



# *Illinois Heritage*

A publication of The Illinois State Historical Society

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*September-October 2018*



IN MEMORY OF THE MINERS WHO HAVE G

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## On the cover:

Fluorspar miners' memorial in Rosiclare, Hardin County, Illinois. Photo by Bethany Joyner.

## To our readers:

The summer of 2018 was a hummingbird, a trail of feathers in a haze of corn silk. But it isn't quite over yet, and there's plenty of work to get done before the dust settles. Nine months into the state's bicentennial year, the Illinois State Historical Society has pulled out all the stops to make the commemoration as memorable as possible. So far we've placed or scheduled 71 Lincoln portraits in county courthouses around the state, with 31 more to go before December 3. We have eight historical marker dedications between now and October 30. The Society's 2018 Centennial Awards will be handed out on Saturday, November 3 at the newly restored Illinois Governor's Mansion, and our three-part fall "Lunch and Learn" lecture series at the University of Illinois Springfield begins on September 26 and is all about the bicentennial. You can sign up today online at:

<http://go.uis.edu/LLfall2018>.

One of the many reasons I love working for the ISHS is *Illinois Heritage* magazine, which gives our members and friends a chance to share their deep passion for Prairie State history. This issue includes articles from contributors all across the state: Herbert Russell from Carbondale; Kathleen Spaltro from Woodstock; Mark Flotow from Springfield; John Hallwas from Macomb, Reg Ankrom from Quincy; Will Shannon from Belleville; and Keith Sculle from Williamsville and Steve Leonard from Rochester. I am so pleased to see their work in print, and I promise that each article will bring you closer to the essence of Illinois and, perhaps, stoke your own creative fires.

Enjoy your fall, and we hope to see you in Springfield for the 2018 Illinois History Symposium on December 3.

William Furry  
Executive Director

# President's Message



First, some very good news: our dedicated board member David Joens is back on the well list and has returned to work. Our best wishes to Dave and his family.

Did you know there is an Illinois Bicentennial postage stamp? Well, unfortunately most people don't. They are very hard to find in Illinois. One of my sons lives in Dripping Springs, Texas – population is less than 3,500. They had the stamp. The Postmaster said he'd only sold a couple, and those as single purchases. Craig has never forgotten his roots and is a loyal member of ISHS. He bought the entire stash of 303 and sent them to his Mom. I will really enjoy using them.



Our Illinois Bicentennial year could not be going better. Our past president and continuing board member, David Scott, has had his book published, *A Bicentennial Commemorative of the Prairie*. David culled over 33 articles from 110 years of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* to create a mosaic of our history.

One of our Bicentennial projects, spearheaded by our executive director William Furry, is to place an Alexander Hesler Lincoln portrait in each of our 102 county courthouses. This is going so well Bill has had to ask board members to pitch in and attend some of the dedications for him. Four organizations, the Illinois Judges Association and Illinois Judges Foundation, and the Illinois State Bar Association and Illinois Bar Foundation, have generously partnered with the ISHS to help us meet our goal. Bill's idea for the Johnny Apple Seed trees was also a smashing success. Whatever will he think up next to promote our great organization?!

Research and writing is a continuing occupation of our board members. The articles in this issue of your *Illinois Heritage* include contributions from Reg Ankrom (Quincy), William Shannon IV (Belleville), Herbert Russell (Carbondale), Mark Flotow (Springfield), and Cinda Klickna (Rochester). The variety is fascinating. The articles cover the good things that happened in our state and the bad. They also deal with local happenings in Illinois, as well as the state's national and international involvement.

Plan now to continue your celebration of the Illinois Bicentennial with all of us at the Governor's Mansion on November 3, 2018. Illinois centennial businesses and not-for-profit organizations will be honored. What a grand place to do it in!

The Illinois Bicentennial Year has been a busy one. Another date to put on the calendar is December 3, 2018. This is our state's real birthday. An all-day Illinois history program is planned for the celebration at the University of Illinois Springfield in the brand new student union. Lunch is included with your reservation. You will want to be a part of this memorable day.

Leah Axelrod  
President





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*The Spirit of Peoria* docked on the Illinois River at Naples, Illinois. Photo by William Furry.