



MCHS News

March 2013

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 1, No. 2

715 N Main Street
Edwardsville, IL
62025

Hours:
Wed-Fri 9 am - 4 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm
Group Tours Available

Free Admission

Museum Phone:
618-656-7562
Library Phone:
618-656-7569

Web Address:
MadCoHistory.org

E-mail:
info@MadCoHistory.org

About Us:

The MCHS museum complex consisting of a modern archival library, the 1836 Weir House Museum and the Helms Collection Center, is owned and operated by the non-profit Madison County Historical Society with assistance from Madison County.

The museum and library offer insight and resources for exploring the history and people of Madison County.

EMANCIPATION AND SLAVERY IN MADISON COUNTY

By Charlotte E. Johnson

One hundred and fifty years ago, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The proclamation stated, "that all persons held as slaves, within the rebellious states, are and henceforth shall be free." But the Proclamation only freed those slaves in states that had seceded from the Union, and freedom was contingent upon a military victory by the Union.

For the first time "men of color" were allowed to join the Union Army and Navy. In Illinois, the 29th Colored Infantry was formed under Governor Yates. The all-colored regiment was officially sworn in on April 24, 1864. Many of these men were lost at the misguided Battle of the Crater. Over the next two and a half years over 200,000 colored men served the Union including men from Madison County.

The continuing war left Lincoln and others to ponder what would happen after the war. The Republican Party then drafted a constitutional amendment which passed in the Senate by a two-thirds majority on April 8, 1864. By December 18, 1865 the required three-quarters of the states had ratified the Thirteenth Amendment which insured that

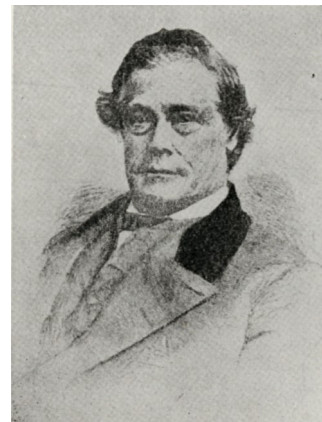


Lyman Trumbull (1813-1896)

forever after neither slavery nor involuntary servitude would exist within the United States.

Lyman Trumbull, a Senator from Alton who served 1855-1873, was the author of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as much of the reconstruction legislation after the Civil War.

Owen Lovejoy introduced the final bill to end slavery in the District of Columbia. They were both friends of Lincoln.



Owen Lovejoy, right, was an abolitionist leader and brother to Elijah P. Lovejoy.

MARCH - APRIL CALENDAR

Began February 20

"If I Fall, My Grave Shall Be Made in Alton"
Lovejoy's Journey from Minister to Martyr

Continuing through March

Tube Sock Palooza! - Identifying the photographs of Richard "Dick" Norrish

Continued on page 4

MCHS BOARD

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Archival Research Asst.
Jenn Walta
Curator

VOLUNTEERS

There are abundant and varied opportunities for volunteers at either the museum or the archival library. Please call if interested.

MEMBERSHIPS

Several membership levels are available to those interested in supporting the work of preserving Madison County history through an MCHS membership. Memberships run on the calendar year, Jan 1-Dec 31. Applications are available on our website, at the MCHS Museum or at the Archival Library.

PUBLICATIONS

MCHS NEWS

6 issues annually
Cindy Reinhardt, Editor

WEB SITE

Find us after March 15th at: MadCoHistory.org

ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

By Mary Westerhold, Archival Research Manager

African American Resources at the MCHS Library

There are two things to note about MCHS resources for African American History at the Archival Library:

- (1) We have resources - books, magazines, family histories, cemetery information, photos, etc.
- (2) We need more family histories, photos, etc. We want to know your story!

So let's talk about our resources. One of the most unique items we have is a small booklet often referred to as the "Emancipation Register." The contents of this booklet are noted by this statement on the first page "A Register of Papers Belonging to Free Persons of Colour 1831." While Illinois was a free state, African Americans had to register on entering a county. There are three of these books from different time periods.

