

November 2014

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Our next meeting will be Monday November 17th at the Hart House at 7:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Richard Trudell who has started a custom millwork business in Alton. He reproduces moldings (crown, case and base) for owners of older homes. There will be an informal presentation followed by a Q and A session. Everyone is invited.

**HOLIDAY PARTY:** The AALA's annual Holiday Party will be Sunday December 7th at Princivalli's Cafe, 602 East Third St., Alton, across from St. Mary's Catholic Church. The party will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meal will be an Italian buffet with two kinds of pasta, salad and bread for \$15.00 per person. This includes tea, coffee, soft drinks, tax and tip. There will be a beer and wine cash bar available.

You can pay at the door, but call Terry Sharp (463-5761) and tell him how many is in your party. This is a very informal party, so we hope everyone will come out. Even if you didn't call Terry, come anyway. There is always enough food.

**REGISTER:** Alton has another building added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Salem Baptist Church at 8217 Wood Station Road was built in 1913, but the church was founded in 1819. Thanks to Mrs. Charlotte E. Johnson.

**WINTER:** We are trying to put together an interesting series of lectures at our AALA meetings for this winter. More news on these in the next newsletters.

**PARK:** For more than twenty years the waterfall at Rock Spring Park has not flowed. Last month the Rock Spring 2020 Committee, a group including the city, private businesses, and volunteers, turned a switch and the water flowed again. Thanks to this committee for starting an overhaul on one of Alton's well-loved parks.

**FOR SALE:** The Greater Alton Community Development Inc. had two houses in the Hunterstown area they built. They have both sold. The houses are 1013 East Fourth and 1009 East Fourth Street. The houses are built to be very energy efficient. This is the beginning of redevelopment in the Hunterstown area.

**ART:** Next time you are near 415 Ridge Street, check out the dynamic new face of the building. It is a celebration of our natural heritage and abundance.

**DUES:** Dues for 2014 can be paid now. Please remember to support us with a check. Dues can be mailed to the AALA, Box 232, Alton, IL 62002. Individual dues are \$15.00 a year. Family membership is \$25.00 a year. Contributions are tax deductible. Help us be a strong voice in preserving historic Alton. Thank you for your support. And remember your other non-profits that enrich your life.

**BOARD:** We have a new AALA board of directors member, John Lindsay. John is a physician at Saint Anthony's and has a great deal of knowledge about Alton history. We are happy that such a busy person as John is willing to devote his time to AALA, like our other board members. He will be an asset to the AALA.

**WISE-OLIN:** The Wise Olin House (built between 1859 and 1865) at 1128 State Street has been vacant for four years since the last owner left it. On Monday August 18th it was to be auctioned at the courthouse in Edwardsville. The Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, holder of the mortgage, made the only bid of \$310,000. The bank could try selling it at a lower price in the future. The best thing that could happen is that someone would buy and renovate it. The house is 6,045 square feet and is on a 115 foot by 220 foot lot. The city and the AALA have been working together to try to save this historic Christian Hill property.

**PLAYHOUSE:** Work has begun on restoring the Playhouse. Painting stripping by Quality Assured Industrial Coatings of Alton started. The cost of the paint removal will be \$22,750, plus \$3000 for depositing of the waste. The playhouse has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974.

If you haven't sent your contribution in yet, it is not too late. You can contribute through the website, [www.haskellplayhouse.org](http://www.haskellplayhouse.org). Or you can mail a check payable to Lucy Haskell Playhouse Fund % Alton City Treasurer, 101 East Third Street, Alton, IL 62002.

**MILES DAVIS:** Fund raising for Miles Davis Memorial Project has reached more than \$21,000. This is two-thirds of the way to the goal of commissioning sculptor Preston Jackson to begin working on a life size Miles Davis sculpture. There is no statues of Davis in the U.S. There are two in Europe. Money can be donated to this project through the Alton Museum of Art and History.

**FOR SALE:** The very historic Moses Atwood House at 1750 Liberty, circa 1854

**BUILDINGS:**

There is talk of new development along Piasa Street. The renovation of the Synder Building may be helping that area. The 1906 Old Post Office building is for sale, \$350,000 negotiable. The stone and masonry building is at Alby and East Third Streets. Contact Robin Voss at [altonoldpostoffice@comcast.net](mailto:altonoldpostoffice@comcast.net) for more information.

LOVEJOY: Two new signs about the life of Elijah P. Lovejoy are to be erected in Alton. One sign will be near the Civil War Prison on William Street. It will about Lovejoy's murder by a mob at a riverside warehouse downtown. The other sign will be in Upper Alton and will be about Lovejoy's history as a pastor of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church and the Rock House as a station on the Underground Railroad. Alton has long needed some informational signs about this important figure. These signs will help tell the story of Lovejoy to our out of town guests.

**FOR SALE:** There are many historic houses for sale in Alton.

Please remind people you know who are house-hunting to drive around Alton. Contact the AALA for suggestions.

Thanks. Call Terry Sharp (314 607 2978), if you have questions.