



JUNE 2024

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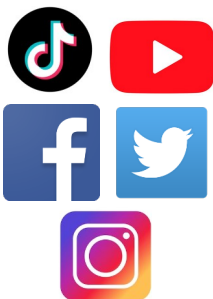
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Update on the Stephenson House Vegetable Garden

by Donna Bardon



Master gardeners Carol Gardner, Debbie Rathert, and Ron Stelborn working on a Wednesday morning in May.

The gardens and grounds of the Col. Benjamin Stephenson House help to tell the story of life in Edwardsville in the 1820s.

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners plan, provide, plant, and maintain a large vegetable garden, as well as the prairie garden around the parking lot, a pleasure garden, a shady woodland garden, a formal rose garden with boxwood hedges, an herb garden, fruit trees, and grape vines.

Thomas Jefferson was an avid gardener at his Monticello estate in Virginia. Jefferson kept detailed notes on his gardening enterprise and corresponded regularly with garden experts both here and abroad. Benjamin Stephenson grew

up in Virginia and would have been familiar with the crops and plants in that state. Jefferson's extensive garden notes are available in books and online, and the Stephenson House gardeners use Jefferson's records as a guide for plant selection.

The Stephenson family would have grown many of the same crops as Jefferson. This year the vegetable garden includes cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, spinach, radishes, arugula, Swiss chard, kale, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard greens, beets, turnips, and rutabaga. The spring vegetables will be followed by warm-weather crops of corn, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, cucumbers, okra, scarlet runner beans, Virginia gourdseed corn, sesame, and green beans. The garden also includes "household" crops

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Flax had a variety of uses in the early 19th century ranging from rope to cloth.

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such as cotton, flax, tobacco, and broom corn as well as perennial crops of rhubarb, artichokes, walking onions, lovage, and asparagus. This year, a cutting garden of amaranth, hyacinth bean vine, celosia, calendula, and nigella will be added. Tenderloin Farms Lavender donated two kinds of lavender, Hidcote and Provence, to enhance the cutting garden.

The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners have worked at Stephenson House for more than 20 years, volunteering more than 6,000 hours during that time. This year's Master Gardeners are Rodney Almos, Donna Bardon, Kathryn Stullken Biarkis, Michelle Collins, Carol Gardner, Debbie Rathert, and Ron Stellhorn.



(Above) A total of twelve lavender plants (6 Hidcote and 6 Provence varieties) were donated to the garden this year by Kim Hansen of Tenderloin Farms in Edwardsville. It will take two to three years for the plants to reach maturity but they will be very useful for cuttings, cooking, and summer camps crafts. (Right) Donna Bardon works on adding new plants to the lavender plot.

A Note From the Director



We're gearing up for a busy season with summer camps starting this month. The *Pioneer Summer Camp* is back and set for June 19-21 from 9 am– 2 pm. There are still a few spots left if you know anyone looking for a unique hands-on experience for children. We've not hosted this camp since 2018 so we're excited to be offering it again.

Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies takes place July 10-12. This one fills up fast. Although the name indicates it's for girls, boys are always welcome. Activities for this camp are geared toward sewing, cooking, and the domestic arts but we are very aware those are not limited to just girls.

Please let me know if you'd be interested in teaching a hands-on history activity at either camp. I'm always looking for sessions.

RoxAnn



Greetings from the President

Good Day and Happy June!

I hope everyone enjoyed the beginning of Spring and the holidays in May. I must say that the Desserts of the 19th Century was great fun...even as a volunteer. Jeanne Spencer makes the best desserts for any century!

I didn't make it to the Volunteer Training and Hands-On Learning day but I can only imagine the fun of making fire from flint and steel. And the Boy Scouts think they are cool with two sticks.

We need more volunteers. Since the Pandemic so many non-profits have lost profit and people. The Stephenson House is in the same boat. SO!!!! If you can donate more hours or bring a friend ready to volunteer, that would be fantastic. Know that we can't do this without you. We need our community to lend some hands...just like they did in 1820.

And this is not just about helping, this is about fun!!! And this is about learning more about history...by being in it!!! Think of volunteering as part of your extracurricular activities like going to the movies. You just leave with a lot more and have way more fun.

Along with doing tours and events at the House, we are gearing up for the month and the rest of the summer with the Route 66 Festival, Pioneer Summer Camp, and Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies. We need help with these events and holding down the house while they are going on.

