



MAY 2025

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www.stephensonhouse.org

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A Newsletter for the volunteers & friends of the Stephenson House



New Garden Obelisks

by Ronnie Stellhorn



The newest additions to the Stephenson House Garden are two garden obelisk trellises built by Ronnie Stellhorn. Stellhorn has served as one of the House's Master Gardeners for the past 12 years. The obelisks were fashioned from 2" X 2" furring strips that can be purchased from any lumberyard or

"big box" store. Our obelisks are 6 feet tall and approximate 2 feet square at the base. Not only are they aesthetically pleasing additions, but they also serve a practical purpose. The gardeners plan to use the trellises to support plants such as pole beans, snow peas, cucumbers, and hyacinth beans.

Historians believe that garden obelisks first made their appearance in late 17th century France on the estate of King Louis XIV. In colonial America they were frequently found in Williamsburg, VA and at Jefferson's Monticello near Charlottesville, VA.

In France a freestanding obelisk trellis is known as a "tuteur." In English, "tuteur" means to train or tutor – the reference is for plants, not people.

Stop by this summer to see how well our new trellises are training our plants to reach for the sun.

Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies

Young ladies are invited to discover what it was like to be a real 1820s American girl during Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies June 25-27 from 9 am-2 pm.. Participants will enjoy three immersive days filled with hands-on activities that reflect the daily life of young girls in the early 19th century and the new state of Illinois. Activities include sewing, etiquette, journaling, writing with quill and ink, cooking, drawing and more—all while wearing reproduction dresses.

The camp is open to girls ages 8-12. Due to the difficulty of some camp projects, we cannot accept campers younger than 8. Pre-registration is required. Participants should bring a sack lunch but the site will provide snacks, bottled water, and project all supplies

This camp is almost sold out and space is limited to 12 participants. Camp fee is \$110 per camper (due at time of registration.)

For more information or to register a camper, visit our Summer Camps page at www.stephensonhouse.org.



War of 1812 Militia Summer Camp

Join the Adventure This Summer at the 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House!

Calling all young recruits! We're looking for boys and girls to enlist in our War of 1812 Militia Summer Camp, happening July 16–18, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Campers will step back in time to discover what life was like during the War of 1812—right in their own backyard!

Activities include:

- Marching drills
- Posting the colors
- Cooking over an open fire
- Learning about camp life
- Hands-on history activities ...and much more!

Details:

- Open to students entering 5th–7th grade

- Limited to 12 participants
- \$110 registration fee includes supplies and snacks
- Campers must bring a sack lunch each day

Registration and payment are required in advance to secure a spot.

Ready to enlist? Visit our Summer Camp page to register: www.stephensonhouse.org





Tickets \$2 each or six for \$10

Raffle
Includes

Dk's Meat Bundle

Hamel, Illinois

Includes:

5 lbs Ground Round
5 lbs New York Strip Steak
5 lbs Sirloin Steak
5 lbs Pork Kabob

&

Gas Grill

Tickets can be purchased at the museum, online (www.stephensonhouse.org) or from any board member.

Drawing will be held live on our Facebook page at 12 pm, June 7, 2025.

1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House
P.O. Box 754 (mailing only)
409 S. Buchanan, Edwardsville
618-692-1818

April Happenings at the House



(Clockwise) Winners of the trivia night costume contest. Gillen Raisner & John Mullane as Camren & Ferris (*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*). RoseEllen Osborne & Blue taking a much deserved break.

The Frerichs ladies strike a pose. Rhubarb flourishing in the garden. The sage next to the kitchen in full bloom. MTV Astronaut, Liam Osborne, poses with two trivia night attendees.



Auction Items Sought for Spring 2025

The museum is currently accepting donations for our Spring Sid Denny Memorial Antiques Auction, held online. We welcome antiques and collectibles of all types and sizes. If you're unsure whether an item is suitable for donation, please reach out to us by email or phone before proceeding. Please note, we cannot accept modern items.

Please also be aware that we no longer accept 50/50 donations. All donated items become

the property of the museum, and any unsold items will not be returned. Stephenson House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

To donate, please print and complete the form below, or pick one up at our gift shop.

Museum Phone: 618-692-1818

Email: stephensonhouse1820@yahoo.com



Sid Denny Memorial Auction Donation Form

Donor: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Items: _____

News & Needs

Thank You...

...to everyone who made Trivia Night a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

...Trivia Night Sponsors—Friends of Kaie Stuart, Johnston Law Offices, George Alarm Co, Anderson Hospital, Trinas Neely (*Allstate Insurance Agent*), Don Wallace, Andrea Miracle, EXO, Rick Marteeny (*State Farm Insurance*), Weber & Rodney Funeral Home, Scott Credit Union, Elizabeth Edwards, Revity Credit Union, Sean & Rachel Hill, Pangea Development, Donna Gaylor (*Coldwell Banker Brown*), Pat Peverly, Angie Uram (*Coldwell Banker Brown*)

...Ronnie Stellhorn for building the new obelisks for the garden.



Needs...

- Transparent storage/bedding zip bags (like bedsheet sets are sold in). See photo at right.
- Volunteers to help at the museum giving tours, covering the gift shop, and cleaning.
- Someone to split firewood.
- Do you need service hours? We can help! There are a variety of jobs and projects we'd love to have help with.
- Please return Volunteer Training binders, if you have one.

Upcoming Events, Tours & Activities

- May 9, **Trivia Committee Wrap-up Meeting**, 7 pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom.
- May 14, **Desserts of the Early 19th Century**, 6:30 pm. This event is currently sold out but we could use one or two volunteers to help.
- May 22, **Staunton Elementary School tour**, 10 am, 40+/- 3rd graders. Volunteers needed to cover stations.
- May 22, **Staunton Elementary School tour**, 12 pm, 40+/- 3rd graders. Volunteers needed to cover stations.
- May 27, **Board Meeting**, 7 pm



				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Trivia Committee Wrap up Meeting 7 pm	10
11 	12	13	14 Desserts of the Early 19th Century 6:30 pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 School Tour 10 am School Tour 12 pm	23	24
25	26 	27 Board Meeting 7pm	28	30	31	

Be Our Friend...

*Renew your membership or become a new Friend.
Fill out and mail the following information to us.*

YES! I want to help. Enclosed is my contribution:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Membership Level: _____

Please send me information about volunteering at Stephenson House.

Checks should be made payable to the:

Friends of the Col. Benjamin Stephenson House

Payments may also be made in our online store:

www.stephensonhouse.org

***Memberships are from January to December.** Benefits of membership are extended to an individual and his/her immediate family. We accept cash, check or credit card donations. Memberships are extended for monetary donations only. The Friends of Col. Benjamin Stephenson House is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization FIN 37-1395804



**Send your membership to the
Friends of the Col. Benjamin
Stephenson House
P.O. Box 754
Edwardsville, IL 62025**



Membership Levels

Friend of Ben & Lucy
\$25

Stephenson Family Friend
\$50

Landmark Friend
\$100

Heritage Friend
\$250

Living History Friend
\$500

Founding Friend
\$1,000 or more

**Corporate membership information
available upon request.**

Our Board of Directors & Staff

Muriel Jones, *President*

RoxAnn Raisner, *Site Director*

Peggy Emling, *Vice President*

Phil Stack, *Bookkeeper*

Rachel Hill, *Treasurer*

Stacey Lipe *Secretary*

Sean Goding

Andrea Miracle

Kathleen Schmidt

Jason Stacey

Jaclyn Wallace

Leslie Wood



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