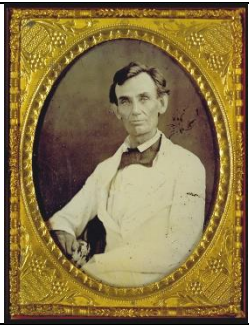


Lincoln Newsletter

Summer 2016

Published by the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission



Founding Commissioner Leigh Morris Retires

With regret the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission announces the retirement of Leigh Morris, last of the original commissioners and first chair of the Commission.

In his letter of resignation Leigh states: "I want to assure this was not an easy decision nor was it made in haste. However, it all comes down to a matter of time and I find that I no longer have sufficient time to fulfill my commitments as a commissioner."

The Commission was instituted on October 5, 2005, and its first meeting was held October 20, 2005. Leigh has been an active member, serving for fifteen years, five months, and two days until his retirement, acting as chair of the Commission and editor of the newsletter. He served as chair until June 23, 2009.

Quoting from the resolution presented to him and to the City Council of the City of Beardstown:

... to honor the selfless service of the said Leigh Morris and his faithful and conscientious devotion the duty as a Commissioner of said Commission and service as its Chair and Editor of the quarterly newsletter, the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission appoints him as its fourth Commissioner Emeritus.

Leigh once said he had no idea he would be so busy after his retirement from Ameren, but as often happens, retirement means participation in all those volunteer activities is now possible and welcomed by organizers.

Leigh will not sever his ties with the commission. In fact, he will be Trivia Master this fall, and will be consulted when his expertise is needed.

Welcome Dick Zillion



Richard (Dick) Zillion is the newest member of the Commissioners of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum Commission. Since he grew up at 101 East 4th Street, just one block from the Courtroom and Museum, he is no stranger to its history.

Dick's father was a volunteer fireman with the fire department which was located, at that time, downstairs below the Courtroom. Because of his proximity to the scene of a lot of everyday action, he was a frequent visitor from early childhood.

Dick has maintained an on-going interest in the City of Beardstown, as the original purchase of the land for the original location of Beardstown was made from the DeWitt family, Dick's mother's side of his family.

Dick graduated from BHS with the Class of 1972 and worked 41.5 years for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, retiring in June, 2014. He is a member of the Mens' Veterans Auxiliary and the Bluff Springs United Methodist Church where he chairs the the Church Council. He also serves Meals on Wheels.

Known all over Beardstown for his interest in the welfare of the community as well as his love of designing, implementing, and completing projects, he is a natural for the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum Commission. The recently completed and dedicated Beardstown Veterans Memorial on the Wall Street extension is an example of a project to which he has given an immense amount of time and effort.

So far Dick has attended three Commission meetings and helped conduct three scheduled tours, and he is intrigued with the receptivity of those on tour, especially to the interesting facts and anecdotes from his perspective growing up in downtown Beardstown and his familiarity with the river as well as the railroad.

Dick and his wife Laura are parents to two sons, Zack and Zeb.

**In the end, it's not the years
in your life that count. It's the
life in your years.**

Abraham Lincoln

New To Our Gift Shop



Mound Builders

Sage VanZandt

September 15, 2015

Indians of North America

24 pages

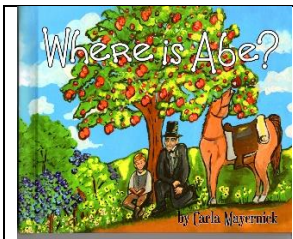
According to Google Books, “The Mound Builders is a beautiful children's story embracing the mystical origin of the ‘ancient ones.’ As Hennie, a young girl of Victorian days, plays by the river hunting for arrow-heads and climbing trees, she suddenly finds herself in another world of very different people.”

“Hennie watches these "ancient ones" build tall mounds with river clay and homes of grass huts. She joins in with them as they dance and sing with a love for the nature surrounding them.”

“The story is based on an historical Indian culture situated on the river in Beardstown, Illinois, and a mound that was said to be the second largest in Illinois. The Mound Builders will enthrall the youngest book lovers and older readers with its exciting plot and poetic flow.”

“The author, Sage VanZandt, was born and raised in Beardstown Illinois.” She recently celebrated her 50th BHS class reunion. “ VanZandt received her BFA from Stephen's College in Missouri and her MA from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.”

“She taught art in the Beardstown public schools for 27 years, until moving to Olympia, Washington, with her husband Jack VanZandt and establishing herself in the local art scene. She is known for her dramatic batiks and acrylic canvas paintings of wildlife, dancers, and race horses. VanZandt used acrylic on canvas to illustrate The Mound Builders.”



Where Is Abe?

Carla Mayernick

April 14, 2015

Presidents

41 pages

Another Illinois author, Carla Mayernick, of Girard, Illinois, was inspired to write *Where Is Abe?* by her son Shawn, who thought it a good idea to write a book for

children illustrating all the Lincoln sites around Springfield.

