before he kicked off his new movie "Paris Holiday" which was featured that day.

The Debutantes' Drum and Bugle Corps started to develop national notoriety, and in 1958 they were featured in several newsletters and magazines, including in *Drum Corps World*. With both WWII and the Korean War over, though, interest in military musical groups like the Debs started to wane, and the Debutantes were disbanded in 1959. There was an effort to reestablish the corps in 1962, but there was not enough interest at that time.

They may have disbanded in 1959, but they will not be forgotten. Mrs. Milton W. Engles summed up the spirit of a Debutante in her poem honoring the corps. She said, "To be a Deb, one must practice and work, none of her duties must she ever shirk, she must learn to smile and hold her head high, for the price of fame and glory will never pass her by."

Quincy's History Shop

Located inside the History Museum on the Square
332 Maine St. (4th & Maine) | Quincy, IL | 217-214-1888 | hsqac.org

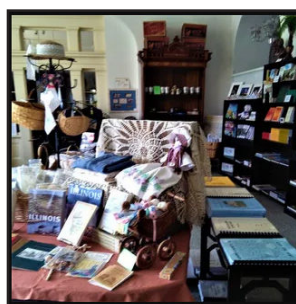
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VINTAGE ITEMS



MEMORABILIA

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!





Community in **FOCUS** Camp Point, Ill.

Painting of Sauk and Fox Indian tribe by Karl Bodmer (1833).

Camp Point Once a Native American Campsite

By Linda Riggs Mayfield

Circuit rider Peter Cartwright wrote of traveling from cabin to cabin in early times in Western Illinois to hold Methodist “classes,” finding his way through unbroken miles of tall prairie grass from one distant landmark to another.

His autobiography indicated that directions from one cabin to the next were often given based on the only reference points in sight -- patches of woods miles apart that could only be seen on the horizon from horseback.

Such a “point” of timber was a well-known landmark in northern Adams County. Because it also had been a transient camping spot for Native Americans in the past, it was known as Indian Camp Point.

In 1828, brothers-in-law Daniel Smith and James Lasley came to the recently surveyed area and settled in Sections 28 and 29, just west of where the town would be built years later. Lasley sold his

homestead to Jezreel Shomaker in 1829. The next year several more arrived: a man named Figley and “an old sea captain named Calley, and his son-in-law Rand,” and a settler named Lock who soon sold his “improvement” to William Wilkes.

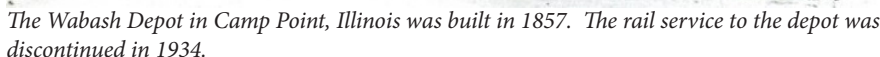
Wilkes’ son Daniel, Jonathan Brown and Farrow Hamrick arrived in 1832, as did Lewis McFarland, and William and Samuel McAnulty. In 1835, the Rezin Downing family, Peter B. Garrett and Richard Seaton established residence.

The area was becoming populated, and by 1836 a school was needed. One was constructed on Garrett’s farm on Section 26, where a Mr. Brewster taught. In 1840, two more schools were needed: One was on Daniel Smith’s land, taught by Thomas Bailey, later one of the founders of the town of Camp Point; the other was taught by P.W. Leet. Soon, increased settlement demanded more and they too were built. According to the 1879 History of Adams County: “[T]he school-house erected in 1853, which was probably the best finished

and most comfortably arranged school-house in the county, and afforded sufficient facilities for school purposes for some two or three years, when, owing to the growth of the village, another school-house was demanded and was built in the west part of the village, which afforded school accommodations for a year or two more, when both houses became crowded, so that more school-room was found necessary.”

After much community discussion, it was agreed that a grade school large enough to combine all of the others was needed. A three-story 66-foot-by-80-foot brick building was constructed. The grounds were landscaped with maple trees, and the school that opened in 1867 under the direction of S.F. Hall, with seven teachers, was called Maplewood. Attendance for many years was about 500, with about 100 students coming from other parts of the county to access the higher mathematics, philosophy, rhetoric, botany and Latin they could not get elsewhere.

