



TIMELINE 2015

Peoria Historical Society Newsletter | November—December | Volume 21, Issue 6

“to preserve, share and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area”



The Splendor of Christmas Past

Ring in the holidays with the Peoria Historical Society's annual historic home tour. Enjoy the craftsmanship and ambiance of six historic homes while seeing them magically decorated for the holidays. New this year are three homes in the Randolph-Roanoke Historic District.

Our two museum homes -- the John C. Flanagan House Museum and the Pettengill-Morrison House Museum -- will be decked out in all their Christmas finery. Santa Claus will make an appearance at the Flanagan House, so bring your cameras! The four private residences will be exquisitely decorated and open for viewing. Don't miss this rare opportunity to tour these beautiful homes and learn about their unique history and architectural significance.

The homes will be open Saturday, December 5 from 5:00-

9:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale November 1st. Adult tickets are \$15.00 each until December 3rd and \$20.00 after. Children 12 and under are free with the purchase of an adult ticket.

For more information on volunteering, or to purchase tickets, please contact the PHS office. Tickets may also be purchased at Kelleher's, Harp & Thistle and Gregg Florist.

This tour would not be possible without the willingness of the following homeowners to share their magnificent homes with the community:

Dr. George & Colleen Johnson
1609 West Moss Avenue

David Stotz & George Traylor
209 W. Columbia Terrace

Todd & Karla Dennhardt
311 W. Armstrong

Ballance-Herschel Home
(Home of the Junior League of Peoria)
256 N.E. Randolph

We would also like to thank the many, many volunteers who make this tour possible, and our sponsors -- Good Earth Landscaping DCM, Inc., Medi-Weightloss Clinic, Maloof Realty and K & S RV Consulting -- for each sponsoring a home. Opportunities for sponsorships are still available and will be promoted throughout the tour. Please contact the Peoria Historical Society if you would like to volunteer for the tour or to become a sponsor. Volunteers are treated to a very special "speed tour" of all six homes prior to the event. This "sneak peek" at all six homes is our way of saying thank you. Special thanks go to Beth Johnson (volunteer and Trolley Tour Coordinator) and Suzie Adcock (PHS Trustee and Secretary) for serving as co-chairs of the Holiday Home Tour, which takes countless hours of planning and coordination.

Happy holidays!

“The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.” Winston S. Churchill

From the President

Did you know that for the last three years the trustees and staff of the Peoria Historical Society have met in February for a day-long strategic planning session? Graciously hosted at the state-of-the-art Advanced Medical Transport headquarters on Sterling Avenue, the group identified strategic objectives to enable us to achieve our mission: to preserve, share and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area. We are fortunate that Sharon and John Amdall have generously donated their time each year to facilitate the strategic planning sessions, and the success of those meetings has largely been due to their commitment to our organization, and the energy and enthusiasm of the trustees and staff to the process. The key objectives identified for 2015 are outlined below:

1. Continue to input records of collection artifacts into the computer database.
2. Increase resources for historic home maintenance and preservation.
3. Develop and implement an overall Marketing plan.
4. Increase membership and membership revenue.
5. Share the PHS Mission, build membership and promote collaborative partnerships.

In each area, we have worked diligently to achieve each objective, and progress has been steady. In fact, one of our success stories – the installation of an air conditioning system at the John C. Flanagan Museum Home – addressed Strategic Objective #2: Increase resources for historic home maintenance and preservation. *Please see the complete article to learn more about this exciting development in the history of the Flanagan House.* Without the generous support of our donors – as well as the tremendously generous grant by The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) -- achieving this objective would not have been possible. In other exciting news, a long-time volunteer and PHS member, Barbara Meyn, who recently made it possible to acquire the Pettengill Family paintings, also stepped forward and made a significant donation to the Pettengill-Morrison House Capital Campaign to repair the damaged soffits, gutters and upper roof on the home. Again, without this generosity, we would not be able to preserve our historic homes and share our collections and stories with the public. Our objectives also included growing membership, and we are happy to report an increase each quarter over 2014.

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Special Collections Center

Bradley University Library
Bradley Avenue at Glenwood

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday
Phone: 309.677.2822

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 \$10, Children 12 and under \$3.
\$20 minimum for tours



Distribution of Timeline courtesy of:

PNC Bank

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Working closely with the Peoria Riverfront Museum on the transformation of *The Street* -- which will coincide with the opening of *American Spirits* in February, 2016 – we continue to have an integral role in the history of the Peoria area. To build membership and collaborative partnerships, we participated in a membership swap with the Peoria Zoo, Wildlife Prairie Park, and the Peoria Riverfront Museum last April, which enabled members from each organization to visit our museum homes and share in our mission. Board and staff are hard at work at many other endeavors, and we share only a few examples of how we’re keeping our eyes on our mission through the achievement of our core objectives. To all of those who help with this, we are truly grateful.

