

# INKLINGS AND IDLINGS

The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

313 East Third Street • P.O. Box 585 • Galesburg, Illinois 61402 • (309) 342-2361 • [www.sandburg.org](http://www.sandburg.org)

## Winter 2017-2018

### FROM SITE SUPERINTENDENT MARTHA DOWNEY CELEBRATING SANDBURG'S 140TH BIRTHDAY

"I was born a little after midnight [on January 6, 1878], my mother told me."

Carl Sandburg  
*Always the Young Strangers*

Carl Sandburg's 140th birthday will be celebrated at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site with a performance by David Nagler. He will perform his new musical project "Carl Sandburg's Chicago Poems" on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Site's Barn. Nagler has set Sandburg's poetry to original music in an assortment of styles. Following the performance there will be the opportunity to visit with David while enjoying birthday cupcakes.

David Nagler is a Brooklyn-based musician, composer, singer, and songwriter. As musical director for Wesley Stace's Cabinet of Wonders (featured on NPR), Nagler has performed with over 125 different artists including Joan Baez, Aaron Neville, Rosanne Cash, Fred Armisen, Steve Earle, Moby, Andrew Bird, and Graham Parker.

In 1916, the poet, journalist, biographer, musicologist, and orator Carl Sandburg published his collection *Chicago Poems* to great acclaim. This work helped establish Sandburg as a poet of the people.

One hundred years later David Nagler reimagined sixteen of the most revered poems from the collection as a musical song cycle. "The project has been a true labor of love. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to set to music poetry that, 100 years later, is still beautiful, powerful, and relevant."



David Nagler

### WELCOME, NEW CSHSA MEMBERS!

Some of you will become new members of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association thanks to a friend of yours paying your 2018 dues. They hope that you will become better acquainted with the CSHSA's work and will continue your membership beyond 2018. This quarterly newsletter will tell you about what we are doing to promote the life and legacy of Carl Sandburg. You can learn more by visiting our website [www.sandburg.org](http://www.sandburg.org), visiting and "liking" our CSHSA Facebook page, and by stopping by the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site, 313 E. Third St. in Galesburg, which is open to the public Thursdays thru Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Welcome!**

### SPINK, SKABOOTCH, AND SWIPES IN ROOTABAGA COUNTRY!

By Maya Gomez

(Ed. Note: For many years the CSHSA Board of Directors has hoped to incorporate Carl Sandburg into the curriculum of Knox County schools. A major step in that direction has been accomplished with the performances of SSSIRC in Galesburg elementary and middle schools and Hedding Elementary in Abingdon by young actors of the Carl Sandburg Theater Troupe, including the author of this story, Maya Gomez. This project has been funded by the G.L. Vitale Family Foundation and CSHSA. In addition, CSHSA board members Pat Kane and Pam Fox met with teachers prior to performances of SSSIRC to introduce them to the Sandburg project. According to Pat, "CSHSA gifted the schools with a study unit that includes possible lesson outlines and 14 Sandburg resources and artifacts for teachers to use when developing a Sandburg field of study for their students.")

Almost everyone who has lived in Galesburg has heard of Carl Sandburg, but many haven't ever picked up one of his books or learned much about his life. In "Spink, Skabootch, and Swipes in Rootabaga Country!" our six actors bring Sandburg's whimsical writings to life. These six performers and our director Tim Holmes are some of my favorite people and very dear friends, and it is a very special experience to be able to put together this educational experience with them. I feel very lucky to be a part of something so unique and important to the community. Along our journey in Rootabaga Country every one of us has learned something new about Sandburg, and a genuine interest in his works has been sparked in us all. To be able to perform in Carl Sandburg's backyard [on June 24, 2017] with train horns blowing in the distance and his resting place so near, we all feel a very close connection with him and his words. Now that we are traveling to local schools, we are able to share this connection with others. Every member of our

cast is immensely grateful for this experience and would like to thank the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association, Galesburg School District 205, Abingdon School District 276, and our director Tim Holmes for this opportunity.



**Cast of "Spink, Skabootch, and Swipes in Rootabaga Country!"**  
Front l-r: Paige Davis, Joey Lucero, Nick Rush. Back l-r Maya Gomez, Mary Helen Burdick, Lauren Palmer.

## NEW CSHSA MEMBERS DICK & PAT CONKLIN

By Pat Conklin

(Ed. Note: Galesburg residents Dick and Pat Conklin joined the CSHSA in the summer of 2017. Pat's story here explains why they joined.)

Growing up in Minnesota, which was known as the "Land of Lakes," Carl Sandburg's great writings might have escaped me if it had not been for Mr. Jacob Polta. Mr. Polta was my English teacher when I was a freshman in high school.

One day in study hall this same Mr. Polta saw that I was reading a romance novel. He called me up to his desk and asked me if I wanted to get an A in English. I told him with confidence that indeed I expected to get an A. He said that then I needed to stop reading romance novels and start reading something with substance. Never mind that I was reading romance novels for recreation, only after completing all of my assignments and homework.

Mr. Polta was not a teacher with whom I felt free to "discuss" this, so I followed him to the library, where he chose Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and The War Years*. As I looked at the size of that book, the Marcy Romance books never looked so good. However, I smiled and took it back to my desk.

Once I started reading about Lincoln, I could not put the book down, and Carl Sandburg became one of my favorite authors. I am not sure for what age group he was

writing this book, but I found his writing engaging and Lincoln fascinating.

As a side note, it was at this time while I was reading Sandburg's books, that he was asked to speak to a joint session of Congress on the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Sandburg is one of only a few private citizens to hold this honor.

Over the years I read a few more of Sandburg's books. Then twenty years after I was first introduced to him, we moved to Galesburg. Of course, we checked out everything Sandburg and Lincoln in Galesburg and introduced our own children to the landmarks that are here. We were especially pleased to learn that the site of the Fifth Lincoln-Douglas Debate was still standing at Knox College.

Soon after moving here, I was able to locate Mr. Polta, and I wrote to him to let him know that I was now living in the "Land of Lincoln," and I thanked him for introducing me to Carl Sandburg's writings about President Lincoln. He told me that he too had been introduced to them by a teacher.

Fast forward to June of 2017. We saw an advertisement that there was going to be a presentation of some of Carl Sandburg's *Rootabaga Stories* by local young artists. We were intrigued by the idea that Sandburg wrote American fairy tales for American children, since many of the European ones did not fit the experiences of American children. That, along with the fact that we knew several of the young people in the cast, took us to the Sandburg State Historic Site where they were performing. We enjoyed the experience, and we thought we would like others to also have that opportunity. The best way to do that, of course, would be to join and support the Carl Sandburg Historical Site Association. We joined!

The question probably is not "Why did we join the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association," but rather "Why did we not join the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association sooner?"

## PENNY PARADE

In 1909 Sandburg wrote this in a newspaper story about the newly-minted Lincoln penny, "The common, homely face of 'Honest Abe' will look good on the penny, the coin of the common folk from whom he came and to whom he belongs." Our Penny Parade is a fund raiser for the Sandburg Site. In the past, proceeds have been used to pay for brick sidewalks, landscaping, outdoor lighting, and a sound system in the Barn. Area students will bring the pennies they have collected to the Site on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, 2018 at 1 p.m. There will be a short program and refreshments. You may make your donation during regular Site business hours or at the program on February 12.

## THE LOMBARD BELL

By Rex Cherrington

(Ed. Note: CSHSA Board Member and Knox College grad Rex Cherrington designated his annual gift to Knox College to bring the Lombard Bell out of storage and put on display.)

The Lombard College bell has been on the Knox College campus since the 1930's. It was moved there after the closing of Lombard College in June 1930. The dedication of the Lombard Bell as a symbol of the unification of the Lombard College Alumni Association and the Knox College Alumni Association took place on October 16, 1936 during Knox College's Homecoming. While there was not a true merger of these two colleges in an institutional sense, Lombard students who wished to transfer to Knox were welcomed. Also, their course credits earned at Lombard were treated the same as if the courses had been taken at Knox. Thousands of student records from Lombard were moved to Knox College, and the alumni organizations from both colleges merged. Lombard and Knox Colleges had been rivals though everything suggests that the rivalry was a congenial one. Knox College was benefited by the acquisition of the students and their tuition money since the Crash of 1929 had changed the finances for a number of Knox students who would be unable to return in the fall of 1930.

Local architect Henry Aldrich, Knox College Class of 1910, was called upon to design a faux bell tower in the Gothic style to house the Lombard Bell. Knox College President Carter Davidson had the plans reviewed by Chicago architect Charles Hodgdon who had worked for Knox College in the past and would be guiding the restoration of Knox's Old Main for the college's centennial in 1937. Hodgdon objected to the Aldrich design and the location chosen, but the local favorite won out. The bell was in the faux tower until 2015 when it was decided that the bell and brick structure needed to be removed due to developing an outdoor seating plaza on the south side of Alumni Hall.

Before proceeding with more of the story about the bell on the Knox College campus, the bell was in daily use on the Lombard College campus from 1881 to 1930. The bell was a gift from Austin Grant, a farmer from the Lafayette, Illinois area who owned land in Knox and Stark Counties. Some of the information about him is found in Stark County, some in Knox. Austin Grant's story is interesting enough to include, at least briefly, here. In his younger days he had affiliated with the Latter Day Saints Church, known to most as the Mormons. His father was Joshua Grant III born in Stonington, New London County, Connecticut in 1778, and his mother was Athalia Howard Grant, born 1786 in Litchfield, Connecticut. The Grant family had lived at Kirtland, Ohio where Joseph Smith established the main temple and headquarters for the Mormon Church. They had been early settlers of Walnut Grove Township in Knox County, part of a rather large Mormon settlement that was claimed to be the largest church congregation in Knox County. His parents are buried at the Altona Cemetery.

Austin Grant, donor of the bell to Lombard, travelled with a Mormon group in 1849 to the California gold fields, where he prospered. We do not know the thinking of Austin Grant, but he left California and the Mormons when he returned to Illinois to pursue farming. He had siblings who remained Mormon. One brother, Jedidiah M. Grant, was the Mayor of Salt Lake City and father of the seventh LDS Church President, Heber Grant. Another brother, George Davis Grant, was a high-ranking Mormon official, once a member of the Council of Seventy and once in the Council of Fifty, who travelled to Utah in 1848 in the Company of Brigham Young. One of Grant's sisters, Caroline, married William B. Smith, brother of the founder of Mormonism, witness to the Golden plates and first Apostle of the LDS church appointed by Joseph Smith. William B. Smith, after the assassination of Joseph Smith, challenged Brigham Young and claimed to be the legitimate second LDS Church President. Young and William B. Smith never reconciled their differences. After Caroline's death another of Austin's sisters, Roxie Ann Rosanna Grant, also married William B. Smith here in Knox County in 1847 though the marriage ended in a bitter and much publicized divorce in 1853.

A book could be written about the adventures of Austin Grant. Most interestingly, when a biographical account of Austin Grant appeared in the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Knox County, Illinois*, published in 1886, there was not a word about the Mormons or Latter Day Saints. It would seem that upon his successful return from the California gold fields in 1852 that he had buried that portion of his past.

