

The Editor's Page

This issue of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* proves the eclecticism of Illinois history. There is an article written by a retired lawyer and federal civil servant, another by a professor of English, and a third by a teacher and Ph.D. candidate. In addition, we include our usual offering of book reviews on Illinois topics, as well as a special review of books on Abraham Lincoln.

Elbert Floyd's work on the relationship between a young Lincoln and a Springfield physician, Anson Henry, gives us an up-close look at their friendship and at the patronage system within the Lincoln White House. Darold Henson's study of novelist William Maxwell's works, which were set in Lincoln, Illinois, gives us a perspective into small town life in the state that is often neglected by historians. And Cord Scott gives us another insider's look at turn-of-the-century Chicago with his accounting of the rise and fall of the city's motorcycle industry.

And, of course, Robert McColley treats us to his review of ten recent books that deal, in one way or another, with the life of Abraham Lincoln. What an interesting and varied group of offerings!

Call for papers

The Illinois State Historical Society's Symposium Committee announces a call for papers around the theme "Knowledge on the Prairie," for presentation at the 2007 Illinois History Symposium. Papers, panels, presentations, and video documentaries on all aspects of Illinois history will be reviewed, with special consideration given to topics and presentations that focus on classroom applications. Proposals should include one-page description of topic, list of primary sources to be used, and curriculum vitae. Deadline for proposals is June 30, 2006. The 2007 Illinois History Symposium will be held in conjunction with Illinois State University's 150th anniversary on the ISU campus in Normal.

**For more information about the symposium,
call the Society office at 217-525-2781.**