

FALL 2020

The GOVERNOR'S POST



Discover History
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
QUINCY & ADAMS COUNTY
EST. 1896

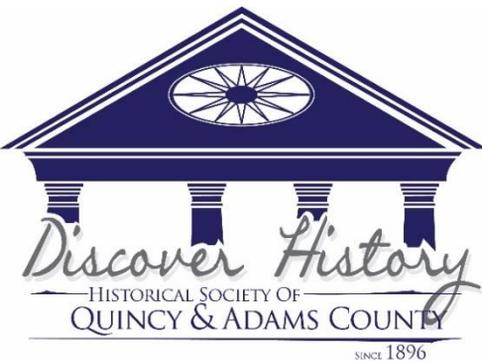
Discover History

Illustration from a postcard from the Historical Society collection

LIFE MEMBERS

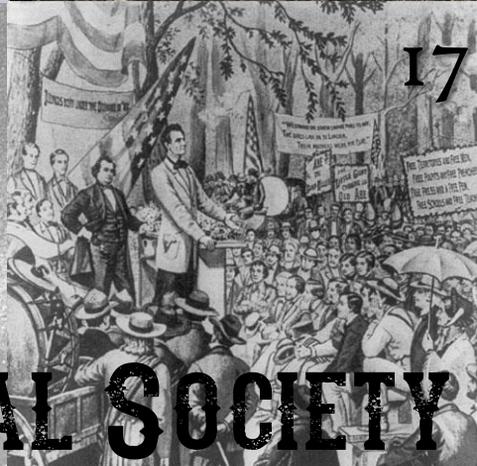
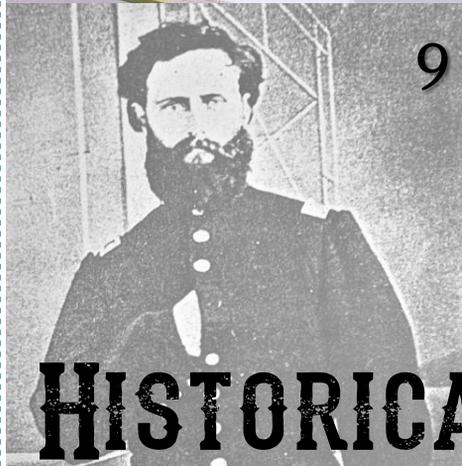
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Mrs. John Stillwell
Mr. Dennis Williams
Mr.* & Mrs. John M. Winters
Gardner Denver
Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

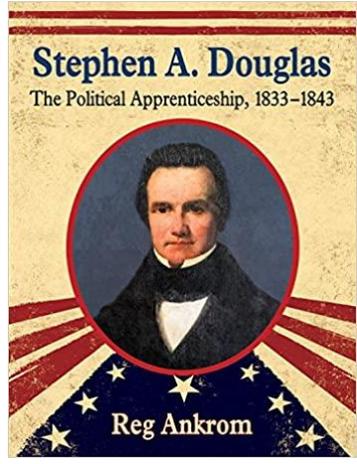
The GOVERNOR'S POST

Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County

Featured Book at Quincy's History Shop at the Museum

Stephen A. Douglas: The Political Apprenticeship 1833-1843

Quincy author Reg Ankrom's award-winning book *Stephen A. Douglas: The Political Apprenticeship 1833-1843* is available at the gift shop in the History Museum on the Square. The life of a restless and ambitious young man is detailed as Douglas makes his way from Vermont and New York to Jacksonville, Illinois. Reg covers the political maturation of one of America's most influential and intriguing figures. He details Douglas's dealings in Jacksonville and his maneuvering to pack the Illinois Supreme Court, which led to the Little Giant's move to Quincy where he lived for several years. Get your copy before they are gone.



ARTS QUINCY HELPS THE SOCIETY TO "REBUILD ILLINOIS"

QUINCY — The Governor of Illinois recently signed a bill passed by the Illinois House and Senate that safeguards a historic \$50 million investment to the arts and preservation efforts as part of 2019's "Rebuild Illinois" capital bill. The plan invests in 36 projects across the state and includes a \$1.5 million grant to the History Museum on the Square at 4th and Maine in Quincy. The state grant will help the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County construct a planned 2500 square foot ADA compliant Gateway Welcome and History Center addition with ground level entrance and an elevator improving the access, use and functionality of the 1888 landmark building at 332 Maine St. Arts Quincy played a leading and vital role in the Historical Society receiving the grant. Laura Sievert, the Executive Director of Arts Quincy, said, "The History Museum project at 4th and Maine is about more than just installing an elevator and expanding usable museum space. An investment of this size and scale says that Quincy, as the westernmost gateway to the state, occupies an important and crucial role in welcoming visitors from around the world to the Land of Lincoln." The History Museum on the Square has been designated to become one of the gateways to the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area which is operated under the auspices of the National Park Service. The new addition and history center will serve as a portal to the city and county's historical, educational and architectural sites and business offerings. This connection with the Heritage Area and National Park Service will give the facility on our downtown square national exposure and importance. The Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County would like to thank Arts Quincy and director Laura Sievert for their continued support and dedication to protecting the rich and vibrant history of the local area. If you would like to support the project, please contact the HSQAC at 217-222-1835.





The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County

425 S. 12th St.
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 222-1835
info@hsqac.org

OFFICERS

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- Jack Freiburg, 1st Vice President
- Iris Nelson, 2nd Vice President
- Joe Newkirk, Secretary
- William Klingner, Treasurer

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- Rob Mellon, Executive Director
- Jean Kay, Librarian & Archivist
- Susi DeClue, Office Manager
- Bob Ackerman, Maint. & Grounds

HSQAC PROGRAM & EXHIBIT CALENDAR

EXHIBITS AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM – REOPENING SOON

Woodland Cemetery Ghost Tours	October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Woodland Cemetery, 1020 S. 5 th St., Quincy, IL	Call for more info - 222-1835
History Museum on the Square	Tuesday-Saturday
The History Museum (4 th & Maine St.)	Phased reopening soon
Edward Everett Art Gallery	Tuesday-Saturday
The History Museum (4 th & Maine St.)	Phased reopening soon
Governor John Wood Mansion	Tuesday-Saturday
Visitor's Center (12 th & State St.)	Phased reopening soon

HSQAC MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

We are in the process of completing our membership campaign for the Historical Society's current year, which began June 1. Unfortunately several members have not renewed their membership. We understand that the global pandemic has created a great deal of uncertainty in our community. It has been especially difficult on the Historical Society. Exterior projects at the John Wood Mansion must continue, as well as repairs to the 1835 Log Cabin. The Master Gardener groups were not able to help on the grounds due to COVID-19 which has increased our building and grounds costs, as well. Your membership helps maintain our amazing buildings, such as the History Museum on the Square and the Governor John Wood Mansion – the community's architectural treasures.