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MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

By Jenn Walta, Curator

Lovejoy Exhibit

Elijah Parrish Lovejoy was born in a small Maine town on November 8, 1802. He grew up knowing absolute right and wrong. By four years of age, Elijah's mother had already taught him to read the Bible. That rigid structure profoundly influenced him later in life.

Lovejoy travelled to Alton by way of Boston, New York City, Hillsboro (Illinois), and St. Louis. Elijah opened a private classical high school in St. Louis that offered a kind of education that was typically not available on the edge frontier. In 1830, he purchased a stake in the *Saint Louis Times* and became an editor at the periodical.

Lovejoy sold his stake less than two years later and enrolled in Princeton Theological Seminary.

Thirteen months later, Elijah arrived back in St. Louis and became an editor for the religious newspaper, *The Saint Louis Observer*. During the period of 1834-1835, the newspaper shifted its attacks from the Roman Catholic Church to slavery. At first, Lovejoy avoided a radical stance against slavery, but his editorials reveal that as the months passed, his anti-slavery beliefs became more pronounced.

In the spring of 1836, St. Louis was a powder keg waiting to blow. Francis McIntosh, a mulatto man who worked on the boats, was charged with killing one police

officer and injuring another. A mob pulled him from his cell and burned him alive. No one was charged. In the wake of McIntosh's death Judge Luke Edward Lawless declared that Elijah Lovejoy and other newspapers like the *Observer* were actually at fault for McIntosh's death. The Lovejoy newspaper plant was later vandalized, the printing equipment smashed and the pieces thrown in the river.

Later that year, in July, the Lovejoy family relocated across the river to Alton where *The Alton Observer* began publication in September. Although a Free State, Lovejoy found resistance at nearly every turn in the Illinois town. In November of 1837, Lovejoy was killed defending his fourth printing press. He was buried on his 35th birthday.

In death, Elijah Lovejoy became a martyr for First Amendment Rights the freedom of the press and freedom of speech. The

Lovejoy Monument in Alton's city cemetery stands as a testament to his legacy and importance place in American History.

Opening in February, Madison County's new exhibit explores the life of Reverend Elijah Parrish Lovejoy and the lasting impression of the struggles and sacrifice he made in defense of basic freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Artifacts featured in the exhibit include a pianoforte and dishes owned by the Lovejoy family as well as contemporary objects related to the memory of his martyrdom.



Elijah Lovejoy's silhouette and signature (MCHS)

RECENT MCHS NEWS

Tube Sock Palooza!

Thanks to everyone who has visited our Tube Sock Palooza exhibit! Over 400 individuals have been identified in the over 800 photographs we have available. We still need your help since most of the photographs have at least two people in them (that's over 1600 individuals). There are plenty of unknown faces to identify. Come in and bring friends and family to help! Below is another photo from the Norrish Collection where identification is needed.



MCHS Book Will Celebrate Madison County Bicentennial

MCHS is proud to announce the coming publication of a new pictorial history created in celebration of Madison County's Bicentennial. The manuscript was recently completed by Archival Research Manager Mary Westerhold using MCHS's photograph collection. The anticipated publication date for *Madison County* is May 27, 2013.

The book is being published by Arcadia Publishing, a company that specializes in pictorial histories for local communities across the country. Local Arcadia titles include *Edwardsville*, *Collinsville*, *Leclaire*, *Alton*, and *Route 66 in Madison County*. Most of these titles are available at the MCHS gift shop at a discounted price for MCHS members. MCHS members will also be able to purchase the new book at a discounted price.

Beware the Ides of March?

Not at MCHS where we are looking forward to our new web site launch on that date! Look for the new MCHS web site March 15th at mchsnews.org

“FLAT SYDNEY” VISITS “FLAT ROBERT”

The Madison County Historical Society had an unusual visitor in February. “Flat Sydney” stopped by to visit the museum's life-sized cutout of Robert Wadlow, which one could think of as “Flat Robert.”

Flat Sydney is part of a literacy program called “Flat Stanley” used by teachers all over the country. Students make a “flat” version of themselves and send it out into the world in search of adventure. Sydney, the granddaughter of Tom and Donna Bardon, sent her flat self to Edwardsville from Kansas City. While in Illinois, Flat Sydney has also been photographed at Cahokia Mounds, at the Brooks Catsup bottle, the Gateway Arch, the Mississippi riverfront, and other local sites.

