



# The Volunteer

The 1820 Col. Benjamin Stephenson House

## The New Look

by Julie Mangoff

## July 2015

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As you probably noticed, *The Volunteer* has a new look this month. What you may not know is that there is a new Editor and Content Designer. My name is Julie Mangoff and I am now in charge of the monthly newsletter.

I have already met some of you, but for those who do not know me, I just started volunteering at the house this year. Elizabeth Edwards (one of my favorite former teachers) recommended I volunteer here.

Some interesting things about me are that I am a cat person, a Cardinals fan, fond of putting 500 piece puzzles together, someone who loves to write, and a fan of science-fiction. Finally, I studied abroad in Seville,

Spain while in college and returned home with a taste for Spanish cuisine.

History has always been a passion of mine, I have recently graduated college with Bachelor's degrees in History (2013) and Spanish (2014). I have also interned at the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington, IL (2012).

I am excited to take over *The Volunteer*. My goal is to highlight current events at the Stephenson House and supply interesting facts. I am starting a new feature for this edition of *The Volunteer* entitled "Photos of the Month." I would like this section to highlight the previous month's activities at the house with volunteer-submitted photos. If you would like to submit photos for next

month's feature, please email them to me with your name, title of picture, and date taken. In addition to submitting photos, I would like to encourage anyone who would like to submit ideas for articles or write articles is welcome to do so. I do have to put a word limit on the articles to a maximum of 750 words. If you chose to submit a photo or article, please email me by the 15th of the month at: jamangoff@gmail.com, and your submission may be in a future newsletter.

I am currently looking for a full time position in writing, editorial, research, archival, HR, or any positions that utilize Spanish. If you here of anything in that vein, I would appreciate if you could contact me. Thank you!

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## Sunday Sewing Circle

By Julie Mangoff

Every Sunday, the Stephenson House hosts its Sewing Circle. Open to all volunteers, the Sewing Circle is a chance to work on your own projects or help sew new clothes for the house wardrobe. It is also a good time to practice hand- or machine-sewing, or any craft project.

During these sessions, some of the recent projects included neckerchiefs and day caps, as well as day dresses.

If you would like to join the Sewing Circle, there are two upcoming dates in July, the 12th and 26th beginning at 1 P. M.



Photo by Julie Mangoff.

## *The Mysterious Origins of English Phrases*

*by Julie Mangoff*

The idea for this article was sparked by house volunteer Elizabeth Edwards. She discovered that despite popular belief, the phrase, “sleep tight, don’t let the bed bugs bite” does not originate from the Federalist Era, but from a latter period.

After doing a little research on the subject of English phrases, I discovered [www.phrases.org.uk](http://www.phrases.org.uk). This website has compiled hundreds (if not thousands) of idiomatic expressions. This website is a wonderful resource for learning about the history and origins of common phrases in English-speaking countries. While exploring, I learned many interesting facts about the phrase “sleep tight, don’t let the bed bugs bite.”

I had always thought that “sleep tight, don’t let the bed bugs bite” was derived from rope-sprung beds. “Sleeping tight” meant that one had to tighten the rope for comfortable sleeping. However, the real origin of this expression is much more abstract.

The phrase, “Sleep tight, don’t let the bed bugs bite” was not used until the middle of the twentieth century. This expression was an extension of the older phrase, “sleep tight.” The first documented case of the short version was in the middle of the 1800s. The phrase was not used to refer to the tightening of ropes. Instead,

it relies on one of the old definitions of the word “tight.” It used to mean “well,” or “soundly.” With this in mind, the phrase “sleep tight” simply means “to sleep soundly.”

After learning the history behind “sleep tight,” I became curious about other expressions. I then found an entry explaining “don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater.” Many people believe that this phrase is from old English bathing practices where a family would share the same bathwater and the last to get the bath was the baby. By the time the infant was bathed, the water was murky and there was the danger of accidentally throwing the baby out with the water.

The truth behind this idiom is stranger than fiction. The first documented case of this phrase is not from English sources. Instead, it was used in a 16<sup>th</sup> century book of German proverbs published in German. The expression had not literal connotations, but was simply a way of telling people “don’t throw away valuable items with undesirable ones.” It wasn’t until over three centuries later, in the mid-1800s, that “don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater” made it into English (when a Scottish philosopher translated it into English).

