



# NEWS from the *David Davis Mansion Foundation*

Summer 2024



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## *Voices from the Past: Life with Animals on the Prairie*

**By: DDMF Researcher Pat Schley**

Some of the best anecdotes in the letters which bring life on the Illinois prairie alive are those involving animals. Here are several of my favorites:

On the home front, Sarah Davis' first hired girl, who claims to be 5ft. 10 in. tall, proves to have a large personality as well: *"Mary is quite fearless -...She often says the cow wants to "horn" her -but she is not afraid. She called me out to the stable yard to point out some new thing she had discovered in "Suke"(for so all cows are called here) and to show how smart she was. She attempted to take the calf from the cow [and] in so doing caught it by the forelegs -causing the little thing to make music. Old Suke was furious, and rushed to the combat much to my horror. I was standing near Mary, and when I saw the horned head -I screamed to M. to let the calf go. She held on till she saw I was frightened nearly out of my wits -and then I made for the house."*

- Bloomington IL, May 3, 1840 (LL2) Sarah Walker Davis to Daniel Rogers Williams

By the end of the month, Sarah had resolved to let Mary go:

*"I have resolved to part with Mary as soon as I am quite strong [she had just 2 weeks before given birth to their 1st child, a son, who was stillborn-ps] for she has deceived me in so many little things that I am disgusted with her-I can get along with any thing[sic] better than deceit..."*

- Bloomington, May 31, 1840 Sarah Walker Davis to William Perrin Walker

1852 had brought a rainy spring for the lawyers on the circuit, when David Davis wrote to Sarah:

*"It rained a great deal -some very bad places in the road -but we got to Marion [Illinois] by dark -& I had a comfortable bed & good supper. Started next morning in the rain to the Sangamon river [sic] which is a mile from Monticello. Could not cross for 1 hour staid [stayed-ps] in rain, waiting for Ferryman = swam the horses -took the buggy over straddle [across] a canoe -and we went over ourselves very comfortably in the Canoe ="*

- Urbana IL, May 7, 1852 (ALPL) David Davis to Sarah Walker Davis

*"It rained very hard yesterday morning =... I hope it is dry with you, dearest-...I think of you, always, when it thunders, knowing your uneasiness about it-It seems that we cant [sic] ride anywhere, without its raining ~ I dont like to ride, (when it thunders & lightnens [sic]) in the open prairie-Pete [his horse-ps] got hurt in the stable at Danville, and is pretty much under the weather-I think he will get along but he was very much hurt -The confounded ostler [one who takes care of horses & mules-ps] ought to be whipped-However I have taken it pretty coolly- "*

- Urbana IL, May 7, 1852 (IHPA) David Davis to Sarah Walker Davis





# Mark Your Calendars

Check our website calendar [HERE](#) and our Facebook page [HERE](#) for details on these and other events.

## Upcoming Events at the David Davis Mansion

June 2	Champagne British Car Show
June 15	A Saturday Stroll in Sarah's Garden
July 12-13	Glorious Garden Festival
August 3	Antique Auto Show <u>and</u> 33 <sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Regiment Band Concert
September 7	Cruise-In at the Mansion
October 12	Behind the Scenes Tour*
November 2	Mystery at the Mansion*
November 16	Christmas Open House: Clover Lawn Museum Shop <u>and</u> Christmas Barn Sale
December 1-10	Christmas Pie Sale (Ordering)
December 4	Foundation Christmas Open House
December 14	Christmas at the Mansions
December 19-21	Christmas Pie Sale (Pick-Up)
December 20-21	A Gilded Age Christmas with Santa

\* Advanced registration required.

## Seed Saving for Sarah's Garden Future

By Ellen Culver, Master Gardener

Sarah's Garden volunteers collect seeds from many of the annuals and perennials in the historic 1872 garden to hold in the Off-Site Reserve and to package for sale in the Clover Lawn Gift Shop. Most popular in the gift shop are California poppy, larkspur, zinnias and poppies, all amazing summer bloomers.

