

News & Views



2809 College Avenue, Alton, Illinois 62002

618-462-2763

altonmuseum@gmail.com

www.altonmuseum.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Wednesday
April 13, 2011
7:30 p.m.
Loomis Hall**

AMHA 40th Anniversary

It was 1970 that the Alton Museum of History & Art planned its future. In 1971 they received their 501(c)3 status and gained 300 charter members.



Schwegge Townhouses

Circa 1850
Museum 1971-1994
(Kindness of the Telegraph)

The Alton Chamber of Commerce hosted board meetings until AMHA acquired the two brick buildings east of the Telegraph in late 1971. The mayor gave AMHA an award for "A new use for old buildings."



THANK YOU!!

Glenda Link

Picture This & More

THANK YOU for your contribution toward the museum's BLACK HISTORY MONTH. You have a good and gracious heart. We appreciate you, and we thank you for your thoughtfulness.

In 1994, AMHA moved to the Koenig House on 4th Street.



Koenig House

Circa 1909
Museum 1994-1996
(Kindness of Corida Hanna)

In 1996, through the kindness of SIUE, the museum was invited to use Loomis Hall {1832} which is on the National Register of Historical buildings.

The museum is located on the SIUE Dental School campus. Loomis Hall is the oldest building in the State of Illinois continuously used for education.



Loomis Hall

Circa 1832
Museum 1996- Present
(Kindness of SIUE)



IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIENDS



Donald Eugene Lobbig

Donald Eugene Lobbig

Donald Eugene Lobbig died Thurs. Dec. 30, 2010. He was a former board member and past Vice President of Alton Museum of History & Art. A courteous, considerate and caring gentleman; he will be sadly missed.

Don was involved with updating the interior of Loomis Hall and setting up exhibits. He was in charge of security and grounds.

As a young man, Don worked as a window dresser in downtown St. Louis stores. In later years, he and his wife operated a gift and costume shop on the St. Louis riverfront.

He is survived by his wife Lois, son and daughter-in-law, David and Jane, and granddaughter Margaret.

On January 30th, in celebration of his life, a reception was held at the Alton Museum. The eulogy was given by David Culp.

Grace Monroe

Grace Monroe, a former board member of the Alton Museum of History and Art, and chair of the "Committee on Black Pioneers" died January 8, 2011. The classroom in Loomis Hall was named in her honor.

Grace lived a life of dignity and integrity, with a compassionate, giving spirit. Her long career as a teacher, administrator and guardian of history is documented and filled with highlights. "She was the best teacher I ever had" was an oft repeated comment.

A "woman of substance" who touched many lives for decades in schools, church and civic organizations; she was a very warm, positive person who was admired by everyone.

Grace a wonderful lady, is greatly missed.

Dycie Madson

Dycie Madson, a Life Member of the museum, died January 4, 2011.

She had interests from art to politics to literature. Among Dycie's works is the striking mural she painted in the museum's Transportation Room that depicts Alton's riverfront in 1850.

She was known for illustrating her late husband John's numerous nature books, and for her proficiency in numerous media - from pen and ink and pastels to watercolor, oil, acrylic, clay sculpture, bronze work and ceramics. She wrote and illustrated children's books and wrote poetry.

Dycie was always upbeat, a vibrant lady, who impacted everyone who came in contact with her. We miss her.

Adeline "Addie" Eveland

Adeline "Addie" Eveland, 86, died Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011. She was born Jan. 18, 1925. She was a member of the museum. She was a loving mother, a capable homemaker, a good and kind soul.

Addie had a way of making friends everywhere she went. She was always there in the center of it all. She helped enrich many lives. She shared her joyous smile and laugh, her zest for life and a passion for all those things that were important to her. She always had a cheery way and did not make a fuss. She loved her fellow man and helped where she could.

We enjoyed Friday Nights at the Museum with this wonderful lady who could be counted on to "Bring those Brownies."

We will remember Addie only in joy and happiness, because she would want it that way.

