



CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

SUNDAY PROGRAMS UPDATE

In addition to the two upcoming programs presented herein, the Programs Committee would like to inform you of several initiatives we plan to undertake in the coming months. Firstly, we are entertaining the idea of creating a program series focusing on the history of Agriculture and Industry in Champaign County. This initiative is in support of the proposed exhibit theme “Why Champaign County” for the Agriculture and Exhibit Gallery to be constructed in subsequent phases of the Museum Expansion and Modernization Project outlined in this newsletter. To carry out this initiative, we are recruiting multiple individuals to spearhead the effort, which involves identifying topics and speakers, assisting in the creation of a presentation, and coordinating and marketing the programs.

Secondly, we have been soliciting feedback from our regular Program attendees as it relates to the program topics that interests them most, whether they would like to volunteer to help the Program Committee identify speakers, assist in the preparation of a program, etc. To complete this survey outside of our Sunday Programs, please fill out the survey on page 3 and return it to the museum, or find the link on the museum’s website, or scan the QR Code on this page.

Lastly, we are exploring whether there is an audience for programs presented during the week in order that individuals who can’t make Sunday Programs might be able to attend.

We look forward to increasing the number, variety, and quality of our Programs. You can help us in this effort by completing the survey mentioned above and/or volunteering to assist in creating a Program Series on Agriculture and Industry in Champaign County.

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**Banner Photo courtesy of the Good*



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

URBANA'S BILLY CLIFFORD ~ VAUDEVILLE SUPER STAR



On November 12 at 2:00 pm, Dan Walter will present a program on the life and times of Billy Single Clifford, perhaps the most famous entertainer on the Vaudeville Circuit in the early Twentieth Century. Clifford's success would rival that of today's rock stars in that he had his own theater (the current Gloria), railroad car, and mansion on Michigan Ave. in Chicago. The Champaign County Historical Museum is located at 809 E. Lawn Ave. in



A Walk-Through Time: The Story of Urbana's Residential Architectural Legacy

Urbana is home to some of the finest examples of historic residential architecture in the state dating from the 1820s to the 1950s. Architectural gems can be found on every street in the city representing a range of tastes, styles, and cultural influences. Some of the nation's and state's top designers left their mark on Urbana over the centuries that reflected the city's prosperity. From log homes lurking underneath their weatherboard siding to the enamel paneled homes of Lustron, Urbana is a timeline of American trends and building styles that still draw admirers today.

Join local Historian John Bry as he discusses and highlights examples of Urbana's unique architectural story, and how it all came to be over the span of two centuries.



About the Presenter, John Bry: A native of Auburn, Indiana, John's professional career is Economic Development and is nationally certified in Main Street and downtown development. After moving to Urbana with his parents in the 1990's, he founded the Champaign County Preservation Alliance. He also creates and leads the popular Oak Dale

Cemetery tours in Urbana. As a hobby, he researches and writes about local history. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Historic Preservation from Southeast Missouri State University and Ball State University, respectively.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

THE PROGRAMS' COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT AND HELP!!!!

In the coming months, we intend to increase the number, variety, and quality of our Programs. You can help us in this endeavor by completing this survey and answering a few questions.

PROGRAM TOPICS SURVEY

(Indicate which Program topics most interests you by assigning a number from 0-5 for each – “5” being the most interest, “0” the least.)

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY'S ROLE IN VARIOUS WARS/CONFLICTS	_____.
NOTEWORTHY CHAMPAIGN COUNTY RESIDENTS	_____
HISTORIC CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EVENTS	_____
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CITIES AND VILLAGES' HISTORY	_____
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BUSINESSES' HISTORY	_____
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HISTORIC PLACES	_____
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SPORTS	_____
OTHER (Please provide examples below)	_____

If you have a specific program topic and/or speaker you would like to see in the future, please let us know here:

If you have been a regular attendee of our Programs, you are aware of the difference between a good and a great program. Please describe what aspects of a program make them either bad, good, or great.

If you would like to volunteer in recruiting or introducing us to a potential speaker, help develop a presentation, etc., please provide your contact information below.

To accommodate more programs and attract additional audiences, would you attend a program during the week? If so, please indicate your preference of day-of-the week, and time of day:

51st OKTOBERFEST A HUGE SUCCESS!



October 1, 2023, found the Champaign County Historical Museum lawn buzzing with activity during the recent 51st Annual Oktoberfest. With an attendance of 2,350 people the grounds were full of those who came to explore the crafters and vendors, enjoy the food and entertainment and to visit with friends! Ninety-eight vendor spaces were packed with arts and crafts, and a large dining tent was the perfect place to eat, relax, and enjoy the entertainment. Joining the festivities for the first time were food trucks, New Orleans Bourbon Chicken, Orale Tacos y mas, Cate's Steakhouse, and the Spotted Cow. Returning this year were Schmidt's, Layla's Sweet Treats and Pizza, Childers' Chimney Cakes, and Farmers' Daughter food trucks guaranteeing a variety of food to suit all tastes! For those with a "sweet tooth", cookies, candies, kettle corn, macarons, and funnel cakes were offered by several vendors.

