

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

Fall 2016

FROM SITE SUPERINTENDENT MARTHA DOWNEY

Summer has ended, but the activity is increasing at the Sandburg Site. The Fall Carl Sandburg Songbag Concert Series began on August 27 with the remarkable Andreas Kaspalis. He was unlike any performer I have seen or heard. He used his guitar as a percussive instrument. The Upcoming Songbag dates are September 24, October 29, and November 26. Look on the Association's website and in the Galesburg *Register-Mail* for additional information.

Site Interpreter Matt Swanson has been busy these last days of summer painting at the Site. The new barn doors installed a year ago have a new coat of paint. The Cottage steps and railings are next on Matt's painting list. Those repair projects supported by the Association were made with treated lumber, so they required some weathering time before painting.

Matt, the Master Gardeners, and volunteers have kept the Site's grounds looking wonderful all year. I hope you have had a chance to stop by and spend some quiet time enjoying the grounds. Our annual Fall Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, October 8, 9 am to 2 pm. Bring your gloves, favorite gardening tools, and join us. There will be refreshments. If rain keeps us from working that day, we will gather on Saturday, October 15.

The Association's book store has a wonderful selection of Sandburg books for adults and children. There are also coffee mugs, book marks, CDs, CVDs, poems suitable for framing, and more. If this fall goes by as rapidly as 2016's summer, you may want to begin your holiday shopping now. The Site and the book store remain open Thursdays-Sundays, 9 am to 5 pm.

THE ELECTION OF 1916

By Barbara Schock

In 1916 Carl and Lilian Sandburg passed the eighth anniversary of their marriage. He was thirty-eight years old, and she was thirty-three. Both had hair that was turning gray. Daughter Margaret was three years old, and they were expecting another child in June. They were living in Maywood, Illinois.

Carl was employed at the *Day Book* newspaper in Chicago as a reporter. It was an unusual publication in that it did not accept advertising. He covered city and

national issues for the paper, as well as strikes, labor law violations, and working conditions. He also wrote investigative pieces for several other publications. He sometimes used pseudonyms as author of the articles.

In the evenings he and Lilian worked on the collection of poems to be published by Alfred Harcourt. It was decided to call the compilation *Chicago Poems*. He also continued to write other poetry late into the night.

The Sandburgs were no longer actively involved in politics as they had been in the early years of their marriage. They were no longer members of the Socialist Party. The Socialist Party had peaked in 1912 and continued to decline after that. The Sandburg's political convictions were as strong as ever in regard to the lives of working people, but now Sandburg was covering a wider landscape through his investigative reporting.

The news of the war in Europe dominated the newspapers and daily conversations. In addition, the presidential election of 1916 was a frequent topic of discussion. Woodrow Wilson had been elected in 1912 and was running for a second term. He had governed as a progressive and supported national reforms such as establishing the Federal Reserve System, Federal Trade Commission, and the National Park Service. He also worked with Congress to initiate child labor laws and an 8-hour-day for railroad workers, as well as a graduated income tax. He was a brilliant but inflexible man.

In June Wilson was nominated for a second term at the Democratic convention in St. Louis. His running mate was Thomas R. Marshall of Indiana. Wilson had persuaded Germany to reduce its submarine warfare in the Atlantic, so he was riding a wave of public approval. Some Democrats were saying that "He kept us out of war." Wilson did not make that claim.

The Republican convention in Chicago nominated Charles Evans Hughes, an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Former Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks was picked for second place on the party ticket. The Progressive or Bull Moose Party asked former President Theodore Roosevelt to run on their ticket as he had in 1912. He declined, as he didn't want a repeat of the three-way split that had occurred in 1912 which insured Wilson's election.

William Jennings Bryan campaigned for Wilson through the Midwest and Mountain States. His efforts may well have made the difference on Election Day. The

three-time Democratic presidential nominee still enjoyed

On Election Day, November 7, 1916, the total vote exceeded the 1912 result by 3.5 million. Women had received the franchise in a number of states, and the wartime news in Europe and Mexico had aroused interest in the election.

