

Alton Museum of History and Art, Inc.

Winter 2009/2010

News & Views

2809 College Avenue, Alton, Illinois 62002 618-462-2763 altonmuseum@yahoo.com www.altonmuseum.com

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Former Altonian Becomes Life Member

Ralph (Skip) Luken, originally from Alton, is the Alton Museum of History and Art's newest life member. He visited relatives in Alton over the recent holidays and came in to visit. It was so good to meet him! He was very interested in our interpretation of "Lost Alton" – and we plan to send him newsletters via e-mail, as he now lives in Vienna, Austria. We trust that some museum members may remember him from his days in our area.

It is our pleasure to have you for a life member, Skip! Welcome!

Charlene Gill
AMHA President Emeritus

*Would you like to become
a museum life member or benefactor?
See page 4 for details and contact us any time!*

Our Past

Alton, IL Fire, May 1857

Destructive Fire at Alton, Illinois

Chicago, Saturday, April 18. A destructive conflagration occurred at Alton, Ill. On Thursday, destroying the Planning Mill of MORRISON & BEAL, the Methodist Church parsonage house, and doing great damage to the Waverley Hotel, Piazza house, and the warehouse of HOLLISTER & COFFER. Total loss was \$50,000.

Reprinted from "The New York Times", New York, NY
20 May 1857

PLANS for 2010

*Be on the lookout for these events
happening at the museum!*

January – Taxidermy Exhibit

Student Sign Language Interpreters provided for tours every Saturday from January through March. Interpreted tours at other times can be arranged by appointment. Please e-mail or call the museum to arrange a time.

February – Black History Month (Tuskegee Airman, Inc.)

March - Women’s History Month/Betty Muegge Art Show

April – Shurtleff Days – Norman Showers

May – Lovejoy Essay Contest (Alton Schools) – Awards Presentation at Upper Alton Presbyterian Church

May 14th - Tuskegee Airman
Commentary by Thomas Raglin

June – Resume “Friday Night at the Museum”

July – “Remembering Lost Alton” Open House
Commentary by researchers Cathy Bagby and Phil Poehner

August - Miles Davis Jazz Festival

September – School Tours
(call today to reserve a time for your class)

October – Art Show

November – Lovejoy Month

December – “Christmas Past” Exhibit

Answer to
“What Is It?”
Mystery Artifact from
fall 2009 issue is
Candle Drier

Miles Davis Jazz Festival – SAVE THE DATE!

5th Annual Jazz Festival ~ August
2010 (date to be announced)
The Commons at Lewis and Clark
Community College, Godfrey, Illinois
More details to follow...

Spotlight on Lee Barham, Chairman of the Miles Davis Jazz Committee

Lee Barham received his education in the Alton Public Schools and Lewis & Clark College. He has been employed at the Olin Corporation for 19 years. As a community activist, he led an effort to have Salu Park in Alton named for James H. Killion Jr., a prominent United Steelworkers Union leader who fought for expanded job opportunities for African-Americans.



GIFT SHOP

Looking for that special gift for someone? Check out the Alton Museum gift shop at Loomis Hall on SIUE Dental School Campus. The gift shop is open from 10-4 PM, Wednesday through Saturday. All funds support the Alton Museum.

California In Home School holds Fundraiser for the Museum

Our museum is sharing information with a K-12 home schooling group. Angela Ward, the school's administrator, has inquired about the Civil War Prison in Alton. The school wanted more information about the smallpox epidemic that killed many Confederate prisoners. She was interested in details about the disease, and how many perished. The museum provided information on the smallpox epidemic and the over 1500 that died.

Angela's next call was to tell us that her home school group was having a fundraising event to help show their gratitude to the Alton Museum.

Recently, we spoke with Angela and shared information about Elijah Lovejoy. Angela plans to have an essay contest about Lovejoy, just as we are doing for the Alton Area.

William Clark's Gravesite Bellefontaine Cemetery Saint Louis, MO

Upon completion of the Expedition, William Clark was appointed Brigadier General of Militia and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Louisiana Territory by President Thomas Jefferson. Clark held this post for nearly 30 years and he made St. Louis his home. Clark married twice, having five children by his first wife, and after a brief illness, died on September 1, 1838, at the age of 69 in the home of his son on Broadway near the St. Louis riverfront. Following a grand funeral procession that was over a mile long, Clark was buried with Masonic and military honors outside the city, on the farm of his nephew, Col. John O'Fallon.

Today the gravesite is incorporated within the boundaries of Bellefontaine Cemetery. The elaborate granite obelisk features a bust of the explorer and an inscription that reads: "SOLDIER, EXPLORER, STATESMAN AND PATRIOT. HIS LIFE IS WRITTEN IN THE HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY."

Charitable giving - -

If you are interested in giving a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds to Alton Museum of History & Art, Inc., contact us or Joshua Farley with Edward Jones Investments here in Alton.

Yes, Alton Museum of History & Art, Inc. accepts cash donations as well as gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds. By giving a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds, you are parting with dominion and control of the stock to Alton Museum of History & Art, Inc. thus eliminating the capital gains taxes you would have owed if you sold it.

A stock is said to be highly appreciated if it is valued at a higher rate now than when you originally purchased it. By giving a gift of stock to Alton Museum of History & Art, Inc., you generally receive a full deduction of the entire value of the asset, while avoiding the capital gains tax which would have been due had you sold it.

For more information, contact Josh Farley at (618) 462-4465.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



ALTON MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART, INC

2809 College Avenue, Alton, IL 62002
(618) 462-2763

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

- Youth\$5
- Senior.....\$20
- Active (Single).....\$25
- Family.....\$30
- History Lover.....\$40
- Patron of the Arts...\$50
- Business.....\$100
- Life.....\$1,000
- Benefactor.....\$5,000

Donation _____

Willing to work as a volunteer

Have a special interest, knowledge

Historical items in possession

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.altonmuseum.com

*"History outlives those who would destroy it."
...anonymous*

Ever wonder how your donation money is spent?

These items will be purchased/completed as donations come in.... Every dollar helps us preserve our areas history!

Doors and windows for the Cole-Clarke Carriage house

Foundation repair and paint for Wadlow House

Replace ancient bathrooms in Loomis Hall

Expand the Koenig House second floor to German-American 19th Century

Add security cameras in 7 major areas of the museum

WISH LIST OFFICE SUPPLIES

- Newsletter Sponsor / Printer
- White Envelopes Size 5 ½ " X 8 ½ "
- Printer Cartridge 78 – 45 Color & Black Ink
- Cannon Toner Cartridge PC 850
- Copy Paper
- Postage Stamps – 44 Cents
- Address Labels
- Letter Long Envelopes
- Short Envelopes
- Manila Office Folders
- Packing Boxes – size copy paper comes in
- Small Shade Tent
- New Copy Machine

Donate to the museum today – don't forget it's a tax deduction!