2023 was a unique year for seed production for the Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia macrophylla*), a Sarah's Garden "original" growing up a trellis along the veranda on the east side of the mansion, as it has through history. Following the prolific spring 2023 bloom of little "pipes", Sarah's Garden volunteers carefully tied sheer fabric bags around dozens of the 2" long green seed pods. The bags protected those seed pods until the ripe seeds were harvested in the late fall. Preserving seeds in the Off-Site Reserve will guarantee future Dutchman's Pipe plants on the east veranda if the original plant ever fails.

This past fall, Sarah's Garden volunteers refrigerated the harvested seeds, an important process before seed starting. Dutchman's Pipe seeds take their sweet time to germinate. With spring comes word that several seedlings have emerged and for the first time in many years, we may have new pants for the Off-Site Reserve.

Starting mid-April, stop by Sarah's Garden early Tuesday through Friday mornings when volunteers are working to enjoy the gorgeous blooms. At the end of a mansion tour, during a mansion event or through arrangement with the visitor center, shop the Clover Lawn Gift Shop for seeds, art, note cards, and other garden-related wares.

If you haven't been to the **Clover Lawn Museum Shop** lately, you should stop by and see our new merchandise!

Here are a few things you will find:

- An expanded line of teacups and teapots, infusers, tea balls, spoons, and dish towels in a wide variety of prints.
- New outdoor garden décor, including stepping stones, rain chains, statuary, and more.
- New indoor botanical décor, such as metal flowers, framed prints, crocheted plants, ceramic birds, and other fun items.
- Freshly stocked floral scarves and jewelry

Visit and shop Wednesday-Saturday from 9am-3:30pm and find something you love!





# 2024 Glorious Garden Festival

Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13



Mark your calendars for the **2024 Glorious Garden Festival!** Events are planned for gardeners and garden lovers, with special activities for the kids. All events run from 1-7 pm on Friday and 9am-3pm on Saturday.

Tickets are required for the Festival's **Garden Walk** of 10 gorgeous private gardens in prime mid-July bloom. No tickets are required for children 12 and under. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the **Scavenger Hunt** at each garden.

Admission is free for fun events at the mansion:

- The **Garden Fair** returns to the lawn with live music and 35+ local artists, craftspeople, and businesses selling garden-inspired art, plants and treasures, with refreshments available for purchase.
- Bring the kids to experience the **Story Walk** in Sarah's Garden (featuring *My Garden* by Kevin Henkes) and community partner tables with **Art and Garden-Related Activities**.
- Enjoy **Free Guided Tours** of Sarah Davis' heirloom garden and the David Davis Mansion, both celebrating over 150 years of history.
- Shop the **Clover Lawn Museum Shop** at the Mansion for choice gifts, garden art, books, and Sarah's Garden heirloom seeds. Also available: Our beautiful sesquicentennial book, **The David Davis Mansion, 1872-2022: 150 Years at Clover Lawn**.

Advance ticket sales for the Garden Walk open June 15 and close at noon on Thursday July 11 at AB Hatchery & Garden Center, Casey's Garden Shop and Florist, Crossroads Fair Trade Goods and Gifts, Growing Grounds Lawn & Garden Center, Kickapoo TeaRoom and Boutique, and Wendell Niepagen Greenhouses and Garden Center and online by clicking [HERE](#).

Advance tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for teens 13-17 and free for kids 12 and under. David Davis Mansion Foundation members receive a 20%

discount for up to 2 tickets purchased in advance by contacting [programming@daviddavismansion.org](mailto:programming@daviddavismansion.org). On the days of the event, tickets are \$22 at the ticket booth on the mansion lawn during event hours.

The Glorious Garden Festival is a fundraiser for the David Davis Mansion Foundation which supports the mansion's educational programming and preservation initiatives. For more information about what this event funds, please click [HERE](#). We appreciate your contribution!