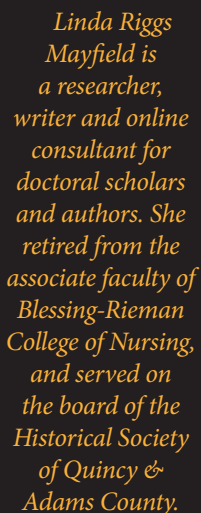
The school year at Maplewood was eight



The first mill in the township, for grinding corn and operated by horses, was erected about 1838 by John Newland. The next mill, with a carding machine, was built by Peter Garrett in 1844. In 1845 he added an oxen-driven inclined wheel grist mill and eventually converted it to steam. It prospered so long that for many years, the growing community was known as Garrett's Mill.

Camp Point Township was “politically organized” in 1849 and named in 1850. Granderson Hess opened the first general store in 1854, and with the coming of the railroad in 1855, the town of Camp Point was platted by former teachers Thomas Bailey and Peter B. Garrett, blacksmith Benjamin Booth and farmer William Farlow on their land. It soon had a variety of stores

A citizens' meeting was held and a resolution passed that those present would all contribute and buy out Stevens' whiskey at wholesale price, which they immediately attempted to carry out. Stevens faced about 20 of his neighbors, money in hand, and given no option except to sell out the hated drink. "The parley was a short one. The money was paid over, and about a barrel and a-half rolled out in front of the store and the heads knocked in, which was the first wholesale trade made in the town." Apparently trade comes in many descriptions.



MAP OF
CAMPPONT
TOWNSHIP
ADAMS CO. ILL.
Drawn by W.P. Campbell.

at N. East cor. 20. T. 14 N. of R. 10 E. of M.

PUBLIC ROAD.

SCHOOL

BAILEYS

ST.

ADD. of OUT LOTS.

STATE RAIL ROAD

DEPOT GROUND

JEFFERSON

BOOTH'S

WOODS

2ND ADD.

VERMONT

BOOTH'S

ADD.

YORK

KEENANS

ADD.

SEYMOUR

ST.

MAIN

KENTUCKY

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BAILEYS

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MANSION HEIRLOOM RETURNS, COURTESY OF OBJECTS CONSERVATOR

By Susi L. DeClue

One of the hazards of housing a large number of valuable, irreplaceable heirlooms is the possibility that one of them might break or become damaged and therefore unusable. This was the case with one of the items in the Society's Collection, an amber-colored, crystal decanter with stopper-- one of three housed in an ornate silver wine caddy which was positioned on a table in the formal parlor of the Governor John Wood Mansion. To make matters even worse, the item was one of a very few the Society owns which actually belonged to Governor John Wood. Here's the story -- or at least all we know about what happened.

Former Groundskeeper and Tour Guide Bob Ackerman was giving a tour of the Mansion when one of the tour participant's children noticed that one of the bottles was missing from the caddy designed for a trio of decanters. Furthermore, it had fallen onto the floor and was broken, the child pointed out. Ackerman of course was upset to discover the breakage and quick to remove the decanter because he knew it had belonged to Wood. After bringing the damaged piece to Jean Kay, Collections Manager, the two discussed what might have happened. No tourist or employee had mentioned any accident or breakage; workmen had come and gone in the home without noting any problems; and no one had been cleaning or vacuuming in the parlor. No clues, so the breakage remained a mystery. The decanter was kept in the Society's office for several months, and the set continued to be displayed with just the two bottles.

Kay pondered the problem, realizing that expert help would be needed to repair the bottle, if it could indeed be repaired. After contacting the Head of Conservation at the Saint Louis Art Museum, she was referred to the American Institute for Conservation's "Find an Expert" online resource and searched for an "Objects" conservator located near the Quincy zip code. After being assured that all conservators listed are peer reviewed by the Institute, she discovered that Crista Pack of Maplewood, Mo., was the closest to Quincy and that she also worked on conserving glass and ceramic objects. Kay communicated with Pack, and it just so happened that Pack, who is employed at a St. Louis museum, was also considering starting a home-based side business as an objects conservator of glass and ceramic items. Pack offered to look at images of the decanter and give her estimates of the cost to repair the bottle. Kay agreed and sent her the photos of the broken vessel.

