



# Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference on Illinois History

OCTOBER 3-4, 2024



## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

**MPR 1 = MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 1    MPR 2 = MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 2**

**C = CLASSROOM    LR = LINCOLN RECEPTION ROOM**



PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov P 217.558.8844 212 North 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

### Concurrent Sessions, 8:30 – 10:00

#### Examining Diverse Communities in Illinois (MPR 1)

*Moderator: Catheryne Popovitch, Illinois State Archives*

“Shifting the Normative: A Neighborhood Called Boystown” Alaina Burrelsman, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

“International Understanding and Unification through Jane Addams’s Hull-House” Jenna Astroth, Independent Scholar

“‘Its Charity Shall be as Broad and Expansive as the Firmament of Heaven’: How Chicago’s First Jewish Hospital Transcended the Demarcations of Faith” Elyse Malamud, Northwestern University

#### Illinois Soldier Stories (MPR 2)

*Moderator: Ian Hunt, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*

“Park Ridge, Illinois: Two Civil War Heroes” Milton Edward Nelson, Independent Scholar

“Surviving Vicksburg: An Illinois Soldier’s Evolution of Remembrance” Mark Flotow, Independent Scholar

“A Biographical Examination of Colonel Russell A. Cone” Marcella Lees, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

#### Roundtable: Building University–Community Research Partnerships: The Jarrot Mansion Project (C)

*Moderator: Michelle Miller*

Stacey Brown Amilian, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Emily Eckles, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Robert Paulett, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Brad Winn, Cahokia Courthouse and Museum

#### Teacher Workshop: “Finding their Roots: Using Genealogy in the Classroom” (LR)

*Presenter: Krystal Wilson, Harrisburg High School*

### Concurrent Sessions, 10:15 – 11:45

#### Abraham Lincoln (MPR 1)

*Moderator: Jacob Friefeld, University of Illinois Springfield*

“‘Stopping a Skift in the Middle of a River’: Abraham Lincoln, I&M Canal Scrip, and Monetary Policy in a Nineteenth-Century Economic Crisis” Stewart Winger, Illinois State University

“Abraham Lincoln at the River and Harbor Convention, Chicago, 1847” Mark Pohlad, DePaul University

“Portable Locality: The Lincolns in Springfield and Washington” Andrew Witmer, James Madison University

## **Illinois State Historical Society Roundtable: Historical Markers in Illinois (MPR 2)**

*Moderator: Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University*

Libby Tronnes, Bradley University

Will Shannon, St. Clair County Historical Society

Andrew Johnson, Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative

## **Developing and Engaging Illinois's Historic Resources (C)**

*Moderator: Mark L. Johnson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

“Celebrating the Life and Achievements of an Unknown Baseball Legend” Anna Sielaff and Will Best, Campaign County History Museum

“The Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago: Pioneers in Autonomous Archiving” Ashley Dequilla, Independent Scholar

“Walking History Throughout the Prairie State: Hiking the Natural and Historic Pathways of Illinois” Elizabeth Kershnik, Oakton College, and Timothy Dean Draper, Waubesa Community College

## **Luncheon Presentation: 12:00 – 1:30**

*Abraham Lincoln: The Nominee Nobody Expected*

Edward Achorn

In this contentious election year, Edward Achorn, author of the prize-winning *The Lincoln Miracle*, takes us back to an even stormier and more divisive time—the battle for the White House in 1860. The longtime journalist, historian, and Pulitzer finalist discusses Lincoln’s astonishing rise to the nomination during a fateful week in Chicago. Achorn reveals how miraculous it was that the pieces fell into place perfectly for the shrewd lawyer from Springfield—a miracle, ultimately, for the United States, which, thanks to Lincoln, survived the brutal Civil War.

