



Fall Cemetery Tour

If you happen to drive by Mount Hope Cemetery in Champaign next month and notice characters who look very alive, don't be alarmed—it's the *Life and Death on the Prairie* cemetery tour. On October 17, Mount Hope will "come alive" as PACA teams up with the Champaign-Urbana Theater Company to present a walking tour of this local landmark. Guests on the guided tour will be able to learn about the early days of Champaign-Urbana, the meanings behind different symbols and epitaphs in the cemetery, the rigid rules and details of Victorian mourning customs, and even see famous former citizens of the community as the theater company will reenact scenes from their lives!

In addition to relating the intricacies of Victorian mourning customs like the significance of the width of black border on stationery, the mandated black crepe veil for widows (even though the fabric was blamed for cataracts and blindness), and what a finger pointing downwards on a tombstone signifies, we've also put together a cast of characters ranging from Civil War heroes to philanthropists to orphans, and everyone in between. Mark Carley will discuss his adventures, which include being shipwrecked on his way to New Orleans and the early days of the California Gold Rush, and what it was like to be West Urbana's equivalent to Donald Trump. Tina Weedon Smith will recall her first meeting with Captain Thomas Smith, the dashing Yankee officer who would eventually cross battle lines to marry his southern belle and their ongoing love story that lives on today in the form of Smith Memorial Hall. David Johnson will recount his story of being born a slave in Virginia, traveling westward to Champaign, his service in the Civil War, and how it felt to be the father of thirteen children; and children from the

LIFE AND DEATH ON THE PRAIRIE

A TOUR OF
MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY
 611 EAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, CHAMPAIGN

OCTOBER 17 1-5PM
 (RAIN DATE, OCT. 25)

TICKETS:
 PACA MEMBERS AND SENIORS: \$5.00
 GENERAL PUBLIC: \$8.00

SPONSORED BY:
 PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
 CHAMPAIGN-URBANA THEATER COMPANY

Cunningham Children's Home will talk about the hardships of childhood on the Illinois prairie, especially as an orphan.

But this tour won't be a success without you! We're looking for volunteers to serve as tour guides during the tour. Also, if you know of any folklore or stories about the cemetery or any of its residents, we'd

love to know those too. If you have any stories or legends you would like to pass along, please contact Elizabeth Davis at eedavis@uiuc.edu or at 352-6742. For more information about the tour or to volunteer, contact PACA at 359-7222 before October 5.

This exciting cemetery tour was researched and organized by PACA's summer intern, Elizabeth Davis.

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Upcoming Conferences

National Trust for Historic Preservation:
 September 28-October 3, Louisville, Ky.
www.nthpconference.org

Conference on Illinois History: October
 18, Prairie Capital Convention Center,
 Springfield, Ill. www.Illinois-History.gov/conference.htm

Illinois Association of Museums Annual
 Conference: October 27-29, Days Inn
 Hotel and Conference Center, Danville,
 Ill. www.illinoismuseums.org.

Heritage Grants Awarded

For the past ten years, PACA has awarded Heritage Grants to local non-profit organizations to help preserve historic buildings and sites or to promote preservation education. Each year, at least ten percent of architectural warehouse salvage profits are given back to the community in the form of grants. To date over \$50,000 has been returned to the community.

Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, public institutions, recognized neighborhood associations, and public agencies based in Champaign County. Projects must involve preservation, conservation, and/or education related to history, architecture, or archaeology in Champaign County. Projects may fall into any of five categories: bricks and mortar, land acquisition/move, professional architectural feasibility study, preservation education, and interpretation. Applications are sent out in February, with grants awarded by the PACA Board of Directors in May, during Historic Preservation Week.

This year, four grants for over \$6500 were awarded for a variety of noteworthy projects.

- * *University YMCA*, 1001 South Wright St., C. Slate roof repair. \$1500
- * *Edison Middle School*, Michael Marassa, 306 West Green St., C. Purchase of Photo Printer and supplies for historic building class project. (continues a previous grant) \$936
- * *Center for the Study of Art and Architecture*, Michelle Olsen, 115 West Church St., C. Curriculum development for local schools and website development for students and teachers and parents. (continues a previous grant) \$2500
- * *Urbana Park District*, 303 West University, U. Landscaping for historic Lincoln Statue in Carle Park. \$1700

For more information about the Heritage Grant Program or to request a 2005 appli-



A 2004 PACA Heritage Grant helped the Urbana Park District complete new landscaping around the historic Lincoln statue. Photo by Cahill.