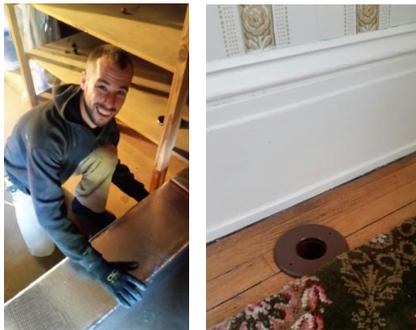
Deborah Dougherty, President

PM Capital Campaign update

In the last edition of the *Timeline*, we announced an urgent maintenance need at the Pettengill-Morrison Museum House and we introduced a Capital Campaign for soffit, gutter and upper roof repairs. We are very pleased to announce that our call was heard and \$11,000.00 has been raised to date. Wow! Talk about a community that cares about historic preservation and our mission to preserve, share and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and commitment to preserving our museum homes. Your support will assure that future generations will be able to visit these homes and learn about our rich history – a legacy our donors can be proud of.



Grimm Home Services employees Ryan Motteler, foreground, and Kent Plaehn work on A/C installation at Flanagan House



Installing ducts

other historical artifacts, which the air conditioning will help preserve for generations to come. One unit is located in the basement and a second is located in the attic; no duct work runs through the home, thereby maintaining the historical integrity of the structure.

The American Federalist style house is on the National Register of Historical Places and serves as headquarters for the Peoria Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR grants program was started in 2010. Funding is awarded to support projects in local communities which promote the organization’s mission areas of historic preservation, education and patriotism. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote patriotism, preserve American history, and support better education for our nation’s children.

The installation of the project – which cost nearly \$22,000.00 – was completed without interruption of the Society’s First Sunday open house on October 4th. The home – located at 942 NE Glen Oak Avenue – is open the first Sunday of the month from February through December. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 4 to 12.

It’s Cool To Be At The Flanagan House

After 178 years and the support of many donors – as well as a very generous grant from The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) – it’s finally going to be cool at the John C. Flanagan House Museum, the oldest standing home in Peoria.

The home sits on the east bluff and has a commanding view of the Illinois River, which is likely why Flanagan chose the building site in 1837. A high velocity air conditioning system has been installed by Grimm Heating and Air Conditioning, with little disruption to the home. The home holds a valuable collection of period furnishings, portraits, china, toys, antique tools and textiles, and



Faces of the 77th (l to r): Charles H. Arms, Francis Ward Griswold, Silas Norris, and John Scoon

A Brief History of the Illinois 77th Volunteer Regiment

by Mark L. Johnson

As the Historical Society continues a focus during 2015 on the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, the Timeline is presenting a condensed history of the Illinois 77th Volunteer Infantry Regiment which was comprised of volunteers primarily from Peoria County.

Part Four – A Disaster along the Red River

On July 4, 1863, the men from Peoria County in the Illinois 77th Infantry Regiment celebrated in forcing the surrender of the Confederate forces at Vicksburg, Mississippi. They may be forgiven if they did not understand the full significance of this Union victory. Coupled with the Union victory at Gettysburg which occurred at the same time, President Lincoln received a tremendous boost with his supporters in the northern population. The victory at Vicksburg also opened up the productivity of the factories and farms of the upper

Midwest to supply the Union armies on the east coast. Perhaps, most importantly, Lincoln had finally found a general who understood how to defeat the rebels, amazingly a rough and tough fighter from his home state of Illinois. Although disdained by the Eastern, politically connected generals who had directed the Union efforts during the first half of the war, General Grant had gained Lincoln's confidence and would eventually lead the Union forces to victory after two additional years of horrific fighting.

General Grant was eager to seize upon the victory at Vicksburg to drive Confederate General Joe Johnston and his rebel army from the state of Mississippi. And so after only a day of celebration, on July 5, the Illinois 77th began a march to the east toward Jackson. From July 11th thru the 16th, Grant's army engaged the rebels around Jackson until, on the morning of July 17th, they discovered that the Confederate forces had retreated during the night. On July 20th, the regiment went to work about fifteen miles south of Jackson destroying a section of railroad line. About two or three miles of

rails were placed atop stacked ties which were then set on fire. Heated by the fire, the rails began to bend and were then twisted around trees to render them useless. Such rails were known throughout the south as "Sherman neckties."