The Society is a non-profit organization that does not receive tax support and depends upon its members. Your membership is very important, and we would be most grateful to have you return as a member. The renewal brochure is available at www.hsqac.org or you can contact the Society at (217) 222-1835 and we can assist you. We hope you will continue to be a valued member of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARTICLES FEATURED IN STATE MAGAZINE, *ILLINOIS HERITAGE*

Over the last few months the HSQAC has received some excellent publicity through the Illinois State Historical Society in its bi-monthly magazine, "Illinois Heritage."

The March-April issue featured "Quincy's witness oak" by HSQAC Museum Coordinator Lynn Snyder, an article printed earlier in *The Governor's Post*. The focus of the story was the magnificent large black oak tree in the yard of the Baker House in Quincy and the process of determining whether it was growing during Lincoln's time. The tree was felled during a recent windstorm, but cross sections of it were saved by current homeowner Sue Guetersloh and will be analyzed in order to determine its age and hopefully to authenticate it as the "Lincoln Tree." Chuck Radel provided the photos for the article.

The May-June 2020 issue contained a three page article about Quincy's own Louise Maertz, a Union Army nurse, a community leader and a major philanthropist to local and international causes. The Society owns a collection of her papers which includes letters from 19th century novelist Leo Tolstoy and Jane Addams thanking Maertz for financial assistance to starving people of Russia and to Addams' Hull House operations in Chicago.

Maertz was also a major contributor to Blessing Hospital and to the Historical Society. It was she, in fact, who led the charge in 1906 to purchase and save the Governor John Wood Mansion.

The most recent issue of the magazine (July-August) includes an article about Elisha Bentley Hamilton, a prominent Quincy attorney who was also an important Civil War military figure and an Illinois Guard commanding general during the East St. Louis labor riots of 1877. This article was also developed from material owned by the HSQAC and is reprinted in this issue of *The Governor's Post* pages 9-11.

HSQAC members Beth Young and Rich Keppner prepared these two pieces for publication. They plan to continue creating articles for the state society, thereby giving HSQAC more visibility.

All articles are available in the Historical Society Research Library.



Louise Maertz was a philanthropist for local and international causes. She was also a major contributor to Blessing Hospital and the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County.



JOHN WOOD MANSION SET TO REOPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society has initiated a four phase reopening plan for HSQAC operations. The organization will move to Phase I of the plan on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, which will reopen the Governor John Wood Mansion for tours for Society members only, by appointment. The Society is very concerned about the COVID-19 threat to our volunteers and visitors so the current plan is to move to subsequent phases only after a significant reduction in COVID cases in Adams County. The plan is to reopen the History Museum to the public on Tuesday, September 29, if the COVID-19 cases decline in the county. The phased plan includes masks, social distancing, and cleaning procedures so we can open our facilities and have all of the programs the community is accustomed to, such as the Woodland Cemetery and John Wood Mansion Christmas Candlelight tours. Call (217) 222-1835 to set up a tour.



MEET THE NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS

Jan Hummel



Jan Hummel is a native Quincyan, married to her husband Dave for 50 years, mother of 2 adult children and grandmother to 3 teenage granddaughters. She is a Registered Nurse, retired from the Adams County Health Department. Jan spent most of her adult life volunteering in many capacities in our community and feels fortunate to be able to continue this in retirement. As a child, she spent many happy hours at the History Museum when it was the Quincy Public Library and feels strongly that Quincy's history, and its buildings, are very important to preserve for the next generation. Her hobbies are reading, needlework and traveling.

Melissa Sullivan



Melissa Sullivan is a real estate broker with Happel Inc., REALTORS and was born and raised in Quincy, IL. She is an alumni of St. Francis Solanus and graduated from Quincy Notre Dame in 1997. She received her AA from John Wood Community College and earned her BA in Integrated Supply Chain and Operations Management from the University of Phoenix in 2010. She lives with her husband Dan and 2 labs, Lola and Ari, in a historic home on Jersey St. in the East End Historic District that they've spent the last 7 years restoring.

Tim Schieferdecker



Tim Schieferdecker is a World Cultures and Geography Teacher and Social Studies Department Chair at Hannibal Middle School, where he has taught for over 20 years. He holds Master's and Specialist's Degrees in Education and Instructional Leadership, respectively. Originally from Payson, Ill. Tim is a lifelong resident of Adams County. He enjoys all things history, reading, writing, sports, travel, and playing guitar. Tim also enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Jennifer Winking, reside in Quincy. They have two college-aged sons and are members of the Church of St. Peter.

THANKS, CREATIVE GARDEN SERVICES!

The HSQAC owes a debt of gratitude to Carol Rakers and her staff from **Creative Garden Services** of Quincy. The group spent several hours in the blazing sun in mid-July weeding and refurbishing the parlor gardens at the Governor John Wood Mansion. While they were paid a nominal fee by a private donation through the Society, they donated a significant amount of their labor at no cost to HSQAC.

This is not the first time Carol and her husband Jeff have helped the Society. Every spring for the last several years they have given the Society several flats of annuals and have offered instructive assistance in a variety of situations.

Please stop by the Mansion and check out the beautiful rose mallow, cone flowers, daisies, phlox, geraniums and other species that decorate the grounds in accurate 19th century style.