The Election Day counts came in late from the west, and it appeared that Hughes had won. But the final returns from California gave Wilson enough to claim 277 of the Electoral College votes. There was a difference of 600,000 in the popular vote.

Hughes had retired on election night thinking he was the president-elect. The next morning a reporter came to the Hughes home and asked to see the Republican nominee. A servant told him, somewhat haughtily, that "The President is sleeping."

"Well, when he wakes up, tell him he ain't President," the reporter replied.

Although the Sandburgs were pleased by Wilson's reelection, the reviews of *Chicago Poems* were disappointing. The critics weren't accustomed to poems that didn't rhyme. But requests for reprints of the poems in the collection demonstrated that people liked them. Sandburg decided he had been a maverick in politics and an outspoken idealist and champion of reform. He could play that role with equal energy in poetry.

SANDBURG & EDWARD DUNNE

By Mike Hobbs

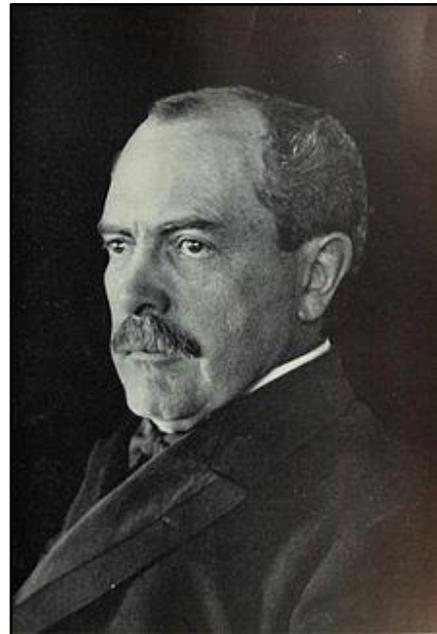
The Galesburg *Register-Mail* is currently running a series of columns entitled "Galesburg in the Great War" by weekend reporter Talbot Fisher that "looks at life in Galesburg 100 years ago and its connections to [World War I]" In the September 8 column Fisher wrote about the 1916 Galesburg Labor Day festivities at which Illinois Governor Edward F. Dunne spoke about the enactment of recent labor laws, "including the Keating-Owen Act, which was the first federal child labor law, and the just-signed Adamson Act, which gave railroad workers the eight-hour day." Dunne and Carl Sandburg were connected ideologically on some progressive issues like prohibition of child labor and the eight-hour day. Let's take a look at some other connections between the two men.

Wikipedia tells us that Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne was born in Connecticut in 1853. His immigrant father Patrick William Dunne was an "ardent" Irish nationalist. In 1855 the family moved to Peoria. Young Edward received a law degree from Chicago's Union College of Law in 1878, the year Sandburg was born. His election as Mayor of Chicago in April 1905 "was greeted with jubilation by social reformers throughout the nation." Mayor Dunne chose attorney Clarence Darrow to be his primary assistant. Sandburg admired Darrow who he considered

popularity among voters in the middle of the country.

a friend. According to the University of Minnesota Clarence Darrow Digital Collection webpage, Sandburg "once said of his friend Clarence Darrow, 'He rates for me as being somewhat to Chicago what Diogenes was to Athens.'"

When Dunne was elected Chicago Mayor Sandburg was peddling stereoscopic views and trying his hand at poetry. He boarded in Aurora and made frequent trips to Chicago where he met A.M. Simons, editor of the *International Socialist Review* and contributed to *To-Morrow* magazine which published poetry, fiction, and commentary. *To-Morrow's* headquarters was the Spencer-Whitman Cultural Center, which Sandburg's biographer Penelope Niven describes as the "site of free public forums where poetry was read, politics debated, and 'the intelligentsia and the intellectual elite of the town' gathered for tea, toast, and vigorous discussion." Niven writes that Sandburg "particularly enjoyed the literary and political crossfire of the forums." He surely was aware of Mayor Dunne's progressive agenda, including advocacy of municipal ownership of public utilities.



Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne, Chicago Mayor 1905-1907, Illinois Governor 1913-1917

Sandburg soon returned to Galesburg and took a job at the Brooks Street Fire Station. During his downtime at the station he read socialist literature and wrote occasional columns entitled "Inklings and Idlings" for the *Galesburg Evening Mail* and unsigned editorials for the *Galesburg Labor News*. At this time Sandburg's Galesburg friend from their teen-aged years John C. Sjodin was President of the Galesburg Trades & Labor Assembly. Sjodin ran for Galesburg Mayor as a Socialist. Sandburg probably kept up with Mayor Dunne and Chicago politics by reading Chicago newspapers during his stay in Galesburg.

Sandburg left Galesburg for the last time in April 1906. Niven states that he had "outgrown" Galesburg. He returned to Chicago where he continued to experiment with poetry writing. He became assistant editor of *To-Morrow* magazine. At the Spencer-Whitman Cultural Center he may have heard Mayor Dunne's assistant Clarence Darrow give lectures. He read and admired the writings of "muckrakers" Upton Sinclair, Lincoln Steffens, and Ida Tarbell. Niven writes about his "growing obsession with the fate of the common man...." In the latter part of 1907 he returned to the lecture circuit and spoke out against child labor.

Sandburg took a job as district organizer with the Social-Democratic Party of Wisconsin in November 1907. As a Social-Democrat he favored prohibition of child labor, suffrage for literate women, municipal ownership of utilities, and the eight-hour day. In 1910 he campaigned hard for Emil Seidel, Socialist candidate for Milwaukee mayor. Seidel won the contest, becoming the first Socialist mayor of a major city in the United States. As Chicago Mayor Dunne had appointed Clarence Darrow to be his assistant in 1905, Seidel appointed Sandburg to be his private secretary, his first mayoral appointment.

Dunne was elected Illinois Governor in 1913 and served until 1917. As governor he "championed" progressive reforms, reforms that Sandburg would have supported, like women's suffrage, prison reform, major infrastructure improvements, and expansion of "the state's responsibility for overseeing workman's compensation benefits and teachers' pensions. In 1913, Governor Dunne signed into law a bill that gave women in the State of Illinois the right to vote for President of the United States. This made Illinois the first state east of the Mississippi to give women the right to vote for the U.S. Presidency. This was six years before the passage of the 19th Amendment." [Wikipedia] As Barbara Schock pointed out in the preceding story, women's suffrage in some states partially accounted for why the 1916 presidential vote total exceeded the 1912 total by 3.5 million.

Edward Dunne's term as Illinois governor ended in 1917. He helped found the anti-Ku Klux Klan National Unity Council in 1921. He died in Chicago in 1937.

Did Dunne's and Sandburg's paths ever cross? I can find no evidence that they ever met or corresponded. Sandburg liked to keep up on politics, so he was surely aware of the prominent, progressive politician Dunne. After Dunne's term as Illinois governor ended in 1917 and until his death in 1937 many of Sandburg's major works were published, including *Cornhuskers*, *The Chicago Race Riots*, *Smoke and Steel*, *Rootabaga Stories*, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*, *American Songbag*, and *The People*, Yes. I would say that it was likely that Dunne knew about Carl Sandburg.

ASHES AND DUST

By Gary Wagle

(Author's Note: The names and dates in the following article were found in the booklet *Adda and Juanita, the Discovery and Restoration of the Carl Sandburg Birthplace* by Gerald J. Shea. Copies of this booklet are available at the Visitor Center of the Carl Sandburg State Historical Site.)

