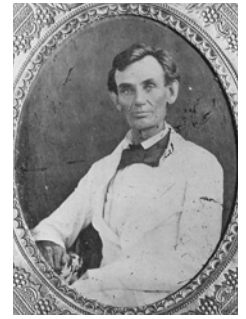


Lincoln Newsletter



First Quarter 2013

*A publication of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission
Beardstown, Illinois*

McClure honored for dedicated service

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Those words from Ecclesiastes 3 came to mind as we gathered on Dec. 15 to honor our friend Suzanne McClure.

The day was, in the words of Ecclesiastes 3, both a “time to weep and a time to laugh.” We were saddened by her decision to retire as a member of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission. But we were happy to gather in celebration of her dedicated service.

Of course, McClure is not ending her association with the museum as a volunteer and consultant (she’s on our speed dials).

McClure was one of the original OLCM commissioners and served as secretary of the commission for several years and then as chair. Commissioner Leigh Morris and Commissioner Emerita Arline Bley spoke of McClure’s service in the early days of the OLCM and Commissioner Ann Chelette and Commission Chair Paula Woods of her activities in the past few years.

We were honored to have her family, parents Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Monts of Clinton and brother Ron Monts and close family friend Diane Little of Decatur, as well as her daughter Kelly Grady and, of course, husband Milton McClure in attendance.

The reception was hosted by the OLCM Commission and organized by Chelette, Foley, Woods and Chris Massie.

In recognition of her service, McClure was named a commissioner emerita. The formal resolution follows:

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Beardstown, Illinois, by Ordinance duly enacted did institute the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission on the 5th day of October, 2005, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of said City as aforesaid by and with the consent of said City Council, did appoint Suzanne McClure a Charter Commissioner of said Commission; and

WHEREAS, the said Suzanne McClure was welcomed to the Commission as a Commissioner at their organizational meeting held on the 20th day of October, 2005, and then and there and henceforth became an active member of said Commission, serving as Secretary and Chair, and establishing the Friends of the Courtroom;

WHEREAS, Commissioner Suzanne McClure brought to the newly formed Commission a wealth of knowledge and experience, and organizational skills, and



Suzie McClure looks on as speakers recount her years of dedicated service.

WHEREAS, Commissioner Suzanne McClure played a leading role in the effort to train by example volunteer tour guides for the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Suzanne McClure devoted countless hours in research and attendance at meetings, obtaining the Looking for Lincoln Wayside Exhibits pertaining to Abraham Lincoln in Beardstown; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Suzanne McClure organized workdays and executed projects and programs for the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum, being a true leader; and

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of July, 2012, Commissioner Suzanne McClure found it necessary for personal reasons to submit her resignation as a Commissioner of the Old Lin-

See McClure on next page

A/V project advances with community support

Community projects survive only when the people of the community support them, and the people of Beardstown and the surrounding areas are certainly supporting an exciting endeavor underway at the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum.

Furthermore, it's not too late to add your name to the list of donors supporting the audio/visual project as it moves toward completion by the reopening of the museum on April 1.

The scripts have been written for the five computer monitors that will be placed strategically within the museum. Bob Osborne, PC Systems Consulting, Inc., is busy volunteering his time preparing the computers for the input of the different videos.

Nathan Carls, English-speaking narrator, and Maricella Chavez, Spanish-speaking narrator, are both volunteering their time and are busy studying the scripts.

Kathy Haut, from the museum's volunteer staff, translated the scripts into Spanish. The professional videographer, Paul LaMantia of LaMantia Creative, Ltd., has met with the narrators and began filming in mid-February.

Also involved are the students of these schools: Gard, Brick, Beardstown Christian Academy, Grand Avenue Pre-School, Beardstown Charter School, and the history classes of the middle and high schools.

From Feb. 1 through Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12, the students were collecting pennies for the Pennies for Lincoln project. The classroom from each building will have a class picture taken for the *Cass County Star-Gazette* and will receive a VIP tour of the museum to enjoy the project they helped make possible.

Projects such as these are turned into reality by community support. The OLCM commissioners appreciate the donations given. The museum will now be able to provide self-guided tours available in both English and Spanish. Donor names will appear on each of the five screensavers.

Thank you Beardstown and surrounding areas for again proving that small communities get things done by working together!

~Connie Foley

Important update



The audio/visual project is moving along so well that you need an update to the previous article.

The videographer, Paul LaMantia of LaMantia Creative, Ltd, along with his assistant Jamie, have made two visits to the museum to both

film and take photographs.

LaMantia has recorded the audio of both narrators, Nathan Carls and Maricella Chavez, and now is in the process of editing the material.

