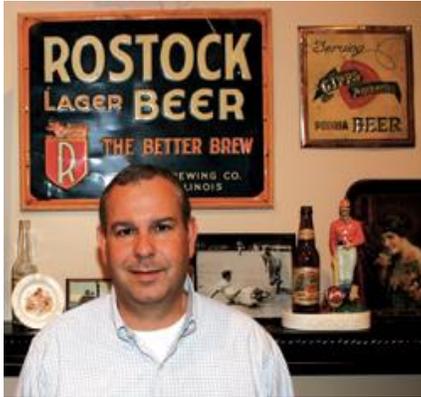




# TIMELINE 2016

Peoria Historical Society Newsletter | July - August | Volume 22, Issue 4

*"to preserve, share and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area"*



## Meet PHS' New President:

Jim Carballido was born and raised here in Peoria. He graduated from Spalding Institute high school in Peoria and received his bachelor's degree in Accounting from Illinois State University. As a Certified Public Accountant, he began his career in public accounting in Peoria and has worked for Caterpillar the past 20 years. Jim and his wife Marci of 25 years have a son and daughter attending college in St. Louis.

Jim has a passion for Peoria history and actively collects Prohibition Peoria brewery items and baseball artifacts from Peoria's past. He has served on the Peoria Historical Society board of trustees the past five years as Treasurer, Vice President and sits on the finance

and collection committees. Jim is currently an Associate Board member of the Peoria Riverfront Museum and past president of the Central Illinois Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants.

## History on the Move

Peoria History Tours, the new name for our historical tours, kicked off June 2<sup>nd</sup> and will end October 29<sup>th</sup>. This year we are partnering with the Peoria Riverfront Museum (PRM) for the tours. All tours leave from the Peoria Riverfront Museum lobby and free parking is available in the Museum's garage. The Museum has graciously agreed to allow us to use their bus to transport our guests, since the trolley is no longer available. The seats are comfortable and higher up, allowing for a good view out the windows. Although the bus isn't air conditioned, we have fans for our guests to use and the windows open with ease! On days when the forecast is for exceptional heat, the tour may be cancelled two hours prior to the start time. Patrons can



receive a refund or schedule a different tour.

Four different tours run each month. To learn which tours are operating at any given time and to book your history tour, you may visit the PRM web site, <https://cart.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org/PerformanceCalendar.aspx> or call the Riverfront Museum at (309) 686-7000. You may also read more about the tours and their schedule on page 10 of this Timeline. Tours run on Thursdays and Fridays at 11:00 a.m. and on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Each tour will last approximately 1 ½ hours. Tickets remain at last season's price of \$15 per person. Our enthusiastic certified guides look forward to sharing their knowledge with you! Come tour with us!

*History is a gallery of pictures in which there are few originals and many copies. Alexis de Tocqueville*

## From the President

I hope all of you are as excited as I am about the next 12 months and beyond to be a part of the Peoria Historical Society. I was installed in May as your President along with a new Vice President and six new trustees. Although replacing a half dozen trustees would be considered a challenge for many non-profits, I'm encouraged and energized by how successful the Nominations Committee put forward a slate of such diverse and talented individuals to blend with our existing board. Not only did we gain board experience from long-standing PHS volunteers, but we infused the board with several "millennials". Millennials, born after 1980 but before the year 2000, recently passed baby boomers as the largest generational group. We welcome their representation in the mix of our existing trustees and members. The talents that all the new trustees bring to PHS include committed volunteerism, building and repair contractor skills, finance, and social media skills - all skill sets that are required to continue to make the Peoria Historical Society a relevant and sustainable organization.

Of course, in order to make any non-profit successful, a committed staff, an enthusiastic membership and group of dedicated volunteers are necessary. We are fortunate to have a strong support system and look forward to the upcoming events to share with all of you during the year. Speaking of dedicated volunteers, I want to pay tribute to Jay Close. He was a longtime volunteer that would dress in character at many events at our historic homes. Jay was witty and had the uncanny ability to rattle off memorable stories and humorous tales to his entertained guests. He was just a grand human being and his wit and humor will be greatly missed here but surely appreciated by the Angels above as we lost him in June of this year.

Again, I'm excited about the opportunity to be involved with all of you in continuing to make our organization successful.

