2019 Holiday Home Tour
by Susie Papenhause

The 2019 Holiday Home Tour took place December 7 and 8, and shaped up to be a wonderful event! We had five properties open for the tour and they were all beautifully decorated to get everyone into the holiday spirit!

Scottish Rite Theatre
completed in 1925, 400 NE Perry Ave. owned by Kim Blickenstaff’s KDB Group

Jim Johnson and Elizabeth Arcot
802 NE Perry, Queen Anne-style home built in 1896

Cari and Brian Hill
1609 W. Columbia Terrace, American Foursquare-style home built in 1919

Flanagan House Museum
924 NE Glen Oak Ave. built in 1837

Pettengill-Morron House Museum
1212 W. Moss Ave. built in 1868

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From the President

Merriment and joy seem to know no season for the Peoria Historical Society. September brought us great success with our eighth annual Henri DeTonti Celebration honoring Jim Baldwin, a true community leader. In celebrating Jim’s community service, we highlighted PHS’s great relationships and collaborative efforts with Wheels of Time Museum, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Springdale Cemetery and Central Illinois Landmark Foundation. Our relationships with these Museums and other foundations and organizations have only continued to grow and shine. It is truly joyful for our organization to celebrate our Mission Statement of preserving and sharing the stories of Peoria together with these great people.

Our halls are decked and adorned with holiday cheer and spirit at Flanagan House (c. 1837) and Pettengill-Morron House (c. 1868), our two house museums. Many hours of planning and decorating have gone into this year’s Holiday Home Tour. Thank you to all our volunteers and our House Managers, Alexis Lavin at Flanagan House and Mary Hamm at Pettengill-Morron House.

A joyous spirit is ready to carry us into a new year that is already full of great hope and expectations. 2020 promises to be a year of continued growth and success. To the membership, volunteers, Board of Trustees within PHS…thank you!

Kathy Ma, President

Welcome New Members!

PHS would like to extend a warm greeting to those who have become new members since our last publication.

Dana Baldwin
Sumner Bourne
Maria King Carroll
Nathan Frederick
Janet Gysin
Chris Heine
Susan Hoffman
A. Richard Kriegsman
Patricia Miller
Sharon Reif
Brian Slater
Along with the standard tour, we once again offered a VIP tour for both Saturday and Sunday. Visitors rode in the comfort of a Peoria Charter Coach, transported door to door, beginning at the lovely home of our Board President, Kathy and Dr. Lindsey Ma, where they enjoyed a tour and cocktail party prior to departing for the other locations.

A variety of baskets were raffled during the weekend, with winners being notified at the conclusion of the event.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the property owners for opening these locations to share with the community. We also sincerely appreciate our sponsors Farnsworth Group, Gregg Florist, K & S RV Consulting, Peoria Architectural Salvage, Stellar Systems, and Oyler Real Estate-Remax/Traders. A special thank you to AMT, Dr. Lindsey and Kathy Ma, Emack and Bolio’s, Gregg Florist, Lippman’s, Relics, Restoration, Peoria Charter Coach, and all the Society’s Volunteers in making this a great success!

Thank You!
In addition to thanking all of our Sponsors, The Peoria Historical Society would also like to thank the many Volunteers that brought the Holiday Home Tour to fruition.

Lisa Arcot  Patty Armstrong  Jean Ashton  Stephanie Ashton  Sue Borman  Edie Brereton  Patti Buckles  Dan Callahan  Kathy Close  Meaghan Chambers  Linda Chasteen
Nicole Crombie  Corey Curtis  Vicki Dace  Pam Dillon  Bob Doucette  Malia Formes  Anne Fox  Jenn Fuller  Christine Griffith  Mary Hamm  Kirby Hamm
Tom Krupa  Amy Krus  Doug Krus  Alexis Lavin  Roberta Lee  Pat Maloney  Bonnie Mason  Deb Maxwell  Sally Monroe  Jon Neidy  Sophia Newton
Zach Oyler  Janet Orr  John Parks  Joleen Parsons  Stacy Peterson  Connie Pogue  Isabella Rinald  Robin Robins  Carlotta Schaidle  Judy Sharp  Tom Slotten
History Tours 2019
by Beth Johnson

2019 marked the 24th year the Peoria Historical Society has provided guided history tours. For five months, June 1-October 28th, 55 regular tours were given to 750 enthusiastic guests. Eight different tours were in the lineup, including Notable Peoria Women, a brand-new tour. The Haunted Peoria tour continued its great popularity, selling out as early as July for all of the regularly scheduled tours in October! More Haunted Peoria tours were added to accommodate additional guests eager to learn of the ghostly happenings in Peoria.

This was the second year that the special “Tours Plus” tours were offered. They take place on the last tour of each kind for each month. They were very popular again this year, selling out before any of the other tours during the month. The bonus stop at the Springdale Mausoleum at the end of the Springdale/Grandview Drive tour was the top extra attraction.

