

# The Charlemagne

St. Charles History Museum • 215 East Main Street • St. Charles, IL 60174  
Office & Museum 630-584-6967 • [www.stcmuseum.org](http://www.stcmuseum.org) • [info@stcmuseum.org](mailto:info@stcmuseum.org)

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**Executive Director**

Jim McGuire  
**Head of Collections**

Brigid Leavy  
**Museum Assistant**

Stephanie Davis  
Carissa Bolvin  
**Interns**

### Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday  
10am - 4pm

## THE 5TH ANNUAL

### ST. CHARLES HISTORY MUSEUM CELEBRATION

# PIG ROAST

## LIVE MUSIC



## SILENT AUCTION



MYSTERY WINE & DINE □ BEER & WINE

# SATURDAY

## JUNE 20 5PM~9PM

215 E. MAIN STREET, ST. CHARLES, IL 60174

**TICKETS**

**AVAILABLE**

BUY ONLINE : [WWW.STCMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.STCMUSEUM.ORG)

VISIT: ST. CHARLES HERITAGE CENTER

OR CALL: 630.584.6967

**\$40** Members

**\$45** Non-Members

**\$10** Tax Deductible Raffle Tickets

WIN. 1 of 3 \$1000 Cash Prizes

Save the date and join the St. Charles History Museum on June 20, 2015, for our Fifth Annual Fundraiser Pig Roast and Silent Auction! This fundraiser is essential in helping further our mission and gives us the ability to present educational programs, develop temporary exhibitions, and redevelop the permanent exhibit. Tell your friends and family to come enjoy a full plate of pulled pork, three sides, and dessert, courtesy of the delicious Dave's Slow Food. Two drink tickets provided by our neighbors The Office are also included. The Pig Roast will be a fun filled evening with a performance by the Plank Road Folk Music Society, a photo selfie booth and games. In addition to the fun, we will also have a silent auction, "Mystery Wine and Dine Bags" for purchase, plus three chances to WIN \$1000! Stop by the museum to pick up your raffle tickets and make sure to check out our website for more details.

# A Letter from the President

As we are seeing so many welcome changes in our weather (are winters getting longer and longer??), we are also welcoming many positive and exciting changes at our museum! Director Alison (also known as the Princess of Museum Spring Cleaning) is leading the charge to update and “relandscape” our Museum environment. Please stop by to view the current and proposed improvements. I also urge you to join our Museum family by becoming a member and by participating in upcoming events, first and foremost our major fundraiser, the Pig Roast to be held on our Museum grounds this June 20th, from 5pm-9pm.

*Kathy Brens*



# A Word from the Director

Hello, Friends of the Museum!

Over the past three months, the museum has undergone a number of exciting changes. As the new Executive Director, I, along with the help of Jim McGuire (Head of Collections), our interns, and volunteers, have been hard at work getting ready for the summer. Preparing for our Pig Roast and Silent Auction Fundraiser has kept us busy and we are constantly receiving a number of great items for the auction! We are thrilled to announce that we are developing new summer programming for all ages, creating two new temporary exhibits and so much more.

This Summer the Museum will also be going green with the installation of a rain barrel. We will be beautifying the grounds, working on the garden beds, planting a sustainable landscape, and growing vegetables and herbs. This is a great partnership with the City of St. Charles, St. Charles Park District (Hickory Knolls & Primrose Farm), Fermilab, and Pizzo Native Plant Nursery all of which helped make this possible.

In addition to our new programming, we will be launching a new logo and website at the beginning of May. The new logo draws its inspiration from our building's history and gives the museum a more modern look. The logo will be unveiled on the website, through social media and on the front window of the museum. The new website will have a fresh look, be more user friendly, interactive, and include new members-only sections.

This is a very exciting time, and we hope that you will stop in to see all of the new changes that are happening at the museum.

## Development News

### A Museum Redesigned

With the support of the Museum Board, we will be moving forward with Phase One of our new Strategic Plan. Phase One is focused on the reconfiguration of the exhibit hall and the care of the museum's collection. Over the next three months staff will reorganize our storage facilities, refresh the permanent exhibit content, and change the layout of the exhibit hall. Staff and the interns are also creating content panels that will be installed later this year which will provide a fresh take on St. Charles History.



New temporary exhibit space layout with hanging text panels.



Current Temporary Exhibit Space

## MEET THE MUSEUM ASSISTANT

### Brigid Leavy

Brigid came to the museum in March and is looking forward to helping make the museum a more engaging member of the community. She is working on developing temporary exhibitions that place St. Charles within the larger American and world history narrative. Prior to coming to the St. Charles Museum, she worked with oral histories at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, in the Space History department at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, and at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. Brigid received her MA in Museum Studies from New York University and her BA in American Studies, History, and the Integrated Program in Humane Studies from Kenyon College.



## INTERNS AT WORK



## A WORD FROM THE INTERNS

Since our last article we, the super interns, have been working hard to better our museum and its mission to serve the St. Charles community. And many great things have happened! To generate interest during March and honor Women's History Month, we created a special window exhibit. In an effort to showcase more of the museum's artifacts, we created a social media feature *100 Days, 100 Objects*, on Facebook. The feature, highlights aspects of St. Charles history by showcasing artifacts not currently on display. It is also that time of the year when the Museum is gearing up for the Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser on June 20, 2015 (you should purchase the tickets for this!). We have reached out to local and Chicago businesses for donations and have received a lot of wonderful gifts. In order to find unique items and experiences to include in the Silent Auction portion of the Pig Roast, we would like to hear any suggestions you may have.

The museum's mission statement is to collect, preserve, and present history to the community. One way we accomplish this is through education. We each created new and exciting educational programs for primary schools and are looking forward to expanding beyond these groups with great enthusiasm. Stephanie created "Map Your Way Around St. Charles!" to educate students on St.

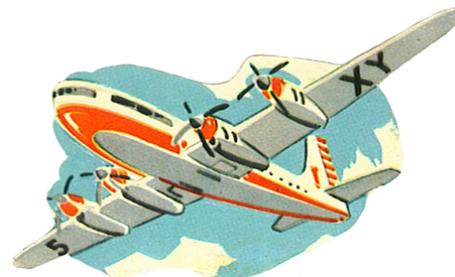


resources to get there. Stephanie also developed a program called "Evolution of Corn Processing," which teaches kids the perspective and the idea of change as it relates to corn processing.

Charles geography. Students will learn how to identify the coordinates of St. Charles' most popular locations and how to use their

Carissa created, "Finding Your Roots," a program that teaches students about their own heritage and cultural identity, which draws inspiration from the history of immigration in St. Charles. Students will create presentation recounting their families' stories and what their heritage means to them. Students will submit a family recipe based on their heritage and at the end of the program these recipes will be included in a classroom "melting pot" cookbook for students to take home. From lighter than air to soaring the skies, "St. Charles

By Air! History of Aviation" is another program Carissa created that will



instruct students on the history of aviation from the dawn of time to modern-day St. Charles, and showing imagination of flight combined with advances in science made dreams of flying into a reality.

We are working very hard to create a space for the history of St. Charles to flourish. Under the guidance of our amazing director Alison, we have been able to gain diverse and valuable experiences that are often hard to come by for emerging museum professionals. Tune in next month for more upcoming news and events!

*Stephanie Davis & Carissa Bolvin*

## Educational UPDATE

### *An Intimate Conspiracy*

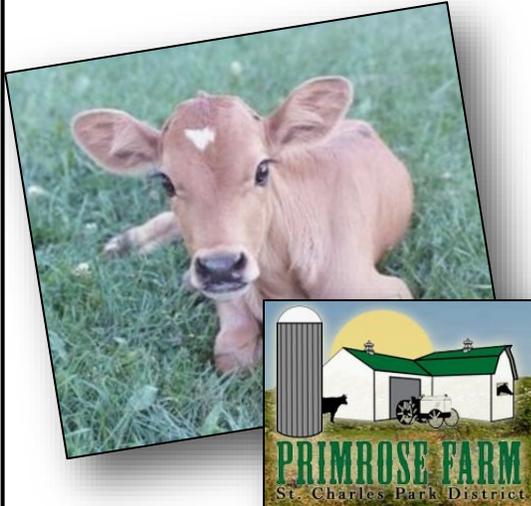
### Mary Todd Lincoln

Saturday May 30, 2015, Noon

Pottawatomoni Community Center

Co-Sponsored by the St. Charles History Museum  
and the St. Charles Park District

