Spring Showcase
April 26th

Join the Peoria Historical Society on Sunday, April 26 at the Peoria Civic Center from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. as we celebrate the 180th anniversary of Peoria’s original incorporation as a town in 1835. The event program will feature WEEK-TV 25’s own Tom McIntyre moderating a “You Are There” program featuring interviews with several historical town residents from the era. Refreshments and desserts will be served.

The vendor boutique will showcase gifts and collectables from forty of the area’s most unique shops and artisans. Tickets are $40 each. Table reservations are available. For more information, please contact the PHS office at (309) 674-1921.

1st Qtr. Program
Jan. 29th

The Historical Society’s 2015 programs will begin Thursday, January 29th at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the Peoria Riverfront Museum. This year’s programs will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War. Our first quarter presentation will feature Dr. Stacey Robertson, the Oglesby Professor of American Heritage and Director of the Women’s Studies Program at Bradley University.


Dr. Robertson is the recipient of numerous teaching awards and research fellowships and has lectured at more than one hundred different venues nationally and internationally. She recently appeared as an historical expert on the popular television show Who Do You Think You Are? featuring actress Zooey Deschanel. She is also the co-director of the non-profit organization Historians Against Slavery.

Admission is free to all guests and complimentary parking is available in the museum deck.

“History, by apprising the people of the past, will enable them to judge of the future; it will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1782.
From The President

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War. I am looking forward to spending more time studying this particular tragic event in our nation’s history. Even today, 150 years later, the citizens of the nation are still dealing with the consequences of this conflict.

I think for most of us, the Civil War seems like it must have happened eons ago, as in our lives we’ve never known anyone who was involved in those events. As one gets older, 150 years doesn’t really seem that ancient. Sometimes, I think we shy away from studying the Civil War because it seems like such an overwhelming topic. Walk into any bookstore and you’ll find shelves upon shelves filled with books on the subject. Where does one start, what aspect to study, and how to know which author has done a thorough presentation?

Here in Illinois, it seems natural to start with Lincoln, but with so much material it’s difficult to decide how, what and when to begin. Consider starting your historical exploration for the New Year with a visit to the Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. Even if you’ve already visited this splendid museum, there are always new things to learn. I suspect they’ll have new exhibits in 2015 that will provide greater insight into the events during the Civil War years, so repeat visits are certainly in order.

The Historical Society’s quarterly programs will feature presentations on topics associated with this anniversary of the Civil War. Please join us in the auditorium of the Peoria Riverfront Museum for these informative programs.

In closing, as we begin the New Year, I am reminded how very fortunate the Historical Society is for the many, many volunteers who make us so successful. The officers and Board Trustees work hard to provide direction and focused leadership. We have a dedicated, professional, and experienced staff who treasure the legacy of the Society and the unique historical treasures the community represents. Above all, the Society benefits from the hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours donated by our members to fulfilling our mission: “to preserve, share and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area.”

Have an historic year, everyone.

Mark L. Johnson

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Find us on Facebook

Special Collections Center
Bradley University Library
Bradley Avenue at Glenwood
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Phone: 309.717.2822

John C. Flanagan House Museum
942 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603
Phone: 309.674.1921

Pettengill-Morron House Museum
1212 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, IL 61606
Phone: 309.674.1921

Tours by appointment.
Cost: Adults $10, Children 12 and under $3.
$20 minimum for tours

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PNC BANK
Killion’s Corner:
by Bob Killion, Curator of Collections and Technology

PHS maintains many fantastic items, only a small sample of which are on display at the historic houses or our office. A tremendous amount of great material has been carefully stored away, their existence locked away in paper records, waiting years to be “rediscovered.”

One such object recently came to light while we were looking for items for the Veterans Day display at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Looking through a collection of WWII service flags I had previously unpacked and shelved, I came across a flag that had been carefully packed away in 1968. The object ID number was 1968.69.1, indicating it was donated in 1968, as the 69th accession for the year, and the first item in the accession. With this information, I was able to quickly locate the description in our database: “Election flag of 1844: Clay & Frelinghuysen. Printed design, blue field; contains 26 stars circling figure of Henry Clay,” along with measurements, a condition report, and the name of donor Edward E. Keas.

With a world of resources at our fingertips, research is much easier now than in the past. I established the item was an extremely rare political flag from the Whig party presidential platform in 1844. This was the great statesman Henry Clay’s (Lawyer, Senator, Representative, Secretary of State) third and last run at the Presidency. His running mate Theodore Frelinghuysen also had a long and diverse career, as an attorney, US Senator, Mayor of Newark, Chancellor of New York University and President of Rutgers College.

During this historical election, the Democrats had failed to nominate both incumbent President John Tyler, and former president Martin Van Buren as expected, instead choosing James Polk as their candidate. Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith ran as a third candidate. The primary contention between the parties was the annexation of the Republic of Texas and the addition of the Oregon territory as a state. Polk ran on a strong westward expansion theme, while Clay spoke against expansion and instead ran on the establishment of a national currency and protection of American industry and agriculture through tariffs. The political cartoons were vicious and in the end the popular vote was very close. Polk won by only 38,181 votes, but he gathered 170 electoral votes to Clay’s 105, thus winning the presidency. The Peoria Historical Society is proud to be entrusted with this unique political artifact.

