

From Chuck Stanley, Markers Committee

February, 2022 report.

MARKERS

Currently the committee has several markers in various stages of development.

- Two high schools in the Chicago South Suburbs are seeking to sponsor a marker where murder victim Emmett Till is buried in Burr Oak Cemetery in South Suburban Alsip. This is a 2022 goal.
- A marker in Ottawa for the Jim Gray rescue case - a runaway slave freed by a group of abolitionists. The money is coming from the City of Ottawa and the La Salle County Bar Association. The La Salle County Board has approved placement of the marker at the location where the incident took place. A potential speaker has been invited.
- Another marker in Ottawa for Civil War nurse Sarah Gregg. The City of Ottawa will fund this marker, but other participation is being sought. The location will be on city property. The marker text is under development.
- A marker in Troy Grove about abolitionist Prudence Crandall. Financial sponsors are lined up. The text by a Prudence Crandall scholar is under review by the sponsoring organizations.
- A marker in Marseilles to commemorate a Depression-era labor confrontation. The wording is set and the funds have been raised, I am told. Dedication scheduled for April 28. Musician Tom Morello, who spent summers in Marseilles growing up, will participate.
- A marker in Saunemin to Irish-born Jennie Rodgers who served in the Civil War as Albert Cashier. Bill Kemp has stepped up to help with this marker as a go-between with Saunemin officials and to help raise funds.
- A marker in Lombard for The Peck Homestead - a verified stop on the Underground Railroad. A proposed marker text is under review. The sponsor is the Lombard Historical Society.
- Two markers commemorating black aviation in Illinois. The would be at the first African-American airport in Robbins and its successor airport in Oak Lawn. Elaine Egdorf and Larry McClellan are assisting.
- A marker in Secor for Minnie Vautrin, a American missionary in China credited with helping save thousands of Chinese during the 1937 Rape of Nanking. There is no detectable current community interest and, as yet, no significant donors.

- A marker in El Paso for David Strother, the first African-American to have voted in Illinois after the passage of the 15th Amendment. A local history organization wants to sponsor this marker.

PENDING GOALS FOR 2022

- An update of the marker application.

- Involve more members of the ISHS in identifying potential marker opportunities and helping on the local level.

- Work with the ISHS Development Committee to seek donations that would include the funds to place a historical marker.

- Investigate the possibilities of making presentations on marker sponsorship opportunities at the annual conferences of the Illinois Municipal League, the Illinois State Association of Counties and Township Officials of Illinois.

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