

The Volunteer

The 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House



September
2015

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Contact:

RoxAnn Raisner, Director
P.O. Box 754
Edwardsville, IL, 62025
618-692-1818
stephensonhouse@sbcglobal.net
www.stephensonhouse.org

Julie Mangoff, Editor
jamangoff@gmail.com

Announcement:

Could anyone who has borrowed
a house clothing pattern please
return it ASAP.

Daniel Tolman's House

By Julie Mangoff

Below: Interior of Tolman House. Photo taken in bedroom looking out to the hallway and into the dining room (with the fireplace centered). Photo taken by Julie Mangoff.



1820s floorplan of the Stephenson House, Tolman's consists of two front rooms separated by an entryway. With the third room connected to one of the front rooms. The house's walls are two courses of brick thick, while the foundation is three courses thick. It is believed that the floorplan of the house consists of the entryway/hallway which opens to the bedroom on one

Daniel Tolman sold the house in 1825 when he moved to Alton, IL. In the almost 200 years between then and now, the Tolman House has gone through about ten different families. During this time, the structure of the house changed: rooms were added (at least two more), wire for electricity was put in, and the addition of bathrooms all altered the house's floorplan.

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In old-town Edwardsville, Karen Zimmerman is busily restoring the Daniel Tolman house. Tolman was the carpenter who carved all four mantles and the wood trim for the Stephenson House.

Built before the Stephenson's the Tolman House was completed by 1819. The house is one story and contains two (possibly three) original rooms. Like the

side and the parlor/dining room on the other. The parlor/dining room has another door in the back. This is where the third room is attached to the house. This room, if indeed original, it is thought to be the kitchen.



Above: Julie Mangoff in front of the rear exterior of the Tolman House. Doorway behind Mangoff leads into the hallway. Photo taken by Karen Zimmerman.

America's Got Talent: The Singing Society Movement in Early America

By Diane Schrader

In a smoke-filled bar, a young woman timidly steps up to the microphone. It's taken a few beers to get the gumption to try this, but her friends are all there, cheering her on. Karaoke night. She's watched them all before, belting out tunes as the screen rolls lyrics of pop tunes from the '60s, '70s and beyond. Tonight it's her turn and she's going to show them all those private singing lessons she's been taking have not been in vain. This time she won't lose her nerve or squeak off key. This time she will sing like she's never sung before.

Singing in America today can mean everything from a madcap night of Karaoke to the patriotic rendition of the National Anthem at sporting events, to rooting for the next pop vocal sensation on reality shows like *American Idol*. The soundtrack of our lives is ever present and full of songs, far too numerous to account for that span the eras like stars across the universe. We pride ourselves on our contributions to the lexicon of music through rich heritage of down home bluegrass and Dix-

ieland jazz to the driving beat of rap and that "good ol' time rock 'n' roll."

Americans have a long history of song, of music, and of a legacy in tonal harmonies dating back to the earliest settlers arriving on our shores from England and Europe. All brought their harmonious strains of various cultures to the shores of the New World to be distilled into a truly American sound. Imagine what those early voices must have been like heading into the wilderness all blending harmoniously, tuned to pitch perfect fiddles, fifes and banjos in everything from tavern ballads to work songs and pious hymns as pioneers pressed ever westward. Or did they? While that idyllic picture may be the typical depiction of Hollywood Westerns and period TV dramas, the reality of music and singing in early America is a vastly different story. Like the timid young woman attempting Karaoke in the scenario above, early Americans too had a squeaky off key start toward building a musical career.