Lombard College was sponsored by the Universalist Church. Austin Grant, who became a trustee of the Universalist Church at Lafayette, Illinois in 1885, was a Universalist long before then. His daughter Helen attended Lombard College before the Civil War. At the close of the Civil War she married Samuel S. White, who had gone through his junior year at Lombard before leaving to enlist in the 2nd Illinois Cavalry and rose through the ranks to Major. Helen and Samuel's daughter Jean graduated from Lombard College in 1896 and later served as a trustee for the college. Her married name was Jean White McGill. ,

Now, drawing upon Carl Sandburg's own words from *Ever the Winds of Chance*, we learn about the bell that called classes and dismissed classes at Lombard College during his student days. Sandburg had so many jobs in Galesburg that it would be difficult to identify all of them, but he did write for us his memories of ringing the bell at Lombard and also of snooping around in the bell tower. Sandburg refers to the academic year 1899-1900 when he writes,

*This year I was paying for my tuition by ringing the college bell. When my watch said seven or eight minutes to the hour, I would leave class, go to the second floor of the bell tower, and at five minutes to the hour I would pull the rope to let all within hearing know that class was out. Five minutes later I would again pull the rope to let the*

world know classes should be assembled and ready to recite. There was in the bell tower just about enough space for me to stand and pull the bell rope. Around me was an overflow of books from the college library and elsewhere—books out dated, ragged and disreputable looking, books once quite respectable that had to go somewhere because the space they filled was needed for new arrivals. You could have started a small second-hand bookstore with what had been pushed, shoved and flung in clumsy piles around where I stood. Here I dipped into many of the masterpieces of the Universalist Church literature. Here I met a thin dusty volume, the 1838 Phi Betta Kappa oration of the young Charles Sumner, later United States Senator from Massachusetts, titled “The True Grandeur of Nations.” Nations that knew how to keep peace instead of going to war, such nations had a “true grandeur.”

Something else about the bell that is purely coincidental is that the bell was cast at Troy, New York. That is not highly unusual since Troy was an early manufacturing center, but there is serendipitous significance for us in Galesburg. When Rev. George W. Gale married Harriett Selden, the wedding took place in Troy, the hometown of the bride. The bell now resides forever on the Knox College campus in Galesburg. Rev. Gale led the group that founded Knox College and Galesburg that makes a rather complete circle.

In May 2016, while the bell was in storage, Tomas Junglander from Sweden was here in Galesburg with his friend Wiene Johansson, and we were walking around the Knox College campus. Tomas looked right where the Lombard Bell had been located with apparently perfect recall and asked about the “Sandburg Klocka.” Tomas speaks wonderful English, and I do not speak Swedish, but since I had read *Always the Young Strangers* and remembered the story of “Klocka Johnson,” I knew he was asking about the bell that Sandburg rang. It got me to thinking that I needed to get more involved in getting some motion started toward getting the bell back on display at Knox College.

Most likely, the last official use of the old bell at Lombard would have been after the last classes were called and dismissed. The last Lombard College Commencement would no doubt have had the traditional ringing of bells. More than a decade ago I corresponded with the daughter of the last Lombard College President. She mentioned that last commencement. She said that her father and the trustees of the college had held off the announcement that the college would be forced to close until after that commencement. Commencements are generally happy occasions, and she said everyone was doing their best, but a big cloud of gloom hung in the air over that last commencement. Even though the announcement had not been made, nearly everyone there was aware of the fate.

In 2017 Knox College returned the Lombard Bell to public space, and it is now at the Lombard Garden on the northwest corner of Alumni Hall. Along with the bell is the

cornerstone from Alpha Xi Delta Sorority House and the cornerstone from Lombard’s Tompkins Hall. Tompkins is where Carl Sandburg played basketball.

Lombard College’s Old Main was leveled to the ground on July 26, 1955. It was a sad day for many. Though the day had seemed inevitable for two decades, there was always a glimmer of hope that this fine institutional building would find new purpose and be saved. Arguably, Lombard had a better Main Building in the 1850s than did Knox College. Lombard’s Old Main was designed by a renowned Chicago architect William W. Boyington, whose likely best known work is the current Illinois State Capitol. He was also the architect for many Chicago buildings, including Chicago Water Tower, which survived the Chicago Fire, and the 1885 Chicago Board of Trade, long ago demolished.

(Photos Submitted by Rex Cherrington.)



“Lombard University, Presented by Austin Grant, 1881.” Inscription on Reverse of Bell: “Clinton H. Meneely Bell Company, Troy, N.Y.”



Lombard College Garden, NW Corner, Alumni Hall, Knox College

A newspaper clipping from 1955 did not identify the person who personified Lombard’s “Old Main,” but the words are most moving, and we will close on this somber note,

*When Americans lose their respect and reverence of the things of the past that contributed to the building of the greatest nation on earth we will become a sea in which the reason for the existence of little fish is to contribute to the size, affluence and greed of the large fish.*

*This place where I once stood is now covered with grass. I wish I was still standing on it for no other reason than that Abraham Lincoln once stood here. Some call my destruction progress, do you think so?*

*Signed: Old Main*



Marker in Lombard College Garden at Knox College

## STARS

By Barbara Schock

The Sandburg family went to bed quite early on Christmas Eve in order to go to the 6 a.m. service at the Swedish Lutheran Church. Carl was probably six or seven years old (about 1884 or 1885). He remembered his father holding his hand as they walked along Chambers Street.

Apparently, the sky was clear, and the many stars in our Milky Way Galaxy were quite visible. Carl said to his father, "You know, some of those stars are millions of miles away." He pointed toward the stars with his free hand.

August Sandburg, looking straight ahead, responded, "We won't bodder about dat now, Sholly." They walked on toward church in silence.

More than likely Carl had been learning about the stars in school. With the beautiful examples shining overhead, he wanted to share his new knowledge. His father may have had more mundane things on his mind. Perhaps, he was thinking about the cost of providing Christmas gifts for his children. He may have been thinking about the church service and its meaning. There is also the possibility that Mr. Sandburg was not paying attention to the prattle of his oldest son.

The incident stuck in Carl's mind for a great many years. He wrote about it in his autobiography *Always the Young Strangers* nearly seventy years later. He felt there were just as many miles between himself and his father as there were between the earth and the stars.

August Sandburg saw life as work and taking care of his family. He didn't take time for imagination. He took

pride in repairing and improving the family's home. He played with his children when they were toddlers.

As soon as possible he wanted his children to contribute to the operation of the household. There were always many chores to be done. As his children grew older, he expected them to contribute financially to the family treasury.

Young Carl had a curiosity about his surroundings. He wanted to see more of the world. He had a thirst for knowledge. He had a creative mind. He was a good observer of people and places. He had to figure out how to use his mind. It was a good many years before he achieved that goal.

## CAUTION AT THE CROSSING FOR MR. GARY WALLACE

By Barry Swanson

(Ed. Note: CSHSA President Barry Swanson wrote this poem in 2015. It was published in *Scope Magazine* in 2017. He explains that both he and his children used the school crossing at Fremont and Seminary Streets in Galesburg on their way to Silas Willard Elementary School. 70-year old Gary Wallace has been a crossing guard at Silas for nearly twenty-four years. This poem was written for him.

The dark and weathered face  
Of the school crossing guard  
Nestled in his stocking cap  
On a raw October afternoon

Caught my eye  
As I passed by,  
As always, in a hurry  
Speeding along in a half-crazed flurry.

The bridge had long since disappeared  
In my rearview mirror.  
Home now, oh so near.  
The children stood frozen, no sense of fear.

The light signaled stop, don't go.  
A lesson from long ago  
Emerged through my memory loss  
"Look both ways before you cross."

Important to recall the sage  
Crossing guard's warning at any age.  
An adage true enough  
Wise advice – good stuff.

What we were taught  
Lingers on in a single thought  
With a single caveat,  
As we seek what should be sought.

Don't just look as you flee,  
But rather, see  
Both sides, as you cross cautiously  
Observing life and its mystery.



Crossing Guard Gary Wallace at Intersection of Fremont & Seminary Streets. Silas Willard Elementary School in Background.

## JIM PETERS IN SANDBURG SUITE

By Mike Hobbs

CSHSA board member Rebecca Susmarski, a Galesburg *Register-Mail* reporter, wrote a nice story for the newspaper's November 11, 2017 Veterans Day supplement about Jim Peters, a World War II and Korean War U.S. Navy veteran. Rebecca and I recently visited Jim, whom I knew at the railroad, at his residence at The Kensington (Galesburg's former Hotel Custer) and discovered that he lives in the retirement home's Carl Sandburg Suite. CSHSA's President Barry Swanson's late mother Betty lived next to Jim at the Kensington. Jim told us that his friend Ed Madigan's railroad machinist grandfather used to walk with Carl's father August to the old CB&Q Roundhouse.



Jim Peters at the door of his Kensington apartment. Nameplate on wall reads "Carl Sandburg Suite."

Galesburg Public Library Archivist Patty Mosher wrote a story that appeared in the July 31, 2012 issue of the *Register-Mail* about the Carl Sandburg Suite's history. Patty writes that the Suite was the idea of Hotel Custer owner and manager Bernard Schimmel who "wanted to find a special way to honor the hometown boy who made good" on the occasion of his 77th birthday on January 6, 1955.

[Schimmel had one of the Custer's large rooms] sectioned off into two bedrooms, two baths and a sitting room. The designer he chose to decorate and furnish the Sandburg Suite was Florence Tinkham of Omaha. She had been the decorator of the Homestead Room restaurant on the first floor of the hotel and the restaurant and the suite reflected much of the same early American style of decorating that was so popular across the country in the 1940s and '50s. Tinkham had the walls covered with a colonial-style wallpaper and knotty pine paneling. "Dutch-style" draperies were hung on the windows and needlepoint carpeting covered the floors. There were also knotty pine shelves that held some of Sandburg's books as well as small decorative antiques. There were only two pictures on the walls, one of Sandburg and the other of Abraham Lincoln, but Tinkham placed prints of some of Sandburg's poems on the walls as well. The pictures and prints were framed with wood that was recovered from Old Main at Knox College during a restoration. It was said that Schimmel spared nothing to 'give the suite a unique and fetching appeal.

To inaugurate the Sandburg Suite, a special party was planned to take place in the Hotel Custer ballroom on the evening of Thursday, Jan. 6, Carl's birthday. Hundreds of invitations were sent out, not only to local friends and admirers of Sandburg, but also to dignitaries from around Illinois in the form of telegrams. Some of the notables invited were Gov. William G. Stratton; former Gov. Adlai Stevenson; Ralph Newman, director of the New Salem State Park....

When guests arrived, they were met by a crew of young men hired by Schimmel to park their cars, and they were then ushered to the second floor to view the new suite. Standing at the entrance to the suite to greet the guests were Bernice Schimmel and Sandburg's sister, Esther Sandburg-Wachs, and the Schimmel's teenage daughter Judy stood by the guest book inviting the visitors to sign. One woman who toured the rooms described them as being 'completely elegant.'

After touring the rooms, guests gathered in the ballroom downstairs. It was decorated with ferns, flowers and ice carvings in the likeness of Sandburg and Lincoln, backlit with blue lights. Also on display were the telegram responses from invited guests. Two horseshoe shaped tables at opposite ends of the room offered many kinds of hors d'oeuvres including 'oysters on the half shell and crackers and cheese.' Entertaining the guests was Win Stracke from TV station WBKB in Chicago, who strummed on his guitar and sang many of the ballads that Sandburg himself liked to sing.

Carl and Paula Sandburg were not present at the January 6, 1955 birthday party in his honor. They were at their Connemara, NC home celebrating with friends. At 9 p.m. a phone call was placed from the Custer to Sandburg at Connemara. "The phone was hooked up to an amplifier and after Schimmel spoke a few words to Carl, the crowd in the ballroom sang happy birthday to him. All of the work that went into the new suite and party was not lost on Carl, who was once a humble shoe-shine boy in another hotel, the Union Hotel on the Public Square. Carl told the crowd over the amplified phone, 'You seem to have put a lot of color in your party; guess I'll remember you all in my prayers. It is heartwarming to me that you should dedicate a suite of rooms to me. I sincerely hope that my work and schedules will allow me to reach Galesburg, to shake your hand and tell you of my affection for you and the good old hometown.'"