## Thank You Volunteers, Sponsors, and Advertisers!

The Glorious Garden Festival's success hinges on the hard work of volunteers serving on the committee and welcoming visitors at the private gardens during the event.

Would you like to help with this event? E-mail [programming@daviddavismansion.org](mailto:programming@daviddavismansion.org) to be added to the volunteer list or to find out more about joining the Glorious Garden Festival Committee.

Join us in thanking and utilizing services from the local businesses who support the event. Each are featured in the Garden Resource Guide given to ticket holders. Special appreciation goes to:

### Corporate Sponsors:

*(click below to visit their website)*

- [AB Hatchery & Garden Center](#)
- [Bloomington-Normal Area Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Casey's Garden Shop and Florist](#)
- [Crossroads Fair Trade Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Greenview Landscaping Company](#)
- [Growing Grounds Lawn & Garden Center](#)
- [Illinois Farm Bureau](#)
- [Julia Davis Law Firm](#)
- [Kickapoo TeaRoom and Boutique](#)
- [Serenity Creek Design & Landscaping](#)
- [Wendell Niepagen Greenhouses and Garden Center](#)
- Zimmerman and Armstrong Investment Advisors

### Supporting Sponsors:

- [Busey Bank](#)
- [Chizmar Landscaping](#)

### Advertisers:

- See a full list of our advertisers by clicking [HERE](#).

Do you know of a beautiful garden in Bloomington-Normal which would be a great addition to a future Garden Walk? Recommend it to our committee by clicking on this [online form](#).

# *A Research Update*

**From DDMF Researcher Pat Schley**

Hello, Foundation Members! I felt that a report about the transcription project was long overdue.

It was a different sort of year. Since 2013, I had been working on transcribing the Davis family letters in chronological order and then submitting them to Meg Miner, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Illinois Wesleyan University, so she could put them online. The total number of transcriptions online as of this update was 1,376 online transcriptions, spanning the period from 1800 to 1886. Not all of the letters for all of those years are online, although all of the letters are online from 1800-1865.

Last year, I took a hiatus from the chronological editing to work on a group of letters that I had obtained from Duke University. They hold the Adeline Burr Davis Green papers, 1796-1956. I was able to obtain letters spanning much of the 19th century, plus her biography, which was a master's thesis written by Jane Stroud Mellon in 1959. It was the basis for my requests for material from Duke. They are very generous and allow other archives and institutions of learning (I am happy to say that they consider us to be one) up to 50 pages of scanning at no cost each year. I far exceeded the 50-page limit but their cost was very reasonable, plus the people that I have worked with there are very interested and enthusiastic about our online project. I was able to transcribe a group of letters written by Sarah Davis' brother-in-law, Daniel Rogers Williams, who accompanied the Judge and his new wife, Addie Burr, on their wedding trip from about April to June 1883 (they were married on March 14, 1883, in Fayetteville NC). Daniel Williams had made a similar trip to California in 1865, so he acted as a sort of guide and as a companion for Addie when she went out to explore the sites when the Judge was busy. Mr. Williams' letters were written to his wife, Fanny Walker Williams, Sarah Davis' younger sister. They lived in Stockbridge MA. Those letters are all online now for everyone to enjoy.

After those letters were finished, I was able to obtain Addie Burr Davis' "List of Companies Attended and Given - Since Coming to Bloomington - June 1883". It is a small, plain notebook with lined pages which appears to have been a gift to Addie from Sallie Davis for her 1st Christmas in Bloomington according to a small note contained in the book. (It was not in Addie's handwriting, so it may be a much later addition.) It is a veritable Who's Who of Bloomington society from June 1883 until about 2 months before the Judge's death on June 26, 1886. It is also online, if you are interested in seeing it. In order to make the transcription useful as well as readable, I made an index to try to help identify who the various people mentioned were. It was quite difficult in some cases because Addie, who was 1 year 8 months younger than her stepson, George Davis, bridged the generations socially. As a result, there were younger people invited who were often the now-adult children of the people of the Judge and Sarah's day. Many were named after their parents, so figuring out which person Addie was referring to was often difficult. As a result, a number of the IDs are "best guesses" at best. What I thought would be a fairly quick and easy transcription turned out to be exhausting! The 35-page notebook with its often faint, pencil-written entries, blossomed to 57 pages with the addition of the 22-page index.