Visitors explored the Museum with many discovering it for the first time! Thanks to the Museum volunteers for welcoming the 450 guests! In addition to entertainers Wayne Hobbs and Tom Kushmaul, the performance by the West Liberty Salem High School Band was a huge hit!

Beginning with the Friday set-up crew, physical preparations for the event require a lot of time and volunteers. Co-chairs, Dick Virts and Sandy Gonzalez, extend a very special thank you to all those who erected fencing, marked booth spaces, set up the food tent tables/chairs, volunteered in the Museum, beer trailer, food tent, and gates, and helped with tear down – the Oktoberfest would not be possible without your help!

The Oktoberfest is the largest fundraiser for the Museum and monies generated from this event support the general operations of the Museum. We are grateful to our corporate sponsors, those who attended the event, and the volunteers who made it operate smoothly.



CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM



The annual Christmas dinner will be held Dec. 10, 2023, beginning with a social hour at 4:00 pm. Dinner, catered by Amy Forest of In Good Taste Catering will be served at 5:00 p.m. by the Girl Scout Troop #32191 and adviser, Ashley Skinner. The cost will be \$20.00 per person paid in advance.

The social hour will offer beverages and a charcuterie service of assorted cheeses, veggies, and crackers. The meal will include brown sugar glazed spiral sliced ham, au gratin potatoes, green beans almondine, rolls, butter, and assorted small bite desserts. Beverages of water, tea and coffee will be available.

In order to have a comfortable dining experience, we have a reservation limit of 60 people. Please mail the reservation form located below to CCHS, 809 E. Lawn Ave., Urbana, OH 43078 or call the Museum, 937-653-6721, Mon – Fri 10-4 and Sat 10-2 to reserve your spot. (reservations are not final until the money has been received)

Holiday music, flickering candles, delicious food – who could ask for more!



R.S.V.P.

I/We _____ will be attending the Dinner on December 4, 2022

I am making reservations for (total number in the party) # _____.

Please find enclosed my check or money order for _____ (\$20 per person).

ALBERT GREEN, FORMER SLAVE,

BY CANDY GILLIAM

Rev. Albert Green



Urbana Daily Citizen, May 1, 1929

On a plantation in Madison County, Virginia, Albert Green was born a slave and began his life with no future to look forward to. While still a young boy in the 1840's, he was given away to a new home as part of a bride's dowry. Albert, his mother, and two others were sent to the Absalom Garnett plantation in Culpeper County, Virginia. Albert's father was not included in the dowry, and he never saw him again. Years later, during the early summer of 1862, Albert hitched a yoke of oxen to a wagon and was driving a load of fence rails across a field when he lost control of the team on a steep hill. The oxen ran, and the wagon overturned when they hit a tree. Unfortunately, his Master saw the incident and angrily walked to a pine thicket, broke off a long hickory switch and gave Albert a severe beating that wore out both men. Albert later was quoted as saying, "It was lucky for me that the Master did not have the long blacksnake whip he usually carried cause I still have scars on my back and shoulders to show for that beating". After this lashing, Albert was told to go back to his cabin and get something to eat. But instead of going home, he left the oxen in the field and walked into the woods. For eight days, he hid in the swampland near the road recovering from his injuries. He was terribly afraid to go back to his Master, so each night he walked to a friend's cabin on a neighboring plantation to ask for food. On the eighth night, as he entered his friend's cabin, a big muscular slave (also owned by Master Garnett) appeared from behind the door. This big man was promised \$5.00 to find Albert and bring him home. These two men sat together for six hours during that night talking before Albert agreed to go back to Master Garnett. The big man tied a hemp rope around Albert's wrists and led him on the long walk back to their plantation. But as they walked through the pine thickets, Albert had a change of heart. He slowly loosened and untied the rope from his wrists, but was too terrified to run away, so he held the rope in his hands as if it was still tied to him. As they approached the door to his masters house and knocked, terror overtook Albert. With visions of the blacksnake whip filling his mind, he quickly turned and raced back into the swamps with his heart pounding. The next day was a Sunday, and Albert waited until the Garnett family left for church before slipping back to his cabin on the plantation. There he excitedly found his mother, and she asked "where you been chile?" and "what you goin' to do?". He answered that he wasn't sure what he was wanted to do. Knowing the severe trouble he was in, she urged him to leave,

ALBERT GREEN, by Candy Gilliam

warning that their master had sworn vengeance on him. His mother filled an old haversack with food and as she handed the sack to him, she told him to run quickly, then reminded him to always be a good boy. That was the last time Albert saw his mother. Determined to find his freedom, he walked in a northerly direction trying to follow the North Star. He traveled day and night in the woods until he came to the Rappahannock River. While searching for a way to cross, he found a hobbled horse. He rode the horse into the river but couldn't go far as the water was too deep. Taking the horse back, Albert went into hiding again. He hid in a thicket of oak trees while watching a log cabin along the river bank. An old colored woman had been walking in and out of it all day. As the Civil War was in full force at this time, Albert spotted an occasional Confederate soldier walking nearby, and he needed to be very careful not to be seen. Once it was dark outside, he approached the cabin and knocked. Soon the old woman came to the door, and Albert asked if she knew how he could get across the river. Knowing he was afraid, the woman gently told him not to be scared, then explained the soldiers he had been seeing in the woods were actually Rebels running from the Union soldiers who were in the area. After visiting with her a while, she told him where to find a man with a little skiff who would take him across the river. Albert found this man who agreed to take him across, then was told to follow the railroad tracks once he was on the other side. Albert was so happy to know he would never be sent back to his master! He kept repeating to himself, "I am a free bird!". After walking several miles along the tracks, he found a group of Union soldiers, these men were from the 66th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. They gave him a blue suit and offered him the cooking and hostler jobs. Albert followed these men for the next couple years as they fought in battles at Port Republic, Antietam, Chancellorsville and Lookout Mountain. He never fought in the battles himself, but kept busy doing little jobs for the soldiers. While at the Battle of Lookout Mountain, Albert met Dr. Jesse Brock, a medical doctor and surgeon. They became close friends, and at the close of the war, Albert decided to follow Dr. Brock back to his home in Champaign County, Ohio. Although Dr. Brock decided to move west into the new state of Kansas soon afterwards, he kept in touch with Albert for the remainder of his life.

In 1869, Albert Green married Harriet Jones of Auglaize County, OH. Harriet was born free, but lost her mother at the age of 5 years and was taken into the home of Attorney Edward Phelps, where he raised her with his family. Together, Albert and Harriet Green made their home near North Lewisburg while he worked as a teamster, and she was a laundress. They never had children of their own, but they did adopt and raise two young children, Viola and Clifton Jones. Sometime during the 1890's, Albert began preaching the Bible. He was the minister of Bethel Emmanuel A.M.E. Church of North Lewisburg, and during the 1920's, he often had all-day church meetings with guest speakers. Albert, now known as Deacon Green, had a quiet but very forceful manner of speaking. He had a gift of painting vivid words into pictures, and his sermons were always greatly enjoyed. But his lectures did not stop at the church doors. He also spoke to the area high schools, local clubs and many county organizations. One of his favorite subjects to speak about was the "Importance of Education for the Colored Race", where he always shared the story of his life as a southern slave and his experience as a free man in the north.

By the mid-1930's, both Deacon Green and Harriet were ready to enjoy their retirement years.

They had just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, and were enjoying the peaceful life they created together. With his hair and beard turned gray, Albert stood tall and straight for a man in his 90's. His memory was still remarkably sharp, which he often used to reminisce of his younger days as a runaway. Being a highly respected gentlemen of the North Lewisburg area, Albert felt fashionable when he wore his cut-away coat, and he always had his head topped with a high silk hat that was made by a



Paris hatter. These special clothes were kept safe in a carton under his bed. While he no longer

Newspaper photograph from Jan. 3, 1939

composed Sunday sermons or took spiritual responsibility for his congregation, he continued to read his Bible daily and often gave moral advise when asked. He expressed his opinions with conviction, never fearing an argument from others. When asked "How you doing today?", Albert always replied with, "Sound as a good horse, except my feet don't track so well!". Harriet was a loving woman who enjoyed gardening and spent her summer days outside tending to her vegetables. She needed a cane to walk, but she could read without glasses. Albert dearly loved his wife and would often spoil her by bringing her candy. While their small home might have been plain, it was considered "homey". They owned a radio, they listened to their victrola and 40 records, or they would play their organ for friends who were visiting. In the evenings, the couple would sit and rock quietly on their front porch watching the setting sun. It was a devastating loss to Albert when Harriet died in 1938. Later that fall, he went to live with his adopted son, Clifton Jones, in Marion, OH. Albert died just months afterwards on January 2, 1939, at the age of 98 years. Both Albert and Harriet Green are buried in unmarked graves at Maple Grove Cemetery, North Lewisburg.

Mission Statement

The Champaign County Historical Society collects, preserves, and interprets relevant artifacts, documents, and other resources from Champaign County to educate current and future generations about our history.

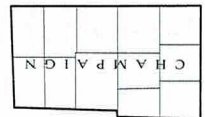
Welcome New Members

Ann Powell & Patrick Dolan
Stephanie Lutz

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM