



Spring

2025

Newsletter

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM

Official publication of the
Roselle Historical Foundation
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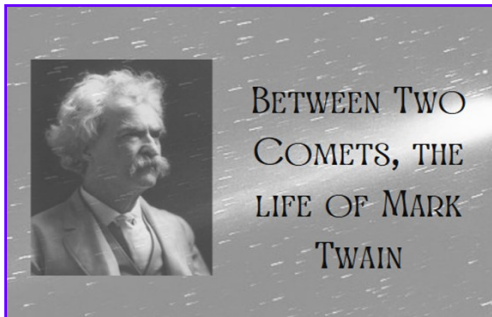


ROSELLE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION "Historical Evening"

Saturday May 3, 2025

Trinity Life Center, 405 Rush Street, Roselle

Terry Lynch, Historical Portrayal Storyteller



Join The Roselle History Museum and Terry Lynch of HFK Presents for a historical portrayal and storytelling of Mark Twain.

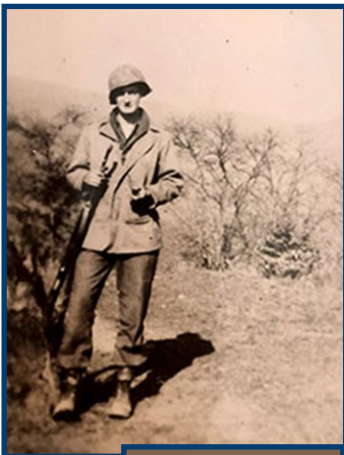
"Mark Twain, an American writer, lived between the Halley's Comets of 1835 and 1910 and produced some of the most cherished and debated literature of the 19th century. In this conversation, he opens up about his personal life, his writings, and the ongoing battle for societal acceptance and providing for his family through his work."

- ◆ 6:30—Wine and Cheese Reception
- ◆ 7:00—Terry Lynch presents Mark Twain
- ◆ Dessert and coffee to follow
- ◆ Tickets available for \$20 at Museum office or Village Hall

Marketing Manager's Corner



Congratulations to the 2025 Rose Ambassador participants! On February 7, six exemplary students competed for the title and scholarships provided by local community organizations like the League of Women Voters and Main Street Merchants. Frankie Molfese was crowned Rose Ambassador 2025; First Runner Up Anthony Johnson; and Second Runner Up Isabella Asenova. (L-R: Liliana Alarcon, Nicole Angel, Isabelle Asenova, Mayor David Pileski, Frankie Molfese, Anthony Johnson, and Natalia Babuscak)



A Very Special Birthday !



We would like to take the opportunity to wish Ken Molnaire a "Happy 100th Birthday!" on March 14, 2025! A longtime Roselle resident and beloved father of board member Mickey Molnaire, Ken is a World War II veteran, serving in Patton's Third Army, and recently embarked on an Honor Flight in April of 2024.

Stay tuned in our next issue for a meaningful conversation with Ken reflecting on his life as one of the brave and proud greatest generation.



Heri Soukup, Marketing Mgr.



Thank you to Countryside Funeral Homes & Crematory for being our First Business sponsor

Careers Pathways at Lake Park High School

Career Pathways at Lake Park High

A few members of the Museum board of directors have joined other local companies and organizations on the Lake Park Business Advisory Council. This group has been working for a long time to provide career guidance and support to Lake Park High School students of both campuses.

The goal is to encourage students to explore various career options in depth while still in school, sort of trying on a career area with information and direct experience to see if it might be a good fit.

Students have opportunities to hear speakers from the various career paths describe their own personal experiences and answer questions one-on-one. Coursework curriculum has been created to give students a bit of their own experience including internships and cooperative work training programs with like-minded fellow students in competitive challenges and even a mock Shark Tank event for would-be entrepreneurs.

Our organization has benefitted in the past from student internships and volunteers at the museum, and we look forward to even more interaction with high school students.



The Lake Park Business Advisory Council aims to empower Lake Park students with guidance and support from the business community to help students and staff implement the Lancer Way.

Inviting a Closer Connection with Local Businesses

The stories of how Roselle businesses have contributed to the development of our Village economy are some of the important history that we collect and share in our Museum.

The Roselle Historical Foundation now offers a unique opportunity for today's local businesses to have a visible role in sponsoring RHF and demonstrate a commitment to cultural development in our community.

This financial support will allow us to maintain and enhance an historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas, collect local artifacts and stories of yesterday and today that will become our Village history and pride tomorrow.

Our main Museum building, the Sumner House, has rooms devoted to specific topics or themes, such as military, agriculture, education, government, and others. A business can sponsor a room for one year and receive 24/7 recognition with a name plaque at the entrance to that room. Sponsors will be listed in our newsletter, on our website and receive special attention via posts on our social media sites.

Sponsorship provides a strong brand connection to a cultural establishment and visitor attraction that is well-respected in the area. Join us in making a lasting impact on the cultural fabric of Roselle while being recognized for your commitment to community.

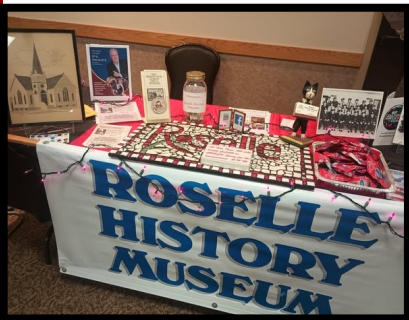
Contact Mickey Molnaire, at mickey@molinaire.com for more information.

