

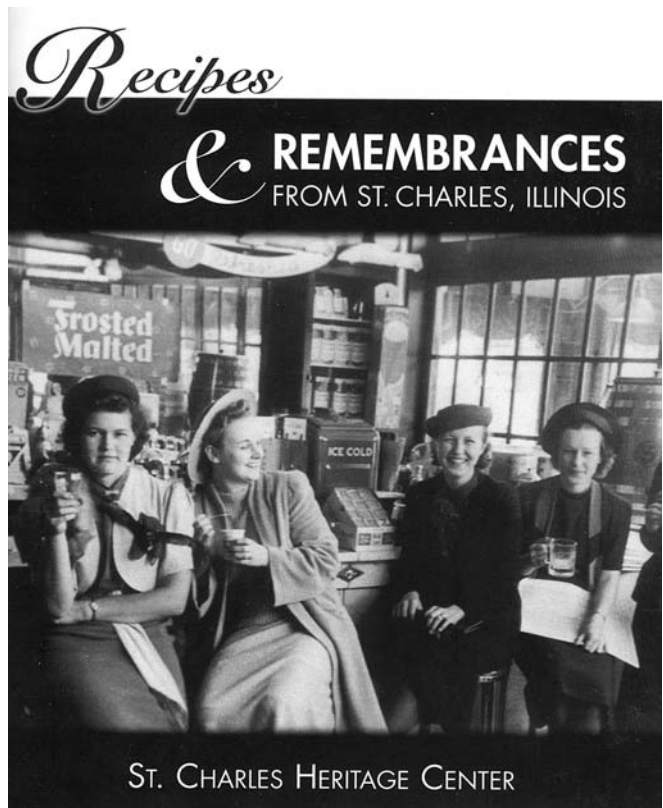
Get Yours Today!

"Recipes & Remembrances from St. Charles, Illinois"

"Recipes and Remembrances from St. Charles, Illinois," the new cookbook compiled by the St. Charles Heritage Center, is now available for purchase in the St. Charles History Museum Gift Shop.

With over 240 recipes and added history on some of the contributors, this keepsake cookbook makes a wonderful gift for anyone in the community.

Cookbooks are just \$15.95, and remember, members of the Heritage Center receive 10% off every purchase in the gift shop.



*St. Charles Heritage Center
& History Museum
215 E. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174*

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174
PERMIT NO. 102

St. Charles Heritage Center

THE CHARLEMAGNE

215 E. Main Street ✧ St. Charles, Illinois 60174 ✧ (630) 584-6967

Volume XXIV ✧ Issue 1 ✧ Spring 2007

The Wallace Evans Game Farm *by Emily Olson*

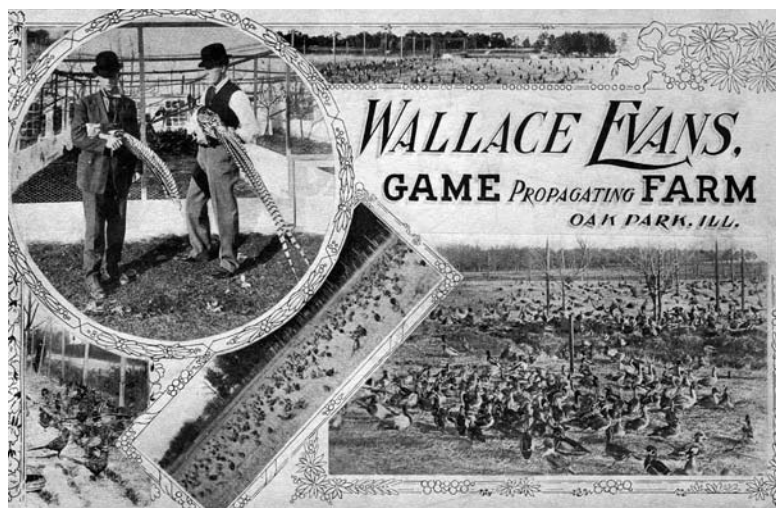
If you drive down Dean Street west of Randall Road, you will see street signs like: Evanswood Glen and Pheasant Run Drive. At one time, much of this property was part of a large farm, called the Evans Game Farm.

The Evans Game Farm was originally started by Wallace Evans' father, Samuel Evans, who was born in Wales in 1857. As a young boy, Samuel Evans enjoyed nature and hunting wild birds. He eventually moved to the United States in 1880 to pursue business opportunities and in 1885 he began a manufacturing career in Kansas City, Missouri making metal signs. In 1890, he moved to Chicago and partnered with a Mr. Rawson in ornamental glass production. It was around this time that Samuel Evans recognized his son's, Wallace's, interest in wild-game. Samuel bought

Wallace two pheasants in 1898 in order to expose his son to the pleasures and lessons he enjoyed himself as a young poacher in Wales. These two pheasants were to be the humble start of the family's world-renown game farm.

In 1900, Samuel Evans and his son Wallace purchased roughly 500 acres of land near River Forest along the Des Plaines River in order to house their growing collection of birds. This commercial venture expanded until eventually the growing population of River Forest encroached upon the farm. In 1915 the Evans family decided to move the game farm to Dean Street, located near the far Western boundary of St. Charles Township. They purchased land that belonged to the Marshall Family, long-time residents of St. Charles. The two men began importing birds from all over the world including Europe, Asia, and Australia. They set up thousands of pens, brooder houses, and miles of fencing.

During the 1920s, the Wallace Evans Game Farm was at its peak. This wild-game farm was the largest in the world, covering an estimated 800 to 1000 acres. It offered a pleasant getaway for area residents and wild-game enthusiasts from around the globe including such notable guests as author Ernest Hemingway. The demand for the game farm's abundant variety of pheasants, wild ducks, and geese as well as its eggs and feed is evident in the estimated 8 million hunting licenses issued in the United States at this time. When Samuel Evans died in 1927, his son continued with the operation of the farm.



Wallace Evans Game Farm 1907 book cover. The farm was located north of Oak Park and east of the Des Plaines River. Photo courtesy of The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest.

Evans Game Farm, continued page 5

Estate Planning & Planned Giving

As we confront the challenges of the future, we know that the generosity of those who assist us will make all the difference in our success.

The St. Charles Heritage Center receives no tax money, that's why we seek your support. Recognizing the importance of endowment growth and the role of planned giving, the Board of Directors invites you to consider the St. Charles Heritage Center when making arrangements for planned gifts or to include the Museum in your estate plans.

By including the St. Charles Heritage Center in your estate planning, you will help secure for future generations the life-affirming experiences that are available through participation in the Museum's programs and appreciation of its collections. The long-term stability of the Museum is being secured through a strong endowment program. Planned giving is the key to increasing endowment funds, which in turn provide long-term financial stability.

Estate-planning information provided to the Museum will be kept confidential and can be anonymous. If you have questions regarding Estate Planning or Planned Giving to the St. Charles Heritage Center please contact the staff at 630-584-6967. Thank you for your continued support.

Dunham-Hunt House Open for 2007 Season

The Dunham-Hunt House will reopen for the summer on Sunday, June 3. The summer hours are Thursdays and Sundays noon to 4 p.m. We invite you to see the exhibits at the oldest brick house in all of St. Charles.



St. Charles Heritage Center & History Museum

Office & Museum (630) 584-6967
Fax: (630) 584-6077
www.stcmuseum.org
info@stcmuseum.org

–St. Charles History Museum–

215 E. Main Street
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday, noon–4 p.m.

–Dunham-Hunt House–

304 E. Cedar Avenue
Thursdays & Sundays, Noon–4 p.m.

–Archives–

Call for Appointment

–Officers–

Laura Haule, President
John Dickens, Vice President
Mary Ellen Segraves, Secretary
Melvin Peterson, Treasurer

–Board of Directors–

Jack Brens
Charles Brown
Cliff Carrigan
Nancy Cox
Brian Henry
Allen Landmeier
Steve Martin
Martha Miller
Fred Robinson
Jerry Swanson
Mike Hill, *Advisory*
Joann Collins-Pace, *Honorary*

–Staff–

Julie Bunke, *Registrar*
Natalie Gacek, *Educator*
Emily Olson, *Intern*

News, Events & Noteworthy Items

All committee meetings are held at the History Museum unless otherwise noted.

Please note the new time for Fund-Raising Committee meetings: 8:30 a.m.

April

- 18 Education Committee meeting, 10 a.m.
- 18 FREE Joe K. Anderson Roundtable, 1-2:30 p.m. Pottawatomie Community Center, 8 North Ave.
- 25 Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m.
- 27 Fund-raising Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m.

May

- 5 JHS meeting, 1-2:30 p.m.
- 16 Education Committee meeting, 10 a.m.
- 22 **May Membership Event: Potluck Dinner, 5 p.m. Bring a dish to pass. SEE PAGE 7 for details!**
- 25 Fund-raising Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- 30 Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m.

June

- 2 JHS meeting, 1-2:30 p.m.
- 20 Education Committee meeting, 10 a.m.
- 20 FREE Joe K. Anderson Roundtable, 1-2:30 p.m. Pottawatomie Community Center, 8 North Ave.
- 27 Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m.
- 29 Fund-raising Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m.

Program dates and times are subject to change, please call to confirm all events (630) 584-6967.



Yearbook Reminder...

The archives at the St. Charles History Museum are in need of St. Charles High School Yearbooks from the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Anyone interested in donating yearbooks, please contact Julie at 584-6967.

Join us for Joe K Roundtable

There are two Roundtable discussions coming up, the first will be held on Wednesday, April 18, and the second one will be held on Wednesday, June 20. Both events will be hosted at the Pottawatomie Community Center in Pottawatomie Park, 8 North Avenue, from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

The topic for the April discussion will be Businesses and Stores in St. Charles. Join us as we reminisce about the various shops and markets that lined Main Street in years past.

In June we will talk about the various cultural groups and activities that residents have participated in over the years including Playmakers and the No Center Aisle Theater Company. As always you are encouraged to bring along photographs, memorabilia, and stories to share with the group.

If you have any questions on these programs, please call the History Museum, 584-6967.



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with our annual Fourth of July glow stick sales. This event is the biggest fund-raiser that the Heritage Center holds all year and the money earned goes into our museum-operating budget, which helps us with our mission to Collect, Preserve and Present the history of St. Charles.

So if you have a few hours available on the evening of July 4th it's a great way to get outdoors, meet new people, raise money for the Heritage Center and see the fireworks display. If you are interested, please call Julie or Natalie at 630-584-6967.



Museum Gift Shop

New additions have been made recently to the History Museum gift shop. Among these are **silver photo frames with St. Charles, Illinois**, printed on them. Pick one up to display that special photo and memory that you have of St. Charles. Don't have a special photo of St. Charles? **Each frame is sold with an historic photo of St. Charles to display in your home or office.**

Also on sale are the **2007 St. Charles History Museum Christmas ornaments** featuring the Mount St. Mary's Academy that was situated on Route 31, south of Prairie Street in St. Charles. The ornament is a silver bulb which features a photo of the school building printed in royal blue. 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the school which was an all girls Catholic High School that educated not only young ladies from St. Charles but from across the nation.

The Museum Gift Shop is open during regular museum hours.

New Donations

by Julie Bunke

Charles Budde donated a menu from the *Palable Cocktail Lounge* that was located at 211 W. Main Street in downtown St. Charles. Mr Budde's parents *Joseph and Marion Budde* owned the cocktail lounge from 1954-1961.

Bob and Lois Rodgers donated a watercolor painting created by Barbara Mackey Williams of the home at Second and Cedar Avenues in St. Charles.

Former Haines Junior High Assistant Principal and current Township Supervisor and Heritage Center Board Member, **Jerry Swanson**, donated several editions of the St. Charles High School yearbook "the Halo." These yearbooks date from the early to late 1970s.

Jerry Swanson was also instrumental in the donation of the wooden ballot box used by the Town of St. Charles in the late 1800 and early 1900s as well as the judge's chair. This donation is from **St. Charles Township**.

Thanks to **Bob Matson** for donating several old photographs and documents from St. Charles history. Included in this donation are photos of Fox River Dam and Railroad Trestle, East Main Street the 1909 Decoration Day parade in downtown St. Charles as well as a rare photo of the LC Ward mansion that was located on the land now used by Pottawatomie Park.

Debbie Maliska from the Fifth Third Bank downtown branch, which was formerly housed in the old St. Charles National Bank building, donated several photo collages of the bank building as well as maps of St. Charles and St. Charles Township.

Special thanks also goes to **Anne Pruitt, Jane Peterson, Keith Anderson, Bill Warner** and the **Victor E. Nelson Family**.

Have your next birthday party at the St. Charles History Museum

Are you looking for a new place to hold your next birthday party? Consider having it at the St. Charles History Museum. The History Museum is now available to rent out for children's birthday parties.

Heritage Center staff will work with you to help plan the party and activities to make your party a success. For more information and pricing details, call Natalie at 584-6967.

Evans Game Farm, continued from page 1

In a 1927 publication about St. Charles Lester Colby of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce describes the Game Farm as follows:

"Out in the hinterland beyond St. Charles we find the Wallace Evans game farm. Here deer roam the hills, swans swim in little lakes and wood ducks and mallards and canvasbacks preen in the watercourses. Peacocks spread their fans and pheasants, gaily colored, march in the enclosures."

When the Depression arrived, the number of customers for the Wallace Evans Game Farm decreased significantly due to the high cost of hunting licenses. The interest in the farm dwindled even further during World War II. At this time the older and younger generations were preoccupied with supplying the war effort, while the middle generation was fighting battles overseas. As a result, time, energy, and materials were rarely devoted to hunting or leisure.

Wallace Evans then died in 1949, and operation of the farm came to an end as the last of the wild-game birds were removed in the following year. Through the years, the Evans Game Farm earned a world-wide reputation for its successful breeding and its natural splendor. Its unique landscape was formed generations earlier due to the recession of the glaciers, and as a result, the area harbored unusual and endangered plants, animals, and bird species. Despite its widespread fame and success, the Evans Family strove to maintain an environmental focus. Aside from fulfilling a huge demand for wild-game birds, the game farm also made efforts to protect the birds from wild predators. In addition, they shipped pheasants and ducks to various clubs, associations, breeders, and private farmers. The Evans family also sold game to other states and countries who were conducting game restoration programs in an attempt to restock their fields and woods.

The Evans Game Farm eventually came to be subdivided and today it is the site of private residences. However, a part of the original River Forest portion of the Game Farm still exists today as the Evans Forest Preserve. Even if the Evans Game Farm has not survived into the present day, its memory still serves as an important reminder of the significant contributions the Evans family made to natural history, conservation, and the richness of St. Charles's scenic beauty and cultural heritage.

Meet the newest Heritage Center Intern



The staff at the St. Charles Heritage Center would like to welcome Emily Olson as the newest intern at the St. Charles History Museum and Dunham-Hunt House.

Emily is a 2003 graduate of Batavia High School and a 2006 graduate of the University of Arizona majoring in Anthropology. Emily hopes to attend graduate school in the fall to get her Masters degree in Art History and Museum Studies.

Emily joined the staff in January and has already been busy on a variety of projects, such as typing the series *St. Charles in the Civil War*, a collection of news articles about St. Charles in the Civil War. The series was written by William Bussey and published in the *St. Charles Chronicle* from September to December of 1924. It will soon be available for purchase in the museum gift shop.

She has also typed many of the previously handwritten primary documents used by researchers at the museum, most notably the Birth and Death Records of St. Charles residents, which is available for use in the Colonial Research Room. Welcome Emily!

Education Update... by Mary Ellen Segraves & Natalie Gacek

In keeping with the Heritage Center's 75th Anniversary theme of "Bringing our past back to our future," the Education Committee has been focusing on finding ways to capture the memories of St. Charles residents.

On Sunday March 10, Rosanne Gulisano facilitated a two-hour workshop on "Writing Your Memoirs." Attendees had the opportunity to begin writing and sharing their personal and family stories. We all found that we had lots to tell! As with many projects, getting started is the hardest part, so Rosanne had some tips on how to get the process moving.

First, create a plan. Decide how much time every week you wish to devote to writing and establish a set time to do it each week. Then, Stick to your schedule! Second, get organized. Get a folder or 3-ring binder and keep all your writings together. Finally, get creative! Prime the memory pump by going through old photos, journals, yearbooks; talk to siblings or old friends. You will be amazed at the endless topics you find to write about. The more you write, the more you will remember! Think of what a gift it would be for your family to know about your history and your experiences!! If you would like more information about Rosanne's programs, you can contact her at zortam@aol.com.

Also, in the near future, you will be hearing more about our "Memory Book Project." We will be asking St. Charles residents to share some of their early memories of growing up in St. Charles in the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's. The Heritage Center will then collect those stories and use them to create a "Memory Book" in conjunction with our 75th Anniversary in 2008. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact the Heritage Center at: 584-6967 or info@stcmuseum.org.