The Splendor of Christmas Past

Over five hundred people joined PHS for our annual holiday walk. We would like to thank all our supporters who make us part of your holiday tradition, as well as the numerous volunteers and entertainers who bring enthusiasm and life into our programs. We would like to offer a special thanks to our sponsor UnityPoint Health and to this year’s homeowners:

Brian and Maureen Buralli
David and Susan Keene
Bill Ordaz and Tim Herold
Historical
Happenings
by Kathy Dallinger
Pettengill-Morrton House Chair

In early December, we celebrated the wonder and magic of the holiday season by "Celebrating a Traditional Christmas" at the Pettengill-Morrton Historical House Museum. A special "thank you" to the ladies of the Peoria Garden Club for their expertise and dedication as they and our P-M volunteers decorated the house in holiday finery. Santa enjoyed visiting with everyone (and especially the children!) during the tours.

Highlighting this year's Holiday Home Tour was an exhibit of thirty-five copies of the Rolan Johnson Christmas Card collection. In 1952, Mr. Johnson designed and printed one of his earliest Christmas cards for the President of the Block & Kuhl, capturing a scene synonymous with Christmas shopping in downtown Peoria in the middle of the 20th century.

Every year for the remainder of the 20th century, Mr. Johnson designed, printed and distributed some of the most remarkable, brilliantly colored Christmas cards ever seen. He was the recipient of hundreds of awards for his work. The cards were shown during this year's tour as a tribute to the gentleman who gave them away to thousands of people over many years. Copies of the 1967 card are still available for purchase by calling the PHS office (309-674-1921).

A word of thanks to several organizations and individuals who continued to work with and support our P-M docents and volunteers in 2014: Home Depot, Peoria Garden Club, Advanced Medical Transport, Catering Peoria, P&W Builders, Simantel, UFS, Good Earth Landscaping, The Hayloft Village Shops, Kay Lee, Sheridan Road Lumber, PCCEO Construction Class, Bradley SERVE and FELLOWS Students, the Moss Bradley Neighborhood Association and many, many PHS members. We look forward to continuing these and forming additional relationships in 2015.

Join us in the spring as the Peoria Historical Society commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. Events and tours at P-M will focus on Peoria's role in the history of the Underground Railroad by telling the story of Moses and Lucy Pettengill. A respected businessman and civic leader with a reputation for honor and integrity, Moses was an ardent foe of slavery. Risking his life and livelihood, Moses became a conductor of the Underground Railroad System, hiding, feeding and protecting slaves in his Peoria home located on Jefferson Street. He and Lucy worked with many conductors on both sides of the Illinois River, delivering freedom-seeking fugitives to other Underground Railroad stations further north.

We look forward to your visits in 2015 as we share the history and spirit of the P-M House and those who called it home. Why not join us as a volunteer and get in on what's happening at the house!
Civil War Reading List

The Peoria Historical Society has created a book list in honor of the 150th anniversary of the close of the Civil War. We hope you will take some time this year to study and reflect upon one of our country’s most defining conflicts.


The definitive book of Peoria history during the Civil War era. Doris Kearns Goodwin stated, “Lewis Lehrman’s brilliant and elegant work dramatizes Lincoln’s anti-slavery campaign – forever giving his great Peoria speech of 1854 its honored position in Lincoln literature.” This book provides a fundamental review of the causes of the Civil War, examining both the issues of state’s rights as well as slavery. It provides a critical assessment of the political ambitions of Illinois State Senator Stephen Douglas, a contributing factor driving the antagonism between southern and northern politicians.

*Rise to Greatness – Abraham Lincoln and America’s Most Perilous Year* by David von Drehle, Henry Holt & Co., 2012

This book details month by month Lincoln’s most critical year as the leader of our country. As stated by James M. McPherson, “Rise to Greatness” is a terrific rise packed with fascinating facts that add color to a powerful depiction of the Civil War’s second year. The narrative is driven by Lincoln’s movement toward freedom for the slaves and his growing disenchantment with General McClellan, climaxied by the general’s removal from command and the president’s issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

*Illinois in the Civil War* by Victor Hicken, University of Illinois Press, 1966

Originally published in 1966, a second, paperback edition was printed in 1991 including a new preface, twenty-four illustrations, and a twenty-five-page addendum to the bibliography that provided many new sources of information on Illinois regiments. This book brings the experience of the Civil War from the men from Illinois into a personal manner “by extensive use of soldiers’ diaries, reminiscences, private correspondence, and numerous regimental histories, succeeded in re-creating the raw emotions of the people of Illinois in the crisis of the republic.” Warren W. Hassle, Jr., *American Historical Review.*

*APRIL 1865 – The Month that Saved America* by Jay Winik, Harper Collins/Perennial, 2001


If you would like to recommend a Civil War book to other PHS members during 2015, please send the title and a short description to editor Jennifer Martin @ jcmartin1018@yahoo.com

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Trolley Season Concludes

The Historical Society concluded another very successful summer season of trolley tours. Together with our partner, City Link, we conducted a total of eighty-four tours June through October. Over 1,000 people took advantage of the six tours offered throughout the season.

