

# INKLINGS AND IDLINGS

The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

313 East Third Street • P.O. Box 585 • Galesburg, Illinois 61402 • (309) 342-2361 • www.sandburg.org

## Summer 2019

### FROM SITE SUPERINTENDENT MARTHA DOWNEY SITE ON MASTER GARDENERS' GARDEN WALK

In spite of rain and mud this spring the Master Gardeners have been keeping the Site's plantings looking wonderful. Those hard working volunteers have also been adding plants to the Site's grounds. Put June 15 on your calendar. The Master Gardeners are hosting a community garden walk from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Sandburg Site's grounds are part of that event. The Site will be open for that event. Come by to see the results of their hard work, let them know how much their efforts are appreciated, visit the Site, and then wander on to enjoy the rest of the gardens on the walk. The other gardens are the Carl Sandburg Community Garden, the Knox County Nursing Home Gardens, and the Knox County Fairgrounds.

Just a reminder that the Carl Sandburg Songbag Concert series has been extended into the summer. July 14 will be David Bernston. He is a master of Chicago and Mississippi Delta style blues. August 11 Galesburg's own, Andy Crawford and Harry Tonchev, will be performing on Jazz guitar and bass. The concerts begin at 4 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. with a break for refreshments around 5 p.m. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested. The 2019 Sandburg Songbag concerts are made possible thanks to a grant from the Mark and Celia Godsil Family Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of the Galesburg Community Foundation, and the Community Impact Fund at the Galesburg Community Foundation. The concert series is presented by the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Thanks to the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association, the Master Gardeners, Mark and Celia Godsil, and volunteers who enthusiastically support the Site, even during this extended time of being closed.

### CSHSA ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 13, 2019

The CSHSA Annual Meeting of the membership for the election of members of the Board of Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Association shall be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13 at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site, 313 E. Third St., Galesburg.

### SCENES FROM 2019 PENNY PARADE



Silas Willard Elementary students, I-r Zaniyah Carter, Kymora Carson, Austin Pugh, Cooper Perez, Elle Worby, Isaac Jones Rhoades, Anatasia Neagus. Photo courtesy of Tom Foley.



Hedding Elementary teacher Debbie Anderson, students in back I-r Myli Webber, Owen Timmons; in front I-r Maddie Condreay, Morgan Hatcher. Photo courtesy of Tom Foley.

## THE IMPACT OF PITTSBURGH ON SANDBURG

By Christopher D. George

[Ed. Note: In April Christopher D. George emailed me with a question about Sandburg being jailed in Allegheny County, PA for hoboing. He referred to a story by Barbara Schock about the incident that he had read online in the Spring 2016 edition of *Inklings and Idlings*. Mr. George holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati and the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of *Day-by-day with the 123<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers* (2016). He teaches a poetry unit that focuses on Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, and Emily Dickinson in the Upper St. Clair School District near Pittsburgh. He can be contacted at [cdg123pvi@yahoo.com](mailto:cdg123pvi@yahoo.com). Following is his story about the hoboing incident in Pennsylvania.]

As the title of his unfinished autobiography, *Ever the Winds of Chance*, would suggest, Carl Sandburg recognized the profound role of fate in his own life. This is certainly true of his visit to the city of Pittsburgh during a time in his young life that was filled with both wanderings and wonderings about the future.

His journey to the “steel city” started under the cover of darkness. The twenty-six year old Sandburg, who had briefly been residing in Haddonfield, NJ, had decided to venture to Freeport, IL. It was here that he planned to spend the summer of 1904 with his college friend and fellow stereoscope salesman Fred Dickinson. Crossing into the nearby commonwealth of Pennsylvania around midnight, Sandburg found a freight train headed west in Philadelphia.

He started out “riding the bumpers” between cars as the train rattled along through the dead of night. Eventually feeling tired, Sandburg knew from previous travels that he needed to find an empty box car for his own safety. Unable to find such accommodations, he decided to climb on top of a car and ultimately fell into a deep sleep. When he awoke in broad daylight, he found the train stopped some fourteen miles east of Pittsburgh in the town of Wilmerding. Had he known its political leanings, he might have taken the time to explore this borough of 5,000 that revolved around the Westinghouse Air Brake Company.



Riding the bumpers.

