



**JULY 2024**

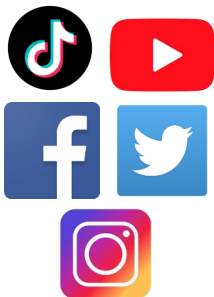
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*Follow us!*



## Stephenson House to Hosts the “Sid Denny Memorial Antique Auction”

The 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House is hosting the Sid Denny Memorial Antique Auction online this year. The local museum held an antique and collectible auction for over 16 years headed up by founding board member Sid Denny. Unfortunately, Sid passed away last year requiring the museum’s board of directors to reorganize and revamp the annual fundraiser. In honor of Sid Denny’s ceaseless support of the site and his love for antique auctions, the Antiques & Collectibles Auction has been renamed in his memory.



*Sid Denny enjoying a break during the 2014 Antique Auction.*

In 2020, what had always been an in-person fundraiser moved online due to Covid-19. Now people from the MetroEast area, as well as, nationwide can participate by visiting [www.stephensonhouse.org](http://www.stephensonhouse.org). Bidding began on April 29 and will conclude on September 13 at 6 p.m. New items are added regularly so bidders are encouraged to check back weekly. Winning bidders from outside the area can have their items conveniently shipped to them but will need to pay shipping costs. Local winners can pick up their items on

Saturday, September 14 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. and September 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at GEM Storage located at 447 S. Buchanan Street (off Linden St. behind Market Basket).

This is one of two annual fundraisers benefiting the continued restoration and educational programming at the 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House. Auction organizers are currently accepting

donations of antiques and collectibles to include in this year's auction; however, they cannot accept modern or large items or furniture.

Acceptable donations include small or medium-sized antiques and collectibles such as pocket knives, hunting knives, old photo albums, oil paintings (not prints), comic books, Christmas items (pre-1960; cast iron, pressed steel, or tin children’s toys (e.g., cars, trucks, airplanes, and wind-up toys) and Indigenous items like arrowheads, axes and craft items; vintage advertising items such as wood boxes with stamped advertising, metal signs, beer signs, and

*(Continued on page 2)*

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yardsticks; postcards and old valentines, and military memorabilia from the Civil War, WWI and WWII; older coins (e.g., wheat pennies, gold and silver coins, and some types of old paper money); art/ceramic pottery by makers such as Rookwood, Roseville, Hull, Van Briggles, and Weller.

If you have items to donate but are not sure they'd be acceptable or would like to arrange for someone to pick up your items, call the Stephenson House at (618) 692-1818. Donations for this year's auction will not be accepted after August 18. Donations may be dropped off at the museum Thursday – Saturday, 10 am- 3 pm and Sunday 12-3 pm. Stephenson House is located at 409 S. Buchanan, Edwardsville, Illinois.

**Support  
Friends of the Colonel  
Benjamin Stephenson House.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**amazon**smile

Use this link to start shopping..  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1395804>

## *Greetings from the President*

Good Day and Happy Summer,

The season has started warm with some rain showers. I hope it is the beautiful balance we will have all this year.

The Spring and now Summer is in session! Here at the Stephenson House, we have had the Pioneer Summer Camp. And we are looking forward to Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies on July 10-12. Also, our Stephenson online antiques auction is in full effect with even more to come till it's time to see if you won on Friday, September 13th at 6 pm!

Our Garden Fence is almost to the point of being repaired. You still have time to give to the cause... to keep those darn deer from eating our kale.

If you haven't signed up for some

volunteer hours at the house, please do. Summertime is the time for visitors at the house and we need you all a great deal.



And if you haven't perused the gift shop recently, please do so. Pick up a book or a gift for the kids, Grandpa, or Grandma. Sometimes we forget the treasures that RoxAnn has procured.

It's time to snuff the candles, so have a beautiful night. And see you soon!

This is truly yours,

*Lady Blue*



# A Visit to the Prairie Garden

By Donna Bardon  
Photos by Michelle Collins



The University of Illinois Master Gardeners at the Benjamin Stephenson House focus on plants that would have been grown in this area in the 1820s as well as native plants.