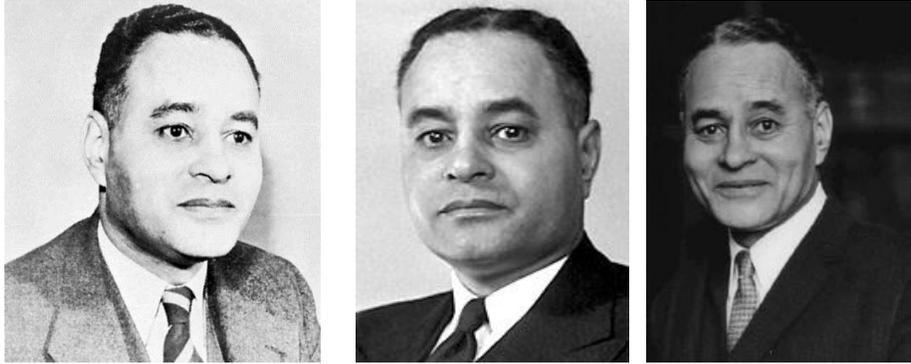
Adieu, dear friend...

Robert St. Peters

Past president and one of the founders of the Alton Area Landmarks Association, Robert St. Peters died February 8, 2011. He grew up in Alton and was a veteran of World War II. He led the AALA through the Berm Highway court battles. {The Illinois Highway Department wanted to build a highway on the Alton Commons, land along the Mississippi River that Alton's founder, Rufus Easton, set aside for the common good.} The AALA took the case to the Illinois Supreme Court and won. We now have a beautiful amphitheater and marina where a highway might have been. Alton has lost a true civic leader. Bob St. Peters made a difference in Alton. Our prayers go out to his family.

BLACK HISTORY

WHO WAS RALPH JOHNSON BUNCHE?



Answer: He was the first African American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for his mediation in Palestine; and he was the first African American to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Scholar and diplomat, **Ralph Johnson Bunche** was noted for his mediation between the Israeli's and the Palestinian's in the 1940's and for an armistice agreement between the two groups. **Bunche** played an instrumental role in the formation of the United Nations and served as the Principal Secretary of the UN Palestine Commission. In addition to this, he had an important role in the creation and adoption of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

Bunche joined the UN in 1947 as Director of the Trusteeship Division. **Ralph Johnson Bunche** oversaw the UN peace keeping forces around the Suez Canal (1956) in the Congo (1960) and in Cypress (1964). He served on the Board of the NAACP for 22 years; and he was also a member of the Urban League.

Thomas Nelson Johnson, **Bunche's** grandfather, was born on the family farm near Alton, Illinois. Thomas graduated from Shurtleff College in 1875. He married Lucy A. Taylor on September 8, 1875. Lucy and Thomas Johnson's second child, Olive, was **Ralph Bunche's** mother.

At the invitation of Southern Illinois University – Alton Campus and his Alton relatives Ralph Bunch visited Alton. On April 9, 1960 he met with the faculty and students at the Student Union. He toured the campus and Loomis Hall where his grandfather was a student (1864 – 1875). From there he was the speaker at a city-wide program held at the Alton High School. He was later honored with a reception held at the YWCA.

The next day (Sunday) he attended church with his cousin Josephine Beckwith at Allen Chapel AME Church. A community dinner was held for him at the Salem Baptist Church-Wood Station, followed by a visit to the Johnson Farm, with his cousins.

Education:

BA from UCLA (summa cum laude) in 1927

Master's Degree, Harvard University - 1928

PHD – His doctoral dissertation from Harvard in 1934 won the Tappan Prize as the best in the Social Sciences that year.

Post-Doctoral Work:

Northwestern University

London School of Science

University of Cape Town – 1936-1938

ALTON IN THE CIVIL WAR

1861 - EMPTYING THE ST. LOUIS ARSENAL

One of the earliest and most daring exploits which occurred during the war was the capture of weapons from the United States Arsenal at St. Louis.

Soon after the firing on Ft. Sumter, a messenger was sent from Cairo, Illinois to Washington to procure arms for the Illinois troops. He returned with an order, for 10,000 muskets. St. Louis was almost wholly in the hands of the Confederates. Captain Stokes volunteered to obtain the arms, and receiving from Illinois Gov. Yates the requisition proceeded immediately to St. Louis.

Once inside the arsenal, Capt. Stokes showed the requisition to the commander. This was Wednesday night, April 24. With the assistance of a large force, Stokes got the arms ready for shipment, and on Thursday evening he telegraphed to Alton for the Steamboat *City of Alton* to travel down to the Arsenal at midnight. At 11 o'clock the steamer was at the wharf receiving the munitions of war. At 2 o'clock Friday morning the steamer moved out for Alton with 10,000 muskets, 100 new rifle carbines, 500 revolvers, 110,000 musket cartridges and a quantity of cannons.

