



# *The Society Story*

Newsletter of the LaSalle County Historical Society  
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## The “Lincoln” Carriage

This closed carriage brought Abraham Lincoln from the Rock Island railroad station to Washington Park in Ottawa for the first of his seven debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858. At the time of the debate it was owned by State Representative Henry Sherrill of Lisbon, Illinois. Mr. Sherrill was a lawyer and a member of the Constitutional Convention which framed the present Constitution of Illinois.

The carriage was purchased from the estate of Henry Sherrill by Norman Shufelt, whose wife was a cousin of Sherrill. They used it for many years before storing it in a shed on their farm. The carriage was exhibited in Ottawa in 1958 for the centennial of the debate. It was restored with new upholstery and paint in 1964 through the cooperation of Mr. Robert Cohenour and Mr. Lars Fosen. It was donated to LCHS in 1968 by Mrs. Harry (Mae Shufelt) Naden and is a highlight of our Museum.



John Lovell, the man who drove the carriage for Lincoln was told by his employer to clean it and groom the horses well, for “you are going to drive a man who I think will be great and maybe the President of the United States one day.”

After the debate Lovell wanted to speak with Lincoln but Lincoln was carried off on the shoulders of his supporters. Lovell ended up driving back alone but he always remembered his meeting with the future president.



The carriage on display in the LCHS Museum

Although Lincoln would lose the 1858 election for the Senate, the national attention the debates generated put him in good standing as a candidate for the Presidency in 1860.

The carriage as it was in 1968.

## Statue Has Local Connection

Chicago sculptor Lorado Taft (1860-1936) completed his most famous work, "The Eternal Indian" (later called "Black Hawk"), in 1911. The massive statue overlooks the Rock River in Lowden State Park near Oregon, IL. Sitting on a 77' bluff, the work is 48' tall and is composed of concrete and pink granite chips. The statue was dedicated on July 1, 1911 and was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.



Taft often used LaSalle County clay when working on models for his sculptures. He is also the sculptor of the "Fountain of Time" in Chicago.

## Starved Rock Memorabilia

Clara Morris of Burneau, Iowa, donated pennants, a souvenir box and a kerchief which were collected by her husband in the 1930s and 1940s. He would go to the Starved Rock Pavilion to see "dance bands" and to hike the trails.

A number of famous bands played at the Pavilion which was located near where the Visitors Center is today. Duke Ellington, Guy Lombardo, Benny Goodman and others played for midweek and Saturday night festivities. Admission was a nickel for gentlemen and no charge for women.

## Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War

August 2, 1861: Congress enacted an income tax of 3% on incomes over \$800.00.

August 7, 1861: James Eads of St. Louis awarded contract to build 7 gunboats. Eads fulfilled the contract ahead of schedule and under the bid price.

August 17, 1861: Orders were issued providing for pay of 40 cents per day and one daily ration for nurses in the Union army.

August 20, 1861: Convention in Wheeling organizes the state of Kanawha (later to be West Virginia).

August 24, 1861: CSA diplomats Mason and Slidell travel to Great Britain and France to obtain recognition of CSA and to purchase supplies.

August 26, 1861: King Kamehameha proclaims neutrality for Hawaii.

August 28, 1861: Union forces capture of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina contributes to Union blockade effort.

September 6, 1861: U.S. Grant occupies Paducah, KY which gives the Union some control over the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, both being major waterways of the CSA.

September 25, 1861: Lincoln's secretary, John Nicolay, purchased a \$ 24.00 mahogany sofa for the White House.

## Burgoo Entertainment Set

Some returning favorites and some new faces will be performing at this year's Burgoo Festival.

On the Museum stage, Brian Neumann will start the morning rocking from 9 - 11. At 11:30 the Radium City Rebels will play rock-a-billy and swing, and from 2 - 4 Crossroads will perform blues music.

New this year will be a second stage by the Blacksmith shop. The acoustic sound of Jeff Manfredini and Friends will start the day there, followed by Katie Belle and Joe Trupiano with bluegrass, and the sax quartet of Got Soul? rounds out the afternoon.

The LaSalle-Peru High School band will march and the New Doodledorfers German band will also perform.

## Burgoo Raffle

Prizes have been donated for the Burgoo Raffle and tickets are now on sale at the Museum. We are pleased to announce that the grand prizes are overnight stays at Grand Bear Lodge and at Starved Rock Lodge. Leesa Tipton has again donated a handmade basket, Seasons Gone By has given a cute fall welcome sign and Weeta's Boutique has given a handbag and necklace. Gift certificates from local businesses will also be won. More prizes are coming in each week so watch our website for a current listing. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be Sunday, October 9 at 4 pm and you do not need to be present to win.

We appreciate the support these generous donors have given us. We hope you will support them also.

## Starved Rock State Park - Hiking Through 100 Years

If you have ever hiked at Starved Rock or had lunch at the Lodge, you will want to

visit the Museum and see our newest display, Starved Rock State Park - Hiking Through 100 Years.

The exhibit fills the stairwell and features pictures, post card scenes and the story of how the park came to be Illinois' first State Park.

Intern Brian Baxter scoured our archives to gather pictures of the park from many years ago.

### Alice Fredericks 1917 - 2011



Our sympathies go to the family of Alice Magnall Fredericks who died on July 17. Alice had a life-long interest in history and was a Life Member of the Society. She often appeared in local parades wearing the dress worn by her Great-grandmother when she shook the hand of Abraham Lincoln following the first Lincoln-Douglas debate in Ottawa. Alice served on the Society board for several years and was a frequent worker at the Burgoo Fest pie stand where her apricot pies were very popular. Alice was a prize-winning quilter and was proud to have won an ecology contest sponsored by Sam Walton. She is survived by her daughters Carol Stroud and Janet (Robert) Lee of Modesto, California, and Janis (Larry) Decker of Oakdale, California, her brother Lawrence Magnall of Waverly, Iowa, grandchildren, great-grand-children, nieces and nephews. Alice will be missed by all who knew her.

## Calendar of Events - 2011

Radium Girls Statue Dedication - Friday, Sept 2, 11 am, Corner of Clinton & Jefferson Streets, Ottawa

Civil War Round Table - Wed. Sept 21, Ottawa High Cafeteria 7:30 - Ron Slack, Battle of Palmito Ranch, TX

**Celebrate Museum Day, September 24!**

**October 9, 2011 - 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Burgoo Festival**

**LCHS Annual Meeting - Sunday, November 13, 1:00 at Celebrations 150, LaSalle**

www.lasallecountymuseum.org

e-mail: [office.lchs@gmail.com](mailto:office.lchs@gmail.com)

Fax: 815-310-7613

La Salle County Historical Society  
101 E Canal Street - P.O. Box 278  
Utica, IL 61373

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Utica, IL 61373  
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### Memorials

*In Memory of Alice Fredericks* from Bob and Dolores Barnett, Vince and Luceille Werner and J. Davis and Mary Small

*In Memory of Stanley Acuff* from Dolores Passwater & Family

### Road construction update

Route 178 into Utica remains open despite the construction. Exit 81 from Interstate 80 is open one lane in each direction. There is no road construction on the weekends.