*Wilmerding [is] distinguished from its sister boroughs of [Allegheny] county. It is a strong hold of socialism, not militant socialism, such as is sometimes linked with anarchy and violence, but the peaceful, sane variety. William Adams, borough assessor, is recognized as the most prominent and influential Socialist. The party is the second strongest in Wilmerding, being exceeded in this respect by the Republicans. The Democrats rank third. So far the followers of Eugene V. Debs (he being the Socialist nominee for President of the United States) have elected Adams and a justice of the peace, but in time it is believed the party will seat a burgess.*

*The Wilmerding News, September 2, 1904*

Wanting instead to continue his journey west, Sandburg used some of the precious money he had to purchase a ninety-minute trolley ride into the city of Pittsburgh. It was here that he enjoyed a meal of fried eggs, bread, and coffee before taking another trolley to the western outskirts of the city. Little did he know that he would not have another decent meal of his own choosing for the next week and a half.

Sandburg had learned that he could catch another freight train heading towards Ohio in McKees Rocks, which was located about six miles west of Pittsburgh. The empty and waiting coal car that he chose to ride happened to hold five other men with the same need for inexpensive transportation. Unfortunately for all of them, a recent crime had made the papers and heightened the already strong fear of hoboes in and about the Pittsburgh area.

### *Man Found on Tracks*

*Dusan Radogovik, of 109 Bell avenue, McKees Rocks, was found lying by the tracks of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad, near the roundhouse in McKees Rocks, late last night. One arm was almost completely severed and he was unconscious. He was taken to the West Penn Hospital. It is believed that he was a victim of an assault by hoboes who after robbing him threw him down on the tracks. He is an employee of the roundhouse.*

*Pittsburgh Press, May 18, 1904*

Two local constables, who were on the lookout for any suspicious characters, had been watching the freight yard and soon approached the car to let the men know they were all under arrest. Handcuffed in pairs, the hoboes were escorted to the local Justice of the Peace, Charles K. Barnhart, a short walk from the train.

When given the chance to defend themselves, a gray-haired man spoke first. He explained that he lived in nearby Youngstown, OH and had come to Pittsburgh to find work. The man continued by mentioning that he had fought in the Civil War and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). Sandburg followed by explaining that he was headed to a job in Illinois and had also recently served in the Spanish-American War. Their stories seemed to amuse Mr. Barnhart as he sarcastically commented that he was in the presence of both young

and old soldiers. In the end, all six men were charged with “riding a freight-train without paying fare” and offered a choice: pay a \$10 fine (equivalent to about \$280 today) or spend ten days in the Allegheny County jail. None of the men paid the fine.

It was a short wagon ride from McKees Rocks to the jail in downtown Pittsburgh. The Sheriff of Allegheny County, Dr. James W. Dickson, had only recently taken office in January of 1904. Before becoming sheriff, he had served his community as a well-respected physician.

*Ever since the days of Hippocrates there have been, in every country and every age, unselfish persons who stood ready to make sacrifices for suffering humanity. Such a man is Dr. James W. Dickson. Thoroughly in love with his calling, and imbued with the knowledge of the nobility of his chosen profession he has never turned a deaf ear to the appeal of the afflicted...The office of sheriff of Allegheny county is an extremely important one and the wisdom of Dr. Dickson's constituents in choosing him to fill this position was proved in the most abundant and satisfactory manner.*

*A Century and a Half of Pittsburg and Her People, v.3 (1908).*

Carl Sandburg would not find these flattering words about the good doctor to be even remotely true for the inmates of the Allegheny County jail.

After being escorted to the fourth floor, he found that he had two cellmates. One of them was the aforementioned Civil War veteran, and the other was an eighteen-year-old “Slav” who had obviously had a rough night. This steel mill worker, who could barely speak English, had decided to celebrate the end of his 12-hour shift by getting drunk and fighting a police officer. Seeing this young immigrant with burnt and tattered clothes tapped into Sandburg’s inner frustration with the grinding struggle his Swedish-born father was still enduring in Galesburg. Additionally, he wondered how many years this poor youth had before he would be “old” – revealing his growing disgust with child labor – thoughts that would later find form in “Mill-Doors” from *Chicago Poems* (1916):

*You never come back.  
I say good-by when I see you going in the doors,  
The hopeless open doors that call and wait  
And take you then for – how many cents a day?  
How many cents for the sleepy eyes and fingers?*

*I say good-by because I know they tap your wrists,  
In the dark, in the silence, day by day,  
And all the blood of you drop by drop,  
And you are old before you are young.  
You can never come back.*