After returning to Vicksburg for a well-earned rest, the Illinois 77th found they had been attached to the Department of the Gulf, under the leadership of Major General Nathaniel P. Banks. Unfortunately, the Department of the Gulf did not have a clear objective, General Banks was more of a politician than a soldier, and as a result, the troops wandered somewhat aimlessly in Louisiana and Texas. On August 25th, the Illinois 77th boarded the troop transport Atlantic and sailed down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. After the troops were reviewed by both General Banks and General Grant, they boarded rail cars and were transported about 80 miles to the west. By October 8th they had reached Franklin in the great sugar-producing district of Louisiana where they stayed for about a month. Col. Grier, the
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commanding officer of the 77th, had been home on furlough. He returned to the regiment, bringing with him a new stand of colors presented by the Women's Aid Society of Peoria to replace the colors that had been lost at Vicksburg.

By December 17, 1863, the men from Illinois had returned to the banks of the Mississippi where they boarded the steamship De Molay, headed out into the Gulf of Mexico and turned west toward Texas. They eventually landed in the vicinity of Matagorda Bay where they would celebrate Christmas by going swimming in the Gulf of Mexico.

After almost two months of inactivity at their camp along the Texas coast, the Illinois 77th finally received orders, and departed on February 22nd, again on a steamship headed back to the Mississippi River. They would now become a part of an ill-fated Red River campaign. General Banks marched his troops north through Louisiana toward Shreveport. Union strategists in Washington thought that the control of the Red River would separate Texas from the rest of the Confederacy. Texas was the source of much needed guns, food and supplies for the Confederate troops. Cutting off this supply was certainly a strategic objective.

General Banks' Union forces numbered approximately 30,000 troops. The Confederate forces under the command of Lieutenant General Richard Taylor varied from 6,000 to 15,000 men. The campaign

began promisingly for the Union forces. But on the 8th of April, the Illinois 77th was near the head of a very long column of Union forces, spread out over 15 to 20 miles, near Mansfield, Louisiana when the column was attacked by rebel soldiers. In the ensuing battle, the wagons of the main supply train blocked the single road that the Union forces had advanced upon, thereby preventing Union reinforcements to the head of the column under attack. In all, the Illinois 77th lost 9 men killed, 17 wounded, 2 missing and 143 taken prisoner. Among those nine killed during the conflict was Lieutenant Colonel Lysander R. Webb. There were only 130 men left in the Illinois 77th who were able to avoid being taken prisoner. The members of the regiment, along with others felt terribly toward General Banks after this experience. They gradually retreated back toward New Orleans during April and May, although the Confederate forces chased them and harassed them with occasional skirmishes along the way. The disaster of the Red River campaign would ultimately result in a congressional investigation and the official censure of General Banks.

Still reeling from the fiasco of the Red River campaign, the men of the Illinois 77th were now directed to Alabama in an effort to seize the Confederate forts that guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay.

In the next edition of the Timeline, the final concluding story of the Illinois 77th during the Civil War, Guardians Along the Gulf.

2nd Annual Bequest Society Reception – November 8th

Last year, the Historical Society launched the Charles Ballance Bequest Society to recognize and honor those individuals, families, and organizations which have either provided for the Society's Endowment Fund in their estate planning or who have provided the Endowment Fund with a minimum current gift. By doing so, the legacy of those dollars will have a lasting effect on the community we cherish and call home. We will once again recognize Bequest Society members at a reception on Sunday, November 8th at the home of Walter and Joan Ruppman, as well as provide an opportunity for individuals to learn more about the Society.

A wonderful afternoon of desserts and wine will be followed by a private tour of this beautifully restored Victorian residence. If you haven't done so already, please consider joining the Bequest Society so that you, too, can be included in this year's event. If you would like more information about the Bequest Society and a membership form, please contact Walter Ruppman at the Peoria Historical Society office at 674-1921. If you have included the Historical Society in your estate planning and would like to be recognized at this year's event, please let us know.



Barbara Meyn and Historical Society Curator, Bob Killion with Pettengill family paintings displayed at PHS annual meeting

Preservation of the Past

The Peoria Historical Society recently employed the services of Barry Bauman Conservation, who generously offers conservation services to museums and not-for-profit organizations for the cost of materials only. Bauman carefully restored three Pettengill Family paintings, recently acquired by the Society, as a result of the efforts of a PHS volunteer Barbara Meyn and Historical Society Curator Bob Killion.

