



## A Brief History

When the old Elgin Cemetery on Channing Street began to reach capacity, the city of Elgin bought land at its southeast corner for a municipal cemetery. The Gifford family and the Whitcomb family at one time owned the land. Bluff City was opened in 1889 and graves from the Channing Street location were gradually moved to the new site. While their final resting place may be Bluff City Cemetery, those who died before 1889 had a temporary resting place elsewhere. If you see a grave marker with the date of death prior to 1889 you can be assured that it was moved here from the Channing Cemetery. Even though Bluff City was opened in 1889, internments continued at Channing until the final burial took place there in 1906.

Bluff City Cemetery consists of 107.8 acres of land. Albert Marckhoff, one of the five Marckhoff brothers, was the only one not to follow in the family tradition of brick- or stonemason. Albert was the first sextant, or supervisor, of the cemetery, and laid out the first 12 sections.





## Cast

Jane Peterson — Linda Rock

Vignette — Sara Ellen Anderson and Sue Moylan

Lydia Keyes Becker — Bonnie Conte

Jonathan Force — Mike Delehoy

August Scheele — August Conte

Caroline Chamberlain — Beth Hudson

Vignette — Jim Anderson and Jim Turner

Emil Barth —James Carrigan

Vignette — Marge Edwards, Carrie Edwards and Lisa Eby

## GUIDES 画 2014 CEMETERY WALK

| Alisa Corsi     | Paul Larson     | Sanita Saengvilay |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Babette Colburn | John Marston    | Barbara Schloss   |
| Andrew Cuming   | Monta Nelson    | Pam Thompson      |
| Jana Frohlich   | Leslie Robinson | Doug Tomsha       |
| Tricia Grosser  | Marge Rowe      | Andy Walters      |
| Pam Huske       | Sara Russell    |                   |

## CEMETERY WALK COMMITTEE 2014

Laura & Steve Stroud — Co-Chairs Anne LoCascio — Graphic Design Laura & Steve Stroud, Marge Rowe and Jana Frohlich — Route Planners Elizabeth Marston — Sponsorships & Media Steve Stroud — Cemetery Walk Website

John Fleener — Videographer

George Rowe, John Wiedmeyer and Mark Preradovic —

Chair set-up and Removal

## PAST CHAIRPERSONS

Jerry Turnquist — 1988-1993 Rebecca Minetti — 1994-2000 Linda Rock & Marge Rowe — 2001-2007 Laura & Steve Stroud — 2008 - Present

#### Jane Peterson 1876 – 1965 Portrayed by Linda Rock

Jane Peterson was born and raised in Elgin and graduated from Elgin High School in 1894. She attended the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago where she learned of the Pratt Institute, a new technical school, where she would study art. Her work is well known in the art world and her paintings are on display in art museums throughout the United States.



#### Jonathan Force 1819 – 1888 Portrayed by Mike Delehoy

Jonathan Force came to the Elgin area in 1843 and worked as a mechanic and carpenter. He later bought a large tract of land on the East side of Elgin where he produced fruits for the people of the town. He later sub-divided this land and sold building lots. He didn't believe in banks, so he always collected his money in gold coin.



### August Scheele 1859 – 1940 Portrayed by August conte

August Scheele came to Elgin from Germany in 1873. He went on to establish what was one of the most modern grocery stores of its time. His store set the standard for quality and cleanliness. It opened in 1899 and was known for excellent customer service. At one time, he had 16



delivery wagons in his employ. Two of his homes are located in the the 800 block of Douglas Avenue.

### Caroline Chamberlain 1828 – 1907 Portrayed by Beth Hudson

Caroline came from Belfast, Maine after the death of her husband. She came to live here with her married daughter,



Celestia, the wife of Daniel J. Chamberlain. She was an educated person and she traveled the world. She was a charter member of the Elgin Travel Class, which still exists today.

#### Emil Barth 1897 - 1928 Portrayed by James Carrigan

Emil Barth was born and raised in Elgin. He served two years in the US Army during World War I, then returned to Elgin. He joined the Elgin Fire Department in 1927 and served as a pipeman out of Fire Barn 1. Emil died in the line of duty while answering a call on Orange Street.