Sandburg would document his chance encounter with the Allegheny County jail in a verse that also appeared in *Chicago Poems* entitled “Boes”:

*I waited today for a freight train to pass.  
Cattle cars with steers butting their horns against the  
bars, went by.*

*And a half a dozen hoboos stood on bumpers  
between cars.*

*Well, the cattle are respectable, I thought.*

*Every steer has its transportation paid for by the  
farmer sending it to market.*

*While the hoboos are law-breakers in riding a railroad  
train without a ticket.*

*It reminded me of ten days I spent in the Allegheny  
County jail in Pittsburgh. [Cooped in the same cell  
with me was an old man, a bricklayer and a booze-  
fighter.*

*But it just happened he, too, was a veteran soldier,  
and he had fought to preserve the Union and free the  
[slaves].*

*We were three in all, the other being a Lithuanian  
who got drunk on pay day at the steelworks and got  
to fighting a policeman;*

*All the clothes he had was a shirt, pants, and shoes –  
somebody got his hat and coat and what money he  
had left over when he got drunk.*

What the poem doesn’t mention is the fact that the cell where he was staying was originally intended for just one inmate. Furthermore, the purposely overcrowded prisoners were served a paltry amount of food that consisted of stale bread, “brown water masquerading as coffee,” and the promise of soup that didn’t seem to appear all that often. In the end, he would lose twelve pounds while serving his ten days in jail.

Sandburg would later learn that the esteemed sheriff of Allegheny County had an arranged deal to take any unusable food from local restaurants and hotels. These low-cost castaways would be given to the inmates and provide a tidy profit for the sheriff based on the money he was allocated per day to feed each prisoner. The vagabonds would be forced to contribute to the coffers of the county one way or another. This blatant injustice made a long-lasting impression on Sandburg. As Penelope Niven noted in her biography of the poet, “The experience [in Pittsburgh] further crystallized his social and political sympathies for the poor and powerless victims of any corrupt system.”

Sandburg would eventually be released from jail in a dazed and weakened state some time toward the end of July 1904. After buying a hearty meal to regain his strength, he would once again ply his vagabond skills and ride various freight trains to his desired destination of Freeport, IL. He would celebrate his reunion with Fred Dickinson by cleaning himself up, putting on fresh clothes, and enjoying the extravagance of two large ice cream sodas. Although his fateful journey was at an end, the impact of what he saw and how he was treated in Pittsburgh would resonate within him for the rest of his life.

## **CORRECTION**

In the Spring 2019 *Inklings and Idlings I* (Mike Hobbs) wrote a story about Niel Johnson, Sandburg, and President Truman. I stated that Ralph G. Newman had written the Preident on Sandburg’s behalf on January 14, 1943. The correct date of the letter is January 14, 1949.



## SANDBURG & THE 1919 CHICAGO RACE RIOTS

By Rich Hanson

One hundred years ago Chicago suffered paroxysms of racial unrest, growing pains that culminated with several days of violence. On July 27, 1919, Eugene Williams, a young black man, joined a few of his friends to swim in Lake Michigan. They shoved a raft into the lake between what was considered "The Black Beach" at 29th Street and "The White Beach" at 26th Street. Indignant that the black youths had allegedly intruded into the "White" swimming area, some hooligans in the "White Beach" began to throw rocks at the young men on the raft. Eugene Williams, who could not swim, was injured (perhaps knocked from the raft) and died as a result of the rock throwing assault.

Upset at the unwillingness of the police that were present to either go to Williams' assistance or to arrest the person whose rock throwing led to his demise, rage quickly exploded into actions. Soon "300 armed Negroes" (according to the *Chicago Daily News*) gathered to launch retaliatory action against the whites, who were gathering in gangs of their own. Eventually, they clashed. By the time the six days of hate-fueled racial confrontations ran their course, thirty-eight Chicago citizens were dead (twenty-three blacks and fifteen whites), over 500 were injured, and thousands more were left homeless after the fires subsided.

Then came the finger-pointing. During the passion-fueled search for villains, scapegoats, and reasons why the riots occurred, Carl Sandburg, who had already earned acclaim for his poetry (he won the Pulitzer Prize for *Cornhuskers* in 1918) researched and wrote a series of articles attempting to arrive at some conclusions as well.

The black population of Chicago had grown by over 70,000 people during the five previous years. It was asking much of any city to adjust to such a radical shift in its demographics. Many young men of color had fled the South to escape prejudice and many had fought in World War I. They believed that they had earned their citizenship and the right to work toward a better life. Sandburg used a quote from an interview with Willis N. Higgins...