The history of music education and the rich heritage of song in America

had its crude beginnings much like the nation itself carving its way from a rough primal wilderness, slowly, perhaps painfully, but also on its own terms and a spirit of enterprise and autonomy. Before the American Revolution, music production and performances constituted primarily church Psalm tunes. The first music books published in America (second only to the publication of the Bible) were the Puritan Bay Psalm Book which went through several revisions often without any music notation to guide singing. Parishioners relied on a few basic tunes from memory or learned tunes in a "lining out" method where the minister would feed a vocal line for the congregation for them to respond by rote. This form of singing was hardly the harmonious sounds one might expect. Organs and pianofortes were too costly and unmanageable to ship westward thus singing acapella took on a decidedly atonal and dissonant sound that would certainly assault the senses of any *American Idol* TV show judge today.

Continued on page 3

Ben's Bluegrass, BBQ & Beer Bash

By RoxAnn Raisner

It's gonna be a down-home good time at Stephenson House, September 12 at Ben's Bluegrass, BBQ and Beer Bash. This first-time event kicks off at 3P. M. and goes till 7:30 P. M. with a little bit of something for everyone in the family.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Keith Dudding and his bluegrass band. Dudding is a well known Metro East musician who hosts a weekly SIUE Radio jazz show in his spare time.

Doe's Smokehouse of Edwardsville is providing the BBQ for the event. Ticket holders have a choice between three specialty plates: three sliders (beef, turkey, pork) with either baked beans or potato salad, a pulled pork sandwich with a side of baked beans or potato salad, or their famous smokehouse nachos.

Recess Brewing tops off the event with their craft brews and a selection of wines. This is the brewery's first venture off-site from their downtown Edwardsville location since opening earlier this year. Four of the brewery's standard beers will be featured; White Lotus (American wheat), Cat's Meow (cream ale), Four Squares (nut brown ale), and Pedagogical (session porter). Although not crafted by the brewery, wine drinkers can choose from Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Grigio or Moscato.

Tickets are \$25 for Adults and \$10 for children (12 years and younger). Adult tickets include a choice of BBQ plate, one beer or wine selection, or two non-alcoholic beverages. The child's ticket includes choice of BBQ plate and two non-

alcoholic beverages. Additional food and beverages will be available for purchase during the event. To buy your tickets stop by the Stephenson House (Thursdays-Saturdays, 10 A. M. — 4 P. M. or Sundays, 12 — 4 P. M.) or ask one of the House Board members.

Everyone is asked to bring a lawn chair since seating provided by the site is limited. Tables will be set up on the lawn for participants to use while eating. Although the event is from 3 — 7:30 P. M., food will only be served between 4 — 7.

Ben's Bash is a rain or shine fundraiser. In the event of rain, tents will be set up on the lawn to provide cover. Funds raised with your ticket purchases benefit the continued

Tolman

Continued from page 1

Now, as the Tolman House reaches its bicentennial, Zimmerman is taking it back to Federal-Era glory. Since starting the renovation earlier this year, she has removed



Pieces of plaster and shutter hardware found at the site. Photo by Julie Mangoff.

several twentieth-century additions, as well as crumbling plaster, multiple layers of paint, and an oddly-placed bathroom. These demolition projects have uncovered many historical items. After removing the floor in one room, she came across 1930s and 1940s newspapers. As well as broken pieces of pottery, china, glass bottles (and whole glass bottles), as well as a Lego brick.

There are some artifacts that date back to the early 1800s. One window in the third room of the house dates to the pre-Civil War period. Along with the window, Zimmerman has uncovered one original mantle carved by Tolman. This mantle is not as ornate as the ones he carved for the Stephenson House.

Currently Zimmerman is still renovating the Tolman House. She hopes to convert it into a sewing/quilting studio where she can work and

invite members of the community over to practice their needlework.



Dining room with original Tolman mantel. Photo by Julie Mangoff.

Talent *continued from page 2*

By the early 1700's the cacophony produced in churches was deemed "distressing to the ear" by the more musically inclined such as the Rev. Thomas Walter, who in 1721 produced his own singing book, entitled, *The Grounds and Rules of Music Explained, or An Introduction to the Art of Singing by Note*. It became the fourth book published in America.