In the previous article, mention was made of how endeavors can only succeed when the community gets involved. Again, this was proven to be true when a call was made to the Circuit Judge Bob Hardwick. He was asked if he could find time to come to the museum to be photographed in the courtroom. Hardwick often presides in this courtroom, which is the only courtroom where Abraham Lincoln practiced that is still in regular use today.

Hardwick arranged his schedule to accommodate the videographer, but the story doesn't stop there! Attorney Milt McClure was called to see if he could come to the museum to make the picture even more authentic. Yes, McClure arranged his schedule to accommodate the videographer.

But wait, the story doesn't stop there! McClure has conducted several tours of the courtroom, so he was asked if he would agree to be filmed for the courtroom monitor while giving the history and explanations of the Almanac Trial. So McClure arranged his schedule so he could be filmed to accommodate LaMantia's schedule.

Not only did Hardwick and McClure donate their time, but so did Carls and Chavez. Chavez was allowed time away from her place of employment, Grand Avenue School, so she could do the audio in Spanish so all the people of the community will be able to enjoy the self-guided tours.

McClure

From previous page

coln Courtroom and Museum Commission, effective the 31st day of October, 2012, after seven (7) years, and twelve (12) days, of service to the Commission,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission that to honor the selfless service of the said Suzanne McClure and her faithful and conscientious devotion to duty as a Commissioner of said Commission and service on its committee of volunteers, the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission does hereby appoint Suzanne McClure as its third Commissioner Emeritus, and directs this Certificate be given to the said Commissioner Emerita Suzanne McClure in sincere appreciation for her loyalty, dedication, and immeasurable hours of service, and

FURTHER, in sincere appreciation for the outstanding performance and many contributions as a Commissioner of the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the City Council of the City of Beardstown with a request that it be incorporated into the Minutes of said City Council and retained by the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission as a part of its permanent records in honor of Suzanne McClure, Commissioner Emeritus.

Adopted at Beardstown, Illinois, this 15th day of December 2012.

Beardstown students are truly awesome

The Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission is installing five touch screen monitors that will visually and orally guide visitors through the museum and courtroom with narration available in both English and Spanish.

Many businesses and individuals within the community are making this a reality through their donations of time and money.

A call went out to all of the schools to contribute to the Pennies for Lincoln project since many field trips are to the museum during the school year. The commission wanted students to feel some ownership in the project.

It was hoped that some money would be raised, but little did commission expect to end the campaign with \$813.50! The students of Gard, Brick and Beardstown Charter schools, and the Beardstown Middle School history classes and Beardstown High School history classes donated \$373.70. Grand Avenue Pre-School contributed \$109.80 and Beardstown Christian Academy collected \$330.00.

The winning classroom from Gard is Tammy Ruthardt's 5th grade, from Brick is Krystal Christofanelli's 1st grade, from Beardstown Christian Academy is Sue German's 3rd Grade, Rob Hymes's middle school history class and Aaron Elmore's high school history class.

The OLCM Commission thanks the administrators, teachers, school secretaries, parents, West Central Bank (for counting all of the coins), and most of all, the STUDENTS for making a major contribution to this wonderful addition to an outstanding museum.

No foolin' it's a great idea

On April 1, the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum opens for a new season of enjoyable, entertaining and educational experiences.

The museum, courtroom and gift shop are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For large groups, please call 217-323-4514.

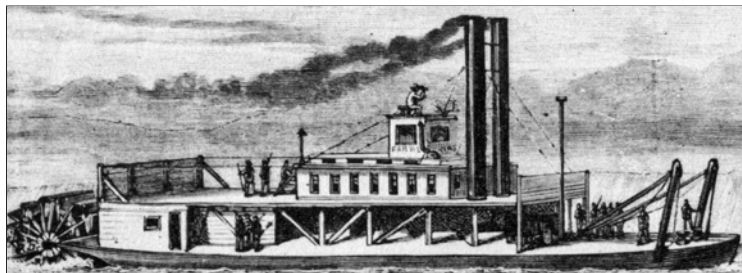


Documentary to include Beardstown, museum

In December, the museum was the scene of a documentary being videotaped by Ryan Griffis of the University of Illinois and Sara Ross of the Chicago Art Institute.

For several years, Griffis and Ross have been investigating the effects of globalization on rural communities. Their research led them to decide upon Beardstown and several of its institutions for much of their final report.

They filmed mostly in the River Museum because of its connection with global commerce and in the courtroom as representative of the town's history.



Videographers focused on Beardstown's river history during their recent visit to the River Museum.

Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

Yes, I wish to become a Friend as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lincoln's Friend: | Annual Gift \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lincoln's Bar: | Annual Gift \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lincoln's Barristers: | Annual Gift \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers: | Annual Gift \$500.00 |

I prefer to become a lifetime member of Mr. Lincoln's Supreme Court.
My pledge is in the amount of \$ _____.

Method of Contribution

My Annual Gift is enclosed: Amount: \$ _____

I'd like to make my annual gift in two equal installments.

[Mr. Lincoln's Barristers; Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers;
Mr. Lincoln's Supreme Court only]

Installments will be due March 1 and September 1

I'd like to make my annual gift in four equal quarterly installments.

[Mr. Lincoln's Supreme Court only]

Installments will be due March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please forward your payment (payable to **Friends of the Courtroom**) to:

Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum
PO Box 381
Beardstown IL 62618

Check here if this is a renewal of your membership _____

OLCM participates in Executive Mansion event

For the third consecutive year, the OLCM participated in the Christmas at the Executive Mansion display of trees.

This year, historic venues around the state were represented by trees that are emblematic of the sites.

Again this year, the OLCM tree was designed by Theresa Kleinschmidt. Her theme was "Windows of Time." The primary ornaments were her original design of the windows of the courthouse from outside with pictures of interior scenes behind the "glass."

The window frames were so realistic that representatives



from other sites thought from a distance that they were three dimensional.

Kleinschmidt added cutouts of corn and pigs to pay homage to Beardstown's rural heritage, and gold ball ornaments and large Lincoln "pennies" for extra bling.

Of special note are the icicles Kleinschmidt made from her own stash of mother-of-pearl buttons for last year's tree.

Kleinschmidt supervised placing and decorating the tree at the Executive Mansion just after Thanksgiving. Assisting were Suzie McClure and Paula Woods. Chris Massie and Paula were responsible for dismantling it after Christmas.

The Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum also was decorated for the Christmas season. Ann Chelette decorated the first floor hall with the museum's large tree and supplied several smaller trees for various places around the museum. Chelette also hung several large wreaths on doors and other places.

Many thanks to these volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum for making it a truly festive holiday season.



Built in 1918, this is the Schultz, Baujan & Company milling complex as it appeared in 1929. The brick building served as the company's headquarters and was built of brick made in Beardstown.

Commissioners

Paula Woods, Chair – 217-323-4514
Dale Robertson, Vice Chair – 217-323-3344
Connie Foley, Secretary – 217-323-5205
Ann Chelette, Treasurer – 217-323-2559
Chris Massie – 217-997-5971
Leigh Morris – 217-323-2668
Randy Reichert - 217-323-4597

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Thank you, Suzie

As momentum was building to create the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission back in 2005, I was invited to become a commissioner.

After giving the matter considerable thought, I agreed but upon one condition – Suzie McClure had to be on the commission, as well.

The two of us had a rather a lively discussion about the prospects taking on this new adventure. I can summarize Suzie's reaction in these few words: "Are you nuts?"

Maybe we both were a tad crazy, but when the commission was formed in October 2005, we were both commissioners. I was honored to be elected chair, but my dear friend was elected to a far more important position – that being secretary.

From the mundane to the extraordinary, Suzie proved to be the commission's driving force.

I am certain you are familiar with her many contributions – such as the Wayside Exhibits, creation of the Friends of the Courtroom and creating the gift shop.

However, her most important contribution was being Suzie McClure. What I mean is that when she accepted the invitation to become a commissioner, she threw herself at the task without any reservations. She gave freely of her time and talents, so much so that her home became an extension of the OLCM and she was its leading ambassador.

Suzie has retired from the OLCM Commission, but she is leaving the commission and the community with a strong foundation – as well as the first few floors – upon which to continue to build not just the OLCM, but the community.

While I will miss her presence at commission meetings, I will continue to take advantage of her counsel and, more importantly, her friendship. Both are treasures that have enriched my life.

As Suzie's many achievements were recounted during the Dec. 15 reception, these words of Vincent Lombardi came to mind: "The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."

Suzie's commitment to excellence is second to none.

Thank you, Suzie.

~Leigh Morris

Lincoln Museum starts educational initiative

Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is launching a project "Building a Better Tomorrow for Learners of Today: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Latino Education Pilot Program."

Denise R. Johnson, representative of the director and head of the project, is interested in receiving input from the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum. This interest stems from the fact that the courthouse has important associations with

Lincoln. Furthermore, Beardstown's large Latino population makes it an ideal target for the project.

On Feb. 11, serendipitously the day that Maricella Chavez, the Spanish-speaking narrator for the A/V project was recording, Johnson visited the OLCM to see what our site had to offer. She was pleased to find that the A/V project will have a Spanish component and that we have brochures in Spanish as well as English.