*With many who have come North the attraction of wages and employment is secondary to the feeling that they are going to where there is no lynchings. Others say that while they know they would never be lynched....and were not afraid on that score, they do want to go where they are sure there is more equality and opportunity than in the South. The schools in the North are an attraction to others.*

Sandburg writes of unscrupulous real estate agents who brandished the threat of a black influx into white neighborhoods in order to beat prices down, a practice that led to resentment against the blacks rather than the real estate people who, after frightening people into selling, would buy the property themselves at a low price, then make a handsome profit by selling it.

Sandburg discusses the demand for labor that made the Windy City such an attractive destination. Opportunities existed for blacks that did not exist in the Deep South. He also talked about the advantages of union membership, a gathering of workers where all were considered as equals and union "brothers," and saw this as an advantage and a way for them to assimilate as well. Of course, there would always be workers who would fear the influx of black "competition."

In the chapter addressing "Negro Crime Tales," he suggests that the southern press has sometimes embellished or created crimes and circumstances in order to inflame animosity or to justify lynchings that had taken place. He understands why blacks would wish to flee such oppression and terror, as he writes, "Chicago is a receiving station that connects directly with every town or city where the people conduct a lynching," an assertion supported by the following observation by Secretary Harold Hill of the Chicago Urban League.

*We have seen it happen so often that now whenever we read newspaper dispatches of a public hanging or burning in Texas or a Mississippi town, we get ready to extend greetings to people from the immediate vicinity of the scene of the lynching.*

Carl Sandburg, by addressing the riot, its causes, the history of the Black influx into Chicago, and ways to facilitate the assimilation of the cultures, in a calm, dispassionate manner, moved beyond simply "reporting." He gathered statistics, interviewed citizens of both races, and offered his own interpretations of the facts and opinions that he had gathered. The result, Sandburg's *The Chicago Race Riots, July, 1919* was a valiant and honest effort to bring peace and racial harmony to the city that he loved. Toward the end of the book he quotes Major Joel E. Spingarn, a World War I veteran and for six years chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, whose solutions Sandburg seems to concur with.

*What is now happening in Chicago has happened in other large cities, north and south, east and west....Everything considered, the character of the Chicago population and the size of it, the total number of casualties is surprisingly low.*

*The fact must now be emphasized that the race problem is not local, but is a national question. It should have federal attention, and there should be federal aid. We must fight as a national danger the race hatred that exists in the south.....*

*Every circumstance of bad housing, bad sanitation, school neglect, and economic inequality that exists in the southern states must be regarded as national problems, this more especially in the view of the shifts of population that are so easy now and are sometimes an absolute necessity for the conduct of industry.*

It is difficult in a short article to do justice to the eighty-two page book. I urge you to read it in its entirety. The Sandburg Birthplace and Museum has copies

available to purchase in their bookstore. If my effort has piqued your interest, I would also suggest internet articles such as “Carl Sandburg, Early Wonk Blogger on Chicago’s Race Riot of 1919” (*Chicago Magazine*), “Carl Sandburg, The Chicago Riots, July 1919” (*Encyclopedia Chicago*), or “Says Lax Conditions Caused Race Riots” (*History Matters*). This was a sad month in Chicago history. We can only hope that we have and will continue to learn from it.

## **SANDBURG BUST AT THE GPL**

By Rex Cherrington

There is a bust of Carl Sandburg on display at Galesburg Public Library. As often happens for me, or to me, is that when researching one local history topic I encounter something I didn’t know before on another topic. So, after just walking by the Sandburg bust at the library on my way to research Janet Greig Post and her family, I was looking at scrap books.

There I saw a newspaper clipping and the story was “Bust of Poet Presented to City Library.” The handwritten date in the scrap book was 10/20/62. In those days people rarely bothered to write “1962,” and we can wonder if, in that Cold War era, they had doubts about human life lasting until the 21st Century.

The article informed us that Eric Olsen, the sculptor, had been in Galesburg to present the bust to Curtis Wynn, Librarian of the Galesburg Public Library on the Monday previous. Eric Olsen was from Dundee, Illinois and was the Chief Designer at Haeger Potteries and Lamp Co. Olsen was known for sculpting busts that were converted into molds for making ceramic busts of many famous persons. I suppose it would have been a cliché if he had been called the “Head Designer.” It was stated in the article that an exact duplicate of the bust in Galesburg was sent to the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield. Olsen was with Haeger for twenty-five years from 1947 to 1972. One of his more iconic designs was his 1955 “Red Bull.” Olsen is considered a significant member of the mid-century design movement.