Achorn is the author of four critically acclaimed books about American history. His latest book, *The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention That Changed History*, won the Lincoln Forum Book Prize, the Lincoln Institute Book Prize, and the Lincoln Group of New York’s Award of Achievement. His previous book, *Every Drop of Blood: The Momentous Second Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln*, was named one of the Best Books of 2020 by the Economist magazine and is an Amazon Editors’ choice for Best History. He is also the author of the classic baseball history books *The Summer of Beer and Whiskey* and *Fifty-nine in '84*, which was named one of the Six Great Books About Baseball by the Economist.

A journalist for 41 years, he is the former Vice President and Editorial Pages Editor of *The Providence Journal*. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for Commentary and won the Yankee Quill Award for distinguished lifetime service to journalism.

## Concurrent Sessions, 1:45 – 3:15

### Illinois Women's Stories (MPR 1)

*Moderator: Brittney Yancy, Illinois College*

“Resources of the Illinois Women Artists Project” Kristan H. McKinsey, Illinois Women Artists Project

“Hearth to the Printer: Community Cookbooks and Women in the Public Sphere” Nancy Webster and Catherine Lambrecht, Highland Park Historical Society

“Giving Elizabeth P. W. Packard Her Voice” Laura F. Keyes, Historic Voices

### Illinois State Historical Society Roundtable: (In)Visible Histories: Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act (MPR 2)

*Moderator: Libby Tronnes, Bradley University*

Logan Pappenfort, Dickson Mounds

Gerald Savage, Ho-Chunk Nation

Hayley Goebel, Roosevelt County History Museum

Natasha Ritsma, Aurora University

### Labor and Location in Illinois (C)

*Moderator: Brian Mullgardt, Millikin University*

“The Mud Irish’: The Development of Irish Farming Communities in LaSalle and Grundy Counties, Illinois, 1840-1870” Greg Koos, McLean County Museum of History

“Their Names Have Been Forgotten: The Sangamon County Poor Farm, 1870-1944” Mike Kienzler, Sangamon County Historical Society

“How Three Became One: Before Cahokia Heights: Capitalism and the Great Migration in the Midwest: From Slavery to Deindustrialization” Monica D. Shepherd, Georgia State University

## Concurrent Sessions, 3:30 – 5:00

### Researching and Recognizing Black Historic Resources in Illinois (MPR 1)

*Moderator: Amy Hathaway, Illinois State Historic Preservation Office*

“Black Settlement in Southern Illinois” Mary McCorvie, Shawnee National Forest, and Mark Wagner, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

“Cairo Contraband Camp” George Hunt, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

“African American Life in Springfield” Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton, Fever River Research

“Illinois Black Panther Party” Leila Wills, Historic Preservation Society of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party

## **Illinois Political Life (MPR 2)**

*Moderator: Mark DePue, Independent Scholar*

“Indentured Apprentices in Pre-Civil War Illinois” George Provenzano, Independent Scholar

“John J. Bird: A Forgotten Black Political Leader of the Late 19th Century” Wayne T. Pitard, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“The 1891 Women’s School Suffrage Law: An Overlooked Victory” Grace Mary Perez, Brightmont Academy

## **Local Histories (C)**

*Moderator: Stephanie Martin, Lincoln Library: The Public Library of Springfield*

“The Agency and Global Connections of a Local Woman: A History of Sylvia Caldwell Mecherle” Emma Malone, Illinois State University

“All Politics is Local: A Small Municipality Faces the Great Depression” Thomas W. Piorkowski, Northern Illinois University

“Abingdon: A Tale of Two Colleges” Tim Black, Independent Scholar

## **Teacher Workshop: “Shaped by Technology: Examining the Civil War through a STEM Lens” (LR)**

*Abigail Bussey, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*

## **THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM: A TOUR OF THE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT BUILDING**

**5:30–7:00PM** Meet at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library rear parking lot

Join the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission for an exclusive tour of the Illinois Supreme Court Building and its new learning center to explore the court’s rich history. Bus transportation will be provided to and from the court building.

