

# *Alton Museum of History and Art, Inc.*

Fall 2010

## **News & Views**

2809 College Avenue, Alton, Illinois 62002

618-462-2763

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### **Rockin' with Robert**

The Upper Alton Business Association held a FREE musical evening at the Robert Wadlow statue on the campus of SIUE Dental School. A musical trio consisting of vocalist Ralph Butler, pianist Gigi Darr and saxophonist Jim Stevens volunteered their time to remember Anna Beach and honor Andy Simpson, who we love. Another "Rockin' with Robert" is planned for September.



**"Rockin' with Robert"**



**Rockin' with Robert Band  
Ralph Butler, Gigi Darr & Jim Stevens**

### **Book Signing: September 11, 2010** **Author to discuss cycling mystery**

"Friday Nights at the Museum," with author David Herlihy, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, September 11, at the Alton Museum of History and Art, 2809 College Avenue, Alton. Herlihy's presentation will be a 35—40 minute slide show of the historical pictures bicyclist Frank Lenz took on his trip.

The cost is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12 years of age.

"THE LOST CYCLIST," is about three man who rode their bicycles around the world during the late 1800s. One of them was William Sachtleben; he lived in Alton. His partner was from Ferguson, Missouri. It took them 3 years to complete their journey. Sachtleben was treated as a hero when he returned. Frank Lenz was from Pittsburgh and rode his bicycle around the world by himself. He was lost in Turkey. William Sachtleben went back to Turkey to find Frank Lenz or to bring his body home.

"THE LOST CYCLIST" may be purchased at the museum. The author David Herlihy will gladly autograph the books. The hardcover book sells for \$26.00.

Call (618) 463-2763 for more information.

### **In Memory** **Vivian Shearburn** 1915 - 2010

Vivian M. Shearburn, 95, passed away, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010. She was born in Carthage, Ill., to Walter and Sarah "Reed" Martin. Vivian was married to L. E. "Bud" Shearburn, who preceded her in death. She was a member of Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton. Vivian was also a member of United Methodist Women and Past Worthy Matron of O.E.S. Survivors include a son, Wally M. of Pinellas Park, Florida. Burial: Waverly East Cemetery, Waverly, Ill.



**Right, Lee Barham, Chairman of the Jazz Committee presenting the HERO award to Thomas Raglin, Founding Chairman of Miles Davis Jazz Festival**



**Vicki Newton, KMOV Channel 4 anchor and reporter**



**Tommie Ingram, in a tribute to his late brother, Luther Ingram, sang "If loving you is wrong, I don't want to be right"**



**Kayleigh Nuernberger winner of the \$250 MILES DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP**



**Howard Neal**  
Howard Neal was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Performance & Dedication to the Miles Davis Jazz Committee 2005—2010



**Emeritus Charlene Gill giving the Exceptional Museum Member award to Shirley Waide**



**In Memory Miles Davis 1926 - 1991**

**Alton Museum of History & Art Photography by Brian Combs**



**In Memory Luther Ingram 1937 - 2007**

# WAR OF 1812

## Fort Russell

A blockhouse was often nothing more than a strong log house with portholes. The blockhouse was often enclosed with a strong fence, (large enough to shelter the stock), made of stakes or sharpened logs driven into the ground. Fort Russell was probably the most complete fortification in Illinois in 1812. It was located about one and a half miles northwest of Edwardsville. It included a substantial fence with buildings for supplies, headquarters, and barracks for soldiers. Five cannon were brought there from old Fort Chartres. This fort was named after **Col. William Russell** of Kentucky who had command of the rangers DURING THE WAR in the War of 1812.

As soon as war was declared by the United States, the Indians in northern and central Illinois became warlike. **Governor Edwards** had taken the precaution to have his militia well organized. Some 500 of them were called into service. **Colonel Russell** was sent into Illinois to organize the rangers. Several companies were enlisted from Southern Illinois. Two expeditions were made from Fort Russell northward into the central part of the state; One in 1812 and one in 1813. Both had Peoria as their destination. But no real battles were fought with the Indians. The first expedition captured several French families who lived near Peoria who were thought to be sympathetic with the Indians. They were brought to a point just below Alton and there set ashore without food or shelter, and after much suffering they reached St. Louis.



ARTILLERY OF 1812

## ALTON PIONEERS SERVED IN WAR OF 1812 - 1815

**FLAGG, GERSHOM** - Early land owner in Alton, he served in the War of 1812 in Vermont Militia. In 1818 he came to Illinois and lived the remainder of his life as a farmer.

**THOMAS, SAMUEL** - Brother to Mary "Polly" Moore and Rachel Reagan (Wood River Massacre fame). In 1813, in company with two of his brothers-in-law, Reason Reagan and Dennis Davis, with their wives and children, came to Illinois, landing near the forks of the Wood River.

**MOORE, ABEL** - Early settler (1808) in Upper Alton Township near the forks of the Wood River.

**MOORE, THOMAS** - Early settler of Collinsville.

**MOORE, WILLIAM** - Brother to Abel Moore. Wife was Mary "Polly" Thomas, sister to Rachel Reagan. Two of William & Mary's children (John, age 10, and George, aged 3) were killed by Indians in the Moore Settlement, which later became famous as the Wood River Massacre.

### Social Life

Early pioneers were content with the homemade dress; men often wore breeches and shirt of the tanned hide of wild animals, and the cap of fox hide or of raccoon skin. This gave them a very rough appearance. Their homes were very crude and not always comfortable. Homemade products included the household utensils manufactured by each head of the family. Cooking was done on the fire-place hearth; there were no stoves.

It was common to swap work. The kinds of work commonly swapped were wood chopping, corn gathering, harvesting, house-raising, and road-making. These gatherings were very enjoyable to the pioneers. They would often spread their meals upon the ground in modern picnic style. Dancing was a common amusement. There were very few preachers; there were few others to object. Horse-racing was a common recreation. The horse-races were usually on Saturdays or on public days. Race tracks were common features of many localities.

One of the customs was the "shooting match." A farmer's wife, who had been quite lucky in raising turkeys, would dispose of them in the fall by means of the shooting match. If the turkey was to bring one dollar then ten privileges to shoot must be bought at ten cents each. When the necessary number of chances was taken then a mark was put up at a certain distance and the contest began. The marksman who made the best shot got the turkey.

### 1812 Bicentennial Commission trying to pinpoint location of Fort Russell

The general whereabouts of the fort built northwest of Edwardsville is known by history buffs, but an effort is underway to discover the fort's precise location. William "Bill" Wilson, chairman of the Illinois War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and Robert Ridenour, chairman of the Madison County group met with Alton Museum of History & Art staff last week. Discussions and plans were made.

A historical marker will be placed to mark the site as part of the bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812, which will run five years. The Illinois Territory Rangers used the fort. Many such forts and blockhouses were built across Illinois to defend against marauding tribes allied with the British.



**Martin Dawes**

The great-great-great grandson of Lewis Kellenberger, a former mayor of Alton, visited the museum in August. Martin Dawes read a family oriented journal written by Louis Kellenberger which tweaked his interest in the Alton area. The journal started in 1858, six months before the Lincoln-Douglas debate. Martin and Diana Dawes of Vancouver, Canada, were surprised at how much his second cousin, Eunice Smith did for the people of Alton. Eunice and Ellen Smith supported their English cousins by sending food parcels and clothing during World War 2.

### **Medical Science**

This week, the museum was intrigued when a phone call came in from Ireland. Brendan Holland with Promax Equipment said medical research was being done to identify the gene and perfect a test for gigantism. He would like to hear from any cousins, nieces or nephews of Robert P. Wadlow. Mr. Holland, himself, suffers from gigantism caused by hypertrophy of the pituitary gland. Interested parties may correspond with Mr. Holland at [brendan@promaxequipment.com](mailto:brendan@promaxequipment.com)



**Fort Russell Signpost**

This five-gun stockade blockhouse was the headquarters and main supply depot for the territorial militia. U.S. Army Regulars were briefly here in 1812. At least five cannon were removed from Fort Chartres to arm Fort Russell; Located one and one-half miles northwest of Edwardsville.

### **Bicycle Heaven**

John Langley bought out a Laclede Landing warehouse. Among the treasures was a Harvard Deluxe Safety Bicycle made in New York.

The bicycle made in the 1890s has a handmade link block chain and Moro Costar brake. The rear hub was made in Eclipse Machine Division in Elmira, New York. The Front Hub was made by New Departure. The bicycle has wood rimmed steel wheels.

The manufacturer was Rollfast. The company was founded in 1895 by D. P. Harris and is still in business. The bikes were sold under such names as Princeton, Harvard, Savage, Roamer, Gold Metal, Rex, Pearlless, Century, Standard, Royal Flyer, Champion, Lexington, Black Beauty, Fleetwood, Blue Ribbon, Cadet, Keystone, Ben Hur and Winchester.

### **We Will Miss You Dycie**

Dycie Madson, who has relocated to California, stated that her art auction was a success. Dycie is a long time donor of time and artifacts that have benefited Alton Museum of History and Art. She has left the museum a generous donation for hosting the auction at the museum .....We love you Dycie.....keep in touch.

## 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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.altonmuseum.com](http://www.altonmuseum.com)

Check out our new  
Facebook Page!

"History outlives those who would destroy it."  
...anonymus

## Our Past 100 Years Ago

**Sunday, September 11, 1910**

Over 1,000 spectators gathered on the John Moore farm to witness the unveiling of the monument erected by the grandchildren of Captain Abel Moore in memory of the victims of the Wood River Massacre.

Frank Moore of Chicago, the youngest son of Major Franklin Moore and grandson of Captain Abel Moore, presided and made the opening address of welcome. The monument was unveiled by Harriet Moore, of Wichita Falls, Texas, during an address by Edith Culp, wife of John S. Culp.

The plot of ground on which the monument stands was presented to the people of Madison County and accepted in their behalf by Professor John U. Uzzell, County Superintendent of Schools.

Addresses followed by Hon. N. G. Flagg of Moro and Major E. K. Pruitt of Fosterburg. The exercises were interspersed with patriotic songs by a quartet.

The grandchildren of Captain Abel Moore who erected this monument are: Dr. Isaac Moore of Alton; John Moore of Wichita Falls, Texas; Frank Moore of Chicago; Irby, Joel and Luella Williams; and Mrs. John Culp of Wood River; Thomas Hamilton of Buffalo, Wyoming; Mrs. Mary J. Deck of Roodhouse; Lewis Moore of Granite City; Mrs. Mary Moore of Seattle, Washington.



In Memoriam