While researching the history of Moses Pettengill, Ms. Meyn came upon the obituary for Laurence Cushing Hale. Laurence was the great-grandson of Moses Pettengill through his adopted son, Blanchard. This key information led to Daisy Hale, Laurence Hales' widow, residing in New Hampshire. In June, 2014, Ms. Meyn travelled with Bob Killion to the Hale home;

they were absolutely delighted with what they found. Daisy Hale decided to donate the historical items to the Peoria Historical Society. Unfortunately, Ms. Hale died a short time later, but not before the transfer was arranged. A second trip to New Hampshire resulted in the return of eight boxes full of Pettengill and other Peoria-related historical documents, including paintings of Moses, Hannah and Blanchard Pettengill; this trip was graciously underwritten by the generosity of Ms. Meyn. These paintings recently returned from Chicago after conservation work was completed by Barry Bauman Conservation. Smithsonian-level conservation is an extreme luxury for non-profits and smaller museums, with waiting lists for years. The Peoria Historical Society

would like to sincerely thank Barry Bauman of Barry Bauman Conservation for his time, talent and selflessness.

The portraits now hang in the Pettengill-Morrison House library. For the past several months, Ms. Meyn has continued to review and catalogue the related historical documents at Bradley's library.

Ms. Barbara Meyn received the Peoria Historical Society's Guardian Award for her deep commitment to the preservation of local history at the Society's annual meeting on May 7th, 2015. Preserving the past would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of our members. Thank you!



Members of the Junior League of Peoria who attended the Henri de Tonti award celebration pose with the award. The award is an original solid bronze casting sculpted in the image of Tonti by Peoria artist Lonnie Eugene Stewart



Colleen DiGiallonardo (past President of the Junior League of Peoria), Carol Scott (President elect of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.) and Abby Clark (President of the Junior League of Peoria) with the Henri de Tonti Award.

("above photos courtesy of Joe Couri Photography")

Historical Society Honors Jr. League with Henri de Tonti Award

The Peoria Historical Society hosted the fourth Henri de Tonti Award Celebration in the ballroom of the Peoria Civic Center on the evening of Saturday, September 27. The award honors the French explorer and fur trader, Henri de Tonti, who established the first French fur trading outpost along the western shores of Lake Pimiteoui in the vicinity of Detweiller Marina in the fall of 1691.

The recipient of the fourth Tonti Award for Outstanding Principled Community Leadership was the Junior League of Peoria. Previous recipients of the Tonti Award were Caterpillar Inc. in 2012, Illinois Senator Dave Koehler in 2013 and Ray LaHood in 2014. The Junior League has a 79-year history in Peoria of working to provide leadership training to their members. Junior League members can be found on the Boards of most non-profit organizations in Peoria.



Bernice Haverhals, Pat Kellogg, John Haverhals

The League has also developed over 70 projects in Peoria focused at improving the quality of life for members of the community. These projects include JULEP's Closet, originating the Race for the Cure in Peoria, donation of the sculpture Sonar Tide in the Civic Center plaza to the City, construction of both the Tri-Centennial Playground at Glen Oak Park and the Riverfront Playground adjacent to the Riverplex in downtown Peoria, initiation of the Family House in Peoria, restoration of the Ballance-Herschel house in the Randolph-Roanoke section of Peoria, initiation of the Sterling Merit Awards honoring high school seniors and most recently the development and construction of the Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum in Glen Oak Park.

Guest speakers at the Celebration



Linda Herron, Vikki Hibberd, Dana Baldwin

included Illinois State Senator Dave Koehler and Carol Scott, the President-elect of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. of Pasadena, California. Carol Scott is also currently serving on the Board of the National Women's Hall of Fame in New York. Abby Clark, the current President of the Junior League of Peoria, accepted the de Tonti Award on behalf of the organization. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Brian "Fox" Ellis who appeared as the Franciscan Recollect friar Father Zenobius Membre. Father Membre accompanied La Salle and de Tonti on their first expedition to Lake Pimiteoui in 1679 when they constructed Fort Creve Coeur. Musical entertainment was provided by the Peoria band, The Brazilionaires.



Preparing for the Holidays at the Pettengill-Morrison House Museum

On the 1st Sunday in November, Jean Morrison's vast collection of silver pieces and table linens will be on display. Imagine what her dining room table looked like during the holidays with so many lovely things!

