

Kemp Hall: A Main Street Mansion

Stephen Hermes

In 1912, the three-story, grey-brick Antoine E. DeMange residence became the first of several large homes immediately surrounding Illinois Wesleyan University to be snatched up by the university for use as student housing. The female students who took up residence in the hall that year lived in a mansion worth \$100,000 (over \$2 million in 2009 money), leading to the university's claim that, "It is probable that no school in the land has superior quarters for young women."

In 1903, DeMange, a lawyer and the owner of the Bloomington-Normal Electric Railway Company and the Phoenix Nursery, began construction on a house for his socialite wife, selecting as the architect George Miller, the designer of Miller Park, who conjured up a classical revival design conducive to entertaining on a large scale. When the house was completed in 1906,

DeMange had sunk \$80,000 into the project.

The completed house was the "pride of all Bloomington society," and the sociable DeMange family entertained lavishly in the third-floor ballroom with its vaulted ceiling, massive chandelier, and musician's balcony. Guests also used the billiard room on that floor, and in the first floor rooms that still issue broadly onto a central reception hall with a sweeping staircase. The interiors are clad in some 30 different types of wood so that one sees different woods in each room. The oak dining



room, with its adjoining palm conservatory, features a fireplace elevated to table level so that dinner guests can easily watch the fire during a meal. In 1906, the house integrated the most modern technology, including the first elevator in a private residence in Bloomington-Normal) that ran from the basement to the third floor, speaking tubes, dumbwaiters, and of course electricity.

The DeMange family only enjoyed their creation for six years. After only two years in the house, Mrs. DeMange died of heart problems. Mr. DeMange could not bear to reside in house any longer and moved across town. By 1911, he was so eager to sell that he offered the house and its furniture to IWU for half the money he had spent on its construction. The university named its acquisition Kemp Hall in recognition of President Theodore Kemp's skillful fund-raising efforts to finance the purchase.

The building has been physically altered over the years to suit its ever-changing functions, whether as a residence hall, an administrative building, or, during WWII, lodging for soldiers. In 1952, the columned porte-cochère on the north side of the building was removed, accounting for the seemingly illogical arrangement of windows on that side. The original Spanish roof has been replaced with blue shingles, and ivy no longer hugs the building. Still, the first two floors have retained their basic layout and all woodwork. The third floor ballroom was long ago partitioned into multiple dorm rooms and a false ceiling put in place. Venturing up to the attic, one can still stand at the musician's balcony and look across the vaulted portion of the ballroom, wallpaper hanging from the ceiling in shreds. To the right, a cupboard-like door in an expensive finish opens to the top of the elevator shaft; the gears were never removed.

From our Coordinator — Mike Ryburn

If you have not been to the warehouse lately, come visit us because we have a large selection of new materials. There has been a good deal of salvaging going on from all over the area including houses from Bloomington / Normal as well as some as far away as Ottawa and Cropsey.

This month coming up, I have to look at a house in Toulon and one by Flanagan. There are always houses in town that need replacement parts that we have rescued from the landfill as well. In the past few months we have been able to get into five houses to salvage parts prior to demolition.

It seems to me that there is no end in sight to the plight of older homes. If you have some time this summer and would like to volunteer at the warehouse or on any other of our well deserving projects, just stop by, or give us a call and let us know what interests you.

Summer is just starting, so let me know what kind of projects you need instruction with. I'll certainly look into putting a workshop together in order to help you facilitate your job. You can always stop by the warehouse at 214 East Douglas St. on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays to get advice on your restoration needs.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming House Tour this year. We have some great houses for you to look through. Don't forget to pass the word to friends and neighbors and help us make this tour the best attended tour ever. House tours are one of the ways we try to bring awareness to the local community of the wonderful work our ancestors did in construction. This way we will be more likely to restore a property rather than raze it.

If you want to share this newsletter, it is available for download on the OHS website at www.oldhousesociety.org. Just go to Resources at the top, scroll down to Newsletter Archives and click on the desired issue date. If you would prefer to read the newsletter online, let me know and we can send you an email alerting you that the latest newsletter is ready instead of printing and mailing it to you. This would save money, time and the environment all at the same time.