Sculptor Eric Olsen (left) & head librarian Curtis Wynn (right) with Sandburg bust at the Galesburg Public Library, 1962.

Haeger Potteries, along with its antecedent and successor companies, shared a history with the Chicago area and with western Illinois, as did Carl Sandburg. David Haeger founded a company in the Fox River Valley for the purpose of making bricks. This was the year of the devastating fire in Chicago, 1871, and there was a great demand for bricks. As the demand for bricks was being met, Haeger made a plan to move into other markets with other clay products. At first it was simple red clay flower pots, and then by 1914 a line of glazed art ware was added. By 1934 Haeger had a large line of art ware products to exhibit at the “Century of Progress,” the second Chicago World’s Fair. Four million people visited their exhibit. In this same year Royal Arden Hickman became the designer, and the name was changed to Royal Haeger.

In 1939 Haeger purchased the old Buckeye Pottery factory in the northeast part of Macomb, IL. In 1969 Haeger purchased a second factory on the southwest side of Macomb and kept both in operation for several years. The main factory and corporate headquarters remained at Dundee. Nicholas Estes, great grandson of founder David H. Haeger, oversaw operations in Macomb, assisted by his son, David Estes, and David became the fifth generation to be engaged in this business. In addition to the two factories Haeger had a retail store a short distance west of downtown Macomb. The Macomb potteries and the store were the only Haeger operations outside of Dundee, IL. It ceased operation in 2004. Haeger Potteries that had operated under several similar names discontinued all operations in 2016.

Little is known of the designing sculptor, Eric Olsen. A Social Security Administration record card tells us he was born in 1903, and the closure of the account in 1992 would be his apparent year of death. Various persons have written about his years with Haeger, but these articles do not mention his earlier years.

It is uncertain how many of these Sandburg busts were produced, but one is mentioned in an inventory of a special collection at University of North Carolina, Charlotte. After the closing of Haeger in 2016 there was a liquidation auction where reportedly one of the Sandburg busts sold for \$250, which was considerably less than the pre-sale estimate.

## **THE BITTER YEARS**

By Barbara Schock

From 1935 to 1944 the Farm Security Administration carried out an extensive documentation project which recorded the faces and circumstances of the large number of poor people in rural areas of the United States. Adults and children wearing ragged clothes were photographed in houses and fields. Fields with shriveled plants and top soil blown away, shanties supported by piles of rocks, automobiles with furniture tied on top, roadside camps and other scenes of destitution and despair were recorded.

The photographs were intended to provide a record of the crisis in American agriculture. There was a need for agricultural reform to save the soil and to improve crop yields. Natural disasters, such as lack of rain and high winds, had taken away the ability of farmers to earn a living.

A number of well-known photographers of the mid-twentieth century were sent across the country. They photographed what they found and sent the film back to Washington, DC, for processing. The photographers included Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, Arthur Rothstein, and Russell Lee. They caught the worried faces, the little children with rickets caused by poor diet, the heaps of dust piled up against fence rows, and cotton pickers in hot, humid fields.

There were more than 270,000 negatives produced during the project. Of those 170,000 prints are archived by the Library of Congress. The prints have been used by many publications to illustrate articles about the Great Depression.

In 1962 Edward Steichen, brother-in-law of Carl Sandburg, curated a selection of the photographs for an exhibition, his last, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. He had previously curated forty-three exhibitions for the institution. Quotations from Sandburg's epic poem *The People*, Yes were posted among the 209 prints on display.

Edward Steichen was born in Bivange, Luxemburg, on March 27, 1879. His parents emigrated to the United States in 1880. Edward's younger sister, Lilian, was born in 1883.

Steichen spent his life in the world of art. He was a painter, an art gallery curator, portrait photographer, a fashion photographer, and a photo journalist during World War II. He was equally interested in images as art and in images as a means of communication.

He designed his exhibits as a visual journey through the halls of the museum in order to increase the emotional impact on viewers. He liked to describe them as photo essays. His technique was quite different from the usual way of looking at individual works of art on a wall. His manner of arranging the photographs was more like a musical score moving from one section to the next.