All of the adventures are recorded in a booklet of photos with captions and will be returned to the real Sydney in a month or so...or whenever Sydney's “Mimi and Boppy” are worn out from all the adventures!

At right are photos of “Flat Sydney” during her visit to the Madison County Historical Museum



SLAVERY IN MADISON COUNTY

A Selected Chronology

By Charlotte E. Johnson

1787

Article VI of the Northwest Ordinance prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude in the Northwest Territory, which includes Illinois. However, Arthur St. Clair, territorial governor, interprets Article VI so that those who currently hold slaves may continue to do so.

President Thomas Jefferson sent James Lemen to help prepare the people for Illinois' coming status as a free state.

1813

Territorial legislation prohibits further migration of free Negroes into Illinois and allows indentures. All Negroes in the territory are required to register with the Clerk of the county of common pleas of the county in which they reside.

For Madison County, this was Edwardsville, Illinois. Anyone who had freed a Negro in Illinois had to pay \$1,000 bond and a free Negro had to obtain a certificate testifying that they were free.

1815

Twenty Negroes register as free persons in Madison County. Sixty-nine register as indentured servants.

EMANCIPATION & SLAVERY IN MADISON COUNTY

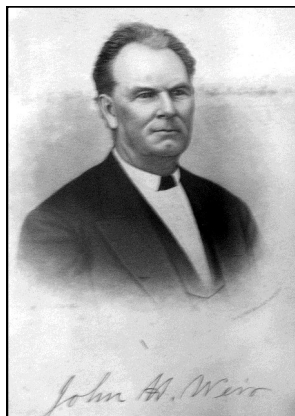
EXAMPLES OF 1819 "BLACK CODES" OF ILLINOIS

- ♦ The laws required any free Negro coming into the state to register at the county seat, pay a bond and have references.
- ♦ Under these laws blacks would be fined if they helped anyone without their freedom papers.
- ♦ Negroes had to have a "pass" to be ten miles from where they live.
- ♦ They had to pay a fine if more than three Negroes gathered for a party.
- ♦ No slave or servant could pass money without consent of their owner.
- ♦ No black or mulatto person or Indian could give evidence against a white person.

MAY 1, 1870

There were many celebrations after the passing of the Emancipation Proclamation, the repeal of the Black Codes, and the passing of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments.

At one celebration in May, 1870, Dr. John H. Weir (original owner of MCHS's

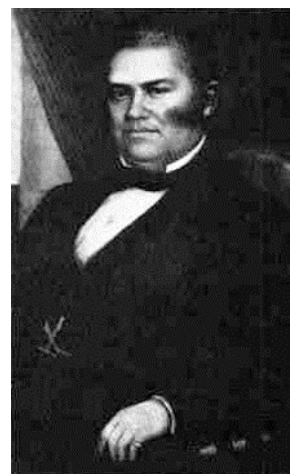


John Weir (MCHS)

Weir House museum) was called upon to speak. The people knew that the doctor had always been a red-hot abolitionist. He said that "this day was among the happy days of his life to know that

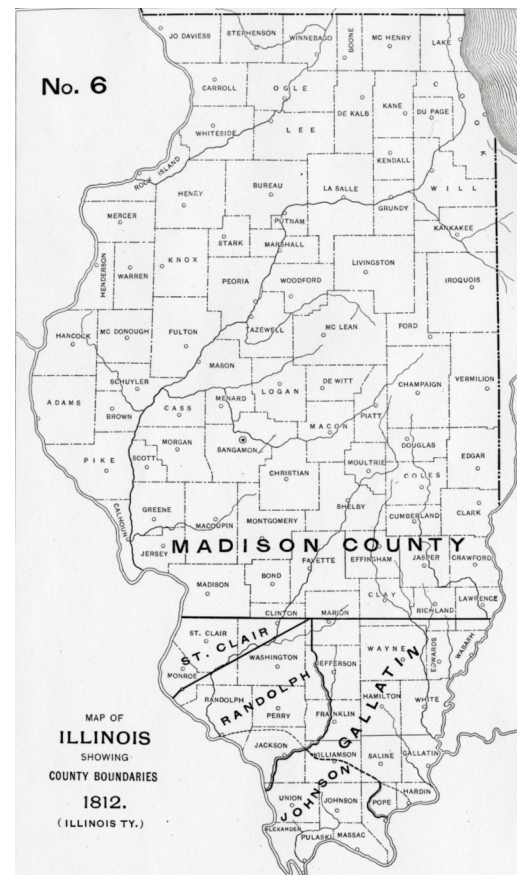
the institution no longer existed in the United States." Also, "That it had been his dream of his youth that he might live to see the institution of slavery done away from the fair pages of American history."