The book features silhouettes(s) of Lincoln along with a question such as “Where is Abe? Is he in the park hiding ‘til dark?” while on the opposing page Mayernick has created colorful paintings pertaining to the locations suggested in the question, such as Lincoln Park, the Old State Capitol, or the Berry-Lincoln store in New Salem until she ultimately discloses his whereabouts.

The author and illustrator, Carla Mayernick, resides in her native Girard, Illinois, in the “Land of Lincoln.” She obtained an Art Degree from Western Illinois University and, since a child, has used her art and writing talents to honor special people and life events. She also is a former teacher at Chatham Glenwood High School.

Also For The Children: Do-It-Yourself Vintage Project Kits



For the children, the Gift Shop has do-it-yourself kits. In addition to the four pictured above (The Native American Dream Catcher kit, the Tomahawk kit, the Early American Corn Husk Doll kit, and the Sewing Cards kit), are two additional items, the Clothespin Doll Kit, and the Ojo de Dios “God’s Eye” kit.

All are reasonably priced and available to keep a child or grandchild busy with a vintage project.



Do you need a gift for a special occasion? Perhaps a gift that represents some aspect of Beardstown? Stop by our Gift Shop and check out the unique merchandise available, including items by local artists.

Friends' Donations January 2016 to Date

One of Beardstown's crown jewels is the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum. The Museum is able to operate through the services of volunteers and its support group, **Friends of the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum**, and any fund-raisers sponsored by this group.

In addition to the Old Lincoln Courtroom, displays include: **The Lincoln Room, Founders Room, River Museum, Transportation Room, Vintage Clothing Room, Military Room, Judges' Chambers, Beardstown Room, River Art Gallery, Jail, Heritage Room, Beardstown Ladies' Room.**

The adage, "Everyone Needs a Friend" could not be more true. **Will you be our friend?** Will you help us maintain the history of Beardstown and the integrity of the Museum & Courtroom collection? We acknowledge each contribution with a tax-deductible receipt, and you will also receive our quarterly newsletter to keep you updated.

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

1. Ann Brewer
2. Doris McKenzie
3. Warren Musch
4. Loren & Hilma Stove
5. Charles & Judy Taylor

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

1. Frances Hegener
2. Dale & Wylla Lovekamp
3. Dr. R. Thomas Loyd
4. The Sazarac

Mr. Lincoln's Barristers: Annual Gift \$100.00 - \$249

1. Brent Bordenkircher
Edward Jones Investments
2. Ron Culves
3. Michael & Charlotte Farrell
4. Ross & Connie Foley
5. Melody-Glidden Foley
6. Dottie Gholson
7. Carole Hegener Kinzer
8. Mrs. Carnell Korsmeyer
9. Mrs. Dorothy Lamb

10. Mrs. Irene Lamkin
11. Mr. & Mrs. L. Milton McClure
12. Randy & Sue Reichert
13. Dale R. Robertson

Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff: Annual Gift \$250.00 - \$499.00

Mr. Lincoln's Judges Chambers: Annual Gift \$500.00

One Time Donations:

Memorials

1. Herschel Logsdon by Jess and Ann Chelette



Yes, I wish to become a Friend as follows:

- Mr. Lincoln's Friend:** Annual Gift \$25-\$49
- Mr. Lincoln's Bar:** Annual Gift \$50-\$99
- Mr. Lincoln's Barristers:** Annual Gift \$100-\$249
- Mr. Lincoln's Bailiff:** Annual Gift \$250-\$399
- Mr. L's Judges' Chambers** Annual Gift \$500/+

My pledge is in the amount of \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

This is a _____ new membership.

This is a _____ renewal membership.

Please forward your payment (payable to **Friends of the Museum/Courtroom**) along with this information form to:

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

I would like to receive my newsletter in the form of
_____ a paper copy
_____ an e-mail copy

Fulfilling Our Goal to Educate and Inform

The summer season is upon us at the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum, meaning that the number of visitors increases as people vacation.

May is the month for school tours as the school year winds down. Each year the fourth grade from Gard School visits several sites downtown that are important to Beardstown history, and finishes up with lunch in the park.

Gard students expressed interest in the diversity of the Museum's displays. Many had not heard the stories about river life, especially about cutting ice, and they were also intrigued with the Halligan Brothers' display of their pioneer work with what later became known as the helicopter.

While many also recognized the importance of the railroad to Beardstown's development, they were not aware of the different sized rails.



Reading excerpts of the Duff Armstrong trial in the courtroom in which the trial occurred.

Early in June a group from the Elm City Center in Jacksonville visited to learn about Beardstown and Lincoln.