"I'll take Remembrance Rock if you cover the Barn," I said to Mike Hobbs. Martha had emailed a request for some help with "docent duty" for a busload of tourists that was to arrive at the Sandburg Site one recent morning. Mike and I had volunteered, and we were discussing our assignments. I knew that Carl's and Lilian's ashes were placed beneath Remembrance Rock, but, wanting more detail, I began quizzing Mike for interesting nuggets to share with the tourists. He mentioned the ashes of two of the Sandburg daughters and the soil that was placed under the Rock from, among other places, Plymouth Rock. It was his mentioning Plymouth that reminded me of a scene early in Carl's novel, *Remembrance Rock*, and when I mentioned this to Mike, he suggested that *Inklings and Idlings* readers might be interested. I soon had a job.

Today, beneath the stone known as Remembrance Rock at the Sandburg Historical Site lie soils from seventy-five surrounding schoolyards, soil from the Swedish homes of Carl's parents, the ashes of Carl and Lilian and their daughters, Margaret and Janet. Also soils from Plymouth Rock, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Argonne Forest lie there. Family ashes being placed at the Birthplace site is understandably appropriate. The same is true of the Swedish and nearby schoolyard soil, though obviously not as intimate. But the motive seems unclear for placing the soils from these other specific places and not from places that would be more directly important to Carl's life. That is, it is unclear until one reads the first chapter of Carl's only novel *Remembrance Rock*.

Sandburg's book is a "novel within a novel." It involves a family whose octogenarian patriarch, Orville Brand Windom, a very Sandburg-like character, is a highly respected retired Supreme Court Justice. In the first chapter Windom is about to broadcast a speech to the nation concerning the magnitude of World War II, which is about to end. "Bowbong," as he is nicknamed, is making a reflective visit to places important to him in Washington D.C., such as Lafayette Square, the White House, and the Supreme Court building. "He had walked, taken a bus, walked again, taken a taxi, and again was walking." Eventually he returned to his D.C. home, "the place he had named Hopecrest," to make final touches to his speech.

"He loafed in a slow and easy stroll to the large wooded yard at the rear . . . where he could be alone with the moon . . . He came to a rugged boulder.... Here stood four pointed cedars he had planted for the four cardinal points from which any and all winds of destiny and history blow . . . he had told others he named the

boulder Remembrance Rock, for it could be a place to come and remember. What he had not told them was the kind of thing a shy man of sensitive imagination would not choose to tell others. Here he had brought a handful of dust from Plymouth, Massachusetts, and here a colonial silver snuffbox filled with earth from Valley Forge, and here a small box of soil from Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and here another handful of dust from the Argonne in France.”

After giving the speech, Windom reveals to his family a manuscript that he has secretly written and kept in a wooden box. The document is a novel that traverses American history from the period just prior to the Mayflower voyage to the closing days of World War II. It is this story that becomes the substantial body of the novel.

Credit for the placement of these particular soils at the Sandburg Site ultimately goes to Mrs. John Sutor of Wataga. Having obviously read the novel, in 1964 Mrs. Sutor approached Juanita Bednar, the Sandburg Association President, with an idea to acquire the large granite rock that had recently been unearthed at an Interstate 74 construction site with the intent of using this stone as a centerpiece for the then-planned park at the Sandburg site. President Bednar liked the idea and began the enormous work of raising funds, organizing people, and finding materials and labor that culminated on June 4, 1966 when more than 500 Sandburg admirers attended a dedication of Sandburg Park that included Remembrance Rock. Throughout the park's construction, Juanita was in continual contact with Lilian and Carl Sandburg, seeking ideas and keeping them informed of progress. As the park moved toward fruition, the Sandburgs decided their own ashes would eventually rest under the Rock.

At the dedication seventy-five packets of soil from surrounding schools were placed at the Rock's base, along with soil from Appuna, Sweden, the hometown of Carl's parents. And, at this same event, just as was done at the imaginary Remembrance Rock in Carl's novel, real soils from Plymouth, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Argonne Forest were mixed with prairie soil and placed at the real Remembrance Rock near a little cottage in a prairie town called Galesburg.

