

March 2015

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.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our next meeting will be Monday March 16 at 7:30 pm at the Hart House, 524 Belle Street, Alton.

Sitting high on the bluff on the Principia College campus in Elsah is the 1890 Queen Anne house called Eliestoun. Not used since the mid-1990's, it was announced a year ago that the building would be razed. A small group of concerned people formed the Friends of Eliestoun to help save what the Elsah Guidebook called "the finest example of its type remaining in the St. Louis area". Come and hear how these Friends are progressing. Program is open to the public.

Thanks to Madison County Recorder Amy M. Meyer for her presentation in February about the historical resources at her office. If you would want a copy of "Working with Deeds" from the National Genealogical Society, reply to this email or contact Terry Sharp.

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.

HART HOUSE: A new fire alarm system has been installed at the Hart House.

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.

TEA FOR TWO: The Alton Stained Glass Works (412 East Broadway) is now serving tea. They feature 20 different loose teas. What is more civilized than a hot tea on a cold winter afternoon? Stop in Wednesday through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, go to

www.altonartglass.com.

Passing: Author and historian Judy Hoffman died Dec. 24, 2014. Mrs. Hoffman wrote "God's Potion: Godfrey, Illinois 1817-1865" about the history of Godfrey and Alton.

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.

WISE-OLIN- The Wise-Olin House at 1128 State Street is for sale. We understand it is an online auction with the opening bid at \$106,000. The sign in front of house is for Real Home, 888-876-3372, Hubzu.com.

PLAYHOUSE: Work has begun on restoring the Playhouse. 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. 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.

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.