The Mirror Garden at the Governor John Wood Mansion is kept in accurate 19th century style and is a great place for pictures or a nice stroll. Visit the Mansion to see the beautiful rose mallow, cone flowers, daisies, phlox, geraniums and other species that decorate the grounds.

IN MEMORY OF HSQAC MEMBER AND JOHN WOOD INTERPRETER WARREN SPECKHART

Warren Speckhart, one of the area's most knowledgeable and popular local historians, died on July 15, 2020. He was known throughout Adams County as a science teacher, a Little League baseball coach, a successful farmer, a religious leader, and a dear friend to many. Although he was versed in many areas of local and American history, his particular interest was in the Civil War. As a longtime member of the Tri-States Civil War Roundtable, he spent countless hours studying and giving presentations regarding events and people of that era. Warren was a former member of the Historical Society Board of Directors, a valued member, and a true friend as he portrayed Governor John Wood for many years at a variety of Society programs. His cheerful countenance and genuine interest in Adams County history will be sorely missed. A memorial stone will be placed in the John Wood Memorial Plaza at the History Museum on the Square to honor his service and dedication to the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County.



IN MEMORY OF
WARREN E.
SPECKHART
(1935-2020)

JOHN WOOD
INTERPRETER,
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEMBER &
LONGTIME SUPPORTER

In Memoriam

FROM THE COLLECTION – Keys to the Old Mormon Temple

The keys to the Old Mormon Temple are currently in the collection of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. The 16 hand-wrought keys pictured are the surviving keys to the Mormon Temple of Nauvoo. They were given to the Historical Society in the 1940's by E. Bentley Hamilton and his sister. General Elisha B. Hamilton, a former vice-president, of the Historical Society was the son of Artois Hamilton of Carthage.

Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was placed in the Carthage jail on June 24, 1844. He had been arrested for mobilizing the Nauvoo Legion (Militia) and declaring martial law in Nauvoo after the office of the anti-establishment newspaper *The Nauvoo Expositor* had burned to the ground.



Old Mormon Temple in Nauvoo. Construction was completed in 1846 after most Mormons had already left for the Great Salt Lake Basin.



The Keys to the Old Mormon Temple of Nauvoo are on display in the City of Refuge Room in the History Museum on the Square, 332 Maine Street, Quincy.

In spite of a pledge of safety by Illinois Governor Thomas Ford and the “protection” of three companies of Carthage militia, an angry mob broke into the jail on June 27 and murdered Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum.

Most of the residents, fearing retribution by the Mormons, fled from Carthage in panic. Artois Hamilton, owner of the Hamilton House hotel, apparently was a man of considerable courage. In spite of the potential threat to the town, he remained behind to prepare coffins for Joseph and Hyrum Smith and sent the bodies back to Nauvoo for burial.

After Joseph Smith's death, work on the Nauvoo Temple continued until its completion in 1846. This was after most Mormons had headed west to the Great Salt Lake Basin. Before leaving, the Elders of the church gave the 16 temple keys to Artois Hamilton in appreciation for the tender care Mr. Hamilton gave the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith after the murders two years earlier.

NEW PODCAST AVAILABLE ON APPLE PODCASTS, SPOTIFY, GOOGLE PODCASTS

Check out the new history podcast featuring eclectic interviews from authors, historians and other interesting guests. Find out about the sword in the wall owned by CPT Ruddell now in the HSQAC collection or the Quincyan who placed the coins on Lincoln's eyes when he died. Available on all podcast directories – just search History Ago Go and enjoy the discussion.



THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ELISHA BENTLEY HAMILTON by Beth Young

Three western Illinois communities, Carthage, Jacksonville, and Quincy, can legitimately lay claim to shaping the life of General Elisha Bentley Hamilton Sr. Born in Carthage, Illinois, on October 5, 1838, the son of Artois and Atta Bentley Hamilton, the youngster was raised in a Carthage tavern/hostelry owned by his father. This business provided meals and sleeping accommodations for the general public as well as for Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, General John Logan, Orville H. Browning, and other nationally-prominent citizens during the bustling and sometimes turbulent 1840's and 50's.

As a youngster, Hamilton attended Carthage public schools in winter and worked on the family farm the remainder of the year. In 1856, he entered Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois, where he was an outstanding student, active in campus affairs. Hamilton was awarded a Bachelor's degree in June of 1860. Around this time, he also joined the Carthage Grays, a local militia group.

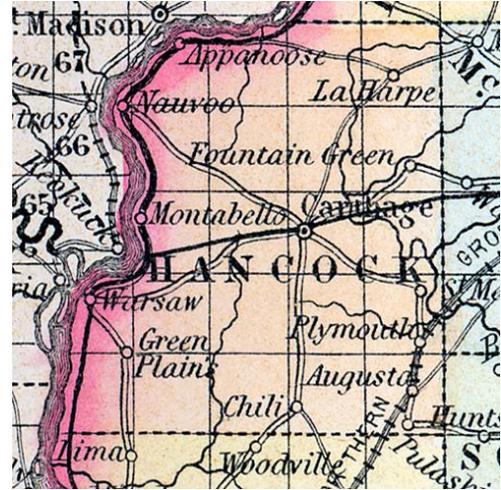
Hamilton was interested in studying law, so he moved to Quincy soon after graduation and continued his education in affiliation with the firm of Warren and Wheat. He also joined the Illinois State Militia and retained his involvement in this group intermittently until 1877.

In August 1862, Hamilton enlisted as a Private in Company B, 118th Illinois Mounted Infantry and was soon made Quartermaster Sergeant. In his war diary, he remarks often about his nearly three years of service in the Vicksburg, Western Louisiana, and Red River campaigns. On January 20, 1864, he was commissioned First Lieutenant and became Assistant Adjutant on the staff of Colonel John Giles Fonda at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Regarding the Union victory at Vicksburg, Hamilton penned this in his July 4, 1863, diary entry: "All is calm and quiet as though we were not at war. Soon comes to our ears the thunder of our National salute at Vicksburg, then all is quiet again. We are filled with anxiety to know the cause of this stillness. Soon we receive the joyful news that 'Vicksburg with all its force has surrendered to Grant.' Thank Heaven! Would that we had every place now in possession of the Rebels."