The two most popular tours this season were our “Springdale Cemetery Tour” and the new “Roll Out the Barrel Tour.” The latter tour provides a unique insight into the history of the brewing and distilling industry in Peoria.

We had fifteen certified guides this season, including four newly certified guides. New tour guides are always appreciated, so if you have a passion for history or a flair for storytelling, please join our team in 2015 by contacting Executive Director, Walter Ruppman at (309) 674-1921. Training is provided.

The Trolley Tours represent a great outreach to the community for the Historical Society. Your continued support of this program is very much appreciated.

Illinois Confederation of Native Americans Quiz

The Historical Society’s fourth quarter program was presented by Starved Rock historian Mark Walczynski. Test your knowledge of the original inhabitants of the Illinois River Valley and the Lake Pimiteoui area.

1. Which of the following was not one of the six primary sub-tribes of the Illinois Confederation?
   a) Cahokia  b) Tamaroa, c) Peoria  d) Moingwena e) Winnebago  f) Kaskaskia.

2. The first European to document his encounter with the Illinois Indians was the Jesuit missionary Father Claude-Jean Allouez. At which mission location did this occur?

3. How many people are estimated to belong to the Illinois Confederation in the 17th century?
   a) 3,000 to 4,000  b) 5,000 to 6,000  c) 7,000 to 8,000  d) 9,000 to 10,000  e) 11,000 to 12,000

4. When LaSalle and de Tonti arrived at Lake Pimiteoui in January 1680, they encountered a large winter camp and reported visiting which two chiefs?
   a) Black Partridge  b) Waubonsee  c) Nicanape  d) Gomo  e) Omoahoha

5. In what state is the current tribal headquarters of the Illinois Confederation of Native Americans today?
   a) Kansas  b) Oklahoma  c) Arizona  d) Utah  e) Nebraska

(answers on the bottom of pg. 7)
Flanagan A/C Project Moves Forward

The Peoria Historical Society would like to thank our members for their generous support of our 2014 capital fundraising project. A total of $11,095 was received for the Flanagan House A/C Project.

John Haverhals, the Historic Homes Committee Chairperson, solicited and received three bids from contractors for the A/C installation, and Marianne Moll, former Board Trustee and Chairperson of the Board’s Grant Committee, prepared and submitted a grant application for $10,000 to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in December 2014. If the full amount of the grant application is approved, sufficient funds would be available to complete the project in 2015. We anticipate word from the national DAR organization about the grant request by June 1st of this year.

Flanagan House serves as the headquarters of the Peoria Chapter of the DAR, and the Chapter has a dedicated library space on the second floor for its historical documents and artifacts. The Peoria Historical Society is pleased to have DAR Peoria Chapter Regent Susan Bock as a standing member of the PHS Board of Trustees. The organization owes a special expression of thanks and appreciation to John, Marianne, and Susan for working diligently to move this project forward.

DAR Honors Pettengill, Morron

The Peoria Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution honored Lucy Pettengill and Jean McLean Morron with Women in American History certificates during their September meeting, held at Pettengill-Moron House. The DAR Women in American History Award is given to honor living or deceased women who were innovators and who contributed to their community through intellectual, educational, social, religious, political, scientific, or cultural endeavors. Susan Bock, Peoria Chapter DAR Regent, presented the framed certificates to Kathy Dallinger, Pettengill-Moron House Chair, and volunteers Lori Powley and Lisa Kerr Bisbee. (pictured above)

Moss Avenue Sale at P-M House

As you’re putting away those holiday decorations, perhaps you have a box full of things you haven’t used the past few years. Please consider donating them to the Historical Society for the yard sale conducted during the annual Moss Avenue sale at the Pettengill-Moron House in June. The sale has become an opportunity for Historical Society members to clean out their attics, basements, and closets. We’ll accept good quality, clean merchandise for the sale, with the exception of clothing and electronic items. Please feel free to drop off your merchandise at the Pettengill-Moron House any Tuesday morning between 11 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. between now and June 1st. A donation slip will be available so you may claim your donation as a deductible for income tax purposes.

Quiz answers: 1. e) Winnebago, 2. c) Chequamegon Bay, 3. d) 9,000-10,000 people, 4. c) Nicanape and e) Omoahoha, 5. b) Oklahoma

The remnants of the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Piankeshaw and Wea sub-tribes united into a single confederation named the "Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma in 1854. Their tribal headquarters is located in Miami, Oklahoma."
Civil War re-enactors Richard Coggins and Kay Saunders greet guests on the steps of Flanagan House during the 2014 Splendor of Christmas Past tour.