L-r, Carl Sandburg, his sister Esther, & Marie Swanson in Carl Sandburg Suite, Hotel Custer, 1958.  
*Courtesy Galesburg Public Library Archives.*

Sandburg later stayed in "his" Suite to which he was given a key and invited to stay in anytime he was in Galesburg.

## **SANDBURG ENDOWMENT**

By Bill Morris, CSHSA Endowment Chairman

As you should know by now, the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association (CSHSA) has an endowment fund. We started our fund through the Galesburg Community Foundation and a grant match program they offered over a year ago.

Since the establishment of our "Native Son, National Treasure" Endowment campaign, we have taken several steps to strengthen the CSHSA, the Birthplace Site, and our mission. All of these steps forward are designed to demonstrate our commitment to preserving Sandburg's legacy in Galesburg.

After we launched our fundraising campaign, we engaged in the process of developing a five-year plan.

Our plan includes fundraising, increased education, improved technology, programming, Site preservation, and staffing.

The five-year plan isn't even finalized, and we have already embarked on meeting our goals for the next five years. I'll talk about fundraising later. Right now I want to tell you what we have done in terms of education, programming, and Site preservation.

In terms of education, members of our board have developed curricula for the Galesburg and Abingdon elementary and middle schools. Discussions with Galesburg and Abingdon administrations yielded the creation of lesson plans and reading materials to educate students from K-8 about Carl Sandburg and his legacy.

The introduction of Sandburg to Galesburg and Abingdon students was accomplished through wonderful programming. We teamed up with Pam Fox, Tim Holmes, and the Performing Arts Academy to stage performances of "Spink, Skabootch, and Swipes in Rootabaga Country!," a wonderful adaptation of some of Sandburg's *Rootabaga Stories*.

In terms of Site preservation, the CSHSA was awarded a grant of \$18,000 from the G.L. Vitale Family Foundation to help with painting the Visitors Center and replacing the wooden picket fence around the Site grounds. Work was completed on the Visitor's Center and fence in October.

Without allowing the ink to dry on a draft of our five-year plan, the CSHSA Board of Directors has accomplished a great deal. It's just the beginning of what is necessary to strengthen the legacy of our favorite Native Son.

We still need your help. Which brings me to fundraising. We all want to help support our "Native Son, National Treasure." So far, we have raised over \$25,000 through monetary donations. We know everyone can't afford to donate money. There are ways to participate in strengthening our Endowment without parting with any money. It's called planned giving.

For a start, these are tools you can use now to launch a scaled-down planned giving initiative:

- Planned giving recognition society
- Bequests
- Life Insurance
- Retirement Plans
- Financial Service Products

These basic concepts show that you don't have to be a technical expert to promote a few planned giving concepts that are arranged by donors and their advisors or administrators, and often offer them tax and estate planning benefits. They are budget-friendly for your charity, take minimal amount of your time and attention and are effective tools for you to tell your donors: Please remember us in your plans.

**2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00	Student / Senior (62+)
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00	Individual
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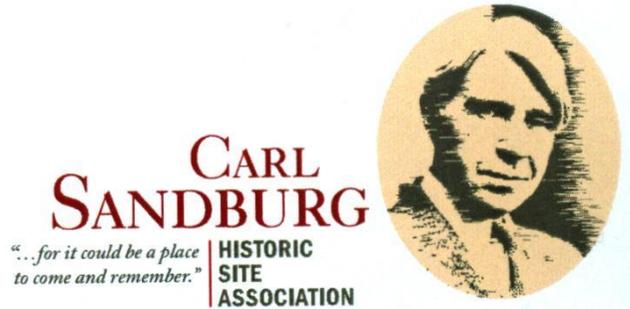
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