It was now late May 2023 and I was somewhat burned out. During this same time, I had been helping author Raymond McKoski with an upcoming book, by proof-reading and editing two specific chapters. It was good timing because a lot of the editing was regarding the Judge's marriage to Addie Burr. One of the big changes was the retirement of Meg Miner, mentioned above, in July. Meg was instrumental in getting the transcription website up and running and, actually, for suggesting that we do it as a joint project back in 2012. She put each group of letters online and was a master at finding what teeny error was keeping them from uploading and correcting my errors. It was always done with grace and a sense of humor for which I was very grateful. At this point, it seemed a good idea to take some time off from transcribing over the summer until Meg's replacement had settled in and was ready to take this on.

I was so glad that it worked out for me to come back to Illinois to hear Edward Achorn give his talk about his latest book, *The Lincoln Miracle*, in October. I had had the opportunity to meet him and to take him through the mansion in 2011, when he was in town doing research on one of his baseball books. It was good to see him again and to see a lot of friends, too. While we were in town, I went to Illinois Wesleyan University to meet Meg Miner's replacement, Julie Wood. It was so good to be able to talk with her and to get to know her a bit. It is so nice to be able to picture the person I send the letters off to. They are working with JSTOR (an academic site which makes articles from many academic publications available online for student access) to feature some of the IWU collections online, and considering including some of the David and Sarah Davis Family Correspondence collection! That would make the transcriptions available on 2 different sites!

# A Research Update

From DDMF Researcher Pat Schley

(continued from page 4)

Julie is excited at the possibility, and so am I. I have used it many times in the last 20 years working on these letters. I will let you know if and when the collection is online there.

As of the 1st of the year 2024, I have been back at work on the chronological editing. My goal is to get all of the 1860s online and then really dig into transcribing the 1870s. Quite a few of the letters from 1868 are already online and there are fewer letters in the last few years of the decade, possibly thanks to the 1903 fire in the attic. There are some unexplained gaps in the correspondence and also many seriously scorched and damaged letters down in Springfield. We will never know how many letters were lost in that fire. I am grateful that as many of the damaged ones were kept instead of just being thrown away. As of the writing of this update, I just sent in the first 17 transcriptions for 1866. They should be online soon.



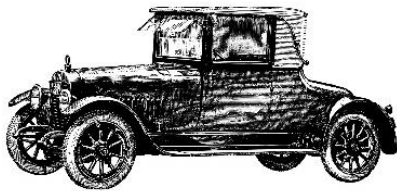
If you are interested in looking at the IWU site, you can access it via:

[https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/iwu\\_davis](https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/iwu_davis) OR  
<http://tinyurl.com/Davis-Family-Correspondence>

Thank you for all of your support for this project. Thank you for providing the funds, through your membership fees or other generous donations, to acquire all the document copies, and now the scans of documents (which are a wonderful step up in quality compared to the old photocopies) over the years. We are very blessed to have this wonderful correspondence, which is as close as any of us will ever get to having a conversation with the Davis family and their relatives and friends. Thank you, too, for the opportunity for me to work with these wonderful documents and to get to know these people. It is as close to time travel as I am ever likely to get and I thank you for it.

## Upcoming Spring & Summer Programs

The mansion will be a busy place as we begin rolling out some well-loved programming for all ages.



Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> marks the beginning of our summer car show season with the **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Champagne**

**British Car Show**, from 10am-3pm. Co-sponsored by the Illinois Flat Land British Car Club, visitors will see endless rows of cars, including Jaguar, MG, Bentley, Rolls Royce, Triumph, Austen Healey, Cobra, Lotus, Mini, Rootes, and more.

Next up on August 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm is the **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Auto Show**. Co-sponsored by the McLean County Antique Auto Club, this event features more than 75 cars from the 1900s through the 1980s.

Finally, the **Cruise-In at the Mansion**, co-sponsored by the Mid-State Cruisers, will take place on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm. If you don't know what car you really like, show up and you'll figure it out. This show has everything from Model Ts to brand new Corvettes and Teslas. We have something for everyone!

Each car show will include live music, refreshments, and self-guided tours through the David Davis Mansion and Sarah's Garden.

**A Saturday Stroll in Sarah's Garden**, an event celebrating its 3rd year, will take place on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30am. Take a morning walk through Sarah Davis' 1872 heirloom garden, enjoying the summer sun and taking in the beautiful flowers and plants, many of which are original to the space. Enjoy a cup of lemonade while you stroll! Master Gardeners will also be roaming, dressed in historic costume, and can answer any questions you may have as you explore.



Last, but not least, the **Glorious Garden Festival** will once again take place at the mansion mid-summer, on Friday and Saturday July 12-13. Please see page 3 for more details.

### View our Amazon Wish List!

The David Davis Mansion is always looking for ways to be more **family friendly** and to make visitor experiences **fun** and **educational!** Would you like to help? Please see our *Amazon Wish List* by clicking [HERE!](#) Our list is filled with classic toys and games from the 1800's which will encourage everyone to interact and learn something new!



## *In the History Books:*

- **Illinois Public Media** was at the mansion on November 25<sup>th</sup>, filming for their new show, **Prairie Fire**, which airs on both WILL-TV (PBS) and YouTube. The footage they took was used for an ongoing series about Charles Dickens, with this particular segment focusing on *A Christmas Carol*. We were excited to provide the mansion as a backdrop for their work! To see the current playlist of Prairie Fire Episodes, including the one mentioned above, click [HERE](#). Fans of the mansion might particularly appreciate “Charles Dickens and the American Prairie” and “Charles Dickens and the Mississippi River”.
- The holidays were a busy, festive time as always at the David Davis Mansion, and we welcomed so many friends and new visitors to the mansion during the **Christmas Open House** in the Clover Lawn Museum Shop, **Christmas Barn Sale**, **Christmas at the Mansions**, and a **Victorian Christmas with Santa**, as well as during regular daily tours.

**EXCITING NEWS FOR 2024:** Even though the Christmas Barn Sale fundraiser is only scheduled to take place every 2 years, we have already received such an overwhelming amount of donations for the 2025 sale that we **MUST** hold it in 2024! We are so thankful for everyone’s generosity! As usual, the Clover Lawn Museum Shop inside the David Davis Mansion will host it’s Christmas Open House on the same day, so you can attend both events on your visit. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 16 from 9am-3pm to enjoy this fun annual shopping experience at the mansion!

- So far, the David Davis Mansion has seen quite a few **field trips** (pictured to the right) in 2024! Here’s a list of who has come to visit us:

January 30: Bloomington Area Career Center  
February 14: Illinois Wesleyan University Museum Class  
February 23: Cornerstone Christian Academy (4<sup>th</sup>)  
April 10: Homeschool Group  
April 16: Epiphany Catholic School (4<sup>th</sup> grade)  
May 7: Olympia North Elementary School, Danvers (4<sup>th</sup>)  
May 14: Washington Elementary School (5<sup>th</sup>)  
May 15: Grace Christian School, Pontiac (4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>)

*You can see more school field trip photos from the 2023-2024 school year on our Facebook page!*