The FSA photographs were carefully arranged with the quotations to emphasize the subject matter. Fifteen sections carried themes such as drought and erosion, sharecroppers, eviction, on the road, houses, old age, and heroic women. Steichen's goal was to create a harmony between the photographs and quotations which would have an emotional impact on the viewers.

The exhibit opened on October 15, 1962. It didn't create much public interest. Steichen's earlier work with Sandburg on "The Family of Man" had a much greater public acceptance. The exhibit was a compilation of photographs from around the world. It was displayed in many countries by the U.S. Government and created much good will.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of "The Bitter Years" the exhibit was installed in Dudelange, Luxembourg. A former water tower built in 1928 and located in what had been an industrial wasteland now houses "The Bitter Years" mounted in the same way as Steichen had arranged it. "The Family of Man" exhibit was given to Luxembourg after its journey around the world. It is displayed in another museum in the country. In 2012 a book about "The Bitter Years" exhibition including the photographs was published. A copy of it has been presented to the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in Galesburg, Illinois.

### **CARL SANDBURG—THE MAN: THE AUTHOR & PUBLIC EDUCATOR WHO COULD HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

By Tomas Junglander

[Ed. Note: This is the third installment of a Carl Sandburg biography written by CSHSA member Tomas Junglander of Vadstena, Sweden.]

#### LOMBARD COLLEGE

Thanks to his time as a veteran of the Spanish-American War, Carl Sandburg received a free space at Lombard College in Galesburg. He writes that he had "walked barefoot over all sidewalks, paths and corners of its 13-acre campus" growing up in Galesburg; however, his experiences as a student gave him a new appreciation of Lombard. "I went to college and learned what it is they do at colleges. I learned about professors, how many kinds there can be of professors," Sandburg writes. Perhaps the most influential faculty member on Sandburg was Philip Green Wright, who among other subjects, taught poetry. He organized a writer's club, and Sandburg writes that Wright had an enormous impact upon him.

Lombard College itself was an example of this diversity for Sandburg. "The Lombard students came from plain folks mainly, from the working class and middle class. There were daughters of bankers and merchants who mixed freely and easily with the children of farmers and mechanics."

Lombard was the second school in the country of college grade to open its doors to men and women on equal terms, and among the first to place itself on a non-sectarian basis. Studying at college at this time, according to American educators, was a way of shaping character beyond what can be given in classrooms and libraries. In fact, it was the main purpose. The idea that under four years of internship you can strengthen the personality of better-educated children has a long history, but in the late 1800s under social pressure two new ideas also emerged. One was that college studies should develop a new middle class. The other idea, revolutionary for its time, was that some talented children from the working class would be able to study at some special college even though they lacked formal qualifications for higher education. Lombard was at that time such a college.

The theory behind this was simple, clear, and apparently versatile. Enrolled children from the working class should be given the opportunity to develop over their prerequisites, exposed to culture and good ideas of their teachers, to develop their language, taste, behavior, and self-confidence. The hope was that these young people would serve as an example to other children from the working class and, more importantly, act as living evidence of social mobility in the United States. We should remember that at this time in the United States only about two percent of that age group got the opportunity to study at college. Carl Sandburg could serve as a brilliant example of this social engineering art. When he enrolled at Lombard College in 1899, he came straight from the working class. "He looked like a job crab, a raw barked fresh boy," according to his favorite teacher. When leaving college in 1902, he is a cultured gentleman, a good example of a well-behaved, eloquent, thinking, and socially-aware young person.

Sandburg himself remembered his transformation while at college with joy. He links his college experience to his successful start as a writer. He studied English, Latin, chemistry, mathematics, sociology, drama, and rhetoric. To finance his studies, he worked extra at the fire station and was allowed to leave the lessons if the fire alarm sounded. He worked hard with his studies to recover what he had lost since he had to finish school at the age of thirteen. Meanwhile, at college, he often wrote in the school's newspaper, participated in literary contexts and practiced a lot. In basketball he was the captain of the team, and he liked baseball. He was a member of the "Poor Writer's Club."

Philip Green Wright, his favorite teacher, later became a prominent economist at the prestigious university at Harvard. His influence extended well beyond the classroom, and Philip Green Wright welcomed Carl and several other students to his home. In part, he introduced Sandburg to American literature, and he taught him political and economic theory. "I had four years of almost daily contact with him at college, for many years visited him as often as possible." Wright had a printing press and all the other equipment at home in his basement needed to publish books and from here came Sandburg's earliest literary articles. Philip Green Wright and Sandburg also continued their friendship after Lombard.