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**

**Concurrent Sessions, 8:30 – 10:00**

### **Roundtable: The Illinois Underground Railroad Task Force and Related Research and Collaborations (MPR 1)**

*Moderator: Larry McClellan, Governors State University*

Gerald McWorter, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Owen Muelder, Knox College Underground Railroad Freedom Center

## **Illinois and the Law (MPR 2)**

*Moderator: Christopher Schnell, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*

“Judicial Independence in Illinois History” John Lupton, Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

“The Shelton Gang: A Turning Point in Midwestern Organized Crime History” Alexa Beharelle, Bradley University & Stark County CUSD #100

“People v. Luetkemeyer: Tiny Town, Tiny Case, Important Impact!” John W. Williams, Principia College

### **Bartman, Hemingway, and Stevenson: Illinoisans Navigate Politics, Literature, and Baseball (C)**

*Moderator: Dan Monroe, Millikin University*

“Hey Chicago What Do You Say?” A Historical Analysis of Mob Mentality in Chicago Cubs Fans” Syd Young, Millikin University

“The Tip of the Iceberg: Hemingway’s Nuanced Portrayal of Gender and Sexuality” Olivia Swords, Millikin University

“Adlai Stevenson’s Presidential Campaigns: Turning Point for the Democratic Party” Brennan Pekelder, Millikin University

### **Teacher Workshop: “Engaging Students in Civic Education” (LR)**

*Levi Molenhour, Urbana High School*

### **Concurrent Sessions, 10:15 – 11:45**

#### **The Civil War Experience and Memory in Illinois (MPR 1)**

*Moderator: Lauren Thompson, McKendree University*

“The 4th Illinois Cavalry” Brian Conroy, Will County Historical Museum

“Turn the Other Cheek?: Jefferson Davis’s Invitation to Speak at the Winnebago County Fair” Amanda Becker, Auburn High School

“The Grand ‘Colored’ Army of the Republic” Chad Boehlke, Morgan County Historical Society

#### **Illinois State Historical Society Roundtable: (In)Visible Histories: Reflecting on the 200th Anniversary of the 1824 Constitutional Convention and Preserving Legal Freedom in Illinois (MPR 2)**

*Moderator: Caroline Kiesel, DePaul University*

Kiffany Dugger, Independent Scholar

Andy Theising, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Alonzo Ward, Eastern Illinois University

## **The New Normal: The 34th General Assembly 1885 (C)**

*Moderator: Will Shannon, St. Clair County Historical Society*

“A Session of Scandal” Bernard Sieracki, Independent Scholar

“Elijah Haines: A Remarkable Life” Ty Rohrer, Waukegan History Museum

## **Luncheon Presentation: 12:00 – 1:30**

### **Building the Emmett Till and Mamie Till Mobley National Monument (LR)**

*Dr. Marvel Parker, The Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley Institute*

In 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till traveled to Money, Mississippi, to visit relatives. He was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered after reportedly whistling at a white woman. His mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, insisted on an open-casket funeral near their hometown of Chicago. Her brave decision let the world see the racist violence inflicted upon her son and set the Civil Rights Movement into motion. On July 25, 2023, President Biden official recognized the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, with sites in Illinois and Mississippi.

Dr. Marvel Parker is the Executive Director of the Emmett Till & Mamie Mobley Institute and will discuss the history, creation, and continued work of the National Monument and Institute. She is a Graduate of Northeastern Illinois University, with majors in Nonprofit Administration and Social and Community Studies and holds a Master and Doctor of Divinity from Grace Theological Seminary. She is also President of Community Design Concepts, Inc. a management consulting firm created in 2017 to assist churches and small NFP organizations.

