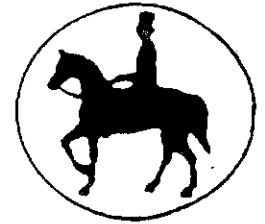


THE COLES COUNTY COURIER

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED BY THE COLES
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 20, NO. 2
July, 1999



SOCIETY'S UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25, 1999	Ken Bidle - The Mitchell-Doaks Genealogy: A Video Presentation - Charleston Public Library - 1:30p.m.
September 26, 1999	Cathy Babbs - History of Mt. Tabor Church and Cemetery - Mt. Tabor Church, Charleston - 1:30 p.m.
October 24, 1999	Mary A. Gary - Resources for History and Genealogy Research at the Mattoon Public Library Mattoon Public Library - 1:30 p.m.
Nov 28 or Dec 5, 1999	A Holiday Program
January 9, 2000	Society's Annual Meeting

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

This has been an eventful year for our Society and we are only half way into 1999! First, your Board of Trustees hired a Museum Consultant to evaluate the Society, help define our goals, and determine if it is feasible to establish a museum in Coles County. Renee Henry of Hume, IL entered into a contract with Board and reported her findings in May. We will be reporting more to the membership soon.

Founders' Day was also a great success. Approximately 80 people attended our 36th annual dinner and enjoyed great food, wonderful music, flowers, and Kim Bauer's slide presentation on heroic sculpture and Abraham Lincoln. Special thanks to Karen Willaredt and her committee, Dan Thornburgh, Alice Larrabee, Janet Lambert, and Linda Hance for their hard work. Thanks also to George Sanders for providing wonderful music during the cocktail hour and Wes Whiteside for the glorious flowers which were given away as door prizes. Three of the five award recipients were present and Duane Elbert was genuinely surprised when a special award was announced. If you missed this dinner, plan to join us next year. We promise something special for the year 2000!

Dudley House has a new computer. Through the generosity of Owen and Owen, Attorneys, we now have our own computer, complete with monitor and keyboard. Now, if anyone happens to have an inkjet printer that is looking for a home, give me a call.

I am most pleased by a new atmosphere of cooperation among the various groups interested in local history. Members of our Society are participating in the Looking for Lincoln project; some of our Society members are working to save Five Mile House and other significant places in Coles County; and our newest board member, Ruth Isenogle, has ties to the Genealogical Society. Others from our Society work with the two Historical Preservation groups in the county. My goal is to increase this cooperation at the same time that we are expanding our programs and our membership. Let us know what you think.

If you have neglected to pay your dues, please try to send a check to our Treasurer soon. We depend heavily on your dues to support the Society and its work. And while you are thinking about money, think about designating money to the Society's Endowment Fund, now or in the future.

Jacqueline Record, President

1999 SOCIETY AWARDS

Six people received awards at the annual Founders' Day Dinner at the Mattoon Golf and Country Club on June 14, 1999.

June Johnson of Oakland was recognized for her work in establishing the Museum of Christian Heritage in Oakland, her involvement with Landmarks, an historical preservation group in Oakland, and the restoration of her own historic home.

John Dively, Sr. of Charleston was cited for his efforts in preserving the Charleston's Old City Cemetery and his work with the Charleston Area Charitable Trust Foundation from which significant financial support has been given to historic preservation in the Charleston area.

Alex Summers, San Diego, CA, was honored as a charter member of the Society. Among his many contributions, the Board noted his book "The Literature of Coles County" which he wrote to commemorate the Illinois Sesquicentennial and later sent to the Society members.

Gail Lumpkin was cited for her work in historic preservation in Mattoon. She was instrumental in the initiating the restoration of the Peterson House and has served as a volunteer on many historic preservation committees. She resides in the historic and restored Churyea home in Mattoon.

Jeanne and Don Tingley of Savoy, IL have been sustaining members of the Society for many years. Jeanne served on the Dudley House Committee at the time of its restoration. As a resident of Coles County, she served on many EIU and city committees and on the Coles County Board of Review.