Jim Carballido

PHS President 2016-17

### STAFF

Walter C. Ruppman  
*Executive Director*

Bob Killion  
*Curator of Collections,  
Technology*  
Judy Earls  
*Administrative Assistant*

### OFFICERS

Jim Carballido  
*President*

Leann Johnson  
*Vice President*

Jeff Thomas  
*Treasurer*

Suzie Adcock  
*Secretary*

Deborah Dougherty  
*Past President*

### TRUSTEES

Alicia Butler  
*P/M House Chair*

Karen Frels  
*DAR representative*

Chuck Frey  
*Bradley Special Collections*

Anthony Gardner  
Mary Hamm

Clayton Hill  
Linda Herron  
*Flanagan House Chair*

Nicholas J. Hornickle

Beth Jensen

Beth Johnson

Marcia Johnson

Kevin Kizer

Kathy Ma

Zachary Oyler

John Parks

Stacy Peterson

John Rosa

Jake Schick

Ryan Spain

#### 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](mailto:adminphs@peoriahistoricalsociety.org)

[www.PeoriaHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PeoriaHistoricalSociety.org)

Find us on Facebook

#### Special Collections Center

Bradley University Library  
Bradley Avenue at Glenwood

Office Hours: 9 a.m.- 4:30p.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 \$3.00  
\$20 minimum for tours

Distribution of Timeline courtesy of:



**PNC Bank**

## MILWAUKEE COMBINE CAR #2716

The Milwaukee Combine Car #2716, which is owned by Peoria Historical Society and on display at the Wheels O'Time Museum, was built in the Milwaukee Shops, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1938. It is an all-steel lightweight combine, which was used in mixed trains to provide passenger service to the farming communities of the "granger states." A wall partition, which has been removed, divided the car into two sections – one end of the car was occupied by paying passengers and the other was used for express/baggage. The interior was spartan, lighted with dual kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling center of the car, and heated with coal stoves located in both the passenger and express ends. It, of course, was non-air-conditioned and had movable windows. Imagine riding in this car on a hot summer day, pulled along with a string of freight cars by a smoky steam engine. That is not exactly traveling in style. A single lavatory, which has also been removed, was in one corner of the passenger compartment opposite the coal stove. The passenger interior was oak paneled.



This Combine, #2716, remained in revenue service on the Milwaukee Road into the 60's. It was then sold to the TP&W Railroad, where the interior was stripped, and the car was used as a Maintenance of Way tool car for bridge building. It was transported by truck to Wheels O'Time Museum in 1985 to be displayed and available for the public to appreciate.

Combine #2716 was one of 10 like cars. They were the third of a series of four all-steel lightweight combines originally designed similar to the new lightweight passenger cars which became the 1935 Hiawatha.

The original paint scheme was orange sides with gold lettering on a maroon letter board. The car's steps and roof were brown and the underbody was black. The maroon letter board soon gave way to all orange sides with black lettering. The original flooring in the passenger section

was a rubber floor tile and that in the express end was of all slats, typical for the heavy service required for the baggage section.

Restoration work continues today in this car. All the steel work shelves have been removed, 4 seats have been installed as have display cabinets filled with information of the period as well as numerous other improvements. New doors are in process. Paul Heinz, member of the former Peoria Regional Museum Society, Peoria Historical Society and Wheels O'Time volunteer particularly has been devoted to this car's restoration. We would always welcome volunteers who have a keen interest in restoration work.

Combine Car #2708 is on display in French Lick, Indiana and car #2713 is on display in Mendota, Illinois.

## Rennick Art Show a Big Success

The Rennick Art Show held at the Peoria Public Library exhibited 71 pieces of art from 39 artists representing the tri-county region. This was our biggest show ever in our 52 year history.

Many of the exhibiting artists, their families and friends

attended the reception, May 14, on a Saturday afternoon in the Peoria Public Library gallery space. Fifty people gathered to hear the Judge, Nichole Gronvold Roller, an art teacher at Tremont High School, share her comments on the selections of choosing the award winners. This experience was most

interesting as well as educational.

And a special thanks goes out to Marjorie Schwebel for once again organizing the show and reception.

### The 2016 artists' winners are:

- Best of Show:** Todd Snyder, "Building Demolition" - Oil  
**First Place:** Mary Hildebrand, "Blossoms First" - Oil  
**Second Place:** Bennett Johnson, "Flooded Bench" - Photography  
**Third Place:** Connie Andrews, "A Father's Love" - Oil



Building Demolition



Blossoms First



Flooded Bench



A Father's Love

### Honorable Mentions:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| PK Bhosale - "Kelleher's Pub" - Acrylic        | Dale O. Kuntz - "Underground R.R. In Tazewell County 1 Scott" - Acrylic |
| Kathy Sherman - "Sweet Pea" - Watercolor & Ink | Barbie Perry - "Colors of Cruger" - Photography                         |
| Susan Carson - "Alert the Land" - Oil          | Yvonne Ham - "My Neighbor's Field" - Oil                                |
| Edward Levene - "Jubilee College" - Pen & Ink  | Marjorie Schwebel - "Rockford Japanese Garden" - Photography            |

## Timeline Historical Quiz

Local historian, Ken Zurski, author of “The Wreck of the Columbia”, recently published a second book titled, “Peoria Stories – Tales from the Illinois Heartland.” The book contains nine stories about famous individuals who have visited Peoria over the years. Most of us are aware of some aspects of these visits, but Ken has done the research to document “the rest of the story.” His book is available at Barnes & Noble, the Peoria Riverfront Museum, and Amazon.com.