Another cause for joy came to Hamilton in his dreams. The January 14, 1864, entry paints a picture no doubt shared by many of his lonely, homesick comrades. It reads: "Though my bed was anything but comfortable, and my rest broken; my dreams were most sweet. In the fancies of a wearied mind my thought was beside my friend Carrie, whilst she imparted upon my lips a kiss, whose sweetness was joy to my soul. Oh! That the dream were real! ...I awoke to find myself shivering with cold, in my comfortless tent."

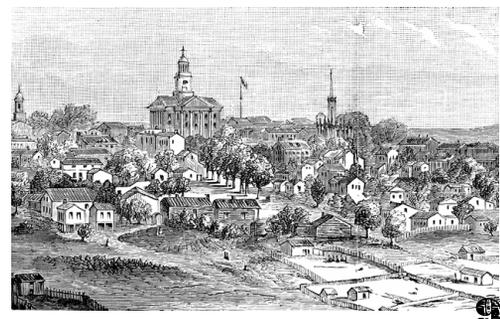
On January 20, 1864, Hamilton had this to say in his diary about becoming an officer: "Rise in pretty good season. Lt. Sleater comes in and hands me my



Hamilton was born in Hancock County, Illinois in 1838. He attended Carthage public school in the winters.



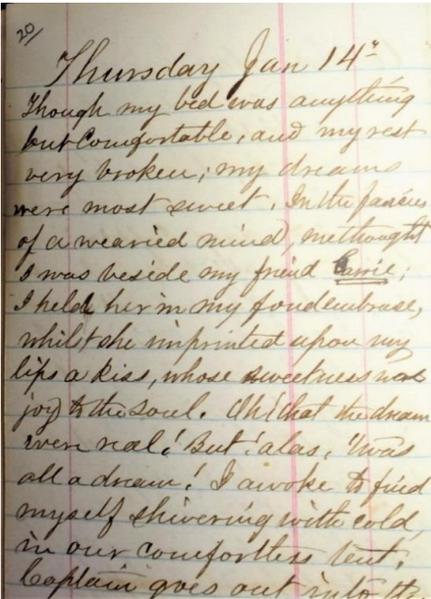
Above: Hamilton after receiving his commission
Below: Vicksburg, Mississippi in the 1860s



THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ELISHA BENTLEY HAMILTON (continued)



Hamilton's Civil War diaries are a great resource for local researchers and historians.



An excerpt from the Civil War diary of Elisha Bentley Hamilton, now in the HSQAC collection.

commission as 1st Lieutenant of "B," before I am out of bed. If one would not rise for that, for what would he."

Serving as Fonda's adjutant sometimes caused strain for Hamilton who described his superior, a former surveyor from Warsaw, Illinois, in this fashion: "Fonda is just about as fit for a colonel as a mule for a parlor ornament. The balance of his field officers ditto." In a later entry, Hamilton suggests strongly that Fonda will probably not approve several days leave time in order for the recently-commissioned lieutenant to go to New Orleans to be fitted for a new uniform. The reason for this particular friction seems to be that Fonda believed that Hamilton was the author of an article sent to the *Carthage Republican* one month earlier. In the piece, Fonda and other Union officers are scathingly accused of mismanagement of supplies and lack of leadership. The author also describes Secretary of War Edwin Stanton as "the weak version of our grandmother."

Another experience Hamilton shared with his comrades is mentioned in the August 9, 1863, diary entry. "... am so sick, cannot attend to unloading... go to bed as soon as they get my tent up. Have the diarrhea very badly." Hamilton continues on the following two days: "No better this morning, but worse... Feel not better yet, nothing but blood and water passes. Have to lie in bed all day. The piles is coming on me too."

Hamilton returned to Quincy after Appomattox in order to complete his legal studies. In *Root's Quincy City Directory 1868-1869*, he is listed as a "law student" at 32 Fifth Street, the address of "Warren and Wheat, attorneys and counselors at law and solicitors in bankruptcy matters." Hamilton was admitted to the bar to practice in Illinois in 1869.

With the passage of time, the young attorney's career "took off." A description from *Courts and Lawyers of Illinois* states: "He was noted for his wit and eloquence as an advocate, and his integrity and uprightness as an antagonist were recognized among all his associates." *Past and Present of Adams County* indicates that Hamilton "had a logical mind, keen discrimination and power of accurate analysis, and his natural gift of oratory still further strengthened his position as one of the foremost lawyers who has ever practiced at the Quincy bar." During his lengthy career, he was affiliated with several Quincy firms; he also practiced law in Kansas City, Missouri, from 1887 until 1891.

Hamilton became involved in community issues, too, and was always available to help Quincy and its citizens improve. He delivered lectures to raise funds for the creation of a public library, he was a founding member of the local Historical Society, and he supported public education and Illinois College at every opportunity. As a Mason, Hamilton "rose through the ranks" to become a Knight

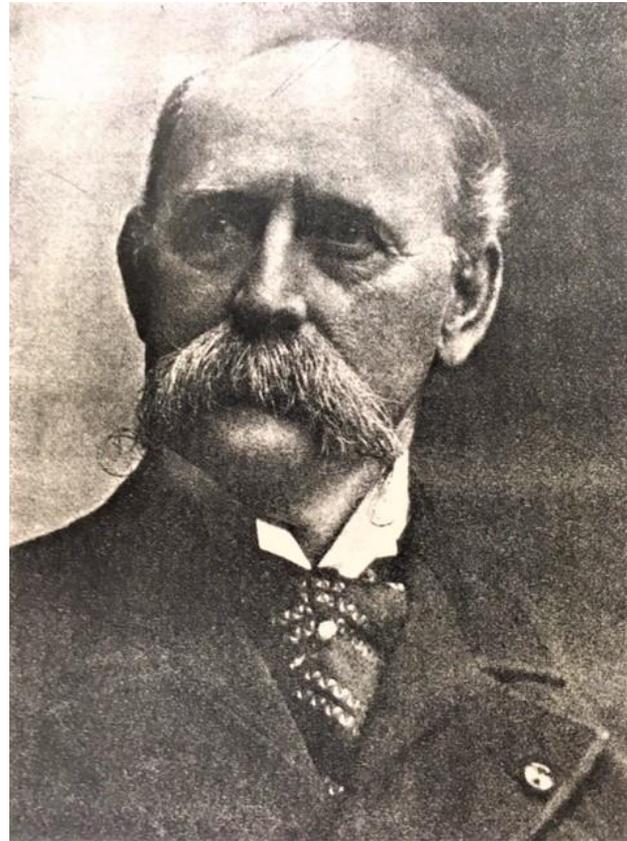
THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ELISHA BENTLEY HAMILTON (continued)