I want to take this time to thank all of the people who help make this organization the outstanding representational group that leads the way in restoration.

Michael D. Ryburn
Operation Coordinator

Mission Statement: To promote and preserve buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods more than 50 years old, and the communities and heritage they foster.

OHS Events

Annual Old House Tour: The Houses of Wesleyan

Saturday, June 19th, 10am-4pm

Help us celebrate our 30th anniversary by attending this very special event, 'The Houses of Wesleyan.' Enjoy this step back in time as you get to view Adams Hall, Alpha Gamma Delta, Blackstock, DeMotte Hall and English House, with a nostalgic walk down memory lane. This is a rare opportunity to see inside these historic homes from our past.

Membership Appreciation Sale:

Friday & Saturday, July 16 & 17th

Stop by the warehouse and receive 25% off all materials in the warehouse.

Not valid with any other offer.

2010

Gift of the Street Award Nominations



Old House Society is seeking nominations for our Gift to the Street Award for buildings whose owners have maintained or restored its original architectural characteristics.

If you own such a house or know of a house that fits this description, here's your chance to nominate it!

Email your nominations at coordinator@oldhousesociety.org.



GOT OLD LOCKS?

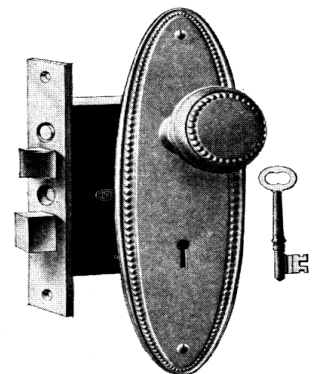
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Renew Your Old House Society Membership!

To renew (or to begin) your membership in the Old House Society, please detach and fill out the form below and either mail it in or drop it off at the warehouse. We're always happy to see you!

Also, don't forget, we're always looking for new members. If you know a family member, friend or neighbor who might be interested, pass on the membership information or send them to the warehouse.

Old House Society Membership

* WAREHOUSE * DISCOUNTS * NEWSLETTERS *
NEW FRIENDS * PROMOTING TRADITION *

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Contact Info

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Decide your membership level

_____ \$25 Student/Retiree

_____ \$35 Individual

_____ \$50 Family

_____ \$100 Arthur Pillsbury

_____ \$250 Paul Moratz

_____ \$500 George Miller

_____ \$1,000 Rudolph Richter

_____ \$10,000 Lifetime Member

Keep in mind, your contribution is eligible for a tax deduction

*Thank you for your donation to the Old House Society!

Join now or renew your membership! Fill out the form above and mail it with your check to:
Old House Society, PO Box 581, Bloomington, IL 61702-0581

Benjamin F. Harber Residence - I.W.U. Blackstock Hall

1102 N. East Street, Bloomington, Illinois



The beautiful home pictured above was designed by Arthur L. Pillsbury for Benjamin F. Harber at 1102 North East Street near Illinois Wesleyan University. It was constructed in 1901. In the rear of the lot a stable was built and later called a coach house.

The Harbers continued to live in this house until it was sold to Harry W. Benson in 1921.

At Illinois Wesleyan University in January of 1935, an announcement was made that Mrs. Mary Hardtner Blackstock of Springfield, Illinois had given \$10,000 toward the cost of providing an additional dormitory for women students, but it was not until June, 1937, that the Harry W. Benson residence at 1102 North East street was purchased, named Blackstock Hall and made ready for occupancy at the beginning of the next school year.



In September 1943 an announcement of a \$10,000 gift for completing the coach house as an Art Center was made, but it was at the dedication in January 1944, it became known that the donor was Mrs. Mary Hardtner Blackstock.

It continues today as a dormitory for 20-26 students and the coach house served for many years as an Art Center and now serves as the Campus Security Center.