Thanks go to those volunteers who made these tours doable: Melanie Schroll, Dottie Gholson (who are responsible for the often complimented displays), Gift Shop director Kathy Haute, Commissioners Randy Reichert, Ron Culves, and Dick Zillion. In addition to being the newest member of the commission, Dick is an asset to the volunteers who lead these tours; his knowledge of Beardstown impresses the children, especially when he tells of participating in training for the volunteer firemen by jumping out the courtroom window to be rescued in the net held below.

BHS Alums Return to Find Numerous Changes and Rekindled Memories

The spring season climaxes with Alumni Weekend/Memorial Day Weekend, a time when graduates of Beardstown High School return to celebrate. Many of them make a trip to the museum to refresh their memories of the old home town. Most are surprised at the changes and additions that have been made. Comments range from "I haven't been here in (just insert a number of years)" to "Oh gosh, I remember (insert some activity, place, or person)" or "What's that???"

(Continued)



Some students take time to "measure up" to the life-size Lincoln painting.

This year we also hosted the seventh grade from Hardin, which had just finished a unit on Abraham Lincoln, which included reading the novel, *Moonshine*. They held a reading from works about the Almanac Trial in the courtroom in which the trial actually took place.

“Educate and Inform – (continued)”

One graduate, Sage VanZandt (Sarah Jane Potts to oldtimers) brought several copies of her book, *The Mound Builders*, which is Beardstown related, for the gift shop. Although meant for older children, this beautifully illustrated book would be a wonderful gift for adults as well.

Many Intrigued Visitors to Beardstown

In addition to school tours and returning alumni the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum has been a stop for a number of people from all over Illinois and several other states. Illinois has been represented by those from Beardstown and other cities: Rushville, Bluff Springs, Macomb, Table Grove, Payson, Springfield, Bloomington, Westchester, Canton, Loraine, Palatine. Out of state visitors came from California, Colorado, Washington, Minnesota, Kansas, Michigan, Oregon, South Dakota, Indiana, New York, Missouri, Vermont, Florida, Ohio, Texas, Ohio, and Iowa with their Welch visitors!

A personal note: since I was on a tour in Wales three years ago I was curious to learn more about the part of Wales they came from. The woman said offhandedly, “Oh, North Wales.” My tour was based in North Wales, in Hawarden (pronounced “Hardin” like the Calhoun County town). The surprised and enthusiastic reply was, “We’re from Mold! It’s three miles!” We then had a good visit about Hawarden and the places my tour had taken me and where they had been in the U.S. It is indeed a small world.

How Do Visitors Learn About the Museum?

How did they find about the OLCM? Several saw the signs on U.S. 67 and IL 125. Some were following Looking for Lincoln maps. A number had found us through the Internet (YouTube). Two “stumbled on” the site, and many noted that Beardstown was their hometown or they had learned about us from family.

Bree McClenning from Rivertown Coffee and Wine Corner recommended the museum to one couple (Thanks, Bree). Especially interesting was the note written in the Visitor Log by a young girl: “I live a block away. This is a very nice place.” Most comments are favorable, and most visitors are impressed by such a museum in a small town.

It is astounding the number of people living in Beardstown who are not aware of the existence of the museum or have not visited in years. We would love to see all of those reading this newsletter, Beardstown residents and all others, in the museum whenever you are able. We’re open Monday through Saturday 10-4;

for other times call the museum number 271-323-3225 during those hours or 217-248-6053 at other times.

Volunteer Extraordinaire Corky Kinstle



We had to ask Corky to take a minute from his tour leader duties to snap this picture in the River Museum. He was more concerned that his tour group might think they had to leave before he completed the remaining exhibits.

One of the greatest assets a museum can have is dedicated volunteers. The Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum is fortunate to have such an asset, a real gem—Corky Kinstle.

Corky has devoted two days and sometimes three, each week that the museum is open, serving as guide. He is also our “mailman,” picking up mail from the P.O. Box and delivering it to the museum with often amusing commentary and analysis of the documents.

Corky proved his worth as a tour guide when he conducted George R. Dekle, Sr. author of *Abraham Lincoln’s Most Famous Case: The Almanac Trial*. Dekle included Corky with those to whom he “owe[s]

(Continued)

Corky Kinstle – (continued)

a debt of gratitude” in the preface to his book: “Corky Kinstle gave me a tour of the old Beardstown courthouse where the trial was held and showed me the jail where the defendant awaited trial.” Those others include several impressive scholars.

To give an idea of Corky’s effect upon visitors to the museum, a quote from a thank you note reads:

My husband and I visited you on Sept.28, 2013, during the fall festival. We arrived before 10 A M but were warmly welcomed by Corky and a lovely lady whose name I didn’t get [Corky’s wife Sylvia].

What a wonderful and informative time! Corky’s knowledge and friendliness was so appreciated. And to top it all off they shared some delicious cookies with us before we left.