In 2016, each historical quiz in the Timeline will be focused on one of the stories in Ken’s book. In this edition, the quiz is taken from Chapter 7 of the book, “A Peoria Love Story,” telling the story of Jim and Marian Jordan, better known throughout the United States as Fibber McGee and Molly.

True or False

1. Jim Jordan first met Marian Driscoll at a Christmas choir practice at St. John’s Church on Peoria’s south side in 1915 when he was 19 years old and she was 17 years old.

2. Jim and Marian were married in August 1918. Six years later the couple first appeared on a radio show on Chicago station, WIBO. The show was all singing, no talking for which they were paid \$50 per week.
3. The Jordans moved from Chicago to New York where their new comedy show “Fibber McGee and Molly” debuted on NBC in April 1935.
4. Fibber and Molly McGee lived in their home at 79 Wistful Vista. Fibber’s famous closet, jammed full with all of his stuff, was first introduced on a show in March 1939.
5. In February 1950, with a radio audience of 40 million, Jim and Marion Jordan came back to Peoria for a visit which was documented in an article in Look magazine.

(Quiz answers on page 8)

***Happy Birthday***  
**Lydia Moss Bradley**  
**Born July 31, 1816**  
**Founder of Bradley**  
**University**

## New Members Welcome:

PHS would like to extend a warm greeting to those who have become new members so far this year. It is a pleasure to have you as a part of our community.

Jane and Arthur Bell

Nicolas Clerc

Ivy L. Fenske

Christine Griffith

Alison and Clayton Hill

David L. Langenberg

Carl H. Porter

Bernadette and Michael F. Shekleton

Conrad Stinnett

## PHS Reps on State Boards

PHS Executive Director Walter C. Ruppman was recently elected treasurer of the Illinois State Historical Society board of directors. Former PHS president Marilyn Leyland was elected to serve on the ISHS advisory board. Peorian Randall L. Saxon continues in his second year as president of the state society.



## Have You Seen Me in Your Mailbox

Whether by e-mail, USPS, carrier pigeon or St. Bernard, the Peoria Historical Society is inviting YOU to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Henri de Tonti Celebration to be held Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the Marriott Pere Marquette in Downtown Peoria at 5:30 p.m. to honor our State Representative David Leitch for his dedicated service to Central Illinois and beyond as a legislator, visionary and warrior for those without a voice.

Please make your reservations now. We are planning a fun, concise event with Governor Jim Edgar as a keynoter to honor David. You'll also learn about critical projects that are complete on the two historical homes –

Pettengill-Morrison and Flanagan Houses. Your attendance is vital in moving the stories into the community and helping support the next wave of projects necessary for keeping history alive in our area.

Sponsorship Levels for Bronze (\$1,500), Silver (\$3,000) or Gold (\$5,000) includes dinner for 10. Price for Individual Tickets is \$125 per person. You may phone Chairperson Carol Hornickle at 309 453-6050 or email her at [cshonrn1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cshonrn1@sbcglobal.net) or phone the PHS Office at 674-1921 for reservations. Mail your check to the Peoria Historical Society, 611 SW Washington Street, Peoria, Illinois 61602. Organize a table of friends, neighbors or colleagues and meet us there!

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Festivities

Flanagan House's beautiful backyard is the best seat in Peoria for affordable fireworks fun on the 4th! The gate opens at 6:00 p.m. with live American roots/bluegrass music on the lawn and house tours featuring our new exhibits. Bring a picnic basket if you like. Enjoy our ice cold soda, fresh hot popcorn, patriotic novelties for the kids and more! Plentiful street parking is available. Seasoned attendees come early to stake a claim with lawn chair or blanket. We can accommodate around 200 people, first come, first served. And "yes", we will have Porta potties available for that true festival atmosphere!

**Flanagan House**  
942 E Glen Oak Ave

## PHS Annual Meeting 2016

The Peoria Historical Society held its annual meeting on May 12, 2016 at the Pettengill-Morrison House. Jeff Thomas, Treasurer, presented the annual financial report showing the organization to continue to maintain a good financial position.