John Jones (Blumfield) was a freed born man who was born in North Carolina. He moved to Alton to marry his wife. He was so upset because of the Illinois Black Codes that he moved to Chicago and vowed to have them changed. He wrote and published a small pamphlet, *Black Laws of Illinois...and Why They Should be Repealed*. He was a trained tailor and became very wealthy. His lobbying efforts were influential in the repeal of these laws by the Illinois legislature in 1865



John Jones (Blumfield)
(Courtesy of C. Johnson)

He and his wife were active and successful Underground Railroad Station Managers. He later served as a Cook County Commissioner.



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THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Continued from page 4

The other side of slavery in Madison County was the monumental activities of the Underground Railroad. UGRR was a network of people who assisted "Freedom Seekers" on their way north to freedom. Around 1830 these efforts increase and become more organized. The "conductor" was a person who plotted the course (route) of escape. The "station" was a site or landmark where runaways could be sheltered before moving on to the next station. The "station master" was a person in charge of the hiding place.

We may never know everyone who was involved or all of the routes. Madison County was a beehive of activities. On paper the routes look like a spider web. These routes connected with other routes in other counties and states. This was very dangerous work. Major Hunter, who

founded Hunterstown (now part of Alton near St. Mary's Church), and his friend Weiglar were fearless UGRR conductors. Their route was mainly from St. Louis to Alton, then north through Shields Branch. Major Hunter would bring some "goods" home under his buggy seat.

They both worked with "Mr. Shadow," a freed Negro that was hired to stay in the shadows of the buildings on Broadway. His job was to be watchful for Freedom Seekers who hide on the boats coming to Alton and take them to Mr. Weiglar's medicine shop at Central and Broadway which had a coal tunnel connected to three other coal tunnels.

A number of free blacks lived in Hunterstown. Hunter was the only landowner who would rent to Elijah P. Lovejoy.

1818

Illinois becomes a state, adopting a constitution which prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude but permits the indenture system.

1819

Future Illinois Governor Edward Coles (1822-1826) migrates from Virginia, manumitting (freeing) his own slaves en route and giving each head of a family 160 acres. The land was located in what is now Knox County, but was then part of Madison County. He was appointed Land Registrar by President Monroe.

The state passed a series of restrictive laws, known as the "Black Codes." These laws govern every aspect of the lives of Negroes in the state.

OTHER UGRR ROUTES & CONDUCTORS

Thomas Dimmock – Elijah Dimmock (his son, Thomas below) had a windowless room built on the back of his shop where they could hide people until they could be moved up Little Piasa Creek. Thomas

hired Scottie Johnston to rebury Lovejoy on a plot owned by Dimmock and named Isaac Kelly as the first trustee to watch over Lovejoy's grave. It was Dimmock who pushed for the state

monument in honor of Lovejoy.



