

Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum will open its doors for the 2009 season on April 15 with exhibits celebrating anniversaries.

This is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln. If you are unable to make a trip to Springfield, Illinois, you will enjoy the Lincoln exhibit at Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum.

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1859, John Brown led a raid at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. This incident is tied to St. Johns, Michigan through John's half-sister, Martha Davis Brown. Martha was a resident of the city of St. Johns, and is buried at Mount Rest Cemetery.

One hundred years ago, in 1909, Wallace Watt of Clinton County, Michigan, joined the first Boy Scout Troop of America, and remained a Boy Scout all his life. (An Englishman, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, organized the Boy Scouts in England in 1908. He introduced them to the U.S. in 1909.) Olive Watt, the wife of Wallace (Wally), donated his Boy Scout memorabilia to

the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum. She also donated funds to have a case built for the artifacts, making the collection a traveling exhibit. Most recently, the collection was loaned to a Laingsburg, Michigan Boy Scout Troop for the kick-off of a year-long National Celebration of Boy Scouts 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Last season, Paine-Gillam-Scott received a gift of collector dolls, and they will be on display for four weeks after opening this year (April 15-May 13).

Coming in mid-May is a very special collection of memorabilia, clothing and other personal belongings of the Hicks Family of St. Johns. Many items date back to the early 1800's, and are new to the Museum Collection. These artifacts are a great addition to the Hicks' 1870 bedroom suite donated by the Harry Wadell family, who had acquired the furniture in 1946.

Visit the "Heart of History" at your doorstep in Clinton County. By coming to the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum, one may view a collection of

donations amassed over the past 30 years. All are stored and exhibited in the oldest (149 years) brick home in St. Johns, its' carriage house, and a General Store, also on the site.

Hours: Sunday 1-4pm Wednesday 2-7pm

West Side of Courthouse Square

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