The Old House Society and the McLean County Museum of History seek donations of photos of older homes in McLean County. Please check your old albums for pictures of family homes. Pictures may be donated or loaned for scanning and would be returned with a high quality print and a digital file of the scan. Leave a message for Bill LaBounty at 309-827-0428 (Museum) or 309-820-0548 (Old House Society).

Bill LaBounty





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If you wish to be a part of our Treasure Hunt feature, please email Mike at:
coordinator@oldhousesociety.org

OHS' Family Recipes

Hello Dolly Bars

- 1/2 c butter
- 1 c graham crackers, crumbled
- 1 c chocolate chips
- 1 c coconut
- 1 c butterscotch chips
- 1 c condensed milk
- 1 c nuts, chopped

Melt butter in 13" x 19" pan. Spread graham cracker crumbs. Layer remaining ingredients in order given. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool. Cut into bars.

Potatoes O'Brien

- 4 sl. bacon
- 4 large potatoes, sl. thin
- 4 onions, sliced thin
- Water
- 1/2 c. pimentos, diced
- 1 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper

Cook bacon. Remove and crumble. Add potatoes and onions to drippings with water to cover. Cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, until tender. Add bacon, pimentos, salt and pepper. Cook until brown. Invert to serve. Use half as many onions as potatoes.

Recipes submitted by Carol Williams.

*If you'd like to submit an old family recipe, email coordinator@oldhousesociety.org.

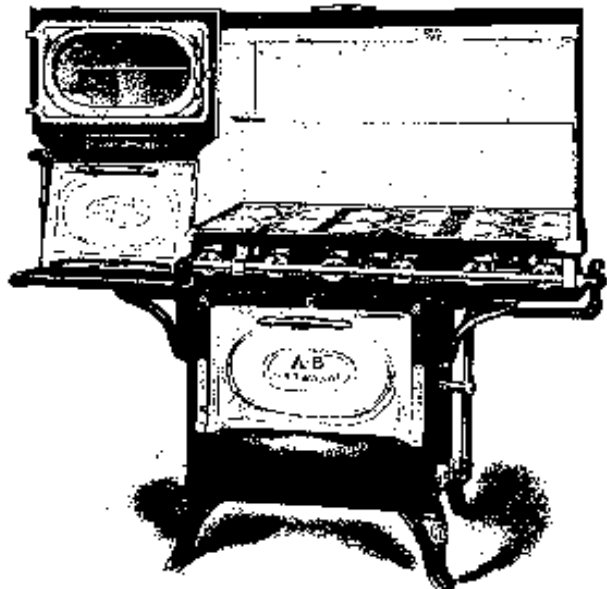


NOT HOW CHEAP--BUT HOW GOOD



A-B Gas Ranges

This range is a model left design for extra capacity and cooking surface.



No. 44-6. A-B Full Tile Gas Range
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- White Porcelain Drip Trays and Burner Box Linings.
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A-B STOVE COMPANY, BATTLE CREEK, MICH.



AS EASY TO CLEAN AS A CHINA PLATE



New Officers For OHS Board of Directors

OHS elected a new set of officers this spring. New officers are as follows:

President: Patrick O'Sullivan

Patrick has served as an OHS board member for two years and participated on the capital campaign committee the year before that. He is a communication professor at Illinois State University and has served as director of the campus Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology for the past five years. He lives with his wife Ana Floriani and three children in a 1917 Craftsman-style home on North Clinton Boulevard in Bloomington's White Place Historical District. He has been learning to tackle many repair, restoration, and maintenance jobs himself.

Vice President: Graham Cowger

Graham has served as an OHS board member for one year before accepting the nomination to be an officer. He is manager of development relations for the McLean County Museum of History since 2007. He and his wife Victoria live in a 1925 Foursquare Style house in Founder's Grove, Bloomington. Recently married, he and Victoria just welcomed their first child. He is also following in his grandfather's footsteps in his love of woodworking.

Treasurer: Thomas Crumpler

Tom has served as an OHS board member for one year before accepting the nomination. He is an education professor at Illinois State University and a 10-year resident of the community. He and his spouse Kay Moss have been restoring the John A. Kerr/Frank Hamilton House on Walnut Street across from Franklin Park in Bloomington. This Victorian era home was built in 1874/75 and has Queen Anne influences.