Such outcries fueled the desire to improve church singing, resulting in the development of the Singing Schools. These early forms of public music education were organized and taught by the clergy or other individuals possessing some degree of musical ability and knowledge. Lessons were conducted on a limited basis and were paid for in a set fee. One early Ohio paper carried an advertisement for a series of two hour music sessions over the course of thirteen nights for a fee of \$1. In addition, the students had to bring their own wood and candles.

The first recorded Singing School opened in Boston in 1717. By 1800, the movement had spread across Maine, the Carolinas, and Georgia. As they grew and flourished across the eastern half of the continent, the schools evolved into Singing Societies like the one in which Lucy Ste-

phenson joined in Edwardsville around 1818. Whether this was an actual Singing Society at this time, or a Singing School, is the curious fact, as this is right in the heart of when these schools were in transition. At this time, the terms would have been synonymous to each other the difference being a Singing School was developed for the express purpose of music education and vocal proficiency, while the later Singing Societies provided opportunities for musical performance.

Where in this evolutionary state the Edwardsville society was between 1818 and the early 1830's during the Stephensons' occupation is difficult to say. Most likely in the early days, when the Stephensons first arrive in Edwardsville, it must have been more geared to educating a new settlement riverfront town on the proper form of music notation, literacy and proper vocal harmonies. Whether that meant weekly instruction to enhance congregational singing on a Sunday morning or regular choral concerts performance for community events is not certain. Perhaps over time it involved both in varied events and practices.

More importantly, it does point to a key fact in the life of the Stephenson, particularly for Lucy, who seems to always be on the cutting edge of innovation, cul-

tural enrichment and education. It is at this time she also served as secretary to a Sunday School Society, providing free education to poor children of color and to white children as well, within the community who otherwise would have no hope of attending the fee based subscription schools. If Lucy indeed was part of such a Singing School or Singing Society, it shows her further commitment to education, art and esthetics as well as a desire to improve herself and her own accomplishments. It was not merely the equivalent to joining today's church choir or singing Karaoke with friends on a Saturday night at a party. It was serious musical study as good as was available in a settlement community of the day. It meant hard work, dedication to craft and a zeal for musical knowledge and proficiency.

Whether she herself possessed a talent or skill level for music and singing she was able to share with others, or she was merely looking to embrace some semblance of musical expertise, is not known. What is certain is that just as Ben was forming and signing into being the Constitution for the state of Illinois, Lucy was there as well, in her own right playing a significant role and laying the foundation as a proponent and pioneer of music education through the Singing School movement in early America.

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Homebuilders 9:30 — 11:00 A. M.	9	10	11	12 Ben's Blue- grass, BBQ, and Beer Bash
13 Sewing Circle 1:00 P. M.	14	15	16	17	18	19 SIUE Archi- tecture Class 9:00 — 11:00 A. M.
20	21	22 Board Meeting 7:00 P. M.	23	24	25	26
27 Sewing Circle 1:00 P. M.	28	29	30			

Upcoming Dates

- September 8: Homebuilders, 9:30 — 11:00 A. M.
- September 12: Ben's Bluegrass, BBQ, and Beer Bash, 3 — 7:30 P. M.
- September 13: Sewing Circle, 1:00 P. M.
- September 19: SIUE Architecture Class, 9:00 — 11:00 A. M.
- September 22: Board Meeting 7:00 P. M.
- September 27: Sewing Circle, 1:00 P. M.

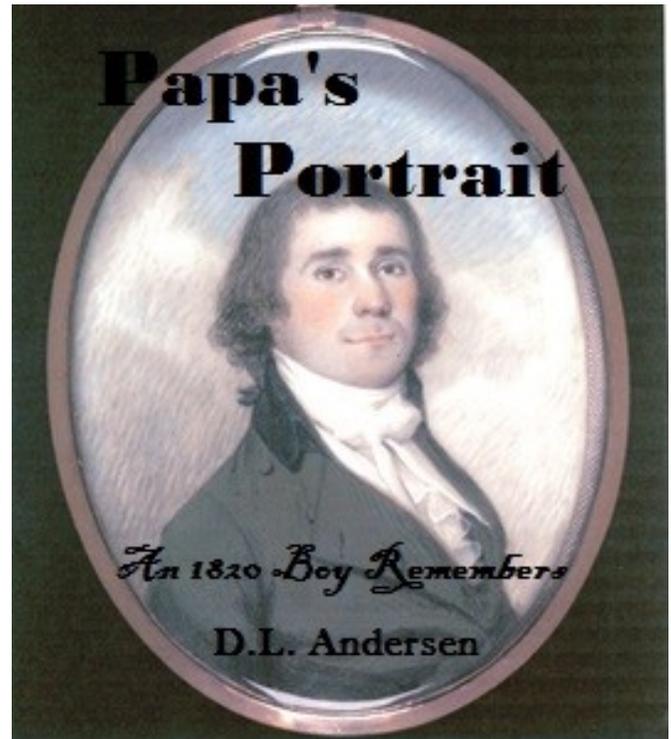
Thank You!

- Jeannie Benson for a large donation of hand-dipped beeswax candles
- Everyone who donated money for the new Laptop
- Maddie Farrar for creating the beautiful new kiosk
- Kyle Walsh for organizing the smokehouse, making shelving, and clearing it out
- Amy Mulane for donating toilet paper and paper towels

Papa's Portrait: An 1820 Stephenson House Novella

This Tuesday, September 1st, *Papa's Portrait: An 1820 Stephenson House Novella* by D. L. Anderson will be published. It will be available as an e-book and paperback on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the Stephenson Gift Shop.

When the youngest Stephenson son, Ben V. overhears his parents arguing one October night in 1819, it's clear his world is about to change. Over the course of the next few years, he learns that his privileged life isn't all it should be in Edwardsville, IL. Growing up the son of Colonel Benjamin Stephenson, banker, land agent and friend to the governor carries its own set of burdens and confusion. Fraught with political scandals, banking failures and a family struggling to find peace and prosperity, little Ben learns to understand his father's role in shaping a territory and the sacrifices and choices made in order to preserve honor and dignity.



Voices of the Past

On October 10 and 11, Woodlawn Cemetery will have its 2nd annual *Voices of the Past* historical walking tour. There will be costumed actors who will retell stories of Edwardsville's past. The walking tours are 1-3 P. M. both days. The tours are about an hour long and begin every 10-15 minutes with the last tour leaving at 2:30 P. M. There will also be an evening presentation on Saturday, October 10 at 7 P. M. were the

actors will present their stories to visitors seated indoors.

If you are interested in going on the tour, tickets can be bought in advance at the Stephenson House in advanced. The guided tours are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. You can also buy tickets the day of the event: \$13 for adults and \$6 for children. For the evening presentation, ad-

vance tickets are \$15 for everybody. There will be no tickets for sale the night of the event and space is limited.

To learn more, visit www.WoodlawnEdwardsville.org.

If you have any questions or want to buy tickets directly, contact Barb Pizzini at (618) 910-9929.



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1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House
P.O. Box 754
Edwardsville, IL, 62025

Phone: 618-692-1818

Fax: 618-692-6418

E-mail: stephensonhouse@sbcglobal.net

If you have any articles or stories you would like to be added to next month's edition of *The Volunteer*, please contact the editor at: jamangoff@gmail.com.

www.stephensonhouse.shutterfly.com

News & Needs

Needs...

- Volunteers for Ben's Bluegrass, BBQ & Beer Bash
- flour
- unprocessed honey
- volunteers to help with house tours, gift shop, garden & grounds, grant writing & research, as well as special events
- cleaning supplies such as Windex, toilet bowl cleaner, hand soap, disinfecting wipes, bleach, and toilet paper
- seamstresses to sew clothing for the volunteer wardrobe
- bolt of 100% cotton batiste