The last expression I read about

was: “the whole nine yards.” Whereas the previous two phrases have clear origins, this one has none. I had always thought it had to do with football (though why nine yards were mentioned and not ten, I never could figure out). A couple other common explanations people give for this phrase are: nine yards was the length of bolts of fabric in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and to make an outfit, women would order “the whole nine yards” or nine yards was the length of machine gun belts in WWII and soldiers would use all of it to take out a persistent enemy.

It turns out that all of these explanations are false. The first use of “the whole nine yards” was in 1907 and 1908. It was used in an Indiana newspaper twice in those two years and meant the same thing that it does today. Then there was no mention of the expression until 1967 when the world long jump record was broken when a man jumped nine yards. Since then, it has become a common expression. Still, where the phrase comes from and why it was only used by a single newspaper only twice in fifty years before becoming a mainstream expression is unknown.

For more information, or if you are curious about other expressions, go to <http://www.phrases.org.uk/>.

## *Mrs. Lucy’s Camp Information*

*by RoxAnn Raisner*

July 15-17 is Mrs. Lucy’s Academy for Young Ladies, 9a.m.-2p.m., \$85 (due at registration). Young ladies attending the Academy will discover what it was like to be a real American girl in 1820. Participants dress in reproduction clothing similar to styles worn in the early 1800s. At the end of the camp, a tea will be hosted by participants for their mother (or father) showcasing the skills learned during the three-day camp. Dress size is needed for each partici-

pant. Pre-registration is required. Ages 8-12 years. Participants should bring a sack lunch; midmorning snack. Drinks are provided. Space is limit to 12 participants.

Volunteers are needed to help with the camp. Also needed are supplies and snacks for the participants.

Left: Photo by RoxAnn Raisner.



## *Photos of the Month: June Photos*



Above: Elizabeth Edwards volunteers at the Stephenson House booth at the Route 66 Festival on Saturday June 13.  
Photo taken by Julie Mangoff



Photos taken from Digging History. Above: Sid Denny and Alex Harper worked on prepping the digging pits the Saturday (June 13) before the Archaeology Camp. Photo taken by RoxAnn Raisner. Left and Below: Participants and volunteers work on excavating the pits in the rain on June 18. Photos taken by Julie Mangoff.



## *Digging History*

*By Julie Mangoff*

During the wettest week of the month, the Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House hosted its Summer archaeology camp, Digging History. Designed by SIUE professor Sid Deny, assisted by Terry Norris, the camp let participants unearth artifacts in a simulated dig.

Prior to the camp Sid Deny oversaw volunteers as they prepared the pits for the camp. Preparations in-

cluded adding pottery, musket balls, animal bones and other artifacts between layers of sand and mulch. Volunteers also staked tents and tarps over the pits to keep them dry from the rain.

Although it rained everyday, no one seemed to mind. Participants learned about archaeology in a fun and hands-on approach. It was a success!



# July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 House Closed
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sewing Circle 1 P. M.	13	14	15 Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies 9 A. M.—2 P. M.	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Sewing Circle 1 P. M.	27	28 Board Meeting 7 P. M.	29 Step by Step 10 A.M.—12 P.M.	30	31	

## Upcoming Dates

- July 4, Stephenson House will be closed
- July 12, Sewing Circle, 1 P. M.
- July 15-17, Mrs. Lucy's Academy for Young Ladies, 9 A. M.-2 P. M.
- July 26, Sewing Circle, 1 P. M.
- July 28, Board Meeting, 7 P. M.
- July 29, Step by Step day care tour

## Thank You!

- Carol Peterson, Pat Peverly, Lucia Weber, and Karlene McCoy for donating snacks and water for Digging History.
- Sid Deny, Terry Norris, Tara Johnston, Diane Scrader, Riley Threlkeld, Sam Cheatham, Angela Otto and Amy Mullane for volunteering during Digging History.
- Elizabeth Edwards for donating lace to the house.
- Sue Mangoff for donating *The Distancers* to the library.

## New to the House Wardrobe



This month we welcome the addition of a new women's cotton day dress that was sewn by RoxAnn Raisner. Photo by RoxAnn Raisner.



## *The Volunteer*

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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*

### ***Welcome...***

- Alex Harper as the newest Stephenson House Volunteer!

### ***Found...***

- One pair of reading glasses with black neck strap

### ***Needs...***

- snacks, supplies, and volunteers for Mrs. Lucy's Camp
- 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