One of Johnson's hopes is that the Almanac Trail can be staged at several places around Illinois in both English and Spanish to acquaint audiences with the young Lincoln.

During Lincoln's term in the U.S. House of Representatives (1847-1849), he opposed the Mexican American War. Benito Juarez, the foremost Mexican statesman of the last half of the 19th century, is often called the "Mexican Lincoln."

Lincoln - 150 years ago

One of the more interesting Abraham Lincoln websites is The Lincoln Log (www.thelincolnlog.org).

This site provides a day by day look at Lincoln's life. Let's turn back the pages of time to see what the 16th president was doing in March 1863.

March 3 – Approves an act authorizing the free delivery of mail in 49 U.S. cities and act authorizing grant of public lands to Kansas for railroad and telegraph construction. He also approved legislation establishing the National Academy of Sciences.

March 5 – Forwards \$868.00 to U.S. Treasurer Francis E. Spinner. Lincoln received the money together with a letter from an anonymous writer from Brooklyn, N.Y. The writer explained, "I came by [the money] in a dishonest manner . . . Being tempted, in an unguarded moment I consented to take it being very much in want of money but thanks be to my Saviour I was led by the influences of the Holy Spirit to see my great sin and to return it to you as the representative of the United States."

March 8 – Approves a memorandum of Secretary of State William H. Seward to Lord Lyons suggesting that England allow no more ships be built and slipped out of her ports for ultimate service to Confederate States of America.

March 10 – Proclaims amnesty to soldiers absent without leave.

March 12 – Transmits to the Senate a treaty with the chiefs and headmen of Chippewa Nation.

March 14 – Sends congratulations to Queen Isabel II of Spain on birth of nephew, the son of the duchess of Montpensier.

March 25 – Forwards a five-pound bank note from a British subject to the U.S. Christian Commission for the purchase of bibles.

March 30 – Sets apart April 30, 1863, "as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer."

March 31 – Permits restricted commercial intercourse with the inhabitants of the Confederate States.

Meet George Schmitt

It was a Beardstown native who played a major role in the development of the bottled water industry.

Born in 1866 to George and Mary Schmitt, young George J. Schmitt and his brother Victor grew up at 309 E. Fourth Street.

Young George Schmitt was an ambitious lad who would not remain in Beardstown. Instead, he made his way to Chicago. In 1888, he was employed as a pharmacist's assistant at the Gale and Block Drug Store. It was there that he noticed many customers purchased bottled spring water at the pharmacy along with their medicines.

This was a time when raw sewage was dumped directly into Lake Michigan, Chicago's source of drinking water. This contamination led to frequent outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

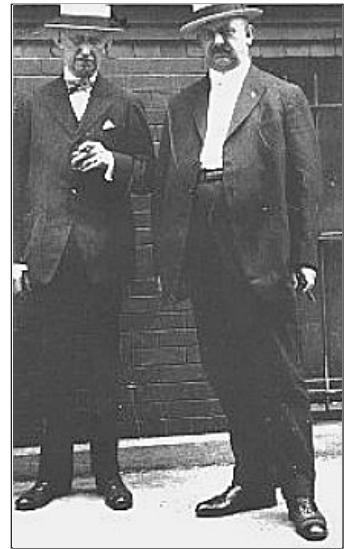
Schmitt also became acquainted with Otis Hinckley, who had been working as a deliveryman for the Wausau Spring Water Company. Driving a horse-drawn wagon, Hinckley brought bottled water from Wisconsin to Chicago retailers.

Not content to work for others, the two men formed the Hinckley & Schmitt Bottled Water Co. in 1888. Instead of selling through retailers, the partners purchased water from the White Rock Spring in Waukesha, Wis., and delivered it to the homes of customers. Later, they would pioneer the concept of the office water cooler.

The business was a success, so much so that they began using railroad tank cars to bring water to their Chicago bottling works. In 1911, they built a new, larger bottling plant on Chicago's Ontario Street. This facility would serve as the company's headquarters until 1968.

Not only did Hinckley & Schmitt bottle water, but the partners distributed various other brands including Mountain Valley Spring Water from Hot Springs, Ark., and the famous White Rock water with the label that featured the lovely nymph Psyche kneeling on a rock. The company even distributed Budweiser beer before the onset of Prohibition.

Schmitt's son, Victor, assumed the helm of the company following his father's passing, but Victor died five years later. However, his son, George, joined the company and rose to become president in 1965. The Schmitt family controlled the company until Schmitt engineered the sale of the firm to Anjou International in 1981. He continued as head of the Hinckley & Schmitt unit until 1996.



Beardstown native George J. Schmitt (left) and Otis W. Hinckley.

Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission

Leigh Morris, Editor

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