A self-published author, in 2006 Dr. Parker published her thesis, “Breaking the Silence; The Impact of HIV/AIDS on African American Women and the Silence of the Church”, and in 2010 a HIV/AIDS Behavioral Intervention curriculum entitled, “LISTEN-LEARN-LIVE”. In 2008, in furtherance to her commitment to educate communities about the impact of this disease, she created AIDS Awareness Advocacy Inc., a US not for profit and NGO in Belize Central America where she serves as Executive Director and CEO.

## **Concurrent Sessions, 1:45 – 3:15**

### **The African American Experience in Illinois History (MPR 1)**

*Moderator: Pamela Smoot, Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

“Preparing a Face for the Faces’: Ruses Utilized in Slave Escapes in Southwestern Illinois” J. Eric Robinson, Independent Scholar

“Israel Blackburn: From Slavery to Landowner and Founder of Downers Grove” Marty Acks, Downers Grove Historical Society

“Come As You Are, Hoods Not Required: The 1942 Lynching of James Edward Person in Libertyville, Indiana, and Edgar County, Illinois” Renatto V. Carr, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

### **Illinois State Historical Society Roundtable: Framing Inclusive Local Stories: The Southland History Collective (MPR 2)**

Megan VanGorder, Governors State University

Eliot Fackler, Governors State University

Christina Holston, Monee Historical Society

## **Death and Grief in Illinois (C)**

*Moderator: Justin Blandford, Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

“Mid-19th Century Practices of Death, Burial, and Remembrance through the Lens of Springfield’s Hutchinson Cemetery” Erika Holst, Illinois State Museum

“Searching for Brushy Fork and the Negro Cemetery in the ‘Nip ‘n Tuck,’ Douglas County” Brian Adams, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Then his Glorious Work was Done’: Music and Grief in the Death of Abraham Lincoln” Hannah Clare Jellen, Snyder Funeral Homes

## **Concurrent Sessions, 3:30 – 5:00**

### **Chicagoland Stories (MPR 1)**

*Moderator: Devin Hunter, University of Illinois Springfield*

“Boom Town: Naperville, the Tech Corridor, and the Changing Face of America” Andrea Field, Naper Settlement

“I Hate Illinois Nazis’: Hate Speech, Civil Rights, and the First Amendment” Jerry Fieldman, Independent Scholar

“Grosse Point Lighthouse National Landmark: Illuminating the Maritime History of Illinois” Donald J. Terras, Grosse Point Lighthouse National Landmark

### **Roundtable: Labor History in Illinois – Future Directions (MPR 2)**

*Moderator: Robert D. Sampson, Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*

James R. Barrett, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University

Greg Hall, Western Illinois University

### **Illinois Education History (C)**

*Moderator: Daniel Worthington, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*

“Democratic Ideals and the Creation of the Illinois Public School System, 1825-1900, Tom Suhrbur, Illinois Labor History Society

“Joliet’s University: The University of St. Francis and the Development of Joliet, 1981-Present” David W. Veenstra, University of St. Francis

### **Teacher Workshop: “Teaching Local History: Paul H. Douglas’s Founding Principles” (LR)**

*Caleb Bolha, Auburn Enlarged City School District*



## CPDU Credit

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Education Department is providing 1.5 Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) for each session attended during the Conference on Illinois History. An additional 1.0 CPDU will be offered for the evening program. An educator who attends all conference events will receive 16.0 CPDUs.

To receive CPDU credit, educators must complete an evaluation for each session they attend. To comply with ISBE requirements, they should plan to complete the evaluation prior to moving to the next conference session. One digital certificate will be issued at the end of the conference for each participating educator. The certificate will include total hours awarded and a record of sessions attended. If you have any questions, please contact the Education Department at [ALPLM.Education@illinois.gov](mailto:ALPLM.Education@illinois.gov).

## Registration

To register for the Conference visit: [bit.ly/illinois-history](https://bit.ly/illinois-history)

If you have any questions please email [ALPLM.Research@illinois.gov](mailto:ALPLM.Research@illinois.gov) or call (217)785-9132.