The nominating committee Chair, Mark Johnson, introduced six new Trustees: Anthony Gardner, Mary Hamm, Clayton Hill, Beth Johnson,

### Meet the new trustees:



Anthony Gardner



Mary Hamm



Clayton Hill



Beth Johnson



Zachary Oyler



Jake Schick

Zachary Oyler and Jake Schick.

recognized for their service.

The officers for the 2016-2017 year are:

Jim Carballido, President;

Leann Johnson, Vice President;

Suzanne Adcock, Secretary;

Jeff Thomas, Treasurer;

Deborah Dougherty, Immediate Past President.

Walter C. Ruppman presented volunteer of the Year award to Beth Johnson.

Deborah Dougherty presented the 2016 Historic Preservation Award to the Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette. Councilman Sid Ruckriegel attended the ceremony on behalf of the City of Peoria.

Retiring trustees John Haverhals, Nicholas Hayward, Dean Cantu, Eric Turner, Brent Goken, and Mark Johnson were

Marjorie Schwebel, chair of the Rennick Juried Art show, covered the awards presented at the art show listed on page 4.

## Save The Date! Yes a December Date!



Summer is just getting started but the Holiday Home Tour Committee is busy planning the 5th Annual Splendor of Christmas Past Holiday Home Tour. The dates for this year are **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd** from 5-9 p.m. and **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th** from 1-5 p.m. Watch for additional details in the next issue of the Timeline.

This event is a major fund raiser for the Peoria Historical Society and an opportunity to tour our two museum homes and beautiful private historic homes. The committee is in need of volunteers to assist with the planning and sponsorships, as well as advertising. If you would like to be part of this exciting event please contact Suzie Adcock via email or phone. Her contact information is: [Suzanne.adcock@att.net](mailto:Suzanne.adcock@att.net) or 309-229-8645.

## Help the Society Preserve our Artifacts

Several months ago, we began a campaign to raise money for window treatments at the two museum houses owned by the Society. Following a professional assessment of both homes, it was determined that the most prudent course of action would be to cover the windows with UV film, as it would serve to reduce harmful UV rays, yet provide sufficient light to highlight our beautiful artifacts. Our campaign has raised approximately half of the funds needed to complete the project. Please consider making a donation to the *Restricted Maintenance Account* for this project, which will enable us to fulfill our mission to *Preserve, Share and Celebrate the Stories of the Peoria Area*. Thank you!

## Quiz Answers:

(continued from page 5)

1. True > Jim described Marian as a “pretty blue-eyed, brown haired, slightly freckled” coal miner’s daughter who played

piano, violin, and loved to sing.

2. False > The Jordans were paid only \$10 per week for the “Oh Henry Twins Program.” The sponsor of the program was the Oh Henry candy bar.
3. True > The show was originally sponsored by The Johnson Wax Company and became the nation’s top-rated radio series.
4. True > To create the sound gag of opening the closet door, the soundman for the show meticulously piled stuff on the steps of an eight-foot stepladder and then tipped the ladder as Fibber went to open the closet door.
5. True > The article in Look was titled, “Back to Peoria with Fibber McGee and Molly”. On February 15, the Jordans were honored guests of Bradley University at a basketball game held in Robertson Memorial Fieldhouse. Fibber McGee was announced as one of the starting players.

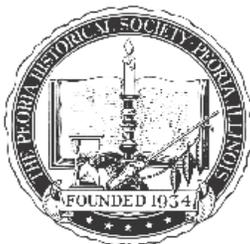
The Peoria Historical Society presents

# GERMAN RHYTHMS ON THE RIVER

Cruise the Illinois River on the  
Spirit of Peoria



Spirit of Peoria • 100 Water Street



Tickets available at:  
Peoria Historical Society  
611 SW Washington St  
Peoria IL 61602  
309-674-1921  
[www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org)

DATE:

Thursday, August 11, 2016

COST:

\$35 includes dinner + cash bar

Boarding Time: 5 p.m.

Departure Time: 6:30 p.m.

Return to Dock: 8:30 p.m.

MUSIC BY:

Vogel Musik

SPONSORED BY:

Good Earth Landscaping

Simantel

## Peoria History Tours for 2016

Our 1 1/2 hour tours depart from the Peoria Riverfront Museum lobby. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. To register for these historical tours, passengers may call the museum at (309) 686-7000, go to the PHS Web site at <http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org/Tours.aspx> or the Museum Web site at <https://cart.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org/PerformanceCalendar.aspx> or in person at the Peoria Riverfront Museum front desk.

**Roll Out the Barrel Tour-From 1850 to Prohibition**, the volume of whiskey distilled, aged, bottled and shipped made Peoria the whiskey capital. The distilleries, several large breweries, and extensive stockyards here also created the second largest grain market in the country. Travel through the earliest sections of Downtown and Peoria's Warehouse District to discover facts about distilling in Peoria.

**Naughty to Nice Tour-Follow Peoria's history from the naughty—the 20's, the gambling, the gangsters—to the nice—Peoria's now FOUR All-America City awards.** This tour traces triumphs through time from the 1920's to the present; stories of the city's gangster era, including the site of Peoria's most notorious crime scene — The Bernie Shelton murder. Also, discover why Peoria has been honored four times with the prestigious All-America City award.

**River City Tour-The Native Americans, the French, the whiskey and earthmoving capital of the world, the grand mansions and Grandview Drive - The River City Tour has it all.** The tour takes you back to the earliest days of Peoria when Native Americans and the French lived side by side along the shores of Lake Pimiteoui. View the grand mansions and stately homes along High Street, Moss Avenue, Glen Oak and Grandview Drive. Enjoy the renowned and beautiful view of the Illinois River along Grandview Drive during this tour.

**Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery Tour-While winding along Grandview Drive, view the elegant homes of past and present prosperous merchants, landowners, and professionals.** See the Illinois River from the best vantage point in Peoria. Then tour Springdale Cemetery, the oldest chartered cemetery in the state of Illinois. Hervey Lightner designed this 270-acre tree-studded cemetery with miles of twisting roads in 1855. You will appreciate the serene park-like setting and hear about Peoria's founding fathers and mothers. A must see!

**Abraham Lincoln & the Civil War Tour-This tour tells the story of Lincoln's visits to Peoria, the Civil War troops, and the camps where they trained.** See the markers where the camps once stood. Visit Springdale Cemetery and see the final resting place of many of the Civil War veterans. The tour will visit the GAR Hall, built in 1909, and hear the story of Joseph Greenhut, a Whiskey Baron who provided much of the Hall's funding.

**Haunted Peoria Tour-Explore the dark side of Peoria as we venture where strange sightings and events have been reported.** Discover the stories behind the ghostly appearances that have startled and puzzled Peorians through the years. Learn about the Lady in White, the Legend of Nee-Nee-Wah, the Curse of Old Lady Gray, and more. What will you see in Haunted Peoria?

2016 Peoria History Tour Schedule					
Tour Information	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Thursday 11:00 am Peoria Riverfront Museum	River City	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery	Abraham Lincoln & The Civil War	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery	River City
Friday 11:00 am Peoria Riverfront Museum	Grandview Drive & Springdale Cemetery	Naughty to Nice	Roll Out the Barrel	Naughty to Nice	Haunted Peoria
Saturday 11:00 am Peoria Riverfront Museum	Abraham Lincoln & The Civil War	River City	Naughty to Nice	Naughty to Nice	Haunted Peoria
Saturday 1:30 pm Peoria Riverfront Museum	Naughty to Nice	Roll Out the Barrel  Note: July 16 <sup>th</sup> tour only, leaves at 2:30	River City	Roll Out the Barrel	Haunted Peoria

# Membership Matters!

Pass along your passion for history and consider becoming a Peoria Historical Society **Membership Sponsor**. Someone you know has the same interest in “preserving, sharing and celebrating the stories of the Peoria area”. Your gift of membership not only helps further the PHS mission, but encourages others to do the same. Please use the form below or go online to [peoriahistoricalsociety.org](http://peoriahistoricalsociety.org) for a printable membership form and add a note that you’re sponsoring the new member when you submit the form. And thanks for your continued support.

## Membership Matters!

## Become a PHS Membership Sponsor!



**Yes, I would like to sponsor a one year membership to the Peoria Historical Society.**

New Member Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Information

Credit Card # (Visa or Mastercard) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Membership level \$35 \_\_\_ \$60 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, make payable to the Peoria Historical Society

Please cut out and mail this completed form to the **Peoria Historical Society**  
611 SW Washington St., Peoria, IL 61602

**Thank you! Your new sponsor will receive a special “Welcome-to-PHS” note in your name.**

## The Newsletter of the Peoria Historical Society

611 SW Washington  
Peoria, Illinois 61601

Phone: 309-674-1921  
Fax: 309-674-1882  
Website: <http://www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org>  
And on Facebook

Non-profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit # 745

Peoria, IL 61601



### ***Fibber McGee and Molly***

Do you remember this famous  
radio program?

Read inside to learn more about  
these Peoria area natives.

# T I M E L I N E