We also still need donations for our Garden Fence. Please make your extra tax-deductible contribution to the fence so we won't be fanning brooms at deer!

I look forward to seeing everyone this Spring and Summer and in the meantime have a beautiful June.

This is Truly Yours,
Lady Blue



News from the Past: June 1823

We're adding new section to the newsletter this month that will feature items originally published in Edwardsville's first newspaper, "The Spectator". George Churchill and Hooper Warren, both former printers and writers for the "Missouri Gazette" in St. Louis started producing the very vocal antislavery newspaper in 1819. After Churchill left in 1820, Hopper Warren continued as editor until its final publication in 1826. Surprisingly, Ninian Edwards (a slave holder) recruited both men and provided the financial backing necessary for the venture. All of the original papers are available online to read and provide an excellent insight into politics, opinions, and life in Edwardsville, as well as the rest of the county, during the time the Stephenson family lived here.

When I began looking through the newspaper from June 7, 1823 the following submissions caught my eye. Originally I'd thought to find just one or two interesting items to share but ended up getting engrossed in a story full of accusations of corruption, intrigue, voter fraud, and the heart-wrenching politics surrounding the institution of slavery. It was spread over two pages and I couldn't decide what to leave out so I reprinted the entire exchange. It reads like a social media argument that could easily be posted today where those involved don't hesitate to sling accusations from the safety of the computer keyboard but in this case the printed paper in 1823. Hopefully, you find the following as interesting as I did.

The following is taken in its entirety from the June 7, 1823 newspaper including spelling and grammar.



Our friends at Vandalia shall be attended to, as soon as we can lay our hands on a file of their paper, published during the summer of 1820.

TO T. W. SMITH, ESQ.

In the last number of your paper, you have signified your intention not to enter into a "paper war" with me, under the responsibility of your own name. By doing this, you have given an explicit manifestation, that, so long as you could remain in your lurking place, concealed from the public eye, you would not hesitate to attack the reputation of one, who had never given you just cause of offence, merely because he would not abandon the course he had uniformly pursued, to follow at your heels, through all your various windings, and political tergiversations; but, when called upon by him, to come out and explain yourself, you shrink from so reasonable and just a requisition, although

you had been informed, from a source which you could not discredit, that your insinuations against him had no foundation in truth, if indeed, they were ever believed by you.

Such conduct in you, sir, will be appreciated as it deserves, and happily relieves me from all necessity of taking any further notice of you, in this way. I shall, therefore, embrace this favorable opportunity to wave all considerations of a personal nature, in relation to yourself, and leave you to your own reflection.

Editor of the Spectator.

A HINT.

It was suggested to us, some weeks ago, and reiterated a few days since, so very significantly, that we were in *the power* of a certain gentleman in Edwardsville, that we cannot help believing the suggestion was made with his approbation, and that it was intended to intimidate us from pursuing such a course on the subject of slavery, as our judgment and conscience might dictate. The subject is a delicate one. The gentleman alluded to will perfectly understand this hint. We bid him defiance, and assure him, that, if he should be mean enough to descend to the pitiful measure, which we understand to be intimated we will expose and punish him to the heart's content of the bitterest enemy he has in the world. He, therefore, will please to take notice, that we ask no quarters from him. We have no secrets that we wish him to keep for us, and we do not fear his malevolence. We never have been deterred from doing what we thought our duty. Our course upon the subject of slavery has been consistent and uniform, and we shall fearlessly persevere in it. This however, we intended to do, without giving just ground of personal offence to any one. How far we shall have to depart from our wish, in this respect, will depend upon the conduct of others. If permitted to do so, we would still prefer to avoid as much as possible, every thing calculated to produce personal irritation. But we are ready to meet whatever may come.

It has often been asserted, that the *Ladies* are almost unanimously in favor of slavery. This may be true, in a great degree, as far as it relates to the towns and cities of our state. But in the *country*, we presume, the case is somewhat different. The following communication is from the wife of a plain, but respectable farmer of Madison county, which we publish with the more pleasure, as it evinces the anxiety and solicitude which is felt on this momentous question, notwithstanding the efforts made, by certain politicians, to persuade the people to believe, that "slavery is wholly unconnected with the subject of a convention."

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FOR THE SPECTATOR.

