

Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

FY2025 Highlights

(July 2024 – June 2025)

1. **Tommy Wallenfeldt, IDNR Site Interpretive Coordinator**, is in his sixth year of serving the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in a part-time capacity (started 2019). The Board continues to be very grateful for Tommy's enthusiasm and dedication to the board, the visitors, and the activities at the Site.
2. **Scott Roman, our Historic Site's IDNR Site Superintendent** is responsible most directly with the Blackhawk State Historic Site in the Quad Cities area. In his role as Site Superintendent, he has been overseeing six IDNR historic sites for the state, including Bishop Hill State Historic Site. Scott has been serving in an ex-officio capacity on our board. His 26 years of experience with Illinois state historic sites has been invaluable.
3. **Visit from Illinois State Senator Mike Halpin in February 2024.** Prior to the February meeting Illinois State Senator Mike Halpin joined the Directors for a visit to the Site. After giving Halpin a tour of the Site, President Pat Kane led a discussion/presentation highlighting some of the activities of the Association. In our May 2024 meeting Vice-President Don Moffitt announced that Senator Halpin's office had requested a list of needed capital improvements at the Site along with estimated costs. President Pat Kane provided the requested list and we are hopeful that we may see some much-needed state funding directed to the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in the near future.
4. **CSHSA Memberships vs. Donations Received by Tax Year.** Since the distinction between the funds that we receive from Memberships & those one-time donations received is sometimes a bit unclear, I thought it might be helpful to show both types of donations we have received since Tax Year 2021 in the following table:

CSHSA Membership Receipts & Other Donations Received from Members & Nonmembers by Tax Year 2021-2025				
Tax Year (Jan-Dec)	Total Memberships Received	TOTAL Memberships & Donations	Membership Funds Recd	Add'l TxYr Donations Recd
2021	113	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 7,025.00	\$ 3,225.00
2022	94	\$ 8,829.61	\$ 7,809.61	\$ 1,020.00
2023	92	\$ 11,874.00	\$ 6,530.00	\$ 5,344.00
2024	56	\$ 11,874.32	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 8,704.32
2025 (thru 7/6)	50	\$ 5,007.00	\$ 3,559.00	\$ 1,448.00

5. **CSHSA Endowment Balance - June 30, 2025. Total \$47,329.47.** Our fiscal year-end total on June 30, 2025, reflected an increase in value \$4,882.31 this past fiscal year. We received designated donations totaling \$300 to the endowment during FY2025. Our Endowment funds with the Galesburg Community Foundation showed an estimated **+11.6% return on investment in FY2025!** Our current **Spendable Balance: \$11,870.82.**

6. Barbara Schock's *Sandburg's Hometown: A Selected Anthology* published March 2024!

Sandburg's Hometown has been our bestselling book in the Museum Store. In FY 2025 39 copies were sold at the Museum Store and another 7 were sold by our local Wordsmith Bookshoppe. We resupplied Wordsmith with another 10 copies in August 2025 after their last two copies were sold.

7. Local Business Contributions in FY2025

a. Sandburg Sangria – Hidden Hills Vineyard and Winery donation to CSHSA.

In July 2024 CSHSA received its third generous donation of \$847 followed by a February 2025 donation of \$553 from the sales of Hidden Hills' Sandburg Sangria named for the Carl Sandburg Birthplace. Hidden Hills sets aside \$1 dollar for each bottle they sell to be contributed to CSHSA. We thank Galesburg's Hidden Hills Vineyards & Winery for their continuing support for the site through their Sandburg Sangria sales!

b. Hometown Hundreds – F&M Bank – \$200 received in FY2024 drawings.

We thank our local F&M Bank's support for local nonprofit organizations through their Hometown Hundreds program. The Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association has received two \$100 awards in the weekly drawings in the past year. Since participating in the Hometown Hundreds drawings in 2018, CSHSA has been selected 16 times for a total of \$1,600 in awards over the past eight years.

8. Continuing Support from Master Gardeners! We are extremely grateful for the dedication of our local chapter of the University of Illinois Master Gardeners who work the Site AND are CSHSA members...Jamie Yemm, Sylvianne Stites, Gail Coffman, and Pat Kane. We continue to support the Master Gardeners annually with a donation of \$350 for landscaping supplies.

9. Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2025.

Songbag Concert coordinator **Erin Glasnovich** and her Songbag Committee recruited and scheduled a diverse selection of performers through FY2025 beginning July 2024 through June 2025. The Second Sunday Sandburg Concerts begin at 2pm. The Songbag Concerts have once again been generously supported by a \$1,200 grant from the Mark & Celia Godsil Family Fund of the Galesburg Community Foundation.

Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2025

- Sun, Jul 7, 2024 – King Neptune, Macomb, IL
- Sun, Aug 11, 2024 – Sunshine Regiacorte & Casey Foubert, Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Sept 8, 2024 – Carol Jean & Jera, Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Oct 13, 2024 – Lojo Russo, Quad Cities, IA
- Sun, Nov 10, 2024 - David Zollo & Brian Collins
- Sun, Mar. 9, 2025 – The God Awful Small Affairs, Chicago, IL
- Sun, April 13, 2025 – David Singley, St. Paul, MN
- Sun, May 11, 2025 – SoulTru, Davenport, IA
- Sun, June 8, 2025 – David G. Smith, Blue Graass, IA

Sandburg Songbag Concerts FY2026 Scheduled

- Sun, July 13, 2025 – Jake Stack, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Sun, Aug 10, 2025 – Jacqui Alpine, Iowa City, IA
- Sun, Sep 14, 2025 – Sullivan's Daughter, Galesburg, IL
- Sun, Oct 12, 2025 – Anna P.S., Gwinn, MI
- Sun, Nov 9, 2025 – Angela Meyer Trio, McCausland, IA

10. CSHSA continues its pledge to support the construction of Galesburg's new public library building.

CSHSA Board has donated \$4,000 of its pledged \$5,000 over five years towards the construction of the new public library on East Main Street in Galesburg! And it is grand! Members of the Board attended the festive April 11, 2024, donors' reception prior to the official opening on May 11, 2024! We are honored to be a small part of this wonderful new public library in our community!

11. Kamryn Penn awarded CSHSA's Annual Sandburg Prize Scholarship for the 2024-2025 Academic Year at Carl Sandburg College

Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dMRa6nS1mDHLTctN6>

Board member, Rick Sayre and his wife, Mary Phillips, attended the Sandburg College Scholarship Reception at the Vault on October 24, 2024, and sat with **Kamryn Penn**, CSHSA's 2024 Sandburg Prize recipient, and her mother, Jessica Sibbing from Berwick, IL, at the Sandburg College Scholarship Reception, October 24, 2024. Kamryn is a very busy young lady, juggling jobs and her education. We are most pleased to be supporting exemplary students such as Kamryn.

12. CSHSA Acquisition of Adjoining Property at 345 E. THIRD ST!

In July 2023 the CSHSA board completed the acquisition of the adjoining property to the east of the Birthplace Cottage. Discussions as to the future use of the property are still ongoing. We have applied for and received a property tax exemption for the property beginning with 2023 property taxes that would have been paid in 2024.

