SIAM’s History

The idea for SIAM first emerged in 2003 during a meeting at John A. Logan College where a corps of museum directors and volunteers from Southern Illinois explored the idea of forming a consortium of museums with the goal of mutual support through networking. A series of exploratory meetings were held at various museums in the lower 28 counties of Illinois over a two-year period. From these meetings a group identity emerged and a consensus toward formal incorporation developed.

By August of 2005 SIAM was officially organized, officers were installed and the organization was granted the approval to declare themselves an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A mission statement and bylaws were created later that year.

The first annual meeting was held at the Southern Illinois University Museum on August 19, 2006. Soon a charter board was formed expanding the consortium to include 11 institutions and 13 individuals.

Who we are and why we serve...

PURPOSE
The Southern Illinois Association of Museums is a consortium of museums in Illinois' lower 28 counties that promotes museums, creates networking and professional development opportunities for museums, and develops collaborative projects among museums for educational purposes.

AUDIENCE
SIAM will serve the museums and citizens in Southern Illinois and visitors to the area.

VALUES
- Collaboration: promoting cooperation among museums
- Professionalism: promoting accepted museum standards
- Respect: recognizing each members' views and interests

Southern Illinois Counties

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Spotlight: Southern Illinois Museums

The CAHM is more than a storehouse for artifacts of times past; it also serves as the cornerstone of an active revitalization of the increasingly dynamic downtown Carbondale. The Museum currently hosts an eclectic mix of exciting and worthwhile activities including school trips, class reunions, weddings, receptions, civic planning sessions, banquets, regional excursions, club meetings, exhibits, demonstrations and many more. Additionally, the Carbondale Museum has an active partnership with Kaskaskia College to present a monthly educational series featuring noted authors and speakers from around the Midwest. Truly, the Carbondale Area past, present and future are alive at CAHM.

General John A. Logan Museum
15513 Edith Street - Murphysboro, IL 62966
Phone: (618) 684-3455 | Web: www.loganmuseum.org
Email: johnalognmuseum@io浩bleyes.net

The General John A. Logan Museum follows the life of Civil War General, Senator and Vice Presidential candidate, John A. Logan. Born in Murphysboro, Logan entered Congress in 1856 as a Democrat. During the Civil War he raised a Union regiment eventually becoming a Major General. After the war he returned to politics as a Republican and a champion of equal rights. Had he not died, Logan might have won the presidency in 1888. Logan’s greatest legacy is the creation of Memorial Day as a national holiday. Hours: September - May: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | June - August: Tue-Sat 10:00am-4:00pm | Sun: 1:00-4:00pm.

Hanna House Museum
South First & Center Streets, Fairfield, IL 62837
Email: waynecountyhistory@hotmail.com

The Hanna House Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays 12:30-4:30pm, March through November. Fourteen rooms of exhibits present Fairfield and Wayne County’s local history of schools, churches, military service, businesses, medical, sports, and civic events. Special exhibits highlight the prohibition-era Shelton gang, early funeral industry artifacts, and Kenneth Keys’ Medal of Honor memorial. Admission is free; children needing accompanying adults. Closed on holidays.

Jackson County Historical Society
1619 Edith Street - Murphysboro, IL 62966
Phone: (618) 684-6899
Email: jchs@verizon.net
Web: http://mysite.verizon.net/jchs/index.htm
Native American artifacts - 1925 • Tri-State Tobacco Exhibit • One Room School exhibit • 20th C. Camera display • Vintage textiles • Local newspaper microfilm collection • Photo collection & lab • Local History and Genealogy Research Library • Vertical Files of Families, subject, schools and churches • Court House Records: Hours: Wed. Thu & Fri: 12 - 3pm | Thu: 6:30-9pm.

Mississippi River Museum and Interpretive Center
606 Front Street - Grand Tower, IL 62942
Phone: (618) 565-2227 | Email: jkshak@earthlink.net

The Village buildings and their contents reflect life in Jefferson County from the mid 19th century to more recent years. Among the furnished buildings are, a one-room school, a log church and log jail, operating blacksmith and print shops. The Village is open Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. Admission is free and most buildings are handicap accessible.

John A. Logan College Museum
700 Logan College Road - Carterville, IL 62918
Phone: (618) 985-2828 ext. 8287
Email: Museum@jalc.edu
Web: www.jalc.edu/museum

The John A. Logan College Museum presents exhibits that promote the appreciation of Southern Illinois’ art and culture. Exhibits feature local artists and historical collections that explore southern Illinois’ unique traits.

The American Fluorite Museum
Main Street and Hwy 34 • Rosiclare, IL 62882
Phone: (618) 285-3513

The museum highlights the mineral, Fluorite (or calcium fluoride), a primary source of Fluorine. For nearly 150 years, Fluorine, Zinc and Lead were mined in southern Illinois/Western Kentucky. Displays include the economic and accessory minerals; how and where they were mined, and the local community and mining histories, mining memorabilia and geology.

University Museum
Southern Illinois University
1000 Fanner Drive, MC 4508
Carbondale, IL 62901
Phone: (618) 453-5888
Email: museum@siue.edu | Web: www.museum.siue.edu

The largest encyclopedic museum in Southern Illinois, the University Museum holds a collection of some 60,000 objects in the arts, humanities and sciences. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the University Museum is free and open when the University is in session. Call or check the website for programs, exhibits and special events in the Museum store.

Museum Map of Southern Illinois

Museums: Robinson Stewart Hours; built 1814; Ratcliff Inn, built 1826; Matzal Cabin, built 1853; L. Haas Store, built 1896; Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library, built 1914. All buildings listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Genealogy, history and research services available in person or via email. For tours call Library at (618) 382-8425 or Loretta at (618) 384-3871 Hours: Open Tuesday-Friday 1:30pm-4:30pm.

Jefferson County Historical Village
21411 27th Street • Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
Phone: (618) 246-0033
Email: ramscope@charter.net

The village buildings and their contents reflect life in Jefferson County from the mid 19th century to more recent years. Among the furnished buildings are, a one-room school, a log church and log jail, operating blacksmith and print shops. The Village is open Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm. Admission is free and most buildings are handicap accessible.