



# The Volunteer

The 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House

*Soon to be Released:*

## *A Novella Recounting Life inside the Stephenson Household*

August  
2015

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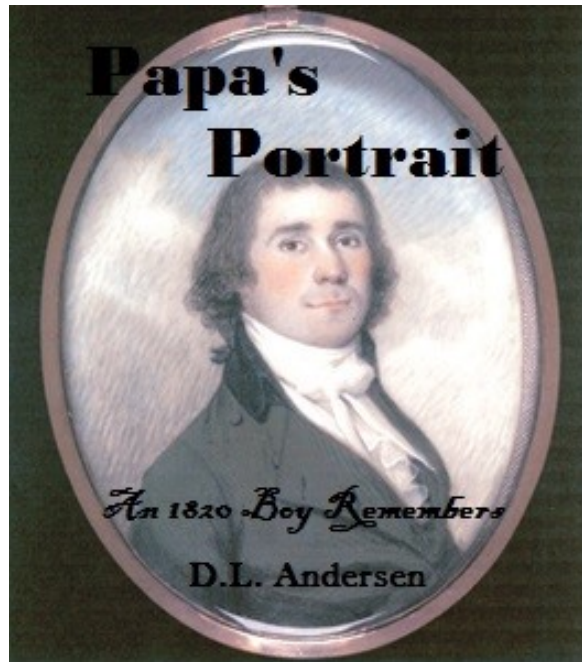
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Release Date: September 1, 2015

Available in e-book and paperback on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the Stephenson Gift Shop, as well as for pre-order on Amazon and Smashwords.com

When the youngest Stephenson son, Ben V. overhears his parents arguing one October night in 1819, it's clear his world is about to change. Over the course of the next few years, he learns that his privileged life isn't all it should be in Edwardsville, IL. Growing up the son of Colonel Benjamin Stephenson, banker, land agent and friend to the governor carries its own set of burdens and confusion. Fraught with political scandals, banking failures and a family struggling to find peace and prosperity, little Ben learns to understand his father's role in shaping a territory and the sacrifices and choices made in order to preserve honor and dignity.

D. L. Andersen – the pen name of house docent



Diane Schrader – spins familiar facts into a premiere novelized telling of Edwardsville during the tumultuous days of its early founding.

*Papa's Portrait: An 1820 Stephenson House Novella*, also contains historical background information to further engage visitors after a tour, and perhaps entice others to visit the historic 1820 Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House.

More importantly, the novella serves as a tribute to our beloved historian and genealogist, Karen Matyka, who passed away on February 18 of this year. Karen served as an inspiration and source of knowledge to so many through the tireless hours of research she gleaned over the years and left as a legacy through her own writings. Diane has taken this one step further

into a fictional realm that brings to life the Stephenson's story to reach a wider audience beyond the walls of our familiar brick house. All proceeds from the book will go to a memorial fund in her honor to benefit the historic preservation of the historic site.

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## Novella

*Continued from page 1*

“Very interesting story! I learned a few things reading it... especially since the early territorial period in the Old Northwest is generally unknown to the general public between Tippecanoe and the period just before the Civil War.” ~ Harold Campbell (international editor and newspaper journalist)

“The writing is great! The lan-

guage is smooth and flows so naturally it's a pleasure to read. YES! Interesting stories can definitely put places on my Bucket List and make me want to see it/experience it myself. And the same goes for reading stories after I've been to a place too. It's such a great feeling to let own first-hand impressions blend together with a work of fiction, everything comes alive in a powerful, convincing way.” ~ Cayenne Michaels (World Traveler, Photographer, Writer)

Papa's Portrait will be available after September 1st in e-book and paper-

back from Amazon and Smashwords. Books will also be available for sale at the Stephenson House Gift Shop.

**About the Author:** D.L. Andersen (Diane Schrader) has served as house docent since 2006 where she enjoys escaping into the past and living the life of an 1820's woman. From this she has drawn inspiration and first hand research for her historical fiction stories. Her previous publications include a short story for Walrus Press and numerous articles for The Volunteer and the Kwik Konnection.



Image from Google

Several of you have mentioned you would like to upgrade your wardrobe to include a 'fancy' dress. Well ladies, I am issuing a challenge! In the next couple days take some time to troll the

## Belle of the Ball

*By RoxAnn Raisner*

World Wide Web for gown ideas. Google images for the following topics "1820 Ball Gowns", "1820 evening dresses", "Regency dress patterns", etc. Be sure to check that images are for the late 18-teens and early 1820s. Get some ideas of what you'd like in a gown. Sometimes you get lucky and find free downloadable PDFs...print them off and bring them along to sewing circle (we'll check them over for accuracy). Our patterns are limited here at the house but we can use some of them as a starting point. There is a pattern out there called La Mode Bagatelle's "Regency-Wardrobe"...it's a

little pricey (\$47-57 smackers). I'm thinking about ordering it for the house since it seems to have a LARGE selection of pattern pieces to mix-n-match.

You will need to be thinking about fabrics too. Silks would be nice! But so would a nice Indian muslin (like RoseEllen wore at Candlelight). If you are going for silk, be sure the silk DOES NOT have slubs. I'll have some fabrics examples at sewing circle for you to fondle and drool over too!