About a year after the Park's dedication, on September 30, 1967, Lilian and daughter Margaret with more than 3,000 Sandburg admirers observed the placement of some of Carl's ashes at the foot of the Rock. Ten years later, on May 1, 1977, in a quiet ceremony attended by family, the remainder of Carl's ashes were united with Lilian's and placed at their final resting place, Remembrance Rock.

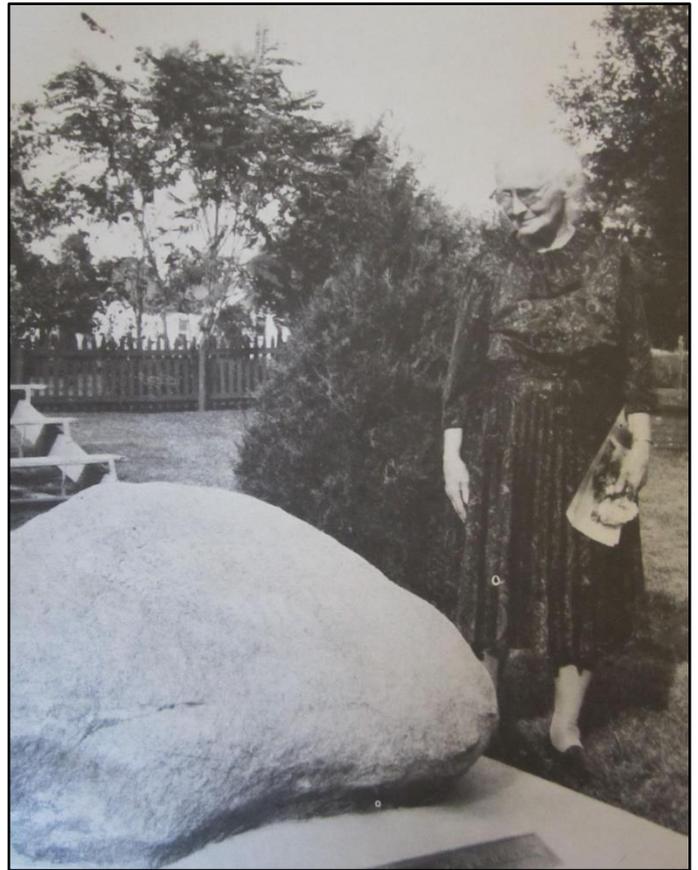


Photo from George Swank's *Carl Sandburg, Galesburg and Beyond* (1983). Swank's note with photo: "In the waning hours of that October 1 [the day in 1967 of memorial service for Sandburg at his birthplace-park in Galesburg, IL], after the crowd was gone and the words and songs had faded into history, we asked Lilian Sandburg to stand beside Remembrance Rock for this photo—the moment of farewell."

CSHSA FY2016 HIGHLIGHTS

By Rick Sayre

(Editor's Note: For our September 13 Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association Annual Meeting Treasurer Rick Sayre presented the following report that showed highlights of the Association's 2016 Fiscal Year [July 2015-June 2016].)

1. **Successful First Endowment Campaign / December – June 2016.** Raised \$12,010.50. Received matching \$10,000 grant from Galesburg Community Foundation. Total \$22,010.50.
2. **Sponsored Chris Vallillo Concert – April 27, 2016.** Joint Endowment Fund Raiser with Central Congregational Church.
3. **Eight Songbag Concerts Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 –** Most concerts very well-attended.
 - Fall 2015
 - August 29, 2015 – Mike Anderson
 - September 26, 2015 – Phil Passen
 - October 31, 2015 – David Berchtold
 - November 28, 2015 – Dan Eilers
 - Spring 2016
 - February 27, 2016 – Wacky Keys