The Art & Architecture Tour was updated for 2019. The tour took riders into the rapidly changing Warehouse District. As the tour was researched, it was fascinating to learn about the early history of the many historic structures that line Washington and Adams Street between Kumpf Boulevard and MacArthur Highway. Did you know, for example, that the oldest existing business in Peoria is A. Lucas & Sons, which began in 1857? Did you know that the founder of Dooley Brothers Coal Company invented the face drill, which completely revolutionized the coal industry? Did you know that you can go axe throwing, get out of an escape room or do some serious climbing all while in the Warehouse District? That’s not historical but it does give you a sense of how the District has evolved!

The Peoria Historical Society certified tour guides also gave 25 step on tours, some from close to Peoria and others from out of state. Our largest tour group came from the Midwest Tool Collectors in June; we also provided lectures to the Midwest Tool Collectors during their visit. Thanks to guide Tom Krupa for his hard work in coordinating that effort. Our smallest tour was for just four people, one of whom grew up here but hadn’t returned in many years. Five different senior living facilities in our area took advantage of our tours, with several doing more than one tour over the season.

Our tour guides received great reviews on the comment cards again this season. Fourteen different guides gave tours. Each guide chose the number of tours given according to his or her schedule and preferences. Bernie Drake topped the list with fifteen tours delivered! Peoria Historical Society was happy to welcome several new guides to the team: Laurie Olson, Kathy Johnston, Cathy Curtis and Joleen Parsons. New guides are always welcome; just call the Peoria Historical Society office to let them know you are interested! Guides wrapped up the season with a dinner and brainstorming session at Kelleher’s on November 20th.

Caterpillar Lends a Helping Hand
by Mary Hamm

Clay Hill, Peoria Historical Society Treasurer, brought employees from the Caterpillar Managed & Global Accounts Parts Pricing Group to paint the Pettengill-Morron basement in November. This was a special “Face to Face” meeting in Peoria. The team is based out of Singapore, Switzerland, Milwaukee, Denver and Peoria. After a brief tour of the house, painting began and rollers and brushes started to fly. There were seven in all who made quick work of painting the basement walls in the main room, the floor in the laundry room and the walls in the bathroom. It is an ongoing project by this group to donate their time and efforts to help those in need.

Our deepest thanks and appreciation goes to the volunteers and especially to Clay, who coordinated the project!

Early Peoria History through OLLI by Beth Johnson

Mark Johnson, former President of the Historical Society, will be teaching a class on Early Peoria History during the spring session of OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at Bradley University. The class will cover the Native American presence in the central Illinois River valley through 1835, when Peoria first became incorporated as a town. The class will consist of four one-hour sessions, one session each week during the month of April 2020. Persons may register for the class by contacting the Bradley University Continuing Education Department at (309) 677-2374 or by email at continue@bradley.edu. Mark taught this class previously at both OLLI and the ICC Adult Education Program. If you have questions about the class, please contact Mark at (309) 264-3156.
Fulfilling Our Mission: Preserving, Sharing & Celebrating the Stories of the Peoria Area by Maureen Naughtin

Preserving: New Collection Treasures
The Peoria Historical Society’s Collections Committee is excited to announce the recent acquisition of several Josiah Fulton documents. Donated by Josiah Fulton’s great, great granddaughter Vicki Howell of Scottsdale, Arizona, the collection includes a wealth of historical information pertaining to one of the Peoria area’s earliest settlers – Josiah Fulton. Perhaps two of the most significant pieces include a land grant signed by President James Monroe and a three-page handwritten account composed by Josiah Fulton sometime after 1834. He titled his work “History of My Life.”

The life of Josiah Fulton is of significant value to Peoria history. Born to James and Jane Fulton of Virginia in 1800, Josiah landed in the Peoria area, accompanied by six other young men, at the young age of 19 in April 1819. Eventually bringing other family members (his mother and siblings) north, Josiah’s first plot of land, what is the land upon which the Courthouse now stands in downtown Peoria, was purchased from the government at the price of $1.25 an acre. When Fulton, in 1828, decided to move north, he purchased 80 acres on which now stands St. Augustine Manor on Glendale Avenue. These 80 acres extended to the current site of the closed Woodruff High School building. Fulton’s final move and land purchase happened after he married Augusta in 1831. The 160-acre purchase bordered current War Memorial Drive and Forrest Hill on the north/south and Knoxville Avenue and California Street on the east/west. The Fultons built a new home on this land in 1834 and there raised their ten children. Josiah Fulton passed away in 1894 at age 94, but his legacy, especially his land legacy, has lived on through the generations. Fulton Street and Fulton Plaza are named after Josiah and his family.

The newly acquired Fulton collection will be housed at Bradley’s Special Collections and, therefore, available for research. The Peoria Historical Society greatly appreciates Vicki Howell’s important donation.

Sharing & Celebrating: Getting the Word Out!
Another essential component of the Peoria Historical Society mission is sharing the stories of the Peoria area. Thanks to many of our excellent volunteer tour guides and others, several notable Peoria stories have been shared with members of the Peoria community in the last few months.