Secretary: Shana Ames-Maurer

Shana has served as an OHS board member for one year before accepting the nomination. She has lived in the community for 19 years and works a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker Heart of America Realtors in Bloomington. She lives with her husband Jim and three children in an 1898 Queen Anne on Jefferson Street in the Davis Addition near David Davis Mansion.



Patrick O'Sullivan



Thomas Crumpler



Shana Ames-Maurer

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for an interview

Open House

Old House Society is always looking for new homes to show for our open houses.

If you would be interested in showing your home and participating in one of our open houses, please contact the Old House Society!

The History of Ballrooms in Private Homes

Stephen Hermes

Two of the houses to be featured during the Houses of Wesleyan home tour--Kemp Hall and Blackstock Hall--originally featured third-floor ballrooms. These days, ballrooms in private homes are almost unheard of, but from the 1880s to 1920, they were common in Victorian and Edwardian-era mansions. "It's hard to think of ballrooms as a necessity, but if you wanted to entertain your peers, you did it at home," says Dwight Young of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Ballrooms were commonly located on the third floor, where they could utilize the full width of the home, and they were built without support columns. A vaulted ceiling served acoustic purposes, as did a musician's gallery--a raised landing overlooking one end of the ballroom. The era of the private ballroom began to die around 1920, when apartment life became popular among young people, who opted to dance in public ballrooms at hotels. Thereafter, ballroom dancing faced increasing competition with other forms of entertainment, and private ballrooms were long an anachronism by the end of the century. New owners of Victorian houses containing ballrooms commonly utilize such spaces as playrooms, large offices, bedrooms, recreation rooms, or home theaters, although some use the rooms for their original purposes.

(Adapted from http://www.tourthenewrealtor.com/rmohome_and_design/architecturecoach/articlearchive/archcoach200801)

Sculpture will commemorate Lincoln, Davis and Fell

Ruthie Cobb

A sculpture of Abraham Lincoln and two of his closest friends has been commissioned by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County. The model of the statue was unveiled in September and fundraising continues.

"Convergence of Purpose," by Bloomington sculptor Andrew Jumonville, depicts Abraham Lincoln being urged to run for the Presidency by Jesse Fell and Judge David Davis. The life-sized bronze sculpture will be placed in the green space at the front of the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. The base will feature a series of converging timelines noting key moments in the lives of the three men. The piece will be on a raised foundation with walkways displaying donor recognition plaques and Lincoln quotes. A dedication event is planned for this fall.

Fundraising Committee Co-chair Robert Lenz, a member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County, says more than 80 percent of the goal of \$225,000 has been reached through donations and grants. Information and a donor form are available on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County website at www.mclincoln.org.



Help support Old House Society by participating in one of their fundraisers!

eScrip

The eScrip program allows you to shop at your local grocery store, dine out, and shop online, while contributing money to Old House Society.

eScrip

Pick up a Schnucks eScrip Customer Card at any Schnucks store or the warehouse and activate it by calling 1-800-931-6258 or by visiting www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp. Each time you shop at Schnucks, a percentage of your purchase is donated to Old House Society!

Or, you can simply register your credit or debit card at www.escrip.com with our **Group ID #500022925** and dine at places such as Gumby's Pizza or Qdoba Mexican Grill, or even shop online at stores like Barnes & Noble, Best Buy or Home Depot and again, a percentage of your purchase is donated to Old House Society! It's simple and secure, so why not sign up?

Goodsearch.com

Goodsearch.com is a search engine powered by yahoo.com, which donates money to your specified not for profit agency for each search you generate. There is nothing to download! Favorite goodsearch.com or set it as your homepage, add Old House Society as your charity and start searching! You could even add the search bar!



Don't forget **goodshop.com**, which will link you to your favorite online stores, whom also donate a percentage of your totals off their websites.

Or simply renew your membership today!



