



# TIMELINE 2013

Peoria Historical Society Newsletter | September-October | Volume 19, Issue 5



## De Tonti Tickets Now Available

Please join the Peoria Historical Society for our 2013 annual Henri de Tonti Celebration dinner Saturday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the ballroom of the newly remodeled Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette.

This year's honoree and recipient of the Henri de Tonti Award for Outstanding Principled Community Leadership is State Senator Dave Koehler. Joining us in honoring Senator Koehler are Illinois Senate President John Cullerton and State Representative Jehan Gordon.

Tickets are \$150 each and include dinner and entertainment. A cash bar will be available. Entertainment will be provided by John Miller and the Romaniacs.

Reservations will be accepted

through Friday, September 13th and may be purchased by calling the PHS office at 309-674-1921 or online through the Peoria Historical Society website [www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org).

Don't miss this opportunity to honor one of our community's finest leaders and show your support for the Peoria Historical Society as we continue our mission to preserve the proud history of the Peoria area.

The Peoria Historical Society, in collaboration with the Institute for Principled Leadership at Bradley University, would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the Henri de Tonti Celebration:

**WTVP**

**CIPB**

**The Peorian**

## Interested in Becoming a de Tonti Sponsor?

Individual and corporate sponsorships for the Henri de Tonti Celebration are available at the following levels:

**Gold: \$5000**

**Silver: \$3000**

**Bronze: \$1500**

Each sponsorship includes a table for ten, an advertisement in the event brochure, and public recognition during the event.

For more information on sponsoring the event, please contact PHS President Mark Johnson at 309-264-3158, the society office at 309-674-1921, or visit the Peoria Historical Society website and click on the "Henri de Tonti Celebration" link.

# From The President

I am writing this in late July, but I'm hoping that I'll see many of you Thursday, August 15th at the PHS Summer Membership Social Event on the *Spirit of Peoria* Riverboat for a cruise on the Illinois River. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with author Ken Zurski and discuss his book about the riverboat *Columbia* sinking and the end of the paddle-wheeler era on the Illinois River.

Our fourth quarter Membership meeting will also be a very special event. Pastor Randy Saxon will present "The Diamond is in the Details: History at its Best." Many PHS members know that Pastor Saxon is an outstanding local historian specializing in the Civil War. He represents the Peoria area as a Director on the Board of the Illinois State Historical Society. Please plan to join us at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the McKenzie Room of the North Branch of the Peoria Public Library.

The Board of Trustees is hard at work finalizing the details of the Henri de Tonti Celebration, planned for Saturday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the ballroom of the newly renovated Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel. This event is our organization's major fundraiser, and I hope many of you will support the Peoria Historical Society by attending. Half of each ticket price, or \$75, benefits PHS. This year the de Tonti Award for **Outstanding Principled Community Leadership** will be presented to State Senator Dave Koehler. We are very pleased that the President of the Illinois State Senate, the Honorable John Cullerton, will attend the Celebration to honor Senator Koehler. You may register for the Celebration through the PHS website.

Our organization exists and grows due to the many, many volunteers dedicated to preserving our history and educating the community about our unique legacy. There is no doubt that PHS volunteers devote thousands of hours each year to our mission and for each of their efforts, I am extremely grateful. I am asking each of you today to consider volunteering with the Peoria Historical Society to further grow the organization and develop a dynamic, new focus on the marvelous history of our area.

One of our most successful outreach programs is our summer Trolley Tours. We are in need of volunteers to lead our tours, as well as a coordinator to work with Executive Director Walter Ruppman training tour guides and implementing the schedule.

Another volunteer opportunity exists at both of the historic homes. These homes each have large yards and gardens. Are you an avid gardener who's looking for a new opportunity to implement your ideas? We could use a "Grounds and Landscape Coordinator" to develop and work on a beautification program at the houses. Want a less daunting opportunity to help? We could also use people to just "patrol" the grounds of both houses once a week to pick up sticks and debris that have blown down during storms.

There are always opportunities for volunteers to assist with cataloging artifacts in the PHS collection. While Bob Killion, the PHS Curator, has worked diligently documenting our artifacts into a new and modern computerized catalog system, there are still many, many files and boxes of items that must be examined and recorded. While Bob usually has several interns assisting with this process, your help with even a few hours a week would be greatly appreciated.

If any of these volunteer opportunities sound interesting, please call Executive Director Walter Ruppman at 674-1921 to discuss further. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon at a PHS event.