- The mansion has also hosted some **special group tours:**

April 10: National Association of Wheat Weavers  
April 11: College Park Christian Church  
May 7: Southwest Tour and Travel Bus Tour (Minnesota)





## *In the History Books (continued):*

- **Mr. Lincoln's Birthday Celebration** was held on Saturday, February 10th. Families enjoyed interacting with Mr. Lincoln (portrayed by the fantastic Randy Duncan) and Sarah Davis (portrayed by Jennifer Maloy) and having their photos taken with them, as well as enjoying birthday cake and Lincoln-themed art activities in the visitor's center.
- Our Program Coordinator Adrienne Huffman gave a presentation about the David Davis Mansion to the **Bloomington-Normal Women's Club** on Tuesday, March 12th. She shared information about the history of the mansion, its public events and programs, and ways to volunteer and get involved.
- Our **Behind the Scenes Tour**, which took place on Saturday, March 16th was sold out, as usual! 30 visitors enjoyed seeing areas of the mansion, learning new information, and hearing special stories that are not part of a standard daily tour. We will tentatively be offering this program again in October. Check the David Davis Mansion calendar for updates.
- Last year's weather was uncooperative, but this year it was absolutely beautiful for the **Spring Festival and Egg Hunt** on Saturday, March 30th and we were able to move it back outside! We welcomed several hundred kids and their families to hunt for eggs throughout the lawn, have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny, hear a Spring story, and shop for fun Spring merchandise in our gift shop. It was a wonderful day!
- The very first **Family Day at the Mansion** (pictured on the right) on Saturday, May 18 was a great time and welcomed many families to the mansion to experience 10 different activity stations placed throughout the mansion, barn, lawn, and garden! The day included 19<sup>th</sup> century dress-up, a scavenger hunt through the parlor and sitting room, an exploration of antique gadgets in the kitchen, a quilting activity in the Pink Chintz Room, a dulcimer demonstration in Miss Lake's Room, games on the lawn (croquet, badminton, pick-up sticks, tiddlywinks, and tops), a planting activity and monarch butterfly project on the lawn, tours through Sarah's Garden, and cookies and lemonade!

View more David Davis Mansion event photos on our Flickr page by clicking [HERE!](#)





# A New Membership Brochure for a New Year

The David Davis Mansion Foundation has recently redesigned and printed its membership brochure to encourage new member support and to better illustrate what membership funds are used for. Please see below to view a few pages from this new document. If you would like to read it in person, you can find copies in the mansion visitor's center or gift shop. Feel free to take one to pass onto a friend who may be interested in supporting the foundation!

**David Davis Mansion Foundation**

*Membership Information*

*Who We Are*

The David Davis Mansion is one of fifty-eight historic properties which is preserved and interpreted in-part by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Its Foundation, which is a privately funded entity founded in 1986, has long supported the Historic Site by providing additional funding for restoration and maintenance, educational programs and public events, and scholarly research and writing to preserve and present the history of the mansion.

One of the main ways you can support the David Davis Mansion Foundation is through the purchase of an annual membership.

Join us, and be a part of history!

*Membership Impact*

Your contribution supports the following:

- Restoration and maintenance of Sarah Davis' historic garden and heirloom plants.
- Over 20 yearly public events on the mansion grounds, bringing in over 8,000 visitors each year.

These events include a celebration for Lincoln's Birthday, a Spring Festival and Easter Egg Hunt, seasonal car shows, the Glorious Garden Festival, Christmas at Clover Lawn, and more.- Educational programs including school field trips, scout programs and other events for youth, presentations about the mansion to community organizations, special guest lectures, daily tours, and seasonal experiences.
- Research and publications including a recent book commemorating the 150th anniversary of the mansion, books on special topics, and the ongoing transcription and digitization of the Davis Family correspondence.