OHS Newsletter Ad Space

Would you like to reach a discriminating and sophisticated clientele? Put an ad in the OHS newsletter to reach hundreds of community members with a passion for older homes and buildings. Pick the size of your ad, send us the clip art and we will get it into the newsletter.

Ad spaces are as follows:

Size	Cost
Business Card (2x 3.5)	\$35
3.5 x 4.5	\$45
4.5 x 7.5	\$85
Full Page (7.5x10)	\$150

Discounts available for multiple ads and repeated placements. You can reach out to clients and insure that your advertising dollar goes farther, while helping our organization produce the best, most informative newsletter ever!

Special Thanks

For the donation of cheeses for the OHS Annual Meeting:

- Ropp Jersey Cheese

For allowing OHS to salvage the houses that were being razed:

- Mark at Trunk Bay Construction
- Tom Kirk
- David Copodice

For Sale

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*Free Lathe! Call David @ 309-662-1015 for more information.

The Williams Estate: A 1868 Southern-Style Mansion

Stephen Hermes

The plantation-like sorority house at 1409 North Main Street, across the street from Walgreen's, predates even the David Davis Mansion, at 142 years of age. Completed in 1868 for Robert E. Williams, a prominent lawyer and Democratic Senator, it originally faced untamed woodlands to the northwest and countryside to the north and northeast. Main Street was at the time paved only up to Seminary Avenue, beyond which wagons would frequently get stuck in ruts in the road. These days, the building is the residence of IWU's Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, and although the picket fence and horseshoe driveway are gone, the building, at a stately distance from the road, still catches the eyes of passersby.

The Williams's estate was the showplace of its era, with its large, high-ceilinged rooms, tall, arched windows, marble fireplaces, and an indoor bathroom off of the master bedroom. (To install the bathroom, the Williams had to bring in a plumber from Chicago, who liked Bloomington so much that he moved to Bloomington and set up shop there.) The attic on the third floor was so sizable that one of the Williams' children recalls playing basketball there.

In its day, the house hosted important guests such as Adlai Stevenson, Spanish war hero Richmond Pearson Hobbs, and visiting foreign dignitaries from Russia, Poland, and Switzerland. Still, the Williams Estate was a family home where Robert and his wife raised their 13 children. When the children were not engaged in chores--whether helping the family's Irish cook, Maggie, or filling the upstairs hot water tank with the requisite 1,400 strokes at the pump in the basement, the Williams children enjoyed the expansive grounds surrounding the house, comprising numerous outbuildings including a barn, carriage house, washrooms, and two summer houses. Additionally, the estate boasted formal flower gardens, a grape arbor, and a miniature farm growing fruits and vegetables, beyond which open pasture stretched to East Street.

Ownership of the estate passed into the hands of another judge in 1903 and then passed into the hands of a wealthy manufacturer of harnesses and saddlery. By the time Alpha Gamma Delta acquired the property, in 1930, all the outbuildings had been removed. AGD has made two additions to the back of the building since that time.

(Adapted from a historical sketch of the AGD house written for the building's 101st anniversary; it is available at the McLean County History Museum library.)



Old House Society

The Houses of Wesleyan
HOUSE TOUR
Saturday, June 19th, 2010
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Tickets: \$10 In Advance, \$15 June 19th, Children Under 12 are free!

Architectural Salvage Warehouse, 214 E. Douglas St. in Bloomington

Casey's Garden Shop in Bloomington • Coffee Hound in Bloomington/Normal

Garlic Press in Normal • Schnucks Super Market in Bloomington/Normal

*Tickets can be purchased June 19th at the OHS Warehouse or at the OHS Booth at IWU

Houses:

Adams Hall

Alpha Gamma Delta

Blackstock Hall

DeMotte Hall

English House

Kemp Hall

1401 North Main Street

1409 North Main Street

1102 North East Street

1409 North Park Street

1101 North Main Street

1207 North Main Street

Bloomington

Bloomington

Bloomington

Bloomington

Bloomington

Bloomington

For More Information visit www.oldhousesociety.org or call (309) 820-0548