## Malaria in the Federal Era

*By Julie Mangoff*

Leading up to Col. Benjamin Stephenson's death in 1822, there are receipts for yellow bark. At this time, yellow bark was a known treatment for malaria, which leads to speculation that Stephenson died of this disease. At the time of Stephenson's life, Malaria has been infecting and killing people for thousands of years. For most of that time, no one knew what caused the disease. Some thought it was due to supernatural influences or curses. This can be seen in the origin of the word "malaria" which comes from the Italian "mal aria" or "bad air."

However, Romans were the first to understand that there was a correlation between stagnant water and number of people sick with malaria. Because of that, they drained pools of stagnant water. This

was some of the first effective measures taken to combat the causes of malaria.

By the Federal Era, there was not much more known about the disease. People did not know that malaria was carried by mosquitoes that transfer a parasite to humans they bite and that this parasite lived in the blood. Even though people did not know the causes of malaria, they did find some effective treatments. During the Spanish colonization of the Americas, priests discovered the bark of Cinchona trees in Peru effectively treat malaria. In English, it was called yellow bark. To treat malaria, the bark was dried and ground then mixed with a liquid and drunk. This is what leads to the speculation that Stephenson died of malaria.

The use of yellow bark was an

effective treatment of malaria. The reason why is quinine, a bitter compound present in the bark. It was first isolated from yellow bark in 1820 by a French chemist. When it was discovered that a parasite causes malaria, the true importance of quinine became known: this chemical kills the malaria parasite. Today, synthetic quinine is still prescribed to treat malaria because of this property.

Even though quinine is good treatment for this disease, it was not easy to dose during the Federal Era. Because it was administered along with the bark of the tree, there was no way to standardize dosage of the compound. If Stephenson did have malaria, this could be why he died even with the help of yellow bark.



## *Photos of the Month: July Photos*



Left and Above: Bob Jurgena having fun with the fan Amy Mullane and RoxAnn Raisner made. It's a prototype for the fan that the girls at Mrs. Lucy's Academy made. Photo by RoxAnn Raisner.

## *Photo Competition*

*By Julie Mangoff*

Summer is upon us and the sun is out after all the rain we received earlier this year. With the nice weather, comes the opportunity to be out and about and take photos. To celebrate this break in the weather, I have decided to announce a photo competition.

The rules are fairly straightforward, each person may submit up to two

photos they have taken during the month of August. The photos must be taken at the Stephenson House, House-sponsored event, or feature the Federal Era in some way. Your pictures may be taken with people, animals, objects, or scenery.

Email your pictures along with your name and a brief description of the photo to me at [jamangoff@gmail.com](mailto:jamangoff@gmail.com) by

August 20th. The winning photos will be featured in September's issue of *The Volunteer* along with the photographer's name and caption.

Have fun and good luck!

# August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Step by Step 10 A. M.—12 P. M.	6 Concert in the Park (EDW Library Park) 7—10 P. M.	7	8 Eagle Scout Project: Kyle Walsh 8 A. M.
9 Sewing Circle 1 P. M.	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sewing Circle 1 P. M.	24 30	25 Board Meeting 7 P. M.	26	27	28	29

## *Upcoming Dates*

- August 5: Step by Step  
at 10 A. M.—12 P. M.
- August 6: Concert in the Park  
(EDW Library Park) at 7—10 P. M.
- August 8: Eagle Scout Project: Kyle Walsh  
at 8 A. M.
- August 9: Sewing Circle at 1 P. M.
- August 23: Sewing Circle at 1 P. M.
- August 25: Board Meeting at 7 P. M.

## *Thank You!*

- Nick Colbert for the large donation of reproduction men's clothing, including: 7 shirts, 2 military vests, 7 civilian vests, 11 trousers/knee breeches, 1 shortcoat, 1 hunting frock, 1 tailcoat, 6 stockings, 2 neck stocks, 2 neck cloths, 1 suspenders, and 1 sgt. sash
- Meg Solon, Karlene McCoy, Pat Peverly, Ellen Nordhauser, Joyce Lamping, Tara Johnston, and Amy Mullane for donating supplies for Mrs. Lucy's Camp
- Jim and Gloria Zupanci for donating 2 straw hats and a daycap pattern
- Elizabeth Edwards, Amy Mullane, Kathleen Schmidt, Diane Schrader, Angela Otto, and Ellen Nordhauser for volunteering at Mrs. Lucy's Camp

## *New to the House*



Wool tailcoat donated by Nick Colbert. Photo by RoxAnn Raisner.



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If you have any articles or stories you would like to be added to next month's edition of *The Volunteer*, please contact the editor at: [jamangoff@gmail.com](mailto:jamangoff@gmail.com).

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[www.stephensonhouse.shutterfly.com](http://www.stephensonhouse.shutterfly.com)

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## *News & Needs*

### *Found...*

- One pair of reading glasses with black neck strap

### *Needs...*

- flour
- unprocessed honey
- volunteers to help with house tours, gift shop, garden & grounds, grant writing & research, as well as special events
- cleaning supplies such as Windex, toilet bowl cleaner, hand soap, disinfecting wipes, bleach, and toilet paper

- seamstresses to sew clothing for the volunteer wardrobe
- bolt of 100% cotton batiste