13. Inklings & Idlings – Winter 2025

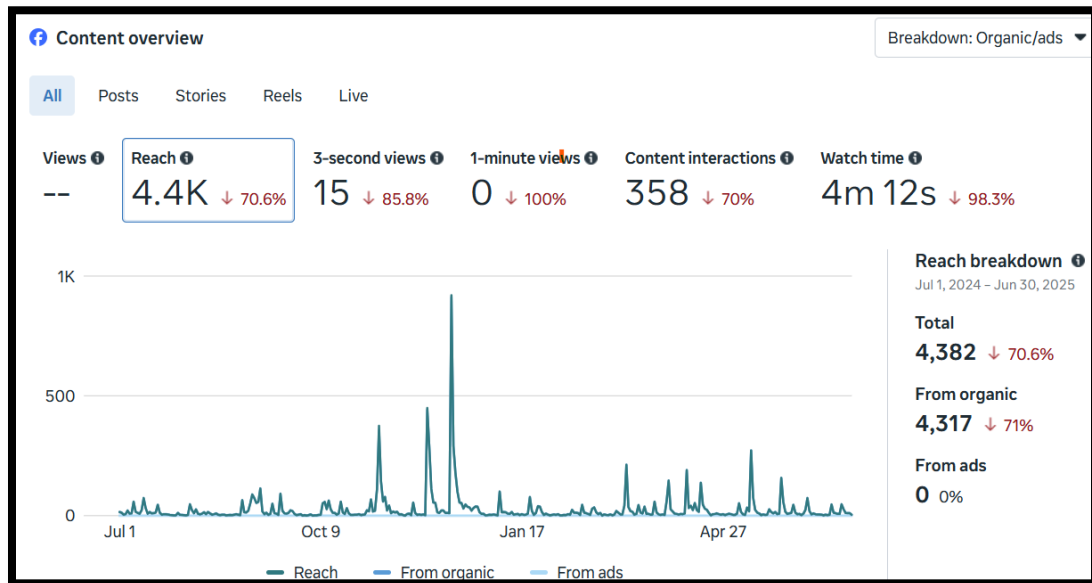
The Winter 2025 issue of *Inklings & Idlings* included articles by Ed Safiran, Rick Sayre and Rex Cherrington. We are still seeking an editor who will be able to devote more time to *Inklings & Idlings*. In the meantime, Rex Cherrington & Rick Sayre are serving as interim editors.

14. CSHSA Website / Facebook – FY2025

- a. We are very pleased that retired historian, **Dr. John Quinley** of Hendersonville, North Carolina, has been providing monthly articles on Sandburg exclusively for our website under the series title of ***Letters from a Sandburg Docent***. **Quinley** is the author of *Discovering Carl Sandburg: The Eclectic Life of an American Icon* and is a former docent at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock, North Carolina.
- b. We greatly appreciate the additional assistance and contributions of our State Historic Site's IDNR staff member, **Tommy Wallenfeldt**, as an administrator on our CSHSA Facebook page!
- c. **Successful Webhost Transfer – Aug 2024.** All webhosted files from our sandburg.org website were successfully transferred from our "BeTheHost.com" webhost site to a new shared webhosting site with "Jonesolutions.com." Many thanks to Robert Merrihue, CEO of BeTheHost.com (as it was closing its operations), Preston Kroll, overseer of our "sandburg.org" domain name account with TuCows.com, and the very responsive sales & support team members of Jonesolutions.com, for helping to make this transition work as smoothly as possible. Our cost: \$24/yr. Jonesolutions.com offered us the following: • 5GB NVMe SSD Storage • 2TB Bandwidth Per Month • \$24/year. Jonesolutions migrated our account files at no additional cost. The Storage & Bandwidth offer significant increases and plenty of room for growth. I couldn't have asked for better and more

responsive help from everyone involved. Over this past year, we have also noted a much speedier response time for our site to load.

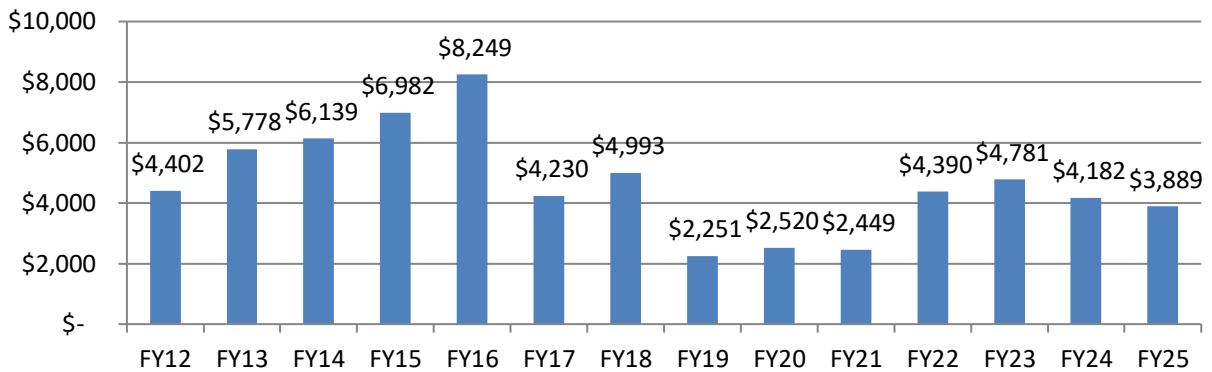
Facebook Content Overview FY2025 (795 Followers)



15. Museum Store Sales FY2025 / IDNR Vendor agreement update

- Museum Store Sales & Expenses FY2025.** We saw a 13% decrease in FY2025 sales (\$3,850 vs. FY2024 (\$4,182). We also showed a net income of \$2368 for our FY2025 Museum Store operations vs FY2024 (-\$235.61). Museum Store Expenses were lower in FY2025 (\$1,483) vs FY2024 (\$4,387) We can likely attribute the decrease in sales to increasingly inconsistent hours of operation for the Site due to the lack of staffing. With the resignation of full-time IDNR staff member, Bryan Engelbrecht, on October 31, 2023, the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site was left with only one part-time staff member, Tommy Wallenfeldt, and no back-up staff. As a result, the Site must close more often than in recent years due to reduction of staff.
- Out-of-Print Offerings.** We continue to seek out-of-print copies of the many published books by and about Carl Sandburg. Tommy Wallenfeldt has reported many Sandburg fans who are impressed and pleased to find the number of out-of-print titles that are now on sale in the Museum Store.
- IDNR Vendor Agreement.** Since the move of Illinois State Historic Sites to a new division of State Museums within IDNR there have been no further discussions on a Vendor Agreement to comply with the state regulations for the other IDNR sites that maintain a museum store or concessions operations. We expect there will be many issues to be worked through with the new division, including the question of concession agreements for small voluntary operations like ours.

Museum Store Income (FY12-FY25)



16. Museum Store transitions from Elavon to Square!

In January 2024 we replaced our long-time Elavon credit card processing agreement with Square due to the rising cost of Elavon's monthly fees. We can report that in Calendar Year 2024, following our implementation of Square, our total Square fees for 97 credit card transactions were \$90.58 vs. \$987.99 for the 12-month period in 2023 with Elavon. Our total 2024 sales were down about 20% from the previous year with Elavon, but our total Square costs were down almost \$900 for the previous year with Elavon.

CSHSA Credit Card Fees Comparison		
Company	Elavon	Square
Year	2023	2024
Months	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec
No of CC Transactions	67	97
Total Credit Card Sales	\$ 4,016.35	\$ 3,174.32
Total Credit Card Fees	\$ 987.99	\$ 90.58
2024 Square Costs = 9.2% of Elavon 2023 Elavon Charges		

The Square Terminal is a very versatile mobile wifi device allowing immediate account updates and transactions that can even be completed from my laptop and smartphone. Transactions are immediately emailed to our sales@sandburg.org account and the funds are deposited at the end of each business day to our checking account. All of our items have been added to the Square database with pricing (for new items), images, and number of items in stock allowing for a real-time inventory. An online store option is automatically created for us to freely try out when we're ready. In the meantime, we can create individual item payment links for online purchases.

In our Square account new or unique items can be added on the fly by the operator. It also allows us to use the terminal for cash transactions at no charge! Sometime in the future we hope to implement an option for Membership Payments via Square.

17. [Link to FY2025 Annual Statistical & Financial Reports on Dropbox](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Sayre - CSHSATreasurer & Board Member (DRAFT 8/12/2025)