Templar; similarly, he became a “rising star” in the Republican Party. Although he refused to run for office, he was a powerful leader in a variety of political issues and campaigns. In 1868, he was appointed Surveyor of the Port of Quincy; President Grant reappointed him to that post four years later. Interestingly, Hamilton also served as a U. S. Deputy Marshall for several years.

Continued interest in military affairs also occupied an important place in his life. After the Civil War, Hamilton helped organize the Quincy Guards and was elected Captain of that group. In 1877, he commanded an Illinois National Guard unit, the 8th Illinois Infantry, during the state’s attempts to quell violence as a result of a massive labor strike in East St. Louis, Illinois. Regarding this service, Hamilton was described as “A man of the highest courage and fearless in his devotion to duty, nevertheless [he] exercised the caution and calm judgement so necessary in such a crisis and as far as possible had his men protect rather than take life.” For his service in East St. Louis, Hamilton was made a Brigadier General by Illinois Governor Shelby Moore Cullum. He also served two other governors as Inspector General of the Illinois State Militia in the 1880’s.

Soon after his return from the labor riots, Hamilton married Mary E. Fisk of Quincy in September 1878. Eventually, two children, Elisha Bentley and Lucy Atta Hamilton, were born to the couple. E. Bentley, like his father, graduated from Illinois College and went on to a distinguished career in the law in Chicago and Peoria. Daughter Lucy was educated in Andover, Massachusetts. In 1905, she married Allan Ferrell Ayers, a prominent banker from Jacksonville, Illinois.

Hamilton continued to be a respected attorney and community leader until his death on March 20, 1902, when he died unexpectedly while adjudicating a local election issue. At his funeral service Rev. Dr. Samuel Dana offered these words: “Every community has men who are respected and men who are loved, but this man had the esteem and affection of all who knew him. Few, if any, stood higher in the general regard. He possessed certain qualities of the mind and heart that endeared him to the multitudes.” Military, Masonic, and Grand Army of the Republic rites were offered before the playing of “Taps.” Hamilton was laid to rest in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy in a family plot.



Elisha Bentley Hamilton continued to be a respected attorney and community leader in Quincy until his death in 1902.



A 19th century photograph of downtown Quincy, Illinois. Hamilton was promoted to Brigadier General for his service in East St. Louis.



Hamilton was laid to rest in Woodland Cemetery in Quincy.

Sponsored by the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County

WOODLAND CEMETERY

GHOST

TOURS

Tickets
\$15
per event
217-222-1835

EVERY SATURDAY IN OCTOBER
INCLUDING HALLOWEEN NIGHT

ARCHITECTURE

Sale of Selected Architectural Items

The Historical Society wishes to offer for sale to community members this fall a limited number of architectural elements and home furnishings acquired in recent years. These objects have been given careful consideration and determined to not contribute to the mission of the Society and to not be appropriate for its collection. If interested, you may request a listing/description of the items by emailing info@hsqac.org or calling the office at 217-222-1835. A detailed listing & possible viewing times will be provided in late September.

ONCE UPON A TIME REVISTED: COLORFUL ATTORNEY FORMED BOND WITH LINCOLN

By IRIS NELSON

Archibald (Archie) Williams, a colorful character with a flair for law and politics, was 28 years old when he settled in Quincy in 1829. He was born June 10, 1801, into a large family of limited means in Montgomery County, Ky. His only formal education was in a country school. Beyond that, he was self-educated and devoted his free time to reading while working at manual labor. He trained himself in the study of the law and was admitted to the Tennessee bar in 1828.

Williams was one of Quincy's first lawyers and became involved in the political life of the frontier outpost. In 1834 he was elected a trustee of the city and in a brief effort to move the Adams County seat to the center of the county in 1840, represented the village of Columbus. Soon he had acquired the esteem of residents just as he had gained the admiration of fellow lawyer Abraham Lincoln. Williams and Lincoln were linchpins for each other for 30 years.

Within three years of settling in Quincy, Williams was elected to a term in the Illinois Senate and later to two terms in the House. Williams became acquainted with Lincoln at the state capital in Vandalia in 1834 when Lincoln was elected as a representative of the Springfield district. In Vandalia, the two legislators formed a bond of respect and friendship. Neither Lincoln nor Williams were noted for good looks, and one newcomer to the statehouse asked who "those two ugly men" were over in the corner. Both men were excellent storytellers, renowned for biting wit and careless in dress.

Usher Linder, a Coles County legislative colleague, described Williams as angular and ungainly, surpassing Lincoln when it came to homeliness.

Another account reported that Williams had a reputation for "ugliness accentuated by eccentricity in dress." Fond of wearing buckskin pants in early court appearances, fellow lawyers first smirked but quickly realized his uncommon intelligence. His striking appearance was overcome by his reasoned presentations in court and in the Legislature.

Through the 1840's Williams was chairman of statewide Whig conventions and a member of the state constitutional convention of 1847. He helped settle the Mormon conflict in Hancock County and was one of six attorneys hired to defend the five men accused of conspiring to murder Joseph Smith. From 1849-1853 he was U.S. Attorney for Illinois.

Throughout the 1840's and 1850's, Williams and Lincoln practiced law, sometimes in the same courtroom either as allies or competitors. Only two of the letters Lincoln wrote to Williams remain. Lincoln's letter of March 1, 1845, addressed to "Friend Williams" is an update on several of Williams' cases. In the second, written April 30, 1848, Lincoln seeks to gain Williams' support for Zachary Taylor for president.

In 1854 Williams ran for U.S. representative from the Fifth District against William Richardson. Rather than run as a Whig, he ran as a Free Soil candidate opposing slavery in any new territories. The possibility of Nebraska becoming a slave state was central to the campaign. Lincoln spoke on Williams' behalf in Quincy on Nov. 1, 1854, in what was Lincoln's first visit to Quincy. In a letter to U.S. Representative Richard Yates, Lincoln wrote that he was going to Quincy to try to give Williams "a little life."

Lincoln spoke at Kendall Hall, at Sixth and Maine, to an enthusiastic crowd. The night before the election on Nov. 5, Williams, O.H. Browning, Abraham Jonas and others spoke at a final rally. Williams lost the election by a narrow margin to Richardson.

In subsequent years most anti-Nebraska supporters became Republicans, as did Williams. He was among the hundreds who attended the Anti-Nebraska Convention held in Bloomington in May 1856, and was the preliminary president. The Bloomington Convention is considered to be the birthplace of the Republican Party in Illinois. During this convention Lincoln delivered a mesmerizing speech on slavery that is referred to as "The Lost Speech" because the reporters listened so intently that they did not record the content.

ONCE UPON A TIME REVISTED: COLORFUL ATTORNEY FORMED BOND WITH LINCOLN

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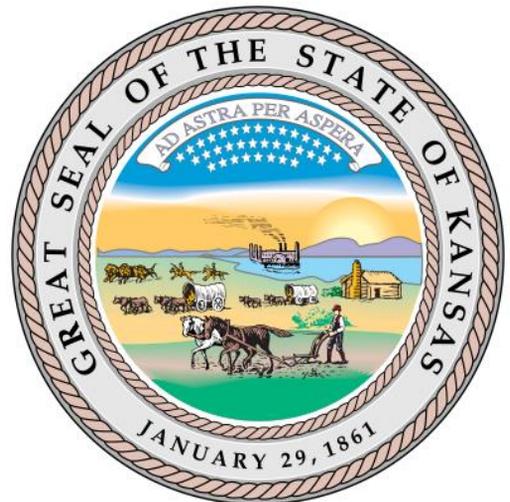
As a staunch supporter of Lincoln, Williams was often a speaker at rallies during Lincoln's campaign for the presidency in the fall of 1860, as he had been during the Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858. Advancing the Republican platform, Williams spoke in Augusta in June stating he had "known him (Lincoln) for 27 years, and that he was as pure, honest and capable a man as ever lived..."

When Lincoln became U.S. president on March 4, 1861, Williams was one of the few Quincyans who attended the inauguration in Washington. Within days of the inauguration, Lincoln offered a surprise appointment for Williams as judge of the U.S. District Court for Kansas. He moved to Topeka and served from 1861 to 1863. Lincoln reportedly had offered Williams an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1861, but Williams was said to have declined. Williams made his final trip to Washington to visit Lincoln in 1862.

Williams' legal career had been largely involved in real estate, especially the sale of military tract lands. Early land sales demanded solutions to important fundamental principles of common law. According to "Portraits of Eminent Americans Now Living" (1858) Williams was known to colleagues as a thinker and had the research skills and the "power of penetrating through ... to the very bottom of the subject." Williams' part in the argument of these early legal questions, and "the originality, vigor, and breadth of his views," commanded the admiration of his contemporaries and identified him with the history of the jurisprudence of the state. Williams died in 1863 at his daughter's home and is buried in Woodland Cemetery (Block 2, Lot 66). Colleagues of the Adams County Bar recognized Williams as the first judge of the U.S. District Court in the State of Kansas by enlisting Quincy sculptor Cornelius Volk to create a gravestone dedicated to Williams. The gravestone featuring a stack of books representing a learned man reads "In Memory of our Brother." **Iris Nelson is a former reference librarian and archivist at the Quincy Public Library. She serves on boards for civic and historical organizations and has written articles for historical journals.**



This image is of Williams in his later years. He was well known as a great story teller with a biting wit.



Historical Society on Social Media

Keep up to date with everything going on at the Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County on social media. The HSQAC Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages are a great place to discover history. How well do you know the Gem City? Can you correctly identify Quincy intersections and businesses from the past? Guess right and win tickets, books and other prizes from Quincy's History Shop at the History Museum on the Square. The Society also has "This Day in Adams County History" postings and several other cool stories and pictures.



The HSQAC is also currently producing short videos of local history and of items in our collection. These will be available soon on our social media pages. Social media is a great way to stay connected. If you forgot to renew your membership, you can find a link on our pages or you can go to www.hsqac.org. Remember to follow us on Facebook, Twitter @QuincyHistory, and Instagram.



Work on the Mansion/Grounds

Gift Shop Manager Brenda Willer took on the task of refreshing all of the café-style curtains in the Governor John Wood Mansion at 12th and State while the campuses have been closed due to the pandemic. Her plans included washing, drying, mending, and ironing the curtains which had been hanging untouched in recent years. Willer began the project by washing 26 curtain panels. After ending up with only 16 panels and some tattered cloth, however, she quickly realized that some of the pieces were so badly damaged they could not be used. She called upon a professional seamstress for support -- her sister-in-law, Janice Klingele. Klingele agreed to assist the Society and ended up using 13 yards of unbleached muslin to make 10 curtain panels for the Mansion, donating her time and sewing skills. Willer laundered, mended, and pressed the remaining pieces, and all curtains - both new and old- have now been rehung in the Mansion.

Some of the area's top carpenters and painters have been refurbishing exterior areas of the historic home as well, replacing and repairing window frames, post caps, spindles and railings. Painting the south side of the building is scheduled in mid-August. In addition, the Visitors Center parking lot has also seen an upgrade with 16 tons of pea gravel. A volunteer crew headed by Richard Powell spread the gravel across the area.

