

From Chuck Stanley, Markers Committee

December, 2021, report.

MARKERS

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

- 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 delay is getting permission from the La Salle County Board to put the marker up on county property. It has been six months with no decision in sight.

- 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.

- A marker in Troy Grove about abolitionist Prudence Crandall. I am working on the marker wording. I had hoped to get help from the author of a forthcoming book on Crandall, but am not getting a response. Financial sponsors are lined up.

- 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.

- A marker in Saunemin to Irish-born Jennie Hodgers 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.

- A marker for the first African-American airport in Robbins. This has been slow-going due to priority obligations of Robbins historian Tyrone Haymore. Elaine Egdorf has helped on this application and Larry McClellan also will be contacting Haymore to determine how to proceed. Possibly there could be two-marker opportunity commemorating black aviation in Illinois. The second marker would be at successor airport to the one in Robbins.

- 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.

GOALS FOR 2022

- 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.
- Find a high school history class that would research and raise funds for a local historical marker.

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