My Friends:

I would call your attention for a moment, while I address you on the subject of *liberty*. Personal freedom is surely the most desirable enjoyment placed within the grasp of mortality. It is altogether congenial to human feeling; it agrees well with that divine notion of right, engraved on the human intellect by its Author. We see that our forefathers could not abide the horrible thought that they, and their posterity should come under British tyranny. No, they could not, but, roused at the mere *flash* of oppression, they were quickly begirt with glittering arms, and arrayed in the sanguine fields, where

In bloody fight with awful pain,
They did our liberties obtain.

At the recollection of this, should not every patriotic breast swell with gratitude, that our ancestors inherited a spirit so noble? And have their sons degenerated? I trust not. Let the British with a beligerent force land on our shores, and see if our young men will not fly, equipped with valor and steel, to the field of battle, and fight within a hairs-breadth of their lives: yea, many of them will suffer their bodies to lie on the crimson field, sooner than wear the british yoke. And who could blame them? Surely none. Since our liberty has cost so much, can there be a man in the land, base enough, and regardless enough of his own interest to cast it away?

Although there was sadness a while for the loss sustained, when General Washington and General Morgan led their ragged striplings to the bloody plain, rejoicing soon flashed from the countenance of every gallant whig, for the victories gained. Through the efficacy of their sufferings and intrepidity, we, their posterity, can sail over the vast expanse of ocean, without the least danger of being molested. Thanks be to the most High, we are a free nation, and have reason to rejoice that our fathers were lion hearted, and endowed with wisdom adequate to there undertaking, and that they offered their lives at the shrine of Liberty; whence they were conducted to surround the throne of eternal light, where oppression and wrong can never enter. Seeing, that liberty is so much to be desired, and should belong equally to all, should not our rulers extend it as far as the bounds of possibility may permit? Oppression! O, it is as odious as hell! It is abominable in the sight of all who wish to do justice!

I think I hear the poor African say,

" O, that my body was laid in the clay !
My wife and my children are from me took,
My friends and parents long have I forsook,
Not willing to part but yet I must go,

Though it should cause both misery and wo."

I think I hear another one say,

" May I never see the brightness of day ;
My limbs to bleaching sun's and parching sands
Are exposed, see my crusted feet and hands!
No shoes for to wear, no clothes to put on,
To save me from neither brier nor thorn !"

I think I hear another one say,

"I am starved both night and day;
Yet is this all I have to lament? No;
Many scars and wounds to you can I show.
My body is beat with wood and with hide,
Which oft lays open my back and my side;
I often cry, O Lord what shall I do!

Must I live with this soul-tormenting crew!

My master and mistress I must obey,
Until my poor body drops into the clay !"

And hark! I hear another one say,

" My head, by sun-beams scorch'd, is growing
grey.

Although my hateful race is nearly run,
Yet tasks of heavy nature must be done.

Though I have raised many a slave with pain,
Yet nor freedom nor rest can I obtain.

Humpled and crumpled as I now do stand,
I must jump at my young lord's command!

My young mistress says I must her obey,

Though I should rise three hours before day!

O, my misery on earth is so great!

May I be eased by some pitying fate.

I do not pretend to say that all those who have slaves give them this horrible treatment, but there are hundreds, yea thousands of poor Africans in the United States, who do receive inhuman treatment of this description, and even of a worse description than tongue can describe! Then why did we fight for liberty, while we still strengthen the oppressor's chain? O, it is rank inconsistency! It ought not to maculate the character of the true sons of Columbia.

Could all slave-holders be brought to a proper view of the

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injustice of slavery, this worst of all reproaches, would be hurled with indignation from our shores. Some pretend to say, he eats, he wears, he fares as I do, and has less to perplex him, and is consequently happier than if he was free. But let those who think so, change conditions with the negro, then they may be believed. If liberty is worth the blood of thousands, why withhold it from any? Some say because they are black. Is this any reason? Surely not. are they not human flesh and blood, endowed with the same faculties we are. Though deprived of the opportunity of being equal in education?

If a certain degree of intellectual strength should be made the line of demarcation between slaves and free men, what balance, what measure is there, whereby to ascertain the precise point? Should such a division be made, surely all will agree that every thing having a sense of the indignity of slavery ought to go free.

JANE GOOD.

Ridge Prairie, June 2d, 1823.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman residing in Fredericksburgh, Virginia, to his correspondent in this state, dated

"Fredericksburgh, 22d April, 1823.

"I am advised that it is probable there will be a convention of the people of Illinois, the object of which I regret extremely to learn, is to alter the constitution so as to admit slaves to be held in the state. I can think of no event that would (in my opinion) be more pernicious to the interests of the people of the state, and all who have an interest in the lands there. The increase of your population by emigration, I imagine, has been and must continue to be, principally from the northern and eastern states; a people whose principles, habits, and prejudices are much opposed to slavery, and living amongst those who hold slaves. Emigration has seldom, I believe, been from the south to the north, and I see no reason to expect that it will be witnessed to any considerable extent with you, even should the proposed alterations in your constitution take place; and by *it* you would lose much of the northern and eastern competition in the purchase and sales of your lands. Could the slaves of Virginia be removed from it, and a prohibition put to their future introduction, it is believed by many that the lands in this state would be more valuable, than the lands and slaves together at this time. I speak only of the pecuniary interest of the state; believing that it never entered the mind of man, that the moral condition of a people was improved by introducing slaves amongst them."

The writer of the above, is the owner of forty-seven quarter sections of land in Illinois.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

Ever since the adjournment of the Legislature, the Vandalia paper has kept up an incessant cannonade against Mr. Churchill, one of the representatives from this county, for having as it is alledged "*refused to obey instructions.*" But lest the very limited circulation of the Vandalia paper might render its attack ineffectual, Mr. William Berry, one of its editors, has *labored three months* to collect proofs that Mr. Churchill did refuse to obey instructions; and has kindly sent them among us in the form of a handbill. In this handbill, he plainly gives us to understand that he shall lose all his "*respect for the good sense and republican integrity of the citizens of Madison,*" if they presume to reelect Mr. Churchill. But, after using a great many *hard words*, he introduces his *proofs*, which are as follows :

"This is to certify that I was present in a conversation between Thomas Coats and George Churchill, a representative from the county of Madison, and heard said Churchill tell Coats, that if he would bring instructions from the county of Madison signed by three hundred and four of the qualified voters that voted at the last election of the said county of Madison, he would vote for a resolution having for its object to permit the people of the state to vote at the next election for representatives to the General Assembly, for, or against a convention.

CHARLES SLADE."

"Sworn to, and subscribed before me, a justice of the peace for Fayette county, this 17th February, 1823.

JAMES M. DUNCAN, J. P."

Now, to my mind, this affidavit, so far from proving that Mr. Churchill "*refused to obey instructions,*" proves directly the reverse. It gives the lie to the assertions of his enemies, who have for three years circulated the falsehood that he was opposed to the right of instruction. It is a well known fact that Mr. Coats considered the promise sufficiently liberal. It is also well known that he and his coadjutors tried very hard to obtain the instructions. Every species of deception was resorted to for this purpose. Some were told that Mr. Churchill had earnestly requested to be instructed to vote for the convention--others, that he wrote the instructions himself -- others, that he would vote for the convention if instructed to do so by "304 signers"-- and others, that he would vote for the convention if instructed by "304 voters." The people were told that all the members of the General Assembly from the eastern part of the state, were in favor of removing the seat of government to the Mississippi: and to do away all fears of the introduction of slavery, it was inserted in the body of the instructions that the Courts of the United States would declare both illegal and inoperative any clause in the new constitution which might authorize the introduction of slavery. This not being sufficient it became necessary to make repeated assurances to the people that slavery was not the object, and that slavery could not be admitted, even if the people wished

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for it. By such base means, the friends of slavery succeeded in deceiving a number, and in obtaining their signatures to the instructions, but after all they did not procure more than about half of the stipulated number; and this for the very plain reason that at least four-fifths of the people of Madison county have always been opposed to slavery, and to every measure which would tend to introduce or extend it.

Mortified and chagrined, at their failure, they determined to make up the deficiency out of other materials. Accordingly they set down the names of a considerable number of boys, strangers, citizens of other counties and states, and citizens who did not vote in Madison county at the last election. There still being a deficiency, they supplied the same by forging a number of signatures.

Now, if the persons whose names were signed to the instructions, did vote in Madison county at the last election, how easy it would be to prove that Mr. Churchill violated his promise! But so far from this, we see the slave party striving to keep the instructions concealed. Mr. West borrows them from Mr. Churchill under the pretext of copying them, and under a solemn promise that he would return them before they left Vandalia. After repeated calls he informs Mr. Churchill that he had given them to Senator Smith, and requested him to hand them to Mr. Churchill. Mr. Smith refuses to deliver them, and even refused to let Mr. Lockwood copy the names. The instructions are next found in possession of a person residing in Troy. Two respectable gentlemen of Ridge Prairie requested permission to copy the names, and are refused! One of them (Mr. Samuel R. Reid) is suffered to look at one of the lists of names, and finds thereon his own name, which had been forged for the purpose of deceiving the representatives of the county! Is this conduct indicative of a good cause, supported by honest, just, and fair means? Is it not, on the contrary, strong presumptive proof, that the forgeries which have been committed, are far more numerous than any one has yet imagined? Why do not the slave party publish the instructions, together with the signatures? Why refuse permission to copy them? The reason is very plain. They did not get more than about half of the requisite number of signatures from among those who voted in Madison county at the last election. After a great deal of hard riding, a great many cold fingers, and considerable wear and tear of conscience, they learned by experience the truth of what Mr. Churchill told their leader, when he came to inquire whether Mr. €. would obey instructions or not, viz: that a vast majority of the people of Madison county were opposed to slavery, and of course opposed to a convention, the object of which was generally known to be the introduction of slavery: that it was therefore impossible that they should instruct their representatives to vote for the convention; and useless to attempt to procure such instructions. His undertaking to get these instructions--his disappointment,

and consequent vexation and resentment, reminds us forcibly of the urchin who runs to find the precise spot where the end of a rainbow rests upon the earth in hopes of finding a pot of money buried beneath.

CRITO.

ANOTHER FORGERY DETECTED!
TO THE PUBLIC.

Having ascertained that my name has been affixed to a paper instructing the senator and representatives from Madison county to vote for the convention, I consider it proper to state that I have never signed any such paper, nor have I ever authorized any person to sign my name thereto.

SAM'L R. REID.

June 2, 1823.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

Mr Wm. Berry of Vandalia, having been so kind as to inform the people of Madison county who they ought not to elect to the General Assembly, it is hoped and believed his kind offices will not stop here, but that he will, in due season, issue his bulletins, making known to them what persons they may elect without incurring his high displeasure, or forfeiting his "respect for the good sense and republican integrity of the citizens of Madison.

Q.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

To Messrs. Abraham Prickett, Joseph Borough, Robert Pogue, Joseph Pogue, Thomas Coats, James Riggan, George W. Kerr, David Hendershot, and others.

GENTLEMEN,

Your names have been signed to a paper, purporting to contain instructions to the members of the General Assembly from the county of Madison; from which paper the following extract is taken: " We are convinced that the attempts to represent the voting for such a resolution [a resolution recommending a convention] as being directly calculated to introduce slavery into this state, both as absurd and deceptive; absurd, because it cannot possibly have the least tendency to produce such an object, when it is recollected that the courts of the United States would declare any clause in the new constitution, which might be adopted for such purpose, both illegal and inoperative."

As the correctness of the doctrine contained in this extract, has been denied by many persons who belong to your party, I take the liberty of calling upon you to state, through the medium of

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some public paper, your reasons for the above opinion. Or, if you have altered your belief in this respect, be so good as to let the public know it.

A Citizen of Madison.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

MR. WARREN,

It is not a little ludicrous to witness the means resorted to by a party in this state, arrogating to themselves, all purity of principle, and exclusive republicanism, to introduce unlimited slavery. The whole round of operative motives are sought, to darken and influence the minds of the people.

To a people professing unmingled republicanism, whose constitution declares "That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights; among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, and of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness"- it would seem to be treason against the principles of their government, to offer an argument in favor of slavery. And yet these apostles of tyranny, "if by some means they may gain some," have urged the policy of introducing slavery to enhance our wealth. Indeed, christianity is brought in, to influence us to bring into bondage a portion of our fellow beings--say they, "to ameliorate the condition of the slave," to remove from our sister states an acknowledged curse, for the purpose of bearing it ourselves. It may be asked, what motives of humanity, or principles of religion, have to do with slavery; a principle which violates them, which nourishes the most overbearing tyranny, elevates one class of society by the degradation of another, which causes one to roll in splendor, and riot in wealth, at the expense of the labors, tears, groans, and blood of the other.

The advocates of slavery, true to their principles, have endeavored to silence opposition by applying odious party names. Such have always been the arts of designing, intriguing politicians. Although loud on behalf of the people's rights, yet forbidding investigation on the all-important question before the people. Does one offer arguments against slavery, these true republicans open on him the cry of aristocrat, and federalist; and does federalism and aristocracy consist in opposing slavery, and republicanism in introducing it? Are these names charged because they indicate the principles of the men to whom they are affixed? Are they not rather to cast an odium on the opposition, and to stifle inquiry?

