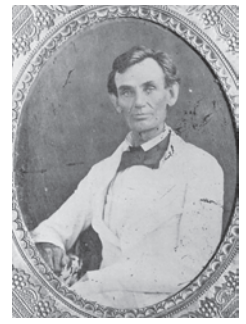


Lincoln Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2014

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



Aug. 2nd Ice cream social an event to remember

Saturday, Aug. 2, was a beautiful, sunny day which was further enriched by the melodic sounds floating through the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum's windows! The source of the music was Una Voce Strings, who were performing for the ice cream social given in appreciation of the Friends of the Courtroom.

The event was well attended with approximately 53 people visiting the museum. Ice cream with all the trimmings, along with a huge assortment of pastries, was enjoyed by all while they visited and listened to the outstanding music being performed by four extremely talented young adults from Jacksonville.

Una Voce Strings is a chamber group consisting of four siblings: Sarah, Anna, Bethany, and Josiah Ferraro. They specialize in performing sacred and classical music, but also include a variety of other arrangements. This unique group also has five younger siblings who are also fellow string musicians.

The Friends of the Courtroom reception is given each year in appreciation of the generous donations that are given to help the museum complete special projects and activities for the museum. Without your support the museum would not be the outstanding facility that has been, is being and will be enjoyed by visitors from all over the world.

Thank You!!!!

~ Connie Foley

Reading Room open

The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum's Display Committee, consisting of Melanie Schroll, Dottie Gholson, Ellie Meyer, Alice Lou Gramann, and Connie Foley, is proud to announce the Reading Room now offers an assortment of material for your reading pleasure. The Reading Room is located in the Beardstown Room of the Museum,



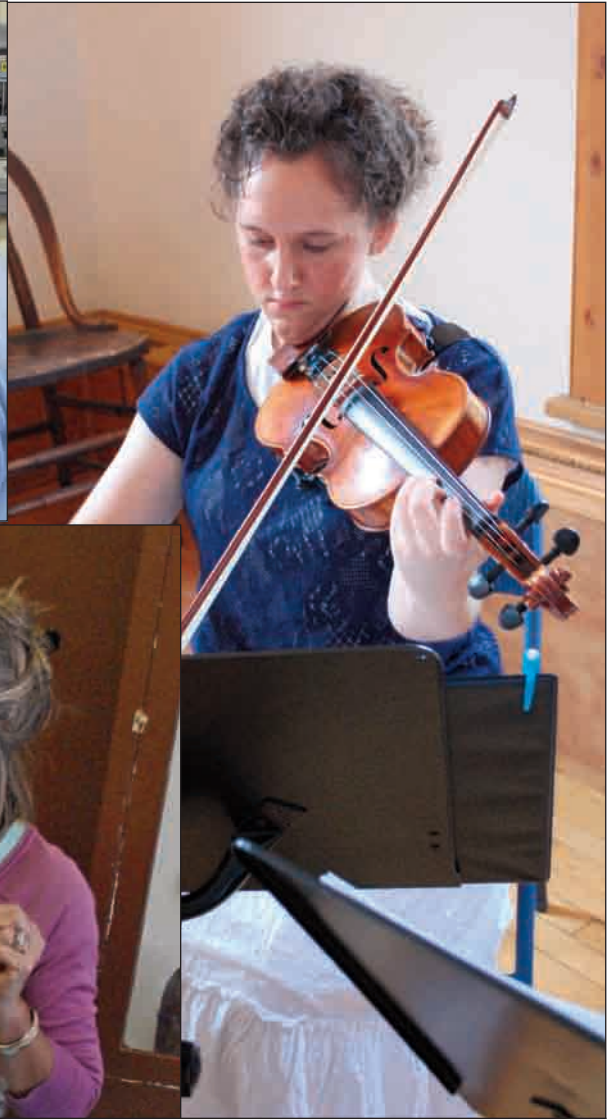
Richard Dick is the great-great-grandson of Cass County Sheriff James Dick. The sheriff earned a place in history when he was responsible for the incarceration of accused murderer William Duff Armstrong prior to and during the famous Almanac Trial. Richard is standing next to a display of the Smith & Wesson Army Tip-up .32 caliber revolver that belonged to the sheriff. Richard donated the firearm to the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum in 2007. He was in Beardstown on Aug. 2 to attend the Friends of the Courtroom reception at the museum.

Paul Blakeman, master craftsman and a Friend of the Courtroom, built a fantastic bookcase to house a variety of materials. There are sections dealing with the following topics: Abraham Lincoln, The Almanac Trial, the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield, World War II, Beardstown news throughout the years, sports, and miscellaneous articles. This information can be found in the form of complete newspapers, single articles and magazines.