Flat Lincoln Travels the ALNHA

We encourage our visitors to safely discover history with Flat Lincoln! Looking for Lincoln developed a Flat Lincoln to help encourage our young and young-at-heart visitors to visit sites, take pictures, and post images online. There are more than 200 wayside exhibits in the heritage area -- many right here in Adams County. The Flat Lincoln encourages site visits with social distancing, hand washing, and wearing a mask to help keep others safe. A small number of Flat Lincolns with a mask have been produced to help start the dialog with the visitors to the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Additional Flat Lincolns (with or without a mask) are available online at www.lookingforlincoln.com. We encourage our members to photo Flat Lincoln at any historic or Looking for Lincoln site and post on Facebook. Just a reminder to hashtag the photo with #FlatLincoln, and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area will post their favorites on the Looking for Lincoln Facebook page.



HISTORY OF THE 1835 LOG CABIN AS TOLD BY GEORGE LEWIS

In the early 1830's, six farm families immigrated from Sweden and settled on farm land about three miles East of Perry, Mo., each family having acquired about 80 acres. The families worked together to build log cabins on each of the six tracts. As there were no roads in place at the time, the log cabins were situated in the center of their respective tracts so the cabin, barn, work shed and other outbuildings would be located centrally to all of the surrounding fields on the farm.

The years went by and in about the 1900's, the farm families needed more living space, so many of the two room "up and down cabins" were covered over with "six rooms or more" two story frame houses. By 1970, only one of the six cabins still survived. The six room frame house was no longer lived in and was surrounded by volunteer tree saplings and weeds for several years. A Mr. Johnson who owned the house and farm decided to make an effort to have the cabin saved: he advertised in the *Quincy Herald-Whig* that his family was willing to give the log cabin to someone who would commit to removing it from his farm in 60 days and would further assure his family the cabin would be preserved for future generations to see and enjoy.

After having searched for several years for an authentic log cabin to add to the buildings on Crestview Farm about five miles east of Quincy, the George Lewis family saw the ad in the paper and immediately contacted Mr. Johnson.

At first sight, the project of moving the cabin seemed almost impossible as the six room frame house would have to be torn down first before moving the cabin could begin. Mr. Johnson soon relieved this concern by agreeing to do the work necessary to remove the house from the cabin. He took a chain saw and cut through two sides of the house and then bulldozed away that portion of the house not covering the cabin. This left the cabin exposed with house siding on only two sides of the cabin. It was relatively easy to remove this remaining siding from the cabin which proved to be in amazingly good condition, considering its approximate 150 years of age.

Now how do we move this historical gem of a structure? John Blickhan of Blickhan Construction Company was contacted. His first thought was to load it in one piece on a low-boy tractor and move it from Missouri across the Mississippi River Bridge to Crestview Farm. When both States denied permits to cross the bridge, Mr. Blickhan's next idea was to take the cabin in one piece to the river, load it on a barge, go up-river to Quincy, unload it onto a low-boy trailer and take it to Crestview Farm. When he calculated that this method would require six transfers of the cabin, he decided the cost would be prohibitive. So the final solution was to mark the logs, floor beams, and rafters and then take the cabin and chimney down piece by piece, and brick by brick, haul the disassembled cabin on a low-boy tractor trailer, and then unload the pieces at Crestview Farm.

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis' son, Gary, masterminded the construction of a concrete foundation and the re-erection of the cabin, putting in new chinking between the logs, cutting new roof rafters from trees on the farm, and installing shake shingles on the roof. Charlie Lubbert, a well-known brick layer, layed up a chimney utilizing the same brick used for the original chimney when the cabin was first erected.

Earl & Esther Peters, long time neighbors bordering the Lewis farm on the West, surprised the Lewis family by having an authentic three-hole outhouse constructed from old barn siding. They gave this as a "cabin warming gift" and arranged for a suitable hole to be dug in the ground upon which the cabin was set.

The cabin and outhouse were used by the Lewis family from 1970 to 2002 for special family gatherings with meals cooked and served in the cabin, educational events for Cub and Boy Scout troops, and for displaying of family treasures and antiques. Soon after the Lewises moved from the farm to Quincy, they realized if the cabin was to live on for future generations, they should look for an organization that could not only use it for educational purposes but at the same time would continue on for years to come to keep it in good repair.

As both George and Gary Lewis had served on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, they were aware of the interesting coincidence that their cabin, being built in 1835, was the same year that John Wood caused

HISTORY OF THE 1835 LOG CABIN AS TOLD BY GEORGE LEWIS

John Wood Mansion to be constructed. Also the Lewis cabin was very similar in size and style as the cabin John Wood built and lived in prior to building the Mansion.

The Lewises readily decided their log cabin should be offered to the Historical Society. The gift was enthusiastically accepted only after the Board debated as to its permanent location – should it be placed on the front yard, or south side yard or in the rear? When the rear location was decided on, John Blickhan was again contacted to see if he could move it whole or in parts on his low-boy tractor trailer. He determined if the cabin could be taken apart into two portions, he could move his large crane in beside the cabin and lift the top story off onto a trailer and the bottom story off onto another trailer. Gary Lewis was then consulted to determine if the cabin could be lifted apart in halves. His advice was needed as he was in charge of its being put back together on the farm so only he would know if it could successfully be taken apart in two halves. He gave the green light by determining the cabin was put back together in such a manner that the best way to take it apart was to lift the second story and roof off of the first story, and the floor of the second story would remain as the ceiling of the first story.

Mr. Blickhan carefully placed straps under and around the second story to make a sling harness he attached to the long arm of the crane. The second story was then very gently lifted up and placed on the bed of the first trailer. Another sling was used to lift the first story onto the second trailer and both tractor trailers then moved off of the farm and then up the hill on Big Valley Road. The procession of truck-trailers and cars following with the helpers moved on to St. Anthony's 59th Street North to State Street, then West across the 4 lane highway. Cars meeting this rather strange procession moved off on the shoulder to let the log cabin continue on westbound. Care had to be taken that overhead electric and telephone lines and tree branches would clear the cabin pieces.

