

JACKSONVILLE AREA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



416 South Main  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
217-245-9623  
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www.jaghs.myfreelites.net

### Jacksonville Area Genealogical & Historical Society Membership Application

(Please print) (check one) New\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_ Change of Address/Telephone/E-mail\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Street\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

Names Researching\_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters are delivered by e-mail unless mail is requested

Annual Membership \$25.00 per year (January – December)

We survive by your membership and donations. Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Send your check made payable to JAGHS and this form to 416 South Main, Jacksonville IL 62650**

## JAGHS

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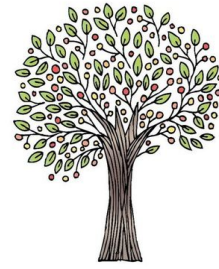
### Hours of Operation:

Wednesday 1 - 3 P.M.  
Friday 1 - 3 P.M.

Thank You to Greg Olson & the Jacksonville Journal Courier.

### BOOKS FOR SALE

David A Smith: Abolitionist, Patron of Learning, Prairie Lawyer By Doris Hopper	\$10.00
To Heights Beyond By L Vernon Caine	\$10.00
A Window on the Past By Phillip Decker	\$10.00
History of Greene County IL (1879)	\$15.00
Winchester IL Sesquicentennial (1830-1980)	\$15.00
Old Cemeteries of Cass Co IL By Arthur Crumrin	\$10.00



If we know where we came  
from, we may better know  
where to go. If we know  
who we came from,  
we may better  
understand who we are

“ Remember and  
honor family who  
have come and gone  
before you. Because  
they had a hand in  
shaping who you  
are.”

Author Unknown

The descriptions of many  
of the landmarks we  
adapted from informa-  
tion taken from the Jack-  
sonville Historic Preser-  
vation Committee Appli-  
cations.

We at JAGHS are continuing to clean and organize our vast collection of resources. We want all that we have to be readily available and easily located. This has been an enormous task as we have had multiple copies of some of our information. We continue to help researchers find information that isn't available on the usual internet locations. Come in and visit us when you are in the area. We would love to see you.

Wanda Dame, Treasurer

The **Strawn Art Gallery** is listed in the National Register for Historic Places. It was built in 1880 by Phoebe Gates Strawn, who was the widow of Jacob Strawn, a wealthy Jacksonville citizen. The Strawns made their fortune in the cattle business and the flour milling industry. They also owned the Strawn Opera House located on the Square. The Strawn Art Gallery is located at 331 W College Avenue. Mrs. Strawn died in 1906. Her family gave the home to the Art Association of Jacksonville in 1915.



The **Gillette House** one of the oldest frame homes in Jacksonville is located at 1005 Grove Street. It was built in 1828. This house, once owned by Bazaleel Gillette, may have been a stop in the underground railroad. It was for sure home and office for Dr. Gillette, who was one of the founders of the Trinity Episcopal Church.



The **Illinois Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb** was established in 1839. It is thought to be the first State charitable institution in the State of Illinois. The Main Building was completed in stages in the 1840's and 50's. It once housed the entire school, but now is used for administration. The Illinois School for the Deaf Administration Building was restored in the mid 1990's with a 3.7 million dollar facelift.



The **Jacksonville Public Library** is located at 201 West College Avenue. Andrew Carnegie donated \$40,000 for the building of the library provided the city of Jacksonville would furnish the property and spend a minimum of \$4,000 annually on its upkeep. On February 13, 1901 the city council accepted the agreement. The building was completed in November of 1902. The Jacksonville Public Library officially opened on February 23, 1903.



The **Asa Talcott House** is located at 859 Grove Street. It was built in sections. The first was completed in 1833. Asa Talcott was one of the founders of the Congregational Church in Jacksonville. Over the years the house was bought and sold several times, and at one time was rented out. It currently is the location of the Jacksonville African American History Museum.



### **1135 West State Street Jacksonville IL**

1135 West State Street is one of the few structures in our city and is the only private residence to be built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. The house, itself, reminds one of a fortress or a castle. A Springfield stone mason, James Scott Culver, (1852-1911), did much of the exterior masonry work as evidenced by his carved last name in the left stone pillar on the front stairs, and the date, 1893. The stone-work, the inset of the windows and doors, and the roof dormers, the porches, all add to the feeling of permanence and rugged strength.



**1042 W State Street –  
Jacksonville’s largest  
Shingle Style house . . .  
built like an ocean-side  
villa.**

The origin of the house at 1042 West State Street is something of a mystery. It is certain that by 1891 the present house had been completed and was owned by William S. and Mary B Hook, for a drawing of the house and the owner’s name appear in the earliest souvenir picture book of Jacksonville,

published in that year. The Hook house, as it is generally called, is one of Jacksonville’s largest, and the city’s only large house built in Shingle Style.



**The Morgan County  
Courthouse,**

located at 300 W. State St. in Jacksonville, is the county courthouse of Morgan County, Illinois. The courthouse, the third built in Morgan County, was constructed from 1868 to 1869. Chicago architect Gurdon P. Randall designed the courthouse in a combination of the Italianate and Second Empire styles. One of the towers houses a 4,000 pounds (1,800 kg) bell, which was intended to be part of a clock that was never installed. A 9-foot (2.7 m) statue of Lady Justice, carved from a single block of pine, originally topped the front entrance; however, after losing its arms around 1872, the statue disappeared in the early 1900s and was never recovered .



**Beecher Hall** on the Illinois College campus is the oldest college building in the state of Illinois. The south half of Beecher Hall was commissioned by the founders of IC right after it was founded in 1829. Two of the men's literacy societies (Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi) have been housed in Beecher Hall since the mid 1800's.



From Jacksonville, IL paper Oct 8, 2007. The square in Oct 1913. Farmers Bank Bldg.( then Ayers National Bank) had just been completed in 1912. The only skyscraper in the city of Jacksonville. Several modes of Transportation are evident in this photo of the west side of the square in 1913.



The **Benjamin H Grierson House** is located at 852 E State Street.

In 1852 Robert and May Grierson and their 5 children purchased the house from Benjamin Hott. In 1866 after returning from fighting in the Civil War, son Benjamin renovated and expanded the house.



The **Chicago and Alton Railroad Station** was designed and built in 1910 and completed in 1911. The “Prairie Style” architecture used was popular in early part of the century. The building was used as a passenger station until the early 1960’s. In the mid 1980’s it was purchased and renovated by Mike and Betty Goldasich who opened Lonzerotti’s restaurant . It has been used as a restaurant since that time under several different owners.