Thomas Dimmock (Courtesy of Cathy Bagby)

Priscilla Baltimore was the Harriet Tubman of the near west. Her master, who was also her father, was a Methodist minister in Kentucky. He sold her to a Methodist minister from St. Louis. The new minister

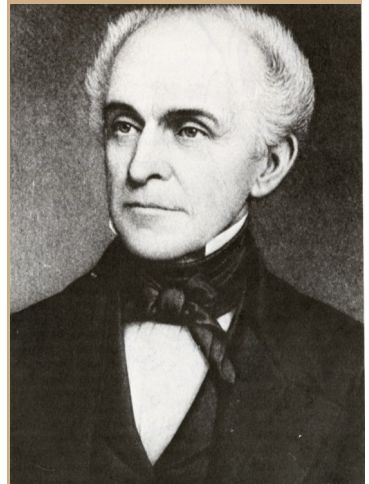
allowed her to work and purchase her own freedom. She was very well respected and was allowed to take people to church meetings. In 1825 she took 11 families to a



"Mother" Priscilla Baltimore (Courtesy of Charlotte Johnson)

Rocky Fork where he organized some Freedom Seekers into a group. This group became Rocky Fork Bethel AME Church. This established an AME underground railroad route from St. Louis, MO to Jersey County.

meeting at an area near today's Brooklyn, Illinois. There she founded Freedom Town. In 1829 Rev Paul Quinn organized the people into an Underground Railroad station. She then brought him to Alton where he organized some people into the Lower Alton AME Church. She next travelled with him to



Edward Coles (1786 – 1868) (MCHS)

1822

On December 5th, Governor Coles called for the legislature to abolish slavery in Illinois.

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THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

1823

A meeting of anti-slavery citizens was held at the courthouse in Edwardsville, Illinois

1824

In March, Governor Coles was sued for manumitting his slaves. He was out of state when the "Black Codes" were passed, but he was clearly in violation of the Black Laws. He was found guilty in the lower courts. The verdict was later overturned by the State Supreme Court. He was ordered to pay the bond of \$1,000 per person.

1836

Elijah Lovejoy moves his press to Illinois



Rev. John Mason Peck

John Mason Peck (MCHS)

1837

The Illinois Anti-Slavery Society is organized at an October meeting in Alton, Illinois. This was organized by Elijah P. Lovejoy and Rev. John Mason Peck. Later Lovejoy was killed by a mob in Alton.

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Rev. Erasmus Green came to Sugar Creek (Rocky Fork) area in the late 1850s.



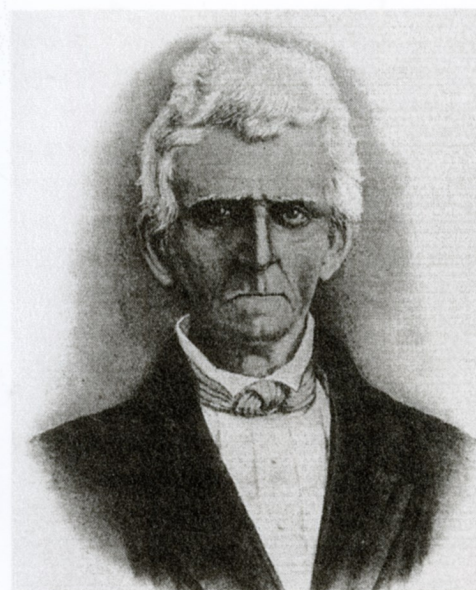
*Rev. Erasmus Green
(Courtesy of Black Pioneers)*

His father was part of the Methodist Movement in the South. Preacher Green in 1863 worked to organize the group that Rev. Paul Quinn had formed earlier into Bethel AME Church. He enlisted into the Union Army in 1863, returning home

in 1865. On Rev. Green's farm was a message well which Freedom Seekers used as a landmark to find his house.

Rocky Fork is an area west of Godfrey, Illinois that became an UGRR community. In 1830 it was an organized AME Church route. Later members of the Alton AME Church purchased land there in order to help with these activities. Don Alonzo Spaulding, a surveyor, allowed Freedom Seekers the opportunity to stay and work or to move on. Some stayed. In 2000 and 2005 the Rocky Fork area was accepted by the U. S. National Park program *Network to Freedom*. This program identifies and verifies UGRR sites and activities. The nominations were prepared and submitted by Charlotte E. Johnson and Renee Johnson.