The Stephenson House Prairie Garden, which surrounds the parking lot near Linden Street, includes many Illinois native pollinator plants. The site includes aster, black-eyed Susan, blue false indigo, blue mist, blue star, bushy asters, butterfly weed, Culver's root, daylily, fleabane, garlic chives, golden alexander, ironweed, little bluestem grass, mallow, meadow rue, purple coneflower, rigid verbena, sunflower, sweet Annie, sweet pea, switch grass, woodland sunflower, and yarrow. The diversity of plants provides a variety of colors and textures all year round. These plants do well because they are adapted to our local climate and soil conditions. The plants are left in the garden

during the winter to provide food and habitat for wildlife.

Edwardsville became the first official Pollinator Pathway city in Illinois in June 2023. The designation comes from the nonprofit Pollinator Pathway group which supports and promotes efforts to establish continuous areas of pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinating wildlife. Of course, Stephenson House is an enthusiastic participating site.

This spring, Stephenson House received a grant from the City of Edwardsville through the Edwardsville Community Foundation to repair the split-rail fence along Buchanan and Linden Streets. The grant covered the materials and labor to replace the rails that were badly damaged and reuse rails that were in good shape.



*A portion of the new split rail fence next to the parking lot.*



## News from the Past: July 1819

In July 1819 the following item was published in Edwardsville's local newspaper, "The Spectator". The submission is printed in its entirety, including original spelling and punctuation.



### FOR THE SPECTATOR.

The 43d anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in this town on Monday last. At 12 o'clock, the citizens met in front of the Edwardsville Hotel, and formed a procession, which proceeded to the new building of Mr. D. Tolman. After appropriate music, the Declaration of Independence was read by Gen. R. HOPKINS, one of the few surviving soldiers of the revolution. The presence of this venerable patriot, with

the reflection that he was one of those to whom we were indebted for that independence which we now enjoy, gave a zest to the festivities of the day, and could not fail to inspire, in the breast of every citizen, the most grateful and patriotic feelings. An Oration was then pronounced by NICHOLAS HANSEN, Esq. which was received with great applause. Of its merits we forbear to speak, as it will probably soon be laid before the public through the medium of the press.

At half past 2 o'clock P. M. the company sat down to an excellent dinner prepared by Mr. W. C. WIGGINS. Col. BENJAMIN STEPHENSON presided, and Mr. PARIS MASON and Dr. JOSEPH BOWERS acted as vice-presidents. After the cloth was removed, the following toasts were drank, accompanied by appropriate songs.

1. *The 4th of July, 1776*-The nuptial day of liberty with our country .- What God and our forefathers have united, let not our latest posterity put asunder. *3 cheers.*
2. *Our country*-The elysium of this world -May we always justly appreciate its blessings. *3 cheers.*

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*Independence Day Celebration in Centre Square, Philadelphia by John Louis Krimmel, c.1819*

# Desserts of the Early 19th Century: Chocolate Tarts

by Jeanne Spencer



*A Chocolate Tart*

*We take two Spoonfuls of Rice-Flour, some Salt, with the Yolks of four Eggs, and a little Milk; mix all these together, but don't let them curdle; then grate some Chocolate and dry it before the Fire, and when your Cream is boiled, mix the Chocolate well in it, and so set it to cool; make your Tart of good fine Flour, put in the Cream and bake it: When it is enough, glaze it with powder Sugar with a red hot Fire-shovel; then serve it.*

—as published in *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy*, by Hannah Glasse, c. 1747

Modern adaptation from Connor Prairie, <https://www.connerprairie.org/a-modern-take-on-a-chocolate-tart/>

Enjoy this modern take on the Hannah Glasse receipt, courtesy of A Taste of History with Joyce White.

## Ingredients

5 oz. dark chocolate, (in the form of chocolate chips or a solid bar of chocolate, grated)

Pinch of salt

4 egg yolks (large size eggs)

1 Tbsp. rice flour

1 Tbsp. milk

1 pint heavy cream

¼ cup white granulated sugar, or to taste, depending on the chocolate's sugar content

1 prepared pie shell, store-bought fresh or home-made (a frozen crust is not recommended as it gets too brown in the oven.)

1. Measure the chocolate chips or grated chocolate and place into a bowl, and set aside.
  2. Pour the cream into a sauce pan and set on low heat. While it slowly comes to a boil, combine the salt, egg yolks, rice flour, and milk in a separate large bowl and set aside.
  3. Once the cream starts to gently boil, add the grated chocolate, stirring constantly and making sure all of the chocolate is melted. Then, add the sugar and cook until the sugar is melted.
  4. Temper the egg mixture and the chocolate mixture by taking a quarter of a cup of the hot mixture and slowly add to the egg yolk and rice flour mixture, stirring constantly with a whisk, to prevent scrambling.
  5. Stir the warmed egg yolk mixture into the sauce pan and bring all the ingredients to a boil for about a minute. Set aside and allow it to cool 5-10 minutes. While the mixture is cooling, preheat the oven to 350 degrees and prepare a pie plate with a bottom crust.
  6. Pour the chocolate mixture into the prepared pie plate, set it upon a cookie sheet to prevent spillage, and bake for about 45-50 minutes until set (no jiggling just in the very center when gently shaken; it should all move together equally when done). Remove from oven and let it cool to room temperature.
- Refrigerate for 3-4 hours, or overnight.

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3. *The national confederation.*- It makes a mighty empire of what would otherwise be petty states. *3 cheers.*
4. *Washington.*- We love and revere his memory, not merely for his services, but because he was truly good and great.
5. *The departed worthies of the Revolution.*- We can never cease to revere their memories, or to be grateful for their services, whilst we cherish their principles.
6. *Jefferson and Madison.*-The pride of their country, and the best models for the imitation of its future statesmen. *3 cheers.*
7. *James Monroe, President of the United States.*- He is entitled to our confidence and attachment. *6 cheers.*
8. *The Vice President of the United States.*- His services and principles are justly appreciated.
9. *The Heads of Departments.*- Their talents and services command the approbation and respect of the nation. *3 cheers.*
10. *The Navy.*- It has encircled itself with a halo of glory.- The east and the west unite in its support. *3 cheers.*
11. *The Army of the United States.*- May victory ever attend its arms, and the heroes who fall find a winding sheet in the flag of the enemy. *6 cheers.*
12. *Militia.*- Freemen are the best defenders of freedom. How long will congress neglect the admonitions of our Presidents, and the injunctions of the constitution, to organize and arm the yeomanry of the country. *9 cheers.*
13. *The state of Illinois.*- Its wise and republican constitution, its healthful climate, its fertile soil, and its diversified wood and prairie, make it the most desirable of the new states. *12 cheers.*
14. *Roads and Canals.*-The imperishable monuments of a nation's wisdom.- if congress have not, the people are willing to give them, the power to make them. *6 cheers.*
15. *The Post-Office Department,* -- We regret the frequent failures of the mails, and call upon our members in congress to inquire into the causes. *3 cheers.*
16. *Florida.*- Its peaceful acquisition, if obtained, is highly advantageous to our country.

*3 cheers.*

17. *The degraded and unfortunate sons of Africa.*- May man soon cease to dishonor his Maker and disgrace himself by trafficking in human flesh. *12 cheers.*

18. *General La Fayette.*- If, as the virtuous and undeviating friend of liberty, tyrants should frown upon him, his fellow citizens of America will receive him with open arms, and with hearts overflowing with gratitude and affection. *3 cheers.*

19. *Spanish America.*- May she never cease to struggle until she breaks the shackles of kings and priests, and establishes the rights of man on the basis of representative government. *3 cheers.*

20. *The Press.*-The tyrant's foe; the people's friend. *6 cheers.*

21. *The American Fair.*- Their smiles are sufficient to quicken the indolent, soften the severe, cheer the brave, confirm the virtuous, reclaim the abandoned, and excite us all to the performance of every private end public duty. *12 cheers.*

#### VOLUNTEERS.

By Col. Stephenson, President of the day.

*The Secretary of War.*-His wise and efficient measures, for the protection of the western frontier, and for the advancement of its interest, entitle him to its confidence and gratitude.

By Mr. Paris Mason, 1st Vice President.

*De Witt Clinton, the projector of the great western Canal.*- He is entitled to the confidence and respect of the people of Illinois.

By Dr. Joseph Bowers, 2d Vice President.

*General Andrew Jackson.*-The great and valiant hero of New-Orleans .- May he ever scorn to wear laurels not his own.

By Nicholas Hansen, Esq. Orator of the day.

His Excellency Shadrach Bond, Governor of Illinois.  
By Gen. R. Hopkins, (Mr. Hansen having retired)

*The Orator of the day.*- May the sentiments advanced by him be duly appreciated, and put in practice by the posterity of the heroes of the revolution.

By the Hon. Ninian Edwards.

May the colonies in both Americas soon cease to exist.

By Abraham Prickett, Esq.

May every attempt to extend the reign of tyranny in the

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**THE COLONEL NEEDS A NEW FENCE!**

*Sorry Lucy, but we do need bucks...*

but not the four-legged variety. We need doe too, but not female deer. The garden is overrun with those already.

We need your help to replace our teaching garden fence! It was constructed twenty years ago and has finally succumbed to the rigors of time and weather. The deer have taken advantage of the fence deterioration. Unless we are able to replace the fence, the garden, a vital component to our educational program, will be negatively effected.

**We will deer-ly appreciate your doe-nations for this project.**

Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help Stephenson House replace the garden fence.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donations are also accepted on our webpage [www.stephensonhouse.org](http://www.stephensonhouse.org)

Send donations to:  
**1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House, P.O. Box 754, Edwardsville, IL, 62025**

# Upcoming Events, Tours & Activities

- **Sundays, Stephenson House Sewing Circle**, 12-3 pm. Bring a project and join us for an afternoon of relaxation and sewing. Open to adults only (16 years old & up). We love kiddos but this is our time to relax, gossip, sew, and enjoy a little down time with friends.
- **July 4, House Closed for Holiday**
- **July 10-12, Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies**, 9 am-2 pm. Volunteers are needed to teach sessions during this three day camp.
- **July 17, Madison County Historical Society Summer Camp tour**, 9:30-11:30 am, 20+/-, 4th-5th grade
- **July 20, Garden Fence Replacement**, all day
- **October 3-31, Mourning Col. Stephenson**
- **October 27, A Gothic Evening with Edgar Allan Poe, 5:30 pm & 7:30 pm**. Tickets available on our website.
- **November 30, Christmas Candlelight Tours**, 5-8 pm

(Continued from page 6)

United States, meet with that disapprobation which becomes a free and enlightened people.

By Mr. Daniel D. Smith.

A comet appear'd last night in the sky, To give us a TOAST for the Fourth of July: May *she sail up Missouri*, and -slavery-end it, And scorch with her tail *those that wish to extend it!*

By Mr. William W. Hickman.

*The disbanded officers and soldiers of the army of 1815, with their illustrious and venerable commander in chief, president Madison*-Like him, they enjoy in retirement the smiles of Heaven, an approving conscience, and the gratitude of their country. They wish no greater reward.

By Edward Coles, Esq.

*The rights of man*-They appertain equally to him, whether his complexion be white, red, or black.

By Capt. J. L. Barton, late of the U. S. Army.

*General Jackson*.- As the hero of New-Orleans, his country highly appreciates his merit, and holds in grateful remembrance his distinguished services.- May his example in the Seminole war never be a stepping stone to monarchy.

By Mr. Samuel Lee, jun.

*Emigrants to the west*.- May they give Illinois that attention she merits.

By Mr. George Churchill.

The cause of liberty throughout the world.

By Daniel P. Cook, Esq.

*The town of Edwardsville*.- More wives and fewer bachelors; and may they all be as celebrated for the discharge of their private duties, as they now are for their patriotism.

By William L. May, Esq.

*The American Fair*.- How sweet is the soldier's toil, when

they contribute to his comfort.

By Mr. Daniel Tolman.

*The Territory of Missouri*.- As the potter forms the clay, so may congress restrict the laws for the government of a country bought without our constitutional bounds.

By Mr. Stephen Dewey.

*The star-spangled banner*.- Though last, not the least *free born in the west*.- May the *moons* (of Missouri) *change her horns to the fashion*.

By Lt. Col. H. L. Harris.

*Lewis and Clark*.- May their adventures be impressed on the memories of those who realize the benefits of their discoveries.

By Mr. Ely G. Harris.

*Sons of Columbia*!- May we always act valiantly for our liberties, and may the soil of independence be the tomb of her invaders.

By Mr. R. B. Spalding.

*Dr. Benjamin Franklin*-Who snatched the lightning from the heavens, and taught Great Britain humility.- May his name for ever adorn fame's brightest pages.

By Maj. T. W. Smith.

*Gov. Edwards, our Senator in Congress*-His talents add dignity to the station; his worth and services are appreciated by the people.

By J. F. Morehead, Esq.



*The growing state of Illinois*.- Although yet completely in her hull, she is destined, at no distant day, to be one of the most magnificent domes in the great American fabric.

The utmost hilarity prevailed, and the citizens seemed to vie with each other in their endeavors to perpetuate the spirit of '76, and to honor the memory of the founders of our national independence.





**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 Sewing Circle 12pm 	8	9	Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies 9 am—2 pm			13
14 Sewing Circle 12pm 	15	16	17 M.C.H.S. Summer Camp, 9:30 am	18	19	20 Garden Fence Replacement
21 Sewing Circle 12pm 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sewing Circle 12pm 	29	30	31			

# Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies, July 10-12



Young ladies attending this summer camp will discover what it was like to be a real American girl in the 1820s. Participants dress in reproduction clothing similar to styles worn in the early 1800s. At the end of the camp, a virtual tea party will be hosted by participants for their families showcasing the skills learned during the three-day camp. Open to girls ages

8-12 years old. Due to the difficulty of some camp projects, we cannot accept campers younger than 8 years old.

Pre-registration is required and must include a completed registration form (form may be emailed or mailed separately). Dress size is needed for each participant. Participants should bring a sack lunch. The site will provide a mid-morning snack and bottled water. Space is limited to 12 participants. Camp fee is \$110 per camper (due at registration). If this camp is canceled for any reason by the museum, all registration fees will be refunded.

To register a child visit  
<https://stephenhouse.org>

## News & Needs

**Thank you...**Craig Riley for replacing the wellhouse roof. He worked tirelessly on two of the hottest days so far this summer.

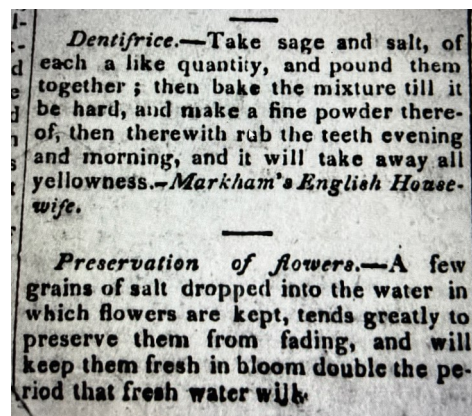
**Thank you...**Glen Carbon Heritage Museum director, Samantha Doolin, for helping out a fellow museum during the Pioneer Summer Camp.

### Needs...

- A case of bottle water and prepackaged snacks from Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies summer camp.
- Old socks to darn. We realize this sounds strange but there is a 'sock darning' session planned

for Mrs. Lucy's Academy this year and holey socks are in short supply in our 'throw-away' world.

- Please return Volunteer Training binders if you have one. We have around 15 for use but only three are currently in the library.
- Aprons and day caps for the interpretive wardrobe
- Volunteers to help with house tours, gift shop, garden & grounds, grant writing & research, special event, as well as seamstresses to sew clothing for the volunteer wardrobe.



Above: *The Spectator*, July 19, 1823





# June Happenings



(Top Left & Top Center) Teaching visitors how to do laundry at Jefferson Barrack's "Bitter Conflicts" event. (Above) Hosting an adult bus tour. (Top Right) Craig Riley replaced the well house roof. (Right & Bottom Right) Having fun in the 1950s Diner tent at the Route 66 Festival. (Bottom Center, Bottom Left & Left) Attendees at the Pioneer Summer Camp learning how to start a fire with flint & steel, wash laundry, make clay marbles and churn butter.