Sincerely, Mark Johnson

## Peoria Historical Society

611 SW Washington Street  
Peoria, IL 61602

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday—Friday  
Phone: 309.674.1921 Fax: 309.674.1882  
adminphs@peoriahistoricalsociety.org  
www.PeoriaHistoricalSociety.org  
Find us on Facebook

## Special Collections Center

Bradley University Library  
Bradley Avenue at Glenwood

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Phone: 309.677.282

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Curator of Collections, Technology

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## John C. Flanagan House Museum

942 NE Glen Oak Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61603  
Phone: 309.674.1921

## Pettengill-Morrison House Museum

1212 W. Moss Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61606  
Phone: 309.674.1921

Tours by appointment.

Cost: Adults \$7, Children 12 and under \$3.  
\$20 minimum for tours



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*The*  
**WORLD**  
*-of-*  
**DOWNTON**  
**ABBEY**  
*with author*  
Jessica Fellowes

SATURDAY,  
SEPT. 28

4:00 P.M.

Doors open at 3:30  
for refreshments

PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MAIN LIBRARY: AUDITORIUM



## Peoria Public Library to Host *Downton Abbey* Author

The Friends of the Peoria Public Library are pleased to present an afternoon with Jessica Fellowes, #1 bestselling author of *The World of Downton Abbey* and *The Chronicles of Downton Abbey* Saturday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m.

A journalist and former deputy editor of *Country Life*, Ms. Fellowes will discuss not only the plot and characters of the Emmy-award winning PBS series, but also the socio-historic context of the show and how *Downton Abbey* parallels life today.

The event will be hosted at the Peoria Public Library Main Branch Auditorium, 107 North-east Monroe. Three ticket tiers available. The \$20 *Downstairs* ticket includes a 2014 Friends membership and seating for one. The *Upstairs* package for one includes a 2014 Friends membership, a copy of Ms. Fellowes'

book *The World of Downton Abbey*, and premium seating for \$50. The *Upstairs* package for two includes the Friends membership, the book, and two premium seats for \$75. Doors open for refreshments at 3:30 p.m.

Reserve your tickets today by calling 309-497-2137 or emailing programming-dept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us.

Checks payable to the Friends of the Peoria Public Library may be mailed to: Downton Abbey Tickets c/o PPL Programming, 107 NE Monroe, Peoria, IL 61602.

Don't miss this opportunity for an exclusive glimpse behind the scenes of one of today's most popular historic dramas.

## Flanagan House Celebrates the Women of WWII

Join us at Flanagan House Museum this Fall for an exciting new exhibit honoring the ladies who served our country during the Second World War. "The Women of WWII" will open for the first Sunday open house begin-

ning September 1st and will continue through November. The exhibit features photographs, uniforms, and other military and civilian service memorabilia.

Flanagan House Museum is located at 942 NE Glen Oak Avenue. The Museum is open the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 5-12.

## We Want to Share Your Stories!

Do you have a mother, grandmother, sister, or friend who served in the military? Were you or a loved one among the ranks of women working in the factories at home to support the war effort? We would love to share your stories or photographs and honor these remarkable women as part of our exhibit. Please contact the Peoria Historical Society office at 309-674-1921 or Linda Herron at 309-274-6792 for more details.



## Help Preserve the History of Crime Mural

A Peoria art treasure remains endangered as Peoria Historical Society staff and volunteers search for the means to preserve and relocate the 40-foot long *History of Crime* mural presently housed in the former Grand Central Insurance building located at Sheridan and War Memorial.

The work of artist and former Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Bradley, Dr. Harry E. Wood, the colorful mural was discovered beneath wallpaper during recent renovations and depicts images of victims and criminals spanning human history. While a fascinating piece of local art history, the mural does not fit the vision of current owner, First Federated Church of Peoria.

Peoria Historical Society curator Bob Killion has estimated the cost to remove the canvas murals at \$50,000. If you are interested in the preservation of the *History of Crime* mural, please contact the Peoria Historical Society office at 309-674-1921.

## Civil War Scholar to Speak at 4th Quarter Meeting



The Peoria Historical Society will welcome Pastor Randy Saxon as guest speaker for our Fourth Quarter meeting, Thursday, October 6th, at 6:00 p.m. in the McKenzie Room of the Peoria Public Library's North Branch.

Dr. Saxon is a well-known Lincoln and Civil War scholar and Co-Pastor of United Presbyterian Church in Peoria. An author and recipient of numerous distinguished awards, his presentation, "The Diamond is in the Details: History at its Best," will discuss the importance of creating and cataloging the best record of people, places, and events. This interactive session will also describe methods for gathering

information through a variety of formats including obituaries, oral histories, and provenance.

Whether you are interested in furthering your knowledge of history or preparing a familial legacy, we hope you will join us for this educational discussion.

## Historic Home Repairs Continue

Maintenance efforts continue at both Flanagan and Pettengill-Morrison House. A large hole in the front porch soffit was repaired and Trusted Gutters installed new gutters with downspouts on the front porch and carport at Pettengill-Morrison House. Bids have also been received from four contractors in order to apply for a grant to upgrade the electrical system at Flanagan House, and potentially allow for installation of air conditioning.

Funds received from the Conservation Assessment Program allowed PHS to bring two assessors to Peoria in August to evaluate both the collection and the historic homes and provide recommendations for continued preservation of the artifacts and structures.

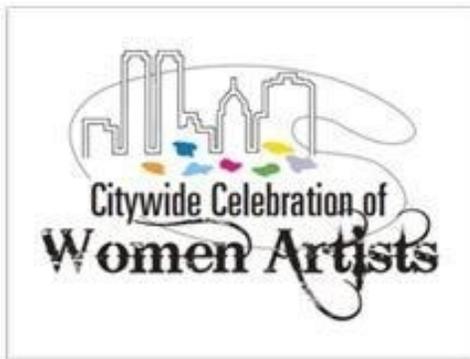


## Miss Morron's World Travels Extended!

The Pettengill-Morron House Museum is pleased to announce "Miss Morron's World Travels" will continue for the first Sunday open houses September 1, October 6, and November 3.

Don't miss this opportunity to view the rare and wonderful artifacts Miss Morron collected as she toured the globe. Many of these treasures remained hidden in suitcases, still packed from Jean Morron's voyages, until recently discovered by our staff and volunteers.

The Pettengill-Morron House is open the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 12 and under.



## Peoria Celebrates Female Artists

Celebrate Peoria's artistic diversity October 15—November 15 with the Citywide Celebration of Women Artists, a tour showcasing the work of Peoria's female artists and those they inspire.

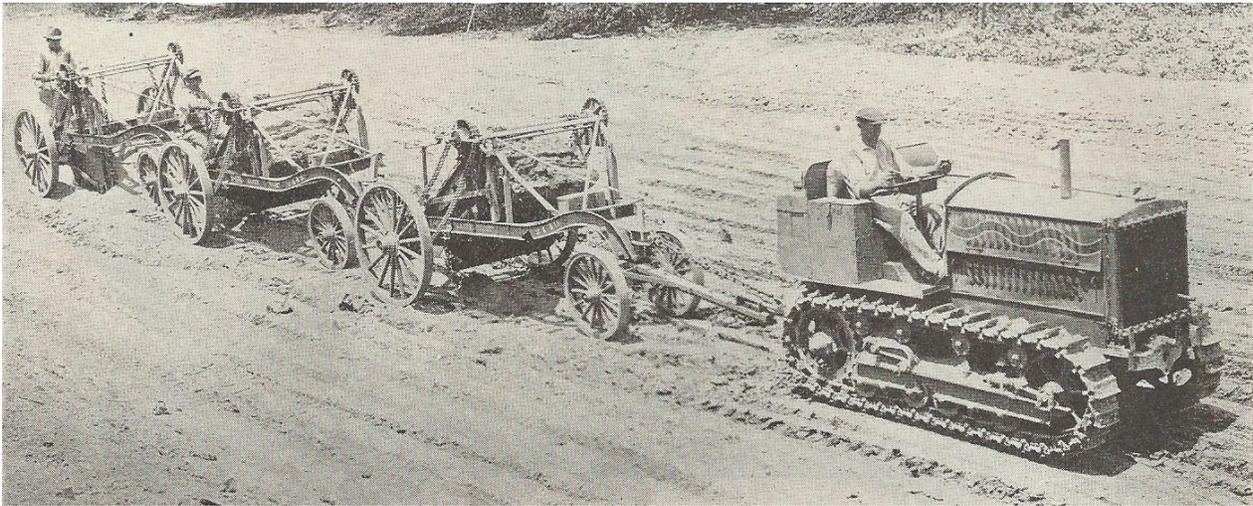
Twenty-one galleries, studios, and organizations are preparing seventeen venues for this dynamic exploration of art in a myriad of forms. Featured selections will include vintage and contemporary paintings, pottery, dolls, sculpture, stained glass,

and more from a host of national and local artists, authors, and students.

The dates and times of individual exhibits will vary by date and location. Participating community partners include: Bradley University's Heuser and Hartmann Galleries, CIAO

at the Prairie Center of the Arts, the Contemporary Art Center, Exhibit A Gallery, Gallery Romain, Jefferson Street Studio and Gallery, Pearce Gallery, Peoria Art Guild, Illinois Art League at the Peoria Heights Library, Peoria Library/Peoria Historical Society, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria Women's Club, Picture This Gallery, Prairie Fiber Arts Guild at Fiber Universe, Studios on Sheridan, Studio 825

For more information, or to view the Celebration map, visit the Citywide Celebration of Women Artists page on Facebook or [www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org).



## Vintage Caterpillar Ads on Display

The Peoria Public Library will be hosting an exhibit of antique magazine advertisements from Caterpillar Inc. and its predecessor companies during the month of September. Entitled "The Art of the Sell," the 100-ad exhibit is part of a rotating collection that will be displayed each September for the next four years.

The magazine ads are from the collection of current PHS President, Mark Johnson. Mark retired from Caterpillar Inc. in 2009 after a 37 year career. He worked on various assignments in both Engineering and Marketing Departments and completed his career as the Manager for the Caterpillar Visitor Center project in Corporate Public Affairs. He began collecting Caterpillar magazine ads in 1996 and the collection now includes over 500 individual ads.

"The collection includes ads from 1915 thru 1980," he stated. "We'll move forward thru the years with the exhibit next year focused on ads from 1931 thru 1945." This year includes ads from not only Caterpillar Tractor Company, but also the predecessor companies, Holt Manufacturing, C. L. Best Gas Traction Company and the C. L. Best Tractor Company.

"I know that many members of the Historical Society are collectors, and share my passion for the challenge of historical investigation and learning through their collections. I think every member of the Historical Society will find this exhibit very interesting," explained Mark. "These very early ads not only focus on introducing a new machine (the track-type tractor) to the general public, but also focus on how these new machines were being put to use by customers across the world. The ads also demonstrate how the focus on engineering innovation, high quality

and very flexible products, and an understanding of customer requirements created a lasting legacy for the company. From a historical perspective, these ads provide insight into the transformation of the American society to a mechanized and industrial economical powerhouse."

The exhibit will be displayed at the Peoria Public Library's Main Branch in the Lower Level Gallery 1, September 5th through the 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. A public reception will be held on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the library. The Peoria Historical Society, along with Exhibit A Gallery and Simantel, are sponsors of the exhibit.

For more information, please contact the Peoria Historical Society at 309-674-1921 or the Peoria Public Library at 309-497-2000.



## Latin Rhythms on the River

Almost 200 people joined the Peoria Historical Society for their 3rd Quarter Membership Meeting on August 15th onboard the *Spirit of Peoria*. Attendees were treated to an unforgettable summer evening on the Illinois River as they listened to the Latin flavor of the *Brazillionaires* while enjoying drinks and a cold deli buffet.

Ken Zurski, author of *The Wreck of the Columbia*, was on-hand to sign books and gave a 20 minute lecture, providing a fascinating look at what happened the fateful night of July 5, 1918 and the aftermath of the wreck.

The Peoria Historical Society would like to thank all those who attended and were involved in the planning for making the evening such a success.



Author Ken Zurski (l) and PHS President Mark Johnson (r) enjoy the sights on *Spirit of Peoria* cruise.

## Book Club News

The Peoria Historical Society Book Club continued its exploration of local history this summer with two fantastic selections.

The first was David Von Drehle's *Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year*. This fascinating read describes the events of 1862, when the United States appeared on the brink of dissolution and describes how Lincoln's leadership pulled the Union from the edge of defeat.

The selection for the upcoming September 18th meeting is Ken Zurski's *The Wreck of the Columbia: A Broken Boat, A Town's Sorrow, & the End of the Steamboat Era on the Illinois River*. We are excited to announce Mr. Zurski plans to attend. Join us for an opportunity to meet the author and gain deeper insight into the tragedy that changed the face of Illinois River transportation forever. This is a fantastic opportunity for those who were unable to attend Mr. Zurski's lecture on the *Spirit of Peoria* Cruise.

The Peoria Historical Society Book Club is facilitated by PHS President Mark Johnson and Vice-President Deborah Dougherty. The book club meets from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Lakeview Branch of the Peoria Public Library, 1137 West Lake Avenue.

The Newsletter of the  
Peoria Historical Society

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Peoria, Illinois

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"The Women of WWII" opens September 1st at Flanagan House.

# TIMELINE