Here is the condition of the decanter as photographed, according to Pack's report: "Condition based on images provided by Owner/Authorized Representative prior to receipt: Diagonal break extending down from lip -- separating approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lip and upper neck of the bottle. The broken fragment has been retained and is complete."

Soon Pack and Kay agreed on a treatment plan and a price, and the two met to transfer the damage piece. Several weeks later, the Society received word that the project was successfully completed. Pack's report continues: "The treatment consisted of surface cleaning of exterior surfaces and break edges to remove



Above left: The three original decanters in an ornate silver wine caddy, pictured as they were featured in the formal parlor of the Governor John Wood Mansion. They are believed to have belonged to John Wood. Above right: Before and after images of the decanter showing it (right) as a broken piece and (far right) as a repaired piece.

fingerprints and prepare glass for adhesive. Neck fragment was re-attached with a stable, non-yellowing acrylic resin," she concludes.

She and Pack met once more, and Kay retrieved the bottle and brought the valued piece home to the Governor John Wood Mansion where it continues to be viewed as part of a set on the Mansion tours -- three original decanters in an ornate silver wine caddy, described on the tour as heirlooms belonging to John Wood himself.



Objects Conservator Crista Pack examining a ceramic piece in her studio.

Conservation is an essential part of the mission of the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County. The Society is committed to the collection and preservation of documents, photographs, and other artifacts related to our shared local history. Our work includes authentication, research, and preventative care of the collection and items on loan. If you would like to find out more about our current conservation plans or would like to make a donation to these efforts please call 217-222-1835.

Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County

Christmas Party

JOIN US

Sunday, December 5, 2021
1:00 to 4:00 P.M.
History Museum on the Square
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Christmas Clubs Provided Savings Plans During Tough Times

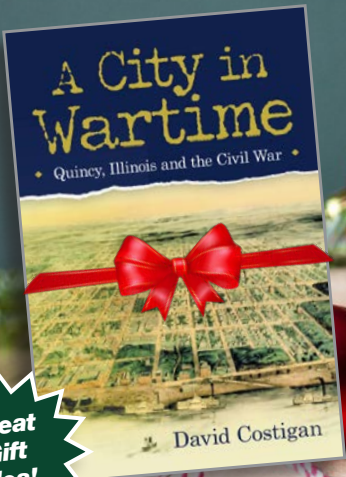
A Christmas Club is a specially designed savings program that was introduced by banks and other lending institutions just after the turn of the 20th century. The first known Christmas Club was established by the Carlisle Trust Company of Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1909. The savings account was set up so customers could save a little each week which would add up over the course of the year so families would have money for the Christmas season. The plan was designed to pay out on December 1 of each year. Christmas Clubs became extremely popular and banks would compete for customers by offering special incentives. During the Great Depression, Christmas Clubs exploded in popularity. In 1930, Quincy's State Savings, Loan and Trust Company said in an advertisement for their Christmas Club, "Make next Christmas the merriest ever. The small amounts that usually slip through your

fingers for trifles will soon grow into "Big Round Dollars" in any of our classes."

The plans were not without their drawbacks. Customers received very low interest and it was very difficult to remove funds from the program without paying fairly high fees. In one case in 1949, Chester Riley from the Life of Riley radio program had opened a Christmas Club account, but had made only one deposit of \$2. When Riley went to withdraw his money from the plan, he discovered that after the bank fees for the club booklet, mailing reminders, and the withdrawal fee -- he owed the bank 25-cents. Needless to say, the programs eventually fell out of favor with both customers and banks. For banks it became costly to maintain the savings program and for customers they eventually would find better ways to save money that would produce a higher return on their investment to avoid the fate of Chester Riley.



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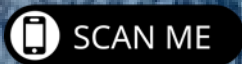
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