First-person reenactor Jessica Michna brings to life one of St. Charles most famous and fascinating visitors. Nearing the end of her life, Mary Todd Lincoln was ill in mind, body and soul. Seeking comfort and solace she wandered endlessly At what was one of the lowest points in her life she suffered the ultimate betrayal at the hands of her son, Robert. Join us to find out more at this exciting program. The program is free, but donations are welcome. Reservations are required. Please call 630.584.6967 or email [info@stcmuseum.org](mailto:info@stcmuseum.org).



## MOOOOO into Summer

This summer there will be a number of new hands on and family friendly programs available at the museum. On June 13, 2015, from 10am to 2pm, help us MOOOOO into Summer with a baby calf. Come learn about early farm life in St. Charles and see a demonstration on how to make butter.

In addition to butter-making this summer, brought to you in partnership with Primrose Farm, we will also be exploring native plants, rain barrels, Victory gardens, how to pickle, and ways to go "green."

## Take an Adventure this Summer

Changes in weather reminds us that soon there will be plenty of free time for the family. If you enjoy visiting our museum then, you might be interested in the Kane-DuPage Regional Museum Association's *Passport to Adventure* booklet. Each year KDRMA puts together a booklet that includes all of the museums, nature centers, zoos, and arboretums in Kane and DuPage Counties. The books are free and can be picked up at the St. Charles History Museum or in Youth Services at the St. Charles Public Library beginning Memorial Day Weekend. The program runs from May 1st through Labor Day.



## Exhibition News

### *It's a Big Dill*

June 6, 2015– August 22, 2015

What do Ancient Mesopotamia, Eastern European immigrants, World War II, and St. Charles have in common? Pickles! This summer's temporary exhibition explores over 4000 years of pickle history and the critical role St. Charles played in cultivating American's love for and obsession with the pickle.



### Member Preview Open House

June 5, 2015, 4pm to 6pm

Members of the St. Charles History Museum, you're invited to our first exclusive summer exhibit open house. Light refreshments and crudité will be provided. Please call to RSVP by May 29, 2015.

## SCHM Collection: *A Treasure House of Discoveries*



### Pickle Telephone, c. 1970s.

For more than 40 years, St. Charles was the pickle capital of the world, thanks in part to William "Bill the Dill" Moore. The St. Charles resident established the headquarters for Pickle Packers International at 108½ East Main Street in the early 1960s and remained there until 2004. He was in charge of promoting pickles to the public and proceeded to put the pickle image on anything and everything available. Purses and phones were designed in the familiar pickle shape along with earrings, greeting cards, memo pads and much, much more.

In our last issue of *The Charlemagne* we asked...

**Who was the famous local medium that Mrs. Lincoln visited?**

**Answer:** Mrs. Caroline Howard was blessed with the gift of clairvoyance. Because of this, Mary Todd Lincoln frequently visited Mrs. Howard in hopes of contacting her late husband and sons.



# Calendar of Events

## May

- 1 ***Passport to Adventure* booklets available for pickup**  
 30 ***Intimate Conspiracy***, Noon Pottawatommi Community Center

## June

- 5 **Members Only Preview Open House**, 4pm-6pm  
 6 ***It's a Big Dill***, Opens to the public, 10am  
 13 ***MOOOOO Into Summer***, 10am-2pm  
 20 **Pig Roast & Silent Auction Fundraiser**, 5pm-9pm

## July

- 4-5 **Museum Closed for Holiday**  
**Other events to be announced**

### Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Stay up to date with information about events, promotions and news from the St. Charles History Museum. "Like" our fan page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter  
 @STCHeritageCent  
 Links to both can be found on our website  
[www.stcmuseum.org](http://www.stcmuseum.org)