Persons standing on both sides of State Street were totally surprised to see the big cabin passing by and it was no doubt a sight that will never be repeated again. Just as the two parts of the cabin were paced on the truck, Blickhan's crane then lifted them off, placing the first story of the cabin on to a well-constructed new foundation at the rear of the John Wood Mansion grounds. The second story was then lifted off the trailer and was set on top of the first story. After retouches were made to restore the cabin to its proper condition for its final resting place, the cabin now proudly sits on the John Wood grounds as a deserving contrast to the mansion. Children and adults alike will experience very meaningful educational events for years to come.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS ROAD TRIP FILM FEATURES DECLUE AT THE JOHN WOOD MANSION

In late July 2020, during the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, a film was born. Graham Peck, Wepner Distinguished Professor of Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield, and Nathan Peck, Associate Professor of Art & Design at Saint Xavier University, began production on a Lincoln-Douglas Debate road trip film. The road trip took them from Ottawa to Freeport, Galesburg, Quincy, and Springfield. During the trip they filmed presentations by four Abraham Lincoln and two Stephen A. Douglas reenactors, and also interviewed them out of character. The reenactors included Kevin Wood (Lincoln) in Ottawa, George Buss (Lincoln) and Tim Connors (Douglas) in Freeport, Gary DeClue (Douglas) in Quincy, and Randy Duncan (Lincoln) in Springfield. Additionally, they interviewed Sunshine Clemons, founder of Black Lives Matter Springfield, and Kathryn Harris, former director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, in Springfield. Graham Peck and Gary DeClue spent an afternoon at the Governor John Wood Mansion filming the Quincy portion of the film. Gary has portrayed Stephen Douglas at area events and presentations for the past 26 years.



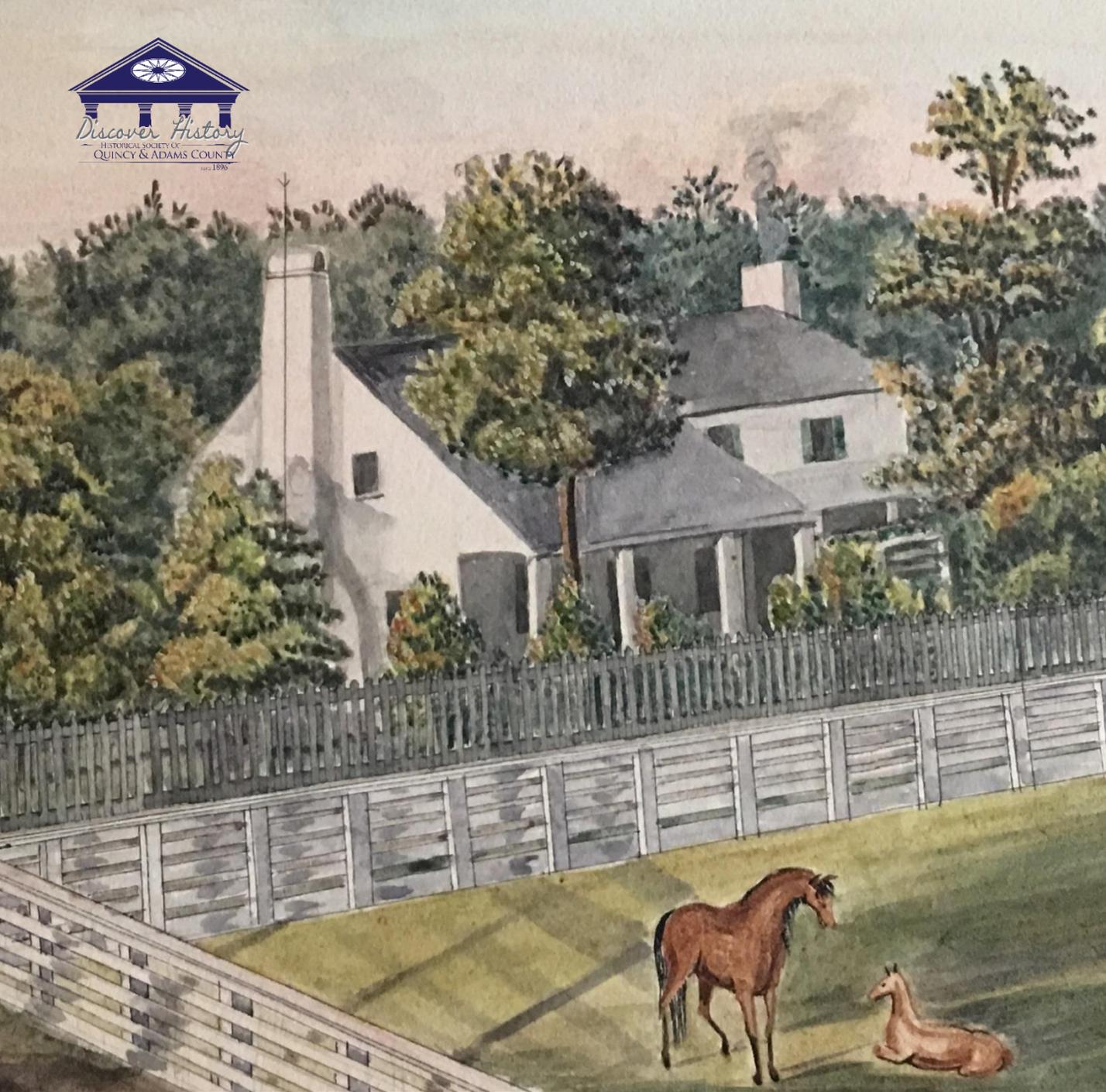
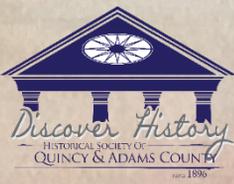
Dr. Graham Peck in production of a Lincoln-Douglas Debate road trip film with Stephen A. Douglas interpreter Gary DeClue.

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