When the boat was loaded and ready her commander had to inquire the destination. "Which way, Captain?" said Capt. Mitchell. "Straight to Alton in the regular channel" was the reply. "What if we are attacked?" said Capt. Mitchell. "Then we will fight" replied Capt. Stokes. "But what if we are overpowered?" said Mitchell. "Then run the boat to the deepest water and sink her," said Stokes. "I'll do it," was the brave reply of Capt. Mitchell. He steamed for Alton, arriving there at 5 o'clock in the morning. With the aid of the men, women and children of that loyal city, the arms were loaded upon the freight cars of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, and by that night were safely landed in Springfield.

The rebel leaders of Missouri had set their hearts upon the capture of the Arsenal, but through the courage of Capt. Stokes they were foiled. This adventure will ever be regarded as one of the most brilliant and daring achievements during the entire war, and to Illinois belongs the credit.

Report of the Illinois Adjutant General -- 1861 to 1865, Vol. I

150 Years Later

In memory of this arms capturing enterprise, the AMHA has produce a postcard to be made available locally. This card the River Boat with the Alton bluffs in the background is from the Alton Museum mural by local artist, the late Dycie Madson.



**THIS HALLOWED GROUND:
COMMEMORATION OF THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**

For five generations since the end of the American Civil War interest about the origins, purposes, meaning, and consequences of this watershed event in American history remains as passionate and intense as they were 150 years ago. The public is invited to the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville campus to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

Schedule of Activities

Saturday, April 16th

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Living History Exhibit – Civil War Military Encampment on the Hairpin
(visit re-enactment camp and talk with Living Historians about military life)

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Civil War Antique Road Show in the Morris University Center
(Share with Historians and Librarians your family stories and artifacts)
Items will NOT be appraised – NO firearms

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Roundtable Discussions on the Civil War in the Morris University Center
11:00 “The Civil War and Popular Culture”
12:00 “Southwestern Illinois in the Civil War”
1:00 “Military Aspects of the Civil War”
2:00 “What Every Teacher Needs to Know About the Civil War”

Sunday, April 17th

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Living History Exhibit – Civil War Military Encampment on the Hairpin
(visit re-enactment camp and talk with Living Historians about military life)

Wednesday, April 20th

7:30 p.m.

“The Civil War” – Speech by Ken Burns

SOLD OUT

Sponsored By:

**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville,
Alton Area Museum of History and Art,
Madison County Historical Society, St.
Clair County Historical Society, Highland
Historical Society, and the Lebanon
Historical Society**

Museum Plans for 2011

Doors are open to the public 1300 hours per year

January:

Clean Museum

Restore exhibits

Carpenter Work on Cole-Clarke Carriage House

New Art Exhibit in East Gallery

February:

Black History Month – Open House

Exhibit: Who Was Ralph Johnson Bunche?

Emphasis on Abraham Lincoln

March:

Women’s History Month – Open house

April:

Observance of Sesquicentennial of Civil War –

May:

15th Trivia Day at Julia’s Banquet Center

21st Miles Davis Jazz Festival @LCCC

June:

Refurbishing Wadlow House

July:

Founder’s Day Observance

August:

Volunteer Training Month

September:

Teachers’ Night

October:

Haunted House Event/Tour

November:

Open House – Lovejoy Month

December:

Christmas Party

Monthly: Friday Night at the Museum Events

6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

MUSEUM MEMBERS FREE

Refreshments!!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



ALTON MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART, INC

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

- 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

See us at:
www.altonmuseum.com
Check out our
Facebook Page!

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

EVENTS



TRIVIA DAY
Sunday, May 15, 2011
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Julia's Banquet Center
101 Eastgate Plaza
East Alton, Illinois
{A Miles Davis Committee fund raiser}



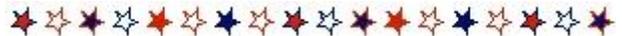
MILES DAVIS JAZZ FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 21, 2011
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Lewis & Clark College
Trimpe Hall
5800 Godfrey Road

PLANNED MUSICIANS

Alton Landing Jazz Quartet
Jim Stevens Group
Mondin Band
Delano Redman

Tickets: \$25.00



Miles Davis Jazz Festival MC
Vicki Newton, KMOV Channel 4 anchor and reporter



Friday Nights at the Museum
2nd Friday each month
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.