Don, a former EIU history professor, served in many important roles during the first decade of the Society's founding including several terms on the Board of Trustees.

DUDLEY HOUSE PAINTING RAFFLE

Founders' Day Chairperson Karen Willaredt discovered a beautiful watercolor painting of the Dudley House by Artist Clare Smith of Effingham. Ms. Smith's work includes a variety of subjects including house portraits and Illinois landscapes. Her work has been displayed throughout the midwest and has won a number of awards. Her work can be seen at her studio at Lake Sara.

Karen purchased the painting on behalf of the Society. Raffle chances for the painting were sold before the Founders' Dinner. The winning ticket was purchased by Bill Hamel. He graciously donated the painting back to the Society and it will be placed at the Dudley House. The Society realized a profit of \$355 from this fund raising activity. Thanks, Karen!

SCULPTING A LEGACY: ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN HEROIC SCULPTURE

Kim Bauer of the Illinois Preservation Agency was the guest speaker at the Founders' Day dinner. His slide presentation and lecture concerning heroic Lincoln statuary was informative and entertaining. As a historic research specialist for the prestigious Henry Horner Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library, Mr. Bauer has written and lectured extensively on this topic. Those interested in knowing more can read "The Lincoln Legacy in Little-Known Sculpture" which is available on the web at www.prairie.org/detours/features/sculpt.html.

A GREAT RAMBLE!

The 11th Annual Garden Ramble was the most successful ever! An estimated 700 adults and 300 children visited Wes Whiteside's garden on Memorial Day weekend. The visitors came from Indiana, southern Illinois, and from most of the counties in central and eastern Illinois. First time visitors were in awe of the color and variety of the garden. Those who were returning for a second or third time were delighted to see their old favorites and new additions to the beautiful acreage.

A large number people volunteered their time and talents so that the ramble would be a success. The Society thanks

Chairperson Steve Becker, Mary Anne Hanner, Nancy Ann Barber, Paul Icenogle, Mary Gary, Leslie Welch, Joyce Maurer, John Dodson, Tim Gover, Jake Zane, Terry Weidner, Larry Shobe, Norma Winkleblack, Gerald Scott, Alice Larrabee, Jackie Record, and Dave Maurer.

The Society is indebted to Wes Whiteside. Without his years of dedication and hard work, we would not have such a beautiful garden experience in central Illinois. He is a gracious host and benefactor to the Society who allows us to continue to have our chief fund raiser in his back yard!

SEE YOU AT CELEBRATION!

The Society is planning a story telling or story reading event at Greenwood School in conjunction with EIU's Celebration to be held August 20-22 on the campus. Janet Lambert, the Society's Greenwood School Chairperson and an EIU Emeritus Faculty, is chairing the event. Volunteers will spend about a half hour reading or telling a story to children visiting Greenwood School. If you have a favorite book or story that you would like to share with children at Celebration, contact Janet. She will be finalizing the plans very soon (345-7745, lambert@net3.advant.net) so call her as soon as you get your newsletter. You might even get a chance to ring the bell at Greenwood!

KEN BIDLE LECTURE

Ken Bidle will be the featured speaker at the July meeting of the Society on July 25, 1999 at the Charleston Public Library. He will discuss the Mitchell-Doaks Genealogy. These two families were among the earliest settlers to move from the east coast to Coles County.

MT. TABOR CHURCH AND CEMETERY

Cathy Babbs, a member of the Mt. Tabor Cemetery Board, will present the September program, the History of Mt. Tabor Church and Cemetery. The event will be held at the Church south of Charleston. Ms. Babbs is a member of the Walker-Anderson families who were prominent members of Mt. Tabor Church.

Send donations for the Save the Five Mile House project to P.O. Box 114, Charleston, IL 61920 or call Dan Thornburgh at 345-2846.