#### Lydia Keys Becker 1834 – 1909 Portrayed by Bonnie Conte

Lydia Keys was born in Jamestown, New York and arrived in Elgin with her parents in 1850. She returned to New York to help organize a teacher's college. While in New York she married John Becker and returned to Elgin once again. She taught history and literature at The Elgin Academy for eighteen years and wrote a history of the Academy for its Golden Jubilee.



### vignette one White Bronze Monuments

JIM ANDERSON AND JIM TURNER



#### VIGNETTE TWO Victorian Funeral Hymns

MARGE EDWARDS, CARRIE EDWARDS AND LIZA EBY

#### VIGNETTE THREE

### 逦 Children's Section

SARA ELLEN ANDERSON AND SUE MOYLAN



### Thanks to

Elizabeth Marston — Director, Elgin History Museum Rick Ellis — Supervisor, Bluff City Cemetery Kathy Zark — Office Manager, Bluff City Cemetery Bluff City Cemetery Staff First United Methodist Church — Loan of chairs Laura Stroud — Guide coordinator John Marston, Doug Tomsha — Guide Captains Steve & Laura Stroud — Route Developers Marge Rowe, Jana Frohlich — Route information Al Walters, Steve Stroud — Group coordinators Anne LoCascio — Graphic design George Rowe, John Wiedmeyer, Al Walters, John Marston, Doug Tomsha and Mark Preradovic, Jeff Grosser — Chair set-up and removal Jerry Roller — Parking and traffic control Barry Danielson — Pedestrian traffic Katie Narayan, Rick Grimm, Kylee Dettmann — Greeters Carolyn Roller, Miriam Lytle, Jeri Barnhart, Jodi Perkins, Kathy Walters, Mira Wojciechowska — Registration David & Dolores Nelson — Museum store Ricky Harris, Holly Wiedmeyer — Refreshments & Popcorn Concession Maurice Dyer — Transportation of equipment Students from Elgin High School Jeff Morello — Music Judy Van Dusen — Still Photography Aubrey Neville — Golf Carts Bernice Ferraro, Sue Brown — Fantasy Festival Costume-Magic Centre Klein's Farm & Garden Market Wiener Ville III Jeff Turner — In The Neighborhood Deli & Café, Elgin, Illinois Martina Preradovic — Pastry Chef

#### SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE ACTORS, VIGNETTE SPEAKERS AND GUIDES

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### ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM BENEFIT MR. AND MRS. LINCOLN



#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014 6 P.M.

Heritage Ballroom in the Centre of Elgin 100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL \$40 Members/\$50 Non-Members

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The 2014 Elgin Area Historical Society Benefit will feature Max and Donna Daniels as Abraham and Mary Lincoln discussing their lives before and during the Civil War. The Daniels' have been performing as the Lincolns since 1988, researching and writing their own original scripts. Appetizer refreshments, silent auction and cash bar at the Heritage Ballroom.

# Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve

Bluff Spring Fen is an Illinois Nature Preserve. It is nearly 100 acres in size, with Poplar Creek forming its west boundary. Its rolling terrain includes six distinct plant communities; savanna, medic prairie, dry hill prairie, sedge meadow, marsh and the wetland fens for which it gets its name. Each community has its own set of plants and its own beauty.

There are 15 endangered species there, and many other rare and threatened species. Almost 100 different bird species visit the site each year, with over 35 of them staying to nest on the site. More than 55 different butterflies and over 20 dragonflies and damselflies have been counted. Frogs, turtles, snakes and salamanders live in the fen as well. Deer, raccoons, woodchucks, mice, voles, squirrels, and other mammals live there too, although the increase in the coyote population in the area has thinned out the woodchucks quite a bit.

A walking trail runs through the main part of the preserve and is open to the public every day of the year.

Friends of the Bluff Spring Fen







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David Barclay's Home, circa 1920s



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