*Membership Benefits*

- 20% discount on most items in the Clover Lawn Museum Shop
- Invitations to members-only events
- Early registration or discounted tickets for special events and programs
- The joy of supporting a non-profit organization that actively preserves local history and provides educational programs and family-friendly events for the entire community

## It's About Our People

2-4-6-8, who do we appreciate?!

YOU – every one of our members – YOU are the ones who make it possible for us to do what we do here at the mansion, and 2024 has started off to be a wonderful year! We have more special events, activities, and school programs than ever before. We are so excited, and we are so grateful for YOU, because it is YOUR membership dues, YOUR special gifts, and YOUR extra donations that make it happen. We cannot do it without YOU! The David Davis Mansion Foundation is supported only by YOU...not the state, not by taxes, not some corporate conglomeration. YOU.

We are also tax deductible! Click [HERE](#) to keep your membership up to date. As costs have increased everywhere else, so have ours. We'd be so thankful if you could increase your giving level this year. You can also gift a membership to someone else in honor of a birthday, an anniversary, a special friendship, or simply to remember someone you'll never forget.

If you prefer to write a check and need an envelope, you can always contact me at [director.ddavismansionfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:director.ddavismansionfoundation@yahoo.com) or call and leave a message anytime at (309) 828-1084. Or you can mail your check to David Davis Mansion Foundation (DDMF for short) at 1000 Monroe Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Your membership gets YOU discounted tickets on select events, free entry to member-only events that are planned just for YOU, 20% discount on purchases YOU make in the Clover Lawn Gift Shop, and YOUR very own piece of history!

We warmly welcome our NEW MEMBERS: Peggy Mohr of Bloomington, IL; Merri Hauter, Anne and Steven Matter, and Kevin Lowery, all of Normal, IL; and Liam Killian of Gibson City, IL. We are so glad you have joined this incredible, diversified group of people who support David Davis Mansion Foundation!

Thank you!





## Welcome New Board Members!

### 2024 Board of Directors

Kathe Conley, President  
Matt Hany, Vice President  
Mark Geier, Treasurer  
Cindy Rustemeyer, Secretary

Linda Beard  
Eric Clevenger  
Barb Ely  
Sondra Findley  
Ronald Frazier  
Joe Gibson  
Jenna Kearns  
Richard Luedke  
Lynda Straw  
David Wilson



### Ex-Officio Members

Jeff Saulsbery, Site Manager  
Sheri Brownfield, Executive Director  
Adrienne Huffman, Program Coordinator  
Elizabeth Davis Kater, Descendant  
Pat Schley, Researcher  
Robert Lenz, President Emeritus

### Are you interested in becoming a David Davis Mansion Foundation board member?

Contact us!

## What's Blooming in Sarah's Garden

Thank you to all of the master gardeners and garden volunteers who keep Sarah's Garden looking beautiful!



## An Artifact Returns Home



In mid-2023 the David Davis Mansion was contacted by a member of the Davis Family who had recently read our sesquicentennial book, *The David Davis Mansion, 1872-2022: 150 Years at Clover Lawn*. She was surprised to see that she was in possession of an artifact pictured in the background of one of the featured photographs. She graciously offered to return it to its home, and we were delighted!

The artifact finally arrived in December, after travelling for thousands of miles. In May we transported it to a conservator in St. Louis, MO who will be assessing it to see what is required to make it just as beautiful as it was when it first came to the mansion in the late 1800's. Once the artifact has undergone some cosmetic repair it will be returned to us, and we will spend some time conducting research on its provenance. We can't wait to share it with everyone later this year and present everything we've learned about this beautiful object to our visitors. It will then be placed on display in the mansion once again. Stay tuned for an unveiling!

**Davis Mansion Foundation**  
a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization

**President: Kathe Conley**  
**Executive Director: Sheri Brownfield**  
**Program Coordinator: Adrienne Huffman**



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*Hours: Wednesday - Saturday: 9am - 3:30pm*

*I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so until the end. – Abraham Lincoln*