March 26, 2016 – Dry Rock & Roll Band
April 30, 2016 – Roundstone Buskers
May 28, 2016 – John Heasley

4. **Osher Lifelong Learning Class, Bradley University – October 2015.** Members of the CSHSA taught four weekly courses on Carl Sandburg's life & legacy. Martha Downey, Barry Swanson, Rex Cherrington & Mike Hobbs presented the four class sessions ... receiving rave reviews.
5. **April 2016 Penny Parade** raised \$1,149.21.
6. **Museum Store FY2016 income** showed an increase of 18% over FY2015. Highest sales since 2007 when the site was open 7 days a week with 2 staff members.
7. **Inklings & Idlings** – Editor Mike Hobbs published four more excellent quarterly newsletters.
8. **Museum Store** - New merchandise item & reprint added –
 - Stoneware Mugs (Deneen Pottery, Minnesota).
 - Published 100 reprints of George Swank's 1983 edition of *Carl Sandburg: Galesburg & Beyond* (2016) with the kind permission of the Galva Historical Society. Obtained ISBN
9. **Maintenance & Repair**
 - Barn Doors Replaced – Thank you, Gary Wagle!
 - Porch on Cottage Rebuilt – Thank you, Rex Cherrington!
 - Landscape lighting repaired and/or replaced.
10. **Carl Sandburg Statue Dedication, April 30, 2016** – Members of CSHSA participated in the Dedication Ceremony of Lonnie Stewart's Carl Sandburg Statue in the Central Square Park across from Central Congregational Church.
11. **CSHSA Memberships**
71 total members. Highest total in past four years.
12. **CSHSA Website / Facebook**
 - Forty-five (45) "Sandburg's Hometown" articles written by Barbara Schock were added to our website and posted on the CSHSA Facebook page & on "Remember in Galesburg when..." Facebook page.
 - Total "Sandburg's Hometown" articles posted: February 4, 2013 through September 5, 2016: 174 article posts.
 - CSHSA Website updated on regular basis with Endowment Campaign, Songbag Concert, Penny Parade, and other news and events.
13. **Sandburg Days Festival 2016**
 - CSHSA Board Members participated in the event planning and the programs.
14. **Semi-annual Fall & Spring Garden Clean-up -- October 7, 2015 & April 20, 2016.**
Led by the Knox County Master Gardeners. CSHSA members participated in the cleanup activities along with a number of wonderful volunteers!

PHILIP GREEN WRIGHT

By Rex Cherrington

(In August CSHSA member Robin DeMott sent an e-mail inquiry to CSHSA board members about a 1904 Asgard Press book. Someone had originally placed the book question on the Carl Sandburg College Facebook page. CSHSA Treasurer Rick Sayre thought the Facebook inquirer might be referring to the book *The Dial of the Heart* published by the Asgard Press in Galesburg in 1904 and authored by Philip Green Wright, Sandburg's mentor and friend, with a forward by "Charles A. Sandburg." Rick found that there is a copy of this book at Knox College's Seymour Library. In further e-mail discussion about the book CSHSA board member Rex Cherrington contributed this interesting curriculum vitae (c.v.) of Wright and a bibliography of his works.)

The following c.v. of Philip G. Wright was constructed with the assistance of Sarah Chilton, research librarian, The Brookings Institution. The information is based on a "Statement of Educational and Professional Experience" apparently prepared when Wright applied in 1922 to the Institute of Economics (now, the Brookings Institution), and on an OCLC authorship search.



Philip Green Wright. Courtesy Special Collections & Archives, Knox College.

Philip Green Wright Curriculum Vitae:

Dates of Birth/Death: October 3, 1861–September 4, 1934. *Education:* Graduated High School, Medford, MA 1884; A.M.B. Tufts College 1887; A.M. Harvard University (Economics). *Professional Experience:* Adjunct Professor of Mathematics, Buchtel College (now Municipal University), Akron, OH; Professor of Mathematics and Economics, Lombard College, Galesburg, IL; Assistant Professor of Economics (substituting), Williams College, Williamstown, MA; Teacher of Statistics, School for Social Service, Boston, MA; Instructor in Economics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Teacher of Sociology and Industrial History, Tufts College, Medford, MA; Teacher of Sociology and Economic (summer term), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Special Expert, United States Tariff Commission Institute of Economics.

Publications:

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SANDBURG PROGRAM IN CHICAGO OCTOBER 27

(Editor's note: CSHSA member Luz Schick sent this notice about a Sandburg musical program in Chicago on October 27.)

Poetry Day

David Nagler & Friends present:

"Carl Sandburg's Chicago Poems"

Thursday, October 27, 2016, 6:00 pm

Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 South State Street

Doors open at 5 pm

Carl Sandburg's Chicago Poems is a new musical project from singer/composer David Nagler, a song cycle that sets Sandburg's poetry to music in an assortment of styles. The concert will feature 16 songs performed by an 11-person ensemble, along with guest vocalists hailing from or associated with Chicago. The evening will be an ambitious and energetic musical performance, and a celebration of Sandburg's important collection, published 100 years ago. Co-sponsored with the Chicago Public Library

SANDBURG RECOLLECTIONS

By Charles Bednar, Jr.

(Editor's Note: In April the CSHSA and Central Congregational Church cosponsored a joint fundraiser for their Galesburg Community Foundation endowments. The fundraiser was held at Central, because Sandburg appeared there in 1953 to speak and sing on the occasion of his recent 75th birthday and the publication of his autobiography *Always the Young Strangers*. CSHSA member and past president Chuck Bednar was a Galesburg High School student at the time of Sandburg's appearance at Central. His mother Juanita Bednar was vice-president of the Carl Sandburg Birthplace Association at the time. Here are his fond recollections of that event.)

Thank you for supporting the fund raisers created for the Carl Sandburg Birthplace and the magnificent Central Congregational Church. By preserving these two historic sites a legacy will be maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Thinking back on your early life, how many recollections do you have of significant events? These remembrances can be both fond and disappointing memories.

I was a Galesburg product raised by parents who were active in the community as educators. Their interest in Carl Sandburg became part of my persona.

My father, a Knox graduate, and mother, a Lombard graduate, were married shortly after college. They decided to call Galesburg their home and a good place to raise a family.

Juanita Kelly was intrigued by the early literary development of the poet and writer Carl Sandburg. He had been editor of the Lombard yearbook and published his early poetry through the Lombard Press. He was encouraged by Philip Green Wright, his English professor, who owned the Asgard Press. It was located in the basement of his home near the Lombard campus.

Later, writing for the *Chicago Daily News*, Sandburg was a crack newspaper reporter. He was also a frequent contributor to *Poetry* magazine edited by Martha McKaskey. His *Chicago Poems* received national attention.

In 1934 Juanita wrote Mr. Sandburg, requesting materials that he might loan for the 1937 Knox-Lombard Centennial Exposition. Could he provide any special literary material for their display? In reply Mr. Sandburg said he could “furnish nary a word or moment that anyone would deem worthy of a momentary gaze.”

This correspondence began their long friendship until his death in 1967. My brother and I were frequent witnesses to numerous activities, such as the dedication of the Birthplace, the development of the park behind the Birthplace, and internment of Mr. Sandburg’s ashes, and his visit to Galesburg in recognition of his newly-published autobiography *Always the Young Strangers*. This book told the story of his early years in Galesburg, and how that experience established his values and influenced his life.

A gala event was planned for the publication of *Always the Young Strangers*. Surrounded by a crowd of writers and photographers, Mr. and Mrs. Sandburg arrived in his hometown in February of 1953. He was warmly greeted by friends and admirers. Hotel mogul Bernie Schimmel set the Sandburgs up in the “Sandburg Suite” in the Custer Hotel.

During his stay in Galesburg he was followed by *Life* magazine photographers and writers as he visited many of his old haunts, including the now closed Lombard College campus. He visited many personal friends and surprised the firemen at the Brooks Street Fire Station. He pleased his literary fan club when they lined up at O.T. Johnson’s to purchase autographed copies of his new autobiography.

While in Galesburg Mr. Sandburg visited his cousin Charlie Krans and wife Emma. They resided on a farm north of Galesburg in the vicinity known as Soperville. Numerous relatives accompanied them to the Krans

home. Carl and Charlie fondly recalled their early boyhood days playing on the farm and in the old pine wood barn. It was still there, and Charlie and Emma posed proudly beside it.

Later in the evening Mr. and Mrs. Sandburg, accompanied by relatives and friends, gathered in the beautiful sanctuary of the Central Congregational Church. Illumination reflected from the lovely stained glass windows cast a mystic glow on the congregation that added to the ambience of the historic church. It was a packed house with people practically hanging from the rafters. The program began with Mr. and Mrs. Sandburg being introduced to thunderous applause. It turned out to be an evening to remember as the great poet enchanted the crowd with his wit and entertaining style.



Carl Sandburg playing his guitar at 1953 Central Congregational Church event. Courtesy Special Collections & Archives, Knox College.

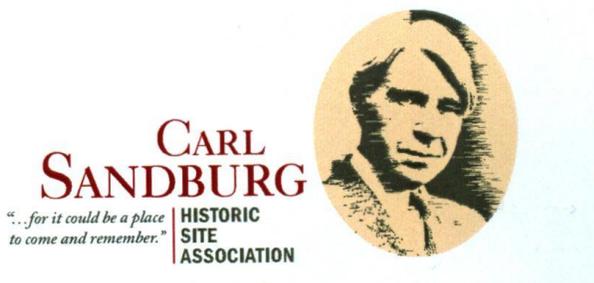
Sandburg’s deep baritone voice rang through the church as he sang traditional American ballads and recited poetry from his repertoire of poems about America. His writings had truly endeared him to the American public.

To thunderous applause Mr. Sandburg presented an inscribed copy of his autobiography to Adda Gentry George in appreciation of her persistent efforts to find and restore his birthplace. Formed as the Carl Sandburg Birthplace Association, it was composed of Sandburg activists, scholars, and historians from Galesburg to

Chicago who supported the preservation of the cottage. Indeed, this was a world-wide effort. Then Mr. Sandburg gave Juanita Kelly Bednar an inscribed copy of his acclaimed autobiography. Juanita responded by giving Sandburg a scrapbook containing mementos of Lombard College on behalf of the Carl Sandburg Birthplace Association.

Throughout Sandburg's visit he was warmly greeted by well-wishers. Often cited as "Galesburg's most famous son," his literary legacy will stand throughout the ages for its portrayal of popular American culture.

As the applause settled, and people exited for the aisles, I could hardly wait to return to my teammates playing basketball across the street at Steele Gym, never comprehending, until later in life, the historic importance of the evening. I now wish I could relive it a hundred times.



NATIVE SON, NATIONAL TREASURE

With all the challenges facing museums and historic sites in Illinois it is time to redouble our efforts to protect the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site and the legacy of our native son and national treasure. To accomplish this goal the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association (CSHSA) was chosen by the Galesburg Community Foundation (GCF) to participate in an Endowment Match Program. Prior to the June 30, 2016 deadline the CSHSA has raised \$12,000 toward an endowment to support the Historic Site, and the GCF has matched our efforts with a \$10,000 matching grant. In the next phase of our endowment campaign we hope to accumulate enough money to generate interest that will enable us to finance needed Site repairs and maintenance and keep a Site interpreter on duty year round.

Endowment Donations may be mailed to:

The Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association
P.O. Box 585
Galesburg, IL 61402-0585

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