James Lemen Sr. was asked by President Thomas Jefferson to help prepare people for Illinois coming in as a free state. One of his efforts was in establishing anti-slavery churches. These churches were all under the umbrella of Christ Church's Friends of Humanity-Abolitionist Baptist. Every member had to sign a contract that they would not keep any one against their will. In Madison County it was Bethel Meadow Church near Collinsville. Bethel Meadow Church was built high off the ground so that there would be room for someone under the flooring. One of the Lemen UGRR Routes was from Collinsville, to the tunnels of the



*James Lemen, Jr.
(Courtesy of C. E. Johnson)*

Klingel House, in Edwardsville. It continued on to the Three-Mile House north of Edwardsville and next to Springfield. Rev. Lemen Sr. and Rev. John Mason Peck were responsible for the beginning of the Colored Baptist Churches in Illinois.



*Klingel House, above
(Courtesy C. E. Johnson)*

Old Rock House,

pictured on page 7, was the site of the first anti-slavery meeting in the State of Illinois. The house was built in 1834 for Rev. T. B. Hulbert, pastor of Upper Alton Congregational Church. The



*Three Mile House circa 1935.
(Courtesy Joan Evers)*

house was a known UGRR site. In the basement there was a huge fireplace on each end of the building. One had a tunnel which went south to a ravine behind the building. The other went north two blocks to a house on Judson Street. These tunnels were both closed when Clawson Street was constructed. It is said that many people used this house. These routes led to Springfield.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

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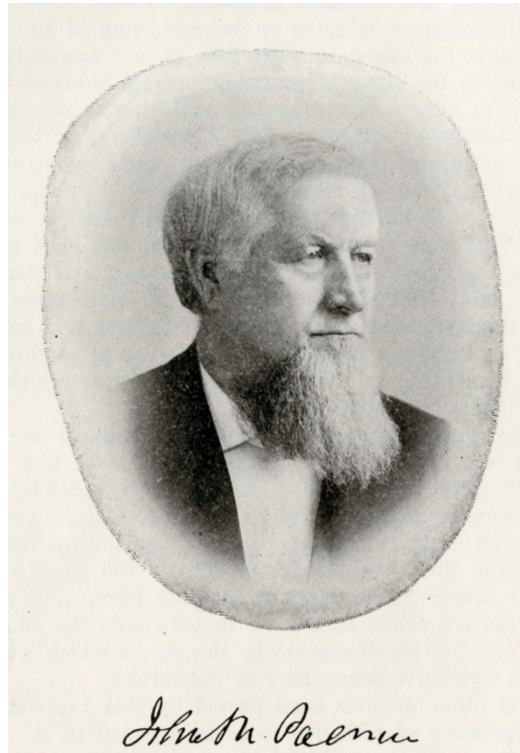


Old Rock House, Corner of College and Clawson in Alton (C. E. Johnson)



Isaac Kelly (Courtesy of Committee of Black Pioneers of the Alton Museum)

Isaac Kelly was a successful barber in Alton, Illinois. A staunch abolitionist, he served as one of the organizers of the Brothers of Friendship which was a fraternal order dedicated to UGRR activities. Kelly's UGRR routes were from his home on George Street along the pathways of the Illinois River and straight to Springfield. His was a Masonic abolitionist route named "North Star" for the Masonic Lodge in Chicago. Kelly was a well-respected community leader and was named by Thomas Dimmock as the first trustee of the Lovejoy grave site.

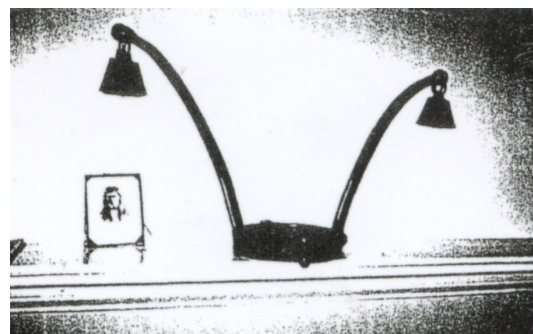


John M. Palmer (MCHS)

John M. Palmer was a lawyer and a Major General in the Civil War. He was the military governor of Kentucky and then 15th Governor of Illinois. Before he joined the military he was a lawyer in Alton, Illinois. As a UGRR conductor, his station was the bridge over the west branch of Wood River Creek and Shipman Road. Today, Shipman Road is called Wood Station Road.