Pettengill-Morrison House Museum tours are led by Society volunteers during special events or by appointment. Call the Society office Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 674-1921 to schedule a tour. Admission is \$10.00 for adults & \$3.00 for children ages 4-12. (Tour both homes for \$15.00). The home is open the first Sunday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Historical Quiz

If President Lincoln had not found General U.S. Grant to lead the Union armies, the Civil War might have had a significantly different outcome. Grant's victory over the Confederate forces at Vicksburg in the summer of 1863 allowed the President to ignore those in the North who were demanding a negotiated end of the war. Just how much do you know about the early years of this young man from Galena, Illinois, who went on to become the country's first full ranking general since George Washington and later became the 18th President of the United States?

True or False

- 1) His given name was Hiram Ulysses Grant. A Congressman who appointed him to West Point when he was 17 years old listed Grant's name on the registration form as Ulysses S. Grant and the name would stick with him for the rest of his life.
- 2) In 1843 he graduated from West Point ranked 1st in a class of 39 and was assigned to the Second Infantry at Jefferson Barracks in Virginia.
- 3) After serving with distinction in the Mexican War under Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott, Grant married Julia Dent in August 1848, when he returned to St. Louis.
- 4) Grant resigned from the Army in the summer of 1854. Three years later, penniless and with four children in his family, Grant moved from St. Louis to Galena, Illinois, to work in his father's leather and harness store.
- 5) After President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers at the start of the Civil War, Grant was appointed a colonel at the head of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Regiment.

(answers on page 9)

Flanagan House - Open House And A/C Succeed

Flanagan has been a busy, busy place during the past several weeks! The HVAC installation is nearly complete, and the clever way it has been done to be unobtrusive is a masterpiece to behold. Future tours to the attic and basement "tunnel" room may be given so visitors will gain an appreciation for how handily a very old masonry house can be attractively retrofitted for today's needs. Our appreciation goes to the installers -- Kent Plaehn and Ryan Motteler of Grimm Home Services – who have been very careful working around the home's furnishings and artifacts and are doing a superb job!

Tales of Tragedy and Mourning in the River City' was the theme for our very successful open house on Sunday, October 4th. In fact, it was so well received that the program and artifacts displays were repeated on Oct 11, and also offered throughout the balance of October by appointment.

The "Tales" are true stories from the old neighborhoods told by family members. Also featured was an exhibit of mourning customs and apparel of the Victorian age, post-mortem photography, and Judge Flanagan laid out in his best bib-and-tucker in his wood coffin in a recreation of his home funeral in 1891.

The home also featured an exhibit on the history of the old State Hospital at Bartonville. A touch of vintage Halloween was scattered throughout the house and the gift



Lynn Furness stars as the Judge's grieving sister

shop was loaded with inexpensive autumn and unique Halloween items, as well as Peoria books.

As always, if you are on Facebook, "like" and follow us to keep abreast of our events. For the upcoming holidays, we are in need of a couple of tall artificial Christmas trees in good condition. Please consider donating your old tree, as it will be put to good use at the Flanagan House. Thank you!

History Quiz Answers

(questions on previous page)

1. True. The Congressman did not know Grant's first name, but knew his middle name as well as his mother's maiden name of Simpson. He simply inserted the middle initial S. in the young man's name on the application form.
2. False. Grant was only an average student at West Point. While he excelled in mathematics and horsemanship (which carried no academic credit), he

Chris Lemmon, in Peoria for his one-man show at the Apollo, visited on Sept. 23 with PHS volunteers and members of the media, on the porch of the P-M house where his father, Jack Lemmon, married his mother Cynthia Stone.



graduated only 21st in the class of 39. Upon graduation he was assigned to the 4th Infantry at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis.

3. True. Julia Dent was the sister of Grant's roommate during his last year at West Point, Frederick Dent. They were engaged in May 1844 when Grant was ordered to depart for Louisiana because of imminent war with Mexico.
4. True. The store was run by two of his brothers, Orvil and Simpson.
5. True. Grant was appointed Colonel by the Gov. of Illinois, Richard Yates. A few months later, in July 1860 as the Union Army expanded, while stationed with his regiment at Mexico, Missouri, Grant learned that President Lincoln had promoted him to brigadier general. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Newsletter of the Peoria Historical Society

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The Illinois 77th Volunteer Regiment
from Peoria served under Ulysses S.
Grant during the siege of Vicksburg.

T I M E L I N E