In other education news the Junior Historical Society is once again working on researching topics for their upcoming exhibits. As you may recall reading in the last newsletter, the JHS was honored with an Award of Excellence last fall for the window exhibits they created in 2006. We are looking forward to another round of creative exhibits focusing on

"Women in St. Charles History", "Celebrate St. Charles," and "Did you know...the ABC's of STC".

As in years past the JHS exhibits will go on display in May and will remain up through the fall. For more information on the JHS please stop into the Museum and ask for Natalie.



The St. Charles History Museum will again be participating in the summer Passport to Adventure Program along with many other history organizations and museums. The program runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Books can be picked up at the History Museum or at the Dunham-Hunt House during open hours.

This is an excellent opportunity to visit the many great museums and learn about local history at the participant's own pace. Be sure to bring your Passport to each museum to receive a stamp.

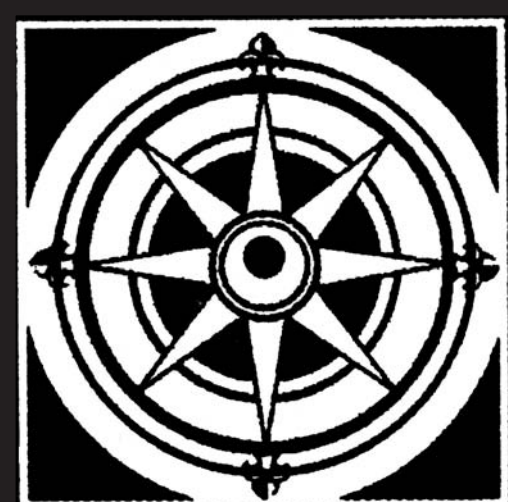
More information on the Passport to Adventure Program is available at 630-584-6967. What a great way to spend time during the summer months!

16th Annual

**PASSPORT TO
ADVENTURE**

A Guide to the Museums & Nature Centers
in Kane & DuPage Counties

2007



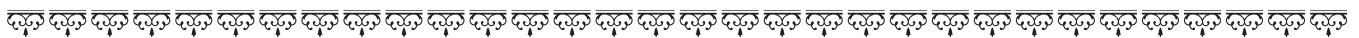
Please join our Potluck!

In honor of May as National Historic Preservation Month, the St. Charles History Museum will be hosting a potluck dinner in the **Ziegler Room of the Baker Community Center** on Tuesday, May 22, starting at 5 p.m. with a program immediately following dinner.

The program will be presented by **John Hallwas** a retired professor from Western Illinois University who will be speaking on *Desperadoes: Notorious Lawbreakers of Early Illinois*.

Please bring a dish to pass and serving utensils for your creation. Plates and eating utensils will be supplied. Please RSVP to the St. Charles History Museum at 630-584-6967 by Friday, May 18. Let us know what meal course you will be bringing: salad, entree, side or dessert.

Need some recipe ideas? We've got that covered! See page 8!



Membership is important to the St. Charles Heritage Center! Please tell a friend about the St. Charles Heritage Center. Use the form below to invite them to become a member. The many benefits of membership include 10 percent off in the museum store, free admission to the history museum and Dunham-Hunt House as well as other special events throughout the year.

Membership

Check the Yearly Membership Level of Your Choice

- Grantor *\$5,000+
- Benefactor *\$1,000 - \$4,999
- Corporate *\$500 - \$999
- Patron *\$250 - \$499
- Sponsor \$100 - \$249
- Family \$40 Your company may match your gift.
- Individual \$25 Please contact your employer for details!
- Senior \$10
- Student/Junior \$10

**Your Name will be on Wall Recognition Plaque in the Museum*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

•We do not rent or sell our private mail list.

**Clip & Mail to: St. Charles Heritage Center
215 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174**

Membership Benefits

- Free admission to the St. Charles History Museum, Dunham-Hunt House and various programs yearly.
- Reduced admission to lectures and programs.
- Free quarterly publication, *The Charlemagne*
- 10% discount on Museum Gift Shop items.
- Reduced fee on local history research services for home or family.
- Knowing that your membership, participation and support helps the Heritage Center to collect, preserve and present our history.

I would also like to be involved with the following...

- 4th of July Glowsticks Sales
- Appraisal Weekend Fund-raiser
- Grave Reminders Cemetery Program
- Tour Docent
- Museum and/or Dunham-Hunt Docent
- Office Assistance
- Gift Shop Assistance
- Special Events
- Other (please tell us your special talents)