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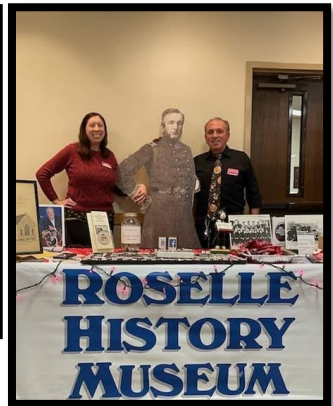


The Museum Korner Store has been restocked with t-shirts and Roselle History books after the busy holiday season, and is now open

On Feb 19, approximately 80 school-age children toured the Museum and learned about Roselle's history. The day was a complete success and the kids enjoyed it. We encourage more young people to become involved in Roselle's history.



A few Museum members participated in the Roselle Arts and Culture Foundation fundraiser. It was an excellent evening showcasing talented artists and raising funds for the first responders sculpture.



Upcoming Events!

- Bockfest—April 26
- Historical Evening— May 3
- Rose Festival—May 30-31
- Rose Parade—June 1
- Village-wide Garage Sale—June 6-7
- Taste of Roselle—Aug 1-3
- Founders Day Festival—Oct 4
- Winterfest—Dec 6

Raising A President

There is a saying that a stepparent is called that because they are a parent that stepped up. As we approach Mother's Day and Father's Day, I think it is appropriate to acknowledge Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's stepmother and the woman who arguably did more to shape the man he became than anyone else in his early life.

Lincoln's biological mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died when he was nine-years old. The following year, Lincoln's father, Thomas, married Sarah. Bringing three children from her previous marriage, she never treated Lincoln and his sister, also named Sarah, differently than she treated her own children. Accounts of her arrival at the Lincoln homestead following the wedding, when she first met her new stepchildren, include stories that a young Abraham immediately ran and embraced his new stepmother rather than the father he had such a difficult relationship with.

For the rest of his childhood, Sarah was the figure who nourished the attributes that he would become famous for. William Herndon, Lincoln's law partner later in life, claimed that he would point to these years as the happiest in his life and that he would say that she was his best friend. He even quoted Lincoln as saying that "no one could love his mother more than I love her." She had brought with her a small library and encouraged Abraham in his education, much to the consternation of Thomas, who thought that this was an excuse to be lazy. Sarah was also the one that encouraged his sense of humor, letting him get away with little pranks and diversions that Thomas never would have.

As Lincoln grew into adulthood, as is common, he saw less of his parents. The emotional closeness remained, however, as he would call her "mama" and she would

call him "her boy" for the rest of their lives. He also continued to support her financially for the rest of his life. One of the last things he did before leaving Illinois following his election as president was to visit her home in a remote part of the state, devoting a large amount of time and effort to make the journey despite the burdens of preparing for the transition. Following a long talk, she burst into tears when he went to leave, admitting that she feared harm would befall him. She would outlive her stepson by a little under four years. There are two conflicting reports of how she reacted to the news of his death from the two people who were in the room with her. In both accounts, she acknowledged that she had always known that this would happen. In one, however, she is stoic as she accepts the news. In the other, she put her apron over her face as she began weeping, crying out "oh my boy Abe; they've killed him. I knew they would."

This is by necessity an only cursory glance at the life of this woman and the effects that she had. It is remarkable, however, how she may be one of the most important figures in American history that most people are not aware of. When we acknowledge the greatness of Abraham Lincoln, and all that he accomplished, it seems fitting that we also acknowledge the woman who did more than anyone else to shape the man he became. As we celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day this year, it is also important to remember that there are different ways to be a parent, and that all of these are important because of the effects they have on children and the people that they become. Sarah Bush Lincoln may not have been Abraham's mother, but she was his mom in the fullest sense of the word.

By Tom Piorkowski

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

39 E. Elm St

Roselle, IL 60172

Newsletter generously sponsored by



Itasca Bank & Trust Co.

Together we'll shape the future



"When one flower blooms, spring awakens everywhere"

John O'Donohue



Sumner House

Mission Statement

To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas
To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be part of our village history and pride tomorrow.
To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors.

Board of Directors & Staff

President: Glenn Spachman
Vice-President: Tim Grasso
Treasurer: Jeff Engel
Secretary: Mickey Molnaire

Marketing Mgr: Keri Soukup
Village Board Liaisons:
Wayne Domke,
Tom Piorkowski

Board Members:
John Binneboese
Catherine Caccavello
Walter Lotz
Janice Wood

Friends of the Museum
Peggy Ott,
Phillip Sullivan and
Anthony Johnson

General Meetings

Second Saturday of the Month
10-11:30 am - 39 E. Elm St.

Museum Hours

Sundays: 2-4 pm
Wednesday through Saturday
10 am - 2 pm, by appt

Editor: Janice Wood
editor@rosellehistory.org

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____
Email Address _____ State/Zip _____
Circle one: \$30 \$50* \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

TWO NEW WAYS TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION VIA PAYPAL

- 1) Scan the QR Code at the right to donate
- 2) Go to <https://tinyurl.com/PayPalRHM>



_____ *My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the "Remembering Roselle" history book.
The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible