

July 2015

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: No meeting this month. Walk around one of Alton's historic neighborhoods.

HART HOUSE: The board of directors of the AALA has decided to try to sell the Hart House. It is listed through Landmark Realty, Inc. with Matt Horn (466-1513). The asking price is \$120,000. The board decided that selling the Hart House would free the organization to devote more time and energy to our goals of historic preservation in Alton.

STOLEN: Keep an eye on your's, and your neighbor's, outside air conditioner unit. One was stolen from the Christian Hill neighborhood in the middle of the night. Very bold thieves.

WANTED: The Madison County Historical Society is looking for nominations for their board. To have representation throughout the county they are looking for someone from the Alton area. If you are interested or you know of someone interested, call Terry Sharp at 463 5761 for more information.

PLAYHOUSE: The annual Lucy Haskell birthday party will be Wednesday July 29 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. This will be a good time to see the progress that has been made renovating the 130 year old playhouse.

HOUSE TOUR: We are working on organizing the 2015 Historic House Tour now. If you have suggestions for houses, call Terry Sharp (463 5761).

DISPLAY: There is a display of promotional items from the Walnut Grove Dairy at the Hayner Library's Genealogy and Local History Library at 401 State Street.
<http://www.haynerlibrary.org/history-at-hayner-blog/219-walnut-grove-dairy-display>

OLD TRAIN STATION: As plans for the new train station have been presented recently, the historic survey documentation for the College Avenue train station has been compiled. If you would want a copy of it, reply to this newsletter. The College Avenue station will have to be moved to be saved.

MILES DAVIS: The statue of Miles Davis will be unveiled on West Third Street in downtown Alton on September 12th. Fund raising for Miles Davis Memorial Project has enabled the site to be prepared and for the sculptor Preston Jackson go forward with the final phase of pouring the bronze for the life size statue. There is no statue 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.

DUES: Dues for 2015 can be paid now. 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 to contribute to the other local organizations that enrich your life.

FOR SALE: The Mineral Springs Mall and Hotel at 301-309 East Broadway is for sale for

\$195,000. The four story 85,000 square foot building is offered through ReMax, 791-8389.

MIDDLETOWN: The Alton City Council is moving toward approving hiring a consultant to resurvey historic structures in the Middletown Historic District. The 232 acre district's 613 contributing structures were last surveyed in 1977. Many structures have been demolished since then.

HOUSE HISTORY REPOSITORY: Some years ago the the Hayner Library and the AALA combined resources and created the Alton House History Repository. The AALA donated 300 house histories written for our Fall Historic House Tours to start it. Every year we have added another five to ten histories from the House Tours. The library staff is continuously adding more histories and updating the ones already there. The Repository now features over 2800 addresses. If your house is not represented in the Repository, we encourage you to work with the AALA or the library to create a history for your home. The AALA thanks the Hayner Library for their hard work on this project.

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.

BUILDINGS:

The 1906 Old Post Office building is for sale. The stone and masonry building is at Alby and East Third Streets. Contact Robin Voss at 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.