Men and parties are to be judged of, by their principles and objects, rather than by their names. Do we not see the ministers of our holy religion proscribed, and forbidden to utter a word on the subject of slavery; and have they no duties to perform to

society, when its foundations are about to be shaken, by introducing principles confounding right and wrong? Does religion command them to be silent, when a great moral question is to be acted on? Our free constitution guarantees to every person the right freely to "speak and right and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty" -- and declares that "the free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man." This invaluable right, the people of this state, of all denominations, will exercise. They will think for themselves. They will discern, through the thin veil which pretended republicanism has drawn around the question, real aristocracy and tyranny; and, meeting it with that moral courage, and firm fortitude, which their fathers have exhibited in times of peril and trial, will declare to the admiring world, that the principles which warmed the besoms of their ancestors, still burns in theirs.

FREEDOM.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

HISTORY OF RACHAEL,

A Free Woman of Color.

She came to this country in or about 1804. and contracted as a free woman to serve Joseph Cornelius, of St. Clair, for fifteen years. Though she is acknowledged of record as free, her children, I believe eight in number, some of whom were born since she came to the country, have been held as slaves or servants, with the exception of one on her breast-- though, Rachael, by her own industry, raised to the present time, five of them. To give a history of the various attempts made to enslave them, and send them to Orleans, by open violence, by secret stratagem, and by WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS! would consume too much time; but if necessary, it MAY HEREAFTER be given to the public. She brought with her an infant boy to the country, and he has remained here until last fall, and yet, amazing to tell, he is claimed as a slave or servant! This boy was taken in daylight, on the public square in Belleville. He was thrown into a Dearborn, and before the people could collect to rescue him, he was driven off out of their reach, and lodged at the Sodom of the state, viz. the town of Illinois. Ben, however, miraculously escaped, and says they intended him for the Orleans market!! There have been repeated open attempts to take Ben since, and so insecure was his situation here, (for the laws and officers of the country either could not or would not protect him) that he had to seek safety by flight to another state. She had a fine boy of the name Perry, that she raised herself; and her house in Belleville was forced in the night, last fall, in search of Ben. They could not find Ben, but they took Perry, and poor boy, he is now, no doubt, about Orleans, a slave for life!! Since then, these vile robbers of human liberty, have kidnapped all Rachael's children, Ben and the infant

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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

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

We Need Your Help at the Route 66 Festival Diner Tent

The Edwardsville Parks Department has asked us to host the 1950s Diner tent at the Route 66 Festival on June 8. We will be dusting off our diner decorations from trivia night 2023, to give the tent a fun retro vibe (*See photo below*). It's our job as hosts, to welcome visitors, talk about the House, provide photo ops, and a place for attendees to sit to eat their treats from the food trucks (*We aren't serving food, just fun*).

It's a great way for the museum to connect with the community plus get our name out there. There will be three-hour shifts starting at 9 am with set up. Ideally, there should be at least two people (or more) manning the tent at all times. The festival committee would like us to wear 1950s-style clothing to go along with the theme but if that's not possible then a Stephenson House t-shirt and blue jeans will suffice. If you'd like to help, please

let RoxAnn know at stephensonhouse1820@yahoo.com.

Festival Shifts

9 am, Setup – Rachel H.
Peggy E.

11 am - 2 pm – Andrea M.

2 pm - 5 pm - Liz E.

5 pm - 8 pm – Blue



Desserts of the Early 19th Century: Queen's Cakes

by Jeanne Spencer

Queen Cakes

Mix a pound of dried flour, the same of sifted sugar, and of washed clean currants. Wash a pound of butter in rose-water, beat it well, then mix with it eight eggs, yolks and whites beaten separately, and put in the dry ingredients by degrees; beat the whole an hour; butter little tins, tea-cups, or saucers, and bake the batter in, filling only half. Sift a little fine sugar over just as you put it into the oven.

—A New System of Domestic Economy, Maria Eliza Rundell, 1806

Queen Cakes

MOUNT VERNON INN RESTAURANT

<https://www.mountvernon.org/inn/recipes/article/queen-cakes/>

Ingredients

3 large eggs, separated
 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
 1 1/4 cups, plus 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 3/4 cups, plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, sifted
 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 3/4 teaspoon ground mace
 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
 3/4 cup currants
 Sanding sugar for sprinkling

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease five 12-cup mini-muffin pans with vegetable shortening.
2. In the bowl of an electric mixer, or in a large bowl whisking by hand, whip the egg whites to stiff peaks. Pour into a separate bowl, and set aside. Put the egg yolks in the same bowl, and whip or whisk by hand until light and frothy. Set aside.



3. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the butter until creamy. Gradually add the sugar, beating in each addition thoroughly before adding the next one. With the mixer on the lowest speed, add the whipped egg whites, blending thoroughly. Beat in the egg yolks until well combined.
4. Sift the flour with the nutmeg, mace, and cinnamon. Reserve 2 tablespoons. Gradually add the remainder to the creamed mixture, blending in each addition well before adding the next one.
5. Add the reserved 2 tablespoons of spiced flour to the currants and mix. Gently fold into the batter until well combined.
6. Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, filling each cup about 2/3 full. Sprinkle the tops with sanding sugar.
7. Bake the cakes for 12 to 14 minutes, or until a wooden skewer inserted in their centers comes out clean and the tops spring back when lightly touched. Set the cakes on wire racks for 5 to 6 minutes before carefully removing them from the pans to cool thoroughly.

Makes 5 dozen cakes

Upcoming Events, Tours & Activities

- **June 8, 1950s Diner Tent @Route 66 Festival**, 9 am—8 pm. We have been asked by the EDW Parks Department to host the 1950s Diner at the Route 66 Festival. It'll be a great way to connect with festival goers plus get our name out. Volunteers dressed in 1950s style clothing (or House t-shirt & jeans) are needed to help cover three-hour shifts starting at 9 am.
- **June 15, Bitter Conflicts, Jefferson Barracks**, 9 am-4 pm. Some of our volunteer will be attending this timeline event portraying laundresses and War of 1812 soldiers. Docents are needed to help cover the house or attend the event.
- **June 19-21, Pioneer Summer Camp**, 9 am—2 pm. This summer camp teaches children about life in early Illinois. If you are willing to help or teach a session, let RoxAnn know ASAP.
- **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.
- **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

May Happenings at the House






(Top Left & Center) Jeanne Spencer talks about historical sweet dishes to guests during “Desserts of the Early 19th Century”.

(Top Right) Our hydrangea in full bloom.

(Bottom Left) New period-style drapes were installed in the parlor.

Hello June

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Rte 66 Diner Tent 9am-8pm 
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15 Bitter Conflicts @ Jefferson Barracks
16 	17	18	19	20	21	22 Pioneer Summer Camp 9 am—2 pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Pioneer Summer Camp

The 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House will host a Pioneer Camp on June 19-21. Through hands-on history activities, the three-day camp will take children back in time to the early years of our state. A variety of activities are planned to give participants a taste of the past.

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost to participate in the three-day camp is \$110 per child; pre-registration is required and the camp fee is due at the time of registration.

Register online at

<https://stephenhouse.org/online-store/ols/products/pioneer-summer-camp>



(Continued from page 8)

on the breast excepted !! They have several times taken her husband, to send him below, but he has miraculously escaped, and been rescued from them. A few days since, as she passed the town of Illinois, on her way to St. Louis, it is alleged, there was an attempt made to kidnap her and her infant child; and it is believed she dare not return to Belleville, unless she have a guard.

Such is the state of our society, and such is the daring villany that with brazen front stalks through the land. O when shall it be annihilated! Poor unfortunate Rachael is left to mourn her intolerable loss. "Rachael is weeping for her children, and will not be comforted, because they are not."

EQUAL RIGHTS.

News & Needs

Thank you...

Kim Hansen at Tenderloin Farms (EDW) for the donation of 12 lavender plants for our garden.

Needs...

- 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 socks with holes are in short supply in our 'throw-away' world.
- Volunteers to help in the 1950s Diner Tent during the Route 66 Festival, June 8, 9 am- 8pm. For more information, please contact

RoxAnn.

- Please return Volunteer Training binders if you have one. We have around 15 for use but only three are currently in the library.
- We're looking for volunteers to teach sessions during our upcoming summer camps; *The Pioneer Camp* (June 19-21) and *Mrs. Lucy's Academy* (July 10-12). If interested, let RoxAnn know ASAP.
- Aprons, shifts, 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

- Gift cards to local fabric stores in order to purchase fabric for house clothing.