On Thursday, November 7, members and guests of the Peoria Women’s Club enjoyed “Notable Women,” an enlightening presentation about several Peoria women of historical note. Accompanied by a well-designed PowerPoint, Marilyn Leyland and Beth Johnson highlighted such prominent Peoria women as Lydia Moss Bradley, Betty Friedan and Nancy Goodman Brinker, all three of whom are members of The Women’s Hall of Fame. In addition to these three notables, over a dozen other important women of Peoria origin were discussed and celebrated by Beth and Marilyn during their talk, a presentation which was repeated by Beth for the United Methodist Women’s organization.

In November and December, three presentations were given by PHS representatives at the Peoria Public Library North Branch. The three-part series began on Monday, November 18th with a focus on PHS’ two historic house museums – the John C. Flanagan House and the Pettengill-Morron House. Alexis Lavin, Flanagan House manager, and Corey Curtis, Pettengill-Morron House docent, spoke about the origins of the homes, their various owners through the years and their present status as house museums. Naturally, Alexis and Corey also “advertised” the Holiday Home Tour, encouraging their audience to view each house in its holiday finest.

On Monday, December 16, Beth Johnson educated library guests on the history of Springdale Cemetery, and Bernie Drake concluded the series on Thursday, December 19 with a fascinating account of Peoria’s whiskey history.

Finally, Heartis Senior Living residents were a wonderful audience for curator Maureen Naughtin who, on Tuesday, October 29, spoke about the Spanish-American War and its ties to Peoria.

The Peoria Historical Society is presently working on other educational outreach presentations and welcomes the opportunity to share Peoria history with the Peoria community. For a complete list of possible topics, please contact the PHS office at (309) 674-1921, Tuesday through Friday 9:00 – 4:30.
Recognition of a Volunteer
by Mary Hamm

Nick Hornickle has been a Peoria Historical Society Board member since 2014 and a volunteer at Pettengill-Morron House since 2013. He has worn many hats in his career which include, Senior Engineer, Natkin & Co., Operations Manager at So. San Francisco Sheet Metal Contractor, President and co-owner of HKM Sheet Metal in California and Director of Estimating for a local company; he retired in 2011. He is a community volunteer with various organizations.

Nick's first project out of high school was building a garage for his teacher!

Nick has been married to Carol since 1966. They have a daughter, Andrea, and 3 grandchildren.

Nick is very talented and can handle just about any project that I throw his way. He is always at the ready, energetic and eager to help, which is great for an old mansion that requires constant maintenance.

One of my favorite stories is the time that I called Nick to see if he could help me sand the front porch. I had been waiting for good weather and he was there in 45 minutes with his sander. I started at one end of the porch and he at the other. His sander kept stopping. When I looked up, he was manually pushing his sander because it burned up and he was determined to finish. Now, that’s real dedication!

We value Nick’s talent and expertise and his many contributions in maintaining the Pettengill-Morron House. We value all of our volunteers!

Prominent People from Peoria’s Past
by Michele Lehman

My chance discovery of an old Christmas card at an estate sale led me to research the interesting life of prominent Peorian Clifford C. Ireland.

Ireland was a Washburn, Ill., native who became an attorney in Peoria. A Republican, Ireland rose to the rank of U.S. Representative from Illinois, serving three terms from 1917 to 1923. Ireland, his wife Louise and their children Clifford and Eloise resided at 643 Moss Ave., (now 1527 Moss Ave.)

The Christmas card sent from the Irelands to friends back home in Washburn in 1922 refers to the family’s large, half-timbered house as “The Irish Shanty.” The card depicts the house and individual photos of the family members...even their little dog. The card offers a hearty greeting for the holidays and the new year. It’s set off by a bright kelly green ribbon.

Ireland capped his career as director of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Illinois. He died unexpectedly of a heart ailment in 1930 at age 52. He was found deceased in his room at the Chicago Athletic Club, where he had traveled for business. His body was brought back to Peoria to lie in state at the Shrine Temple, as he was a longtime, high-ranking member of the Shriners organization. His death made front-page headlines in the Peoria newspapers for four consecutive days.

Ireland is buried near his grandparents, parents and other relatives in Washburn’s Mount Vernon Cemetery.
Pass along your passion for history and consider becoming a Peoria Historical Society Membership Sponsor. Someone you know has the same interest in “preserving, sharing, and celebrating the stories of the Peoria area”. Your gift of membership not only helps further the PHS mission, but encourages others to do the same. Please use the form below or go online to peoriahistoricalsociety.org for a printable membership form and add a note that you’re sponsoring the new member when you submit the form.

Thanks for your continued support.

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**Become a PHS Membership Sponsor!**

Yes, I would like to sponsor a one year membership to the Peoria Historical Society.

New Member Information

Name___________________________________________

Address_________________________________________

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Sponsor Information

Credit Card # (Visa or Mastercard) _______________________________________________

Expiration__________Security Code_________

Membership Level:  
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Patron: $100___  
Lifetime: $1,000___  
Corporate: unlimited, starting at $250_____

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Address______________________________________________________________________

City____________________________________ State_________________ Zip______________

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Please mail this completed form to the

Peoria Historical Society  
611 SW Washington St.  
Peoria, IL 61602

Thank you! The new member will receive a special “Welcome to PHS” note in your name.