Palmer was in Alton one day and saw a reward billboard for an escaped slave. Somehow Palmer knew the route the man would take. He mounted his horse and hurried out to his station. After some time he saw the man walking up Wood River Valley. Palmer gave the sign of a friend. The man returned the greeting. Palmer put him on a horse. Along the way they stopped at a friend's house that was able to remove a

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Iron collar with bells worn by Ben Brown (Courtesy of C. E. Johnson)

1839

The Wood River Colored Baptist Association and Friends for Humanity were formed to oppose repressive laws that were directed at the Illinois Negro population. The Association supported the establishment to enact laws "to establish schools for colored children." Ridge Prairie Church, Mt. Zion, (Pin Oak) is one of the founding churches. At one time the school had 200 students. Rev. John Livingston was the pastor and the only ordained colored minister in Illinois.

1850

The Fugitive Slave Act was passed by the U.S. legislature. This permitted slaveholders to recapture and return slaves.

1853

Amanda Kitchen was brought to Alton by her half-brother to free her. He left her with some relatives and told them he would return with her free papers. This didn't happen. Sometime later, Amanda married. The slave catchers found her. Although her husband pled with them not to take her away, they demand \$1,200. The money was raised from donations, loans and Amanda's savings. The citizens of Alton helped purchase her freedom.

1863

The Emancipation Proclamation is issued by President Abraham Lincoln.

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UNDERGROUND RAILROAD *(continued from p 7)*

band of steel the man had around his neck. The band had a rod along each side of the head. There was a bell on the end of each rod. The collar had eaten into the man's neck and his neck was the size of his head. Palmer took the man to Dr. Brown in Brighton. There they learned that the man had been on the run from Mississippi for three months, holding the bells so they wouldn't ring. This wasn't the first time he

had tried to escape. He stayed with Dr. Brown until his neck was healed. Then he moved out on his own. He lived, married and died in Brighton. The collar is in the possession of Dr. Brown's family. The man took the name of Ben Brown.

Special thanks to historian Charlotte E. Johnson for these articles on emancipation, slavery and the UGRR in Madison County.

ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT *(continued from p 2)*

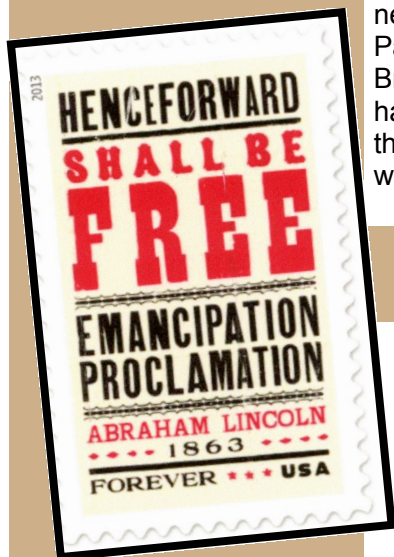
We hold the original of this book along with copies of all three books. In addition, we loaned the original book to the Madison County Circuit Clerk's office for digitizing so you can search all three books online at <http://madisoncountycircuitclerk.contentdm.oclc.org/>.

More generally, we have information from many sources including manuscripts, magazine articles, photos, family histories, and books. One of our best resources for helping us increase our collection has been former MCHS Board Member, Charlotte Johnson, whose article appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Now to my final point. We need your help to increase our collection. Do you

have a family story to share? It does not need to be a story that spans several generations. What about your memories of growing up? If it is a written history, we would love a copy. If it is an oral history, come in and talk to us. Are there family photos? We can scan them and give them back to you so you don't need to give up the originals since we all know what a treasure family photos can be.

Remember that we are a repository for ALL of Madison County, not just one community. We know there are many Madison County stories to tell and we'd like to hear them. So stop at the Archival Library for a visit to see what we have to help you in your research and share your stories with us.



1865

The Illinois General Assembly repeals the state's black laws and becomes the first state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which abolishes slavery in the United States.



Madison County
Historical Society

715 N. Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025