Building America

Imagine an exhibition at your fingertips. Featuring historical timelines, commentary on specific topics of interest, beautiful photographs, and interactive educational components, it contains many elements one might expect to see in an actual museum gallery. Access to this exhibition, however, is just a few keystrokes away.

The National Building Museum has launched just such an exhibition. *Building America*, which made its debut in June 2002, is an online exhibition presenting the essential history of the built environment in America through a series of thematic timelines and topical essays, enabling the viewer to peruse a great deal of information in multiple ways. The timelines are organized under four primary subject headings: House and Home, Commerce and Community, Land and Landscape, and Connecting the Continent. Additional features include an educational interactive in which the visitor learns how bridges are designed.

The *Building America* site is one of the most elaborate Internet-based exhibitions yet produced by any museum, and it employs innovative programming techniques that allow visitors to view video clips and listen to audio recordings without having to download custom programs. It is the first completed component of the larger *Building America* initiative,

which will ultimately include a series of major physical exhibitions in the Museum's galleries. The Web site is accessible directly at www.building-america.org or through the Museum's main site, www.nbm.org. The National Building Museum is located at 401 F. Street NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202. 272.2448.

Postcard from York, PA and More...

In the last newsletter, I shared my impressions of Detroit, Michigan, and my meetings with a group that is planning to open "Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit," a non-profit architectural salvage warehouse.

After leaving Detroit, I headed east and spent a night in Cumberland Maryland. It was a Friday night and the downtown was filled with people listening to live music on two stages. I also took the self-guided walking tour of the Washington Street Historic District and admired the variety of housing styles. From there I went to the Washington, DC area and toured the new World War II Memorial, the new Smithsonian Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport, and one of the more overlooked spots in Washington DC, the Octagon House, built between 1798 and 1800. It was designed by Dr. William Thornton, the architect of the U.S. Capitol. The Octagon House became the home of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) on January 1, 1899. Today, the American

Architectural Foundation owns the Octagon House, and the AIA has moved its headquarters to a larger building located directly behind it. Since 1996, the house has undergone extensive renovation. It is located at 18th St. and New York Ave. NW, and is well worth a visit.

My next destination was York, Pennsylvania and a visit to the Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Historic York, Inc. This non-profit organization was founded in 1975. Its mission is to serve and preserve the architectural legacy of York County. For a small fee, the group offers professional services including National Register of Historic Places nominations, Historic Preservation Certification applications, Survey and Planning help, and Easement donations. Community services include a reference library with 3,000 volumes and 5,000 slides. The group also holds an annual preservation awards program, conducts tours, holds workshops and lectures, and enlists preservation responses when needed. The group has been successful in helping create a Façade Easement Program to provide funds for exterior renovations to the historic center-city buildings. Historic York holds easements on sixty properties around the county. (For comparison, PACA holds three easements.)

The Architectural Warehouse is located at 224 North George Street in the downtown area. It is open Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00, Saturday 10:00-4:00 and Sunday 12:00-5:00. The warehouse occupies about 10,000 square feet of the first floor and basement. The second floor houses the offices and resource materials. The inventory is acquired through tax-deductible donations, consignments, and salvage efforts. It has a paid staff, as well as volunteers. I

was impressed with the quality and variety of the items at the warehouse. Prices were clearly marked, items were well displayed, and the prices were fair. I spent some time with the director of the warehouse, to pick his brain for ideas to improve our operation. Since consignment sales make up a considerable part of their sales, a computer inventory is essential. Salvage operations do not bring in a significant part of the inventory, since they do not have a large volunteer base to conduct the operations or to do the leg work necessary to gain permission to salvage. They have the same problem of getting "unwanted" donations left at their back door. The group also produces a *Source Directory of Material, Contractors and Craftspeople* that is in its ninth edition. This well organized booklet includes about 35 pages of cross-listings and indexes, and then 20 or so pages of advertisers. Maybe this is something PACA should consider producing. Stop by the warehouse to check out York's booklet.

Get Involved

There are several openings on commissions in the City of Urbana, including the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation commissions. It is important that these commissions be at full strength and that views of a wide-range of citizens are included in the decision making process. For more details, contact the Urbana Mayor's Office at 384-2456.

In Memorial

Grace Tsay passed away in mid-August after a brave fight against cancer. Grace will be missed by all of us at the warehouse. She was a regular customer and helped at a number of salvage operations



Non-profit architectural salvage warehouse in York, Pennsylvania. Photo by Cahill.

and other events. I can remember how excited she was when she was able to salvage some wood flooring that matched what she had in her home. Her well landscaped yard includes many items from PACA for which she found creative new uses. Grace often brought in baked treats on Saturday mornings that I am sure were healthy for us. Her family requested that donations be made in her name to PACA. They can be sent to our PO Box. We will use the donations to maintain and add more flower boxes in the front of the building and other landscaping enhancements. A memorial plaque will be placed at the warehouse in her memory.

P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- Adult \$15
- Student \$10
- Senior Citizen \$10
- Family \$20
- Corporate \$75

Additional Contribution _____

TYPE

- New _____
- Renewal _____

PACA

BOX 2575, STATION A
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61825

WWW.PACACC.ORG

217 359 7222

INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PACA

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Salvage VIP's

The usual great helpers:

Rich Cahill
Dan Leasure
Bob Swisher
Bette Swisher
Mike Richards
Mike Miller
Kathy Reeves
Darrel Foste
Brian Duffield

Special Tuscola Helpers (more next time)

Mark Bush
Bill Bogner
Bogner boys
Tom Auble
Elizabeth Janicek
Suzanne Ashley-Wannemuehler



SAVE THE DATE

PACA Membership & Volunteer Recognition PARTY

Sunday October 10
2-??

Food & Beverages provided

Rich Cahill, traveling board member

PACA Newsletter

P.O. Box 2575, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825

Catherine Barbercheck, President
Daniel Leasure, Vice-President
Richard Cahill, Secretary/Treasurer
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director



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New & Renewing Memberships

(received since the last newsletter)

Charter Members (1981-1983)

Louissette Zuidema

Over Ten Year Members

Andrew White Family
Irma R. Lore
Sally Foote & Thomas Wold
Mark Netter
Glenna Bartell
Lianne Anderson
Jack & Virginia Waaler
James Fallon
Steve & Kathy Roemmel
Joe & Phyllis Williams
Cheryl Kennedy
George & Sandra Batzli
Jack & Marjorie Richmond
Harold & Pat Jensen

Five to Ten Year Members

Barbara Horne
Kristine Solberg & David Seyler
Susanne Massell
Dorothea Blue
Daniel Leasure
Pamela Todd
Christine Jenkins & Susan Searing
Alan & Kristine Chalifoux
Karen Werth
Carol Stoddard
Ronald & Charlotte Hampton
Darrel Foste
Ann Zahner
Bert Barickman
Elizabeth Cardman

Salvage Donations

University of Illinois
Alpha Marble & Granite Company - Jan Dalal
Bud Baker Family
Tuscola School District
Wanda Becker

One to Four Year Members

Christine Cleaton
Bill & Amy Meyer
Katie Davidson & Rick Harton
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Francine McCullen
Anthony Thomas
Radio Maria (Corporate)
Chantelle Houglund & Barry Sanders
Nanette Koerner
Steve & Rollanda Szambaris
Wes Jarrell & Leslie Cooperband
Bruce & Patricia Rape
Robert I. Selby
Mitchell & Frances Harris
Anna Barnes & David Riecks
Clifford Clark & Linda Beale
Sue Waller
R. Merle Stauffer
Rosemary Kaye
Thomas Fehrmann

New Members

Bruce & Ann Fouke
Craig Rost
Pat Laurence
Lyndsey Masching
Pamela Harding
Marsha S. Gates
Mary Ann Bunyan
Doug Anderson
Tom & Katherine Auble
Mary Lou Bedient
Kim McGee
Susan Biggs
Carrie Turner
Brenda Bowlin
Dorie Blaisdell & Elie Schwarz
James Fisher
Mike & Lisa Wallace

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