#### THE PERIOD BEFORE HE MADE HIMSELF A NAME AS A POET

Sandburg left college in 1902 without a degree, but he still got what he wanted. Sandburg's college years shaped his literary talents and political views. He now knew that he would devote himself to reading many books and dealing with different types of writing. Between 1902 and 1907, prior to perfecting his own style, he worked as a salesman, read a lot, and published his first poems.

He discovered Walt Whitman in earnest in 1903 and discovered the free verse's blessing. The following year he visited Camden, New Jersey, where Whitman lived

until his death in 1892.

In 1906, he definitely left his hometown to seek his luck in Chicago and Milwaukee. He got temporary jobs as a journalist, he wrote advertisements, but first and foremost he met like-minded people who believed in his ability. During this time he met his prospective wife, Lilian "Paula" Steichen, whose brother Edward Steichen was already a famous photographer. Paula was a Latin teacher and an organizer for the Social-Democratic Party in Milwaukee. Now an intense political period for Sandburg began. His great interest in politics since childhood now had time to develop.

Sandburg was given a separate area outside Milwaukee where he should try to recruit sympathizers to the Social-Democratic Party. He managed so well that he soon belonged to the innermost circle in the party and later became a campaign leader for the Social-Democratic presidential candidate Eugene V. Debs. Debs ran as a candidate for President of United States five times between 1900-1920. Then for a period he was secretary to the mayor of Milwaukee, Emil Seidel, who was the country's first Social-Democratic mayor. Then he had also been the campaign leader for a major anti-tuberculosis campaign.

Now he had both gotten married in 1908 and had his first child. With the support and inspiration of his wife, he began to write more and more, and his party political commitment declined. He had more and more poems published, and at the same time he worked as a journalist at various newspapers.

Sandburg is now, in 1914, thirty-six years old and in the next twenty-five years he will be extremely successful and productive as a writer while working as a journalist. He publishes numerous poetry collections, writes children's books, and writes a six-part biography about President Abraham Lincoln. He lectures about literature throughout the country and often ends these lectures by entertaining the audience with guitar music.

#### A FRIENDLY DUES REMINDER

By Ann Mueller, CSHSA Membership Chair

Have you renewed your membership in the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association (CSHSA)? If so, thank you. We appreciate your support.

We mailed annual membership appeal letters in mid-February. If we missed reaching out to you or you've mislaid your letter and membership form, it's not too late to provide your support for the 2019 membership year.

**Give a gift that keeps giving:** Do you know someone who would enjoy or benefit from a gift of CSHSA membership? Show their name on the CSHSA Membership Form on page 8.

**Create a legacy:** Did you know you can create your own legacy by making a gift to the CSHSA endowment or including the Association in your estate planning? To learn more about how you can help with our mission, please email us at [membership@sandburg.org](mailto:membership@sandburg.org).

**2019 CSHSA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

<b>Membership Categories</b> <i>(Check one)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00 Student / Senior (62+)
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00 Individual
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00 Family
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00 Donor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250.00 Sponsor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00 Patron
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000.00 Benefactor
<input type="checkbox"/> This is a Gift Membership from:	

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Receive *Inklings and Idlings*: Please check choice.**

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail

**MAIL CHECKS TO:**

Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association  
P.O. Box 585  
Galesburg, Illinois 61402

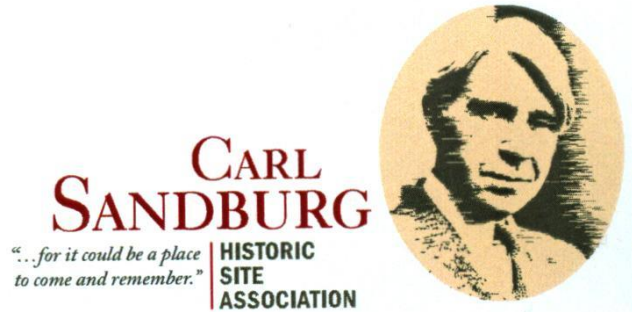
**-OR-**

**PAY ONLINE with PayPal or Credit Card:**

<http://www.sandburg.org/membership.html>

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like more information about making a gift to the CSHSA endowment or including it in my estate plans.

**Thank you for your support!**



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**CARL SANDBURG**  
HISTORIC SITE ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 585  
Galesburg, IL 61402-0585