Dale and Dee Boston

Corky is a wealth of information regarding Beardstown history and lore. Since the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum is the city museum as well as the Lincoln Courtroom, other volunteers rely on his knowledge of people and places. If you don’t know it, ask Corky! He can relate many tales of the town, some of which may not actually bear repeating.

Remember Kinstle’s Bakery?

A Beardstown native whose family ran Kinstle’s Bakery (remembered fondly by older residents), Corky graduated from Beardstown High School and worked as wire chief, telegrapher, and general communications for the railroad in Wyoming, Iowa, and several other states.

After he retired from the railroad he spent several years with Oscar Mayer before retiring again. Then he “came out of retirement” once again so to speak, to join the volunteer staff of the Old Lincoln Courtroom.

The museum is not his only contribution to Beardstown life. As a member of the Community of Christ church, he often delivers the Sunday message. He is the father of two sons and a daughter. Living outside of Beardstown, Corky spends time manicuring a large lot and feeding hummingbirds and other wildlife. The hummingbirds are his special interest.

Corky and his wife, Sylvia Wintermeyer, have a wide circle of friends, some of whom have as many tales to tell as he does!

Corky enables the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum to continue to be the outstanding small city museum that it is. Thanks, Corky.

p.s. Corky is especially fond of Bit’o’Honey candy, keeping the museum office well supplied! If you want a special tour, just bring candy!

Security Issues Resolved

With the acquisition of a document containing the original signature of Abraham Lincoln, as well as another document bearing the original signatures of both Thomas Beard and his wife, the Commissioners reevaluated the security system of the Old Lincoln Courtroom and Museum and found it insufficient.

Because of concern for security, the Lincoln document is currently stored in the vault of one of the financial institutions in Beardstown.

Security systems were investigated, and ADT was selected to install a new, completely stand-alone system with wireless (cell phone) backup and notification to law enforcement agencies.

Through the cooperation of Mayor Patterson, the new system was quickly approved and is now installed and active, providing 24-hour protection for the Museum and Courtroom.

As soon as the Beard document is returned to the Museum from the company that is restoring and preserving it, an event unveiling both the Lincoln and Beard documents is planned to introduce them to the Museum and its visitors.

Are You Interested in a Family Tree Project?



An idea also in the gift shop can be an adult project or a combined adult/children project for all to enjoy as well as preserve family history.

Our Featured Exhibit: Vintage Clothing & More



Various clothing items attract the interest of our visitors, especially the school age group who have many questions.

This exquisite white dress was worn in the 1800's, and the coverlet behind it was also from the early 1800's.

Velma Gish donated the blue and beige woven coverlet, which had belonged to the Melborn Corkill family.

Dress worn by Edith Main Savage to 1898 wedding of Bessie Crum. It was made by the Suffern girls for \$33, which was a month's salary for Edith who was teaching at Campbell School west of Virginia. The quilt was pieced by Margaret Schmidt, who was born October 11, 1908 and died October 31, 1866.



Items of children's clothing are also on display. The skirt on the left is trimmed in lace.

On the right, we see a boy's frilly, collared shirt and shorts



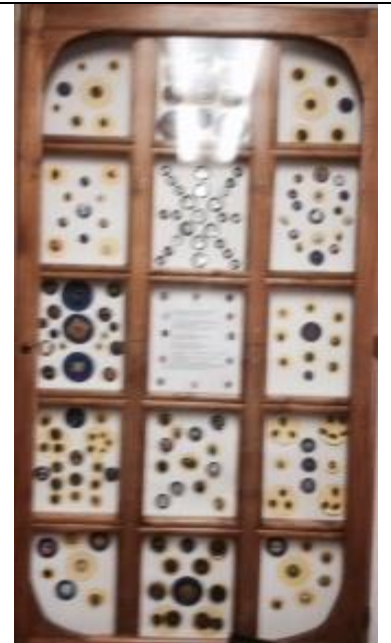
A number of these shoes were purchased at the Listman & Ruppel Shoe store at 109 State Street Beardstown

The majority of these buttons were donated by Mrs. Alberta Niestradt, Arenzville, Illinois.

Her two cousins, Anna and Nina Niestradt, sisters, had amassed the collection.

The buttons are described and identified in the chart which occupies the center position in the display.

Buttons were considered almost as important as jewelry.



This 1924 dress was donated by Imogene Drawve. It is accented by a black belt with a large silver clasp and a black hat and black shawl carried on the arm.

Items of children's clothing are also seen in the lower corner of the picture.

The skirt of a more common dress is visible in the upper portion of the case behind the Drawve dress.

Old Lincoln Courtroom
& Museum Commission
P.O. Box 381
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**The Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum
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Web: LincolnInBeardstown.org



Commissioner Chris Massie has provided a classy welcome to the Old Lincoln Courtroom & Museum with these colorful flower box plantings rising strikingly from the beds of ivy and barberry shrubs.