In addition to the information in the bookcase, there are albums with flood articles and pictures, information about the old hospital, the Park Hotel and many other points of interest.

Please stop by and enjoy the comfort of the Reading Room and the multitude of information available.

Ice cream social images



An ancient tree

On September 11, lightning struck the big old tree in the city square. The magnificent old tree was at least a century old, and local lore has it that it stood in the square in Lincoln's day. It has been a place for people to gather on the bench encircling it during activities in the park.

Because the split tree was a safety hazard, the entire top was cut off, leaving the lower trunk, an impressive ruin. Several suggestions have been made concerning the remains. Should what is left be removed altogether? Should it be allowed to remain as it is in the hope that it may sprout from some lower small branches? Should it be chain saw carved into the likeness of Abraham Lincoln?

Whatever happens to the tree, there will be a part of it in the Beardstown Room of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum. While the city crew was cutting up the top of the tree, I asked if we could have a piece. "Sure. How much? Like that branch?" That branch was much too long. "Oh, a piece about like this." Later that afternoon a piece of the upper trunk was rolled into the museum, down the hall, and into the Beardstown Room. There we set it upright. It measures 14 inches in diameter and 14 inches high, a good seat if one wishes to get really close to it. I don't recommend staying seated on it too long, since the wood is still damp with sap. It will remain in the Beardstown Room as another reminder of Beardstown's past.

~ Paula Woods



OLCM Gift Shop - a treasure chest for you

If you have not visited the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Gift Shop recently, you are missing an opportunity to purchase some unique treasures and gifts.

Lisa Evenson has done an outstanding job of expanding the selection of gifts and souvenirs for the entire family.

Personally, I believe the greatest treasures are found in the selection of books. Historical reading about our local area as well as Lincoln lore always make perfect gifts.

Now you can buy a coffee mug created by local artist Kirby Drennen depicting the old reference to Beardstown as "The Belle of the Bend."

And of course there are t-shirts, children's games, Lincoln Logs, stationery and more for your shopping pleasure.

Now, just who is Lisa. She is the mother of three daughters and the grandmother of nine. Lisa has supervised the purchasing and selection for the OLCM Gift Shop for the past four years. She also is active in other community committees. Lisa's enjoys music and loves to play the piano.

Many of you may know her husband, Doug, who is the pastor of the Sixth Street Lutheran Church.

So come visit the Gift Shop to see how Lisa has used her talents to bring you unique treasures.

~ Chris Massie



OLCM Friends report

Thank you for your support, which helps make so much of what we do possible. OLCM offers the Friends of the Courtroom five gifting categories:

- Mr. Lincoln's Friend – \$25.00 - \$49.00
- Mr. Lincoln's Bar – \$50.00 - \$99.00
- Mr. Lincoln's Barristers – \$100.00 - \$249.00
- Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff – \$250.00 - \$499.00
- Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers – \$500.00

We are listing our donors who have made 2014 contributions.

Mr. Lincoln's Friend Annual Gift \$25.00 - \$49.00

Anthony J. Bigger
John, Alecia & Paul Crowe
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Lovekamp
Earl & Doris McKenzie
Warren R. Musch
Mike & Cristy Nordsiek
Charles & Judy Taylor
John Winston

Mr. Lincoln's Bar Annual Gift \$50.00 - \$99.00

Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks
Ron Culves
Cathy Rae Duffie – Was Tysons
Glenn & Patricia Hankins
Carl J. & Anna Marie Hood
Joan Korsmeyer
Bill & Dot Leistriz
Dr. R. Thomas Loyd
Mrs. Virginia Thompson

Mr. Lincoln's Barristers Annual Gift \$100.00 - \$299.00

Arline Bley
Mr. & Mrs. H.O. Brownback
Bob & Carol Burget
Mr. & Mrs. David Carls
Jess & Ann Chelette
Ross & Connie Foley
Dottie Gholson
Mrs. Mary Gist
Melody Foley Glidden
Mary Hardwick
Carol Hegener Kinzer
Carnel Korsmeyer
Norman & Betty Korsmeyer

Brent & Mindy Krumboltz
Mrs. Dorothy Lamb
Mrs. Irene Lamkin
Lloyd M. McClure IV
Leigh & Norma Morris
Randy & Sue Reichert
Dale Robertson

If you have not yet made your annual contribution to the Friends of the Courtroom, we invite you to do so today.

If you already have made a contribution, consider making an additional contribution. We also welcome contributions made in the honor or the memory of a person special to you.

Remember, your gifts to the Friends of the Courtroom are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

More importantly, your gifts help sustain and enhance the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum.

Help us preserve Cass County's historical gem by becoming a Friend of the Courtroom.

Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum

Yes, I wish to become a Friend as follows:

- Mr. Lincoln's Friend: Annual Gift \$25.00 - \$49.00
- Mr. Lincoln's Bar: Annual Gift \$50.00 - \$99.00
- Mr. Lincoln's Barristers: Annual Gift \$100.00 - \$249.00
- Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff: Annual Gift \$250.00 - \$499.00
- 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 _____

Depots of the B&O

A railroad equalled prosperity in the 19th century – with it a town could thrive, but without it a community had little opportunity for growth.

The March 1871 inauguration of service on the Springfield & Illinois Southeastern Railroad across Cass County to Beardstown was widely celebrated. At last, the county had secured a direct link to the manufacturing centers and markets in the East. When completed, the new railroad stretched 228 miles from Shawneetown on the Ohio River through Flora, Taylorville, Springfield and finally Beardstown on the Illinois River. Eventually, this line was absorbed into the mighty Baltimore & Ohio.

Though there had once been hopes of extending the railroad to Warsaw or some other point on the Mississippi, the Beardstown-Shawneetown rails quickly settled into life as a light traffic branch line.

While all towns once boasted their own depot, this changed over the years. For instance, in 1925 at Beardstown, the B&O entered into an agreement that gave it full use of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy's imposing depot on Fourth Street as well as the CB&Q's freight house.

This allowed the B&O to remove their freight house. The passenger station was sold to a customer.

A somewhat different situation took place in Ashland, where the B&O crossed the Chicago & Alton's Jack Line. Initially, both railroad's had their own depots. Sometime around 1910, the two railroads built and co-owned the Ashland Union Station.

In Springfield, B&O passenger trains used Union Station, a grand Romanesque Revival structure owned by the Illinois Central. B&O trains called here from the time the station opened in 1898 until 1931 and again between 1945 and the end of service in 1951. Between 1931 and 1945, B&O trains used the Chicago & Alton depot, which now serves Amtrak trains in Springfield. This arrangement was made because the B&O owned the C&A from late 1930 until 1943.

With the end of passenger service, three of the B&O depots between Springfield and Beardstown became endangered species.

The stations and their agents were: Virginia Rohn at Bluff Springs, R.G. Allen at Philadelphia and Tom Cantrell at Pleasant Plains. They remained to handle freight traffic.

In earlier years, the B&O moved a variety of freight on the Beardstown-Springfield line, including milk, melons, bread, fish, lumber, propane, coal, fuel oil and general freight. By 1962, freight traffic was mostly grain from the online elevators, propane and interchange traffic with the CB&Q at Beardstown. This traffic was easily handled by one daily train that would leave Springfield for Beardstown late in the morning or early afternoon, returning in the late evening.

The three depots never did have electricity. However, Rohn and the other agents were generously provided with kerosene lamps should the need for light arise. Heat was ob-



Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Fourth Street depot in Beardstown. Early 20th century photo.



CB&Q Fourth Street freight house that was used by the B&O as well in Beardstown. Photo taken in 1963.

tained by dumping a scoop of coal into a pot-bellied stove. Air conditioning meant an open window and praying for a breeze. Time was kept by a traditional mechanical regulator clock – an eight-day pendulum affair.

While the last passenger train drew considerable news media and public attention, the three depots were closed in late 1962 with barely a whimper. Both Allen and Cantrell stayed on with the B&O at new locations. Rohn retired. For the moment, the B&O kept agents at the stations in Beardstown, Virginia and Ashland.

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Freight traffic continued to dwindle as the local elevators shifted from rail to trucks. By the early '70s, B&O service on the Beardstown-Springfield line had been reduced to two to three trains a week. The B&O closed its stations in Beardstown, Virginia and Ashland by September of 1976.

The end came on Jan. 28, 1979, when the last freight rumbled over the line that had been in service since March of 1871.

However, that end did not come easily. A blizzard was roaring across Central Illinois. The line's last freight managed to get as far as Virginia where drifting snow made it impossible to venture further. It returned to Springfield.

Few mourned the passing of the B&O. Few felt that sharp pang as salvage crews ripped up the track. Though short segments of the right-of-way between Beardstown and Springfield are still visible, most has been claimed for farming. Only the Virginia depot remains as The Depot restaurant.

Ironically, the Bluff Springs post office building now stands on the site of the depot. Ironic because it was the U.S. Post Office decision to cease Railway Post Office (RPO) service on the B&O line that led to the abandonment of passenger service back in 1951. Without RPO revenue, too few passengers remained to justify service. The U.S. Post Office



B&O's Bluff Springs depot as it appeared in the early 1950s.

replaced the RPO with a star route truck. Today, small post offices like the one in Bluff Springs may be nearing the end of the line because of electronic mail.

Surely, the ghosts of the B&O must be amused.



Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission
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