

Winter 2012

Vol. 7, no. 2, Winter 2012

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Recommended Citation

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, "Vol. 7, no. 2, Winter 2012" (2012). *Cornerstone*. Paper 25.
http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/morrisnews_cornerstone/25

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OUR 25TH ISSUE CORNERSTONE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MORRIS LIBRARY • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE



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“Man Can Die But Once”: Shiloh Letters at Morris Library

by Aaron Lisec, *Special Collections
Research Specialist*

The Battle of Shiloh was fought 150 years ago this spring, on April 6 and 7, 1862. More than 1,700 men died on each side in the largest battle fought (up to that time) in North America.

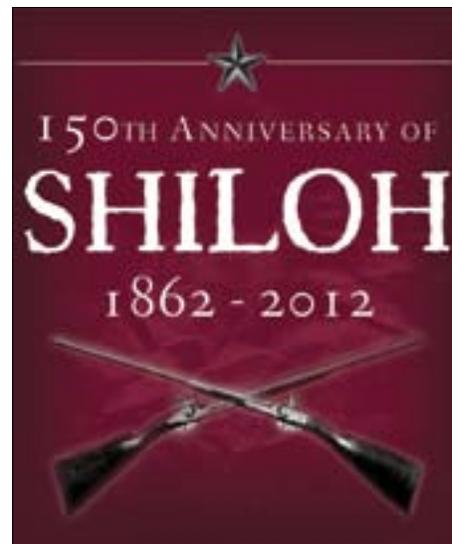
Total casualties (killed, wounded, and missing) exceeded 13,000 for the Union and 10,000 for the Confederacy. By comparison, the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861 resulted in less than 5,000 casualties combined.

The Civil War holdings of the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Morris Library include poignant letters written before and after Shiloh. One of these was written by Ulysses S. Grant to his wife Julia a week before the battle. In February Grant had captured Forts Henry and Donelson on the Kentucky-Tennessee border. The forts controlled river traffic on the Tennessee River between Nashville and Paducah, and their capture was the first important Union

victory of the war. Grant was promoted to major general and nicknamed “Unconditional Surrender” (to match his initials) from his terse demand to his Confederate opponent at Donelson (and former West Point classmate) Simon B. Buckner. Grant then moved his army 120 miles down the Tennessee River to

the town of Savannah, Tennessee. On March 29, he wrote to Julia. “Troops are constantly arriving so that I will soon have a very large army. A big fight may be looked for someplace before a great while which it appears to me will be the last in the West. This is all the time supposing that we will be successful which I never doubt for a single moment.” Grant

described how his commanding officer, General Henry W. Halleck, had tried to remove him despite the capture of the forts. And he reiterated his optimism, deep in enemy territory. “You need not fear but what I will come out triumphantly. I am pulling no wires, as political generals do, to advance myself. I have no future ambition. My object is to carry



Though later eclipsed by larger battles, Shiloh was the bloodiest of the Civil War at the time it was fought.

continued on page 4 . . .

CORNERSTONE is published four times a year. It is distributed free of charge to Friends of Morris Library, SIU Carbondale faculty and friends of the University.

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Message from the Dean

New Stories

In the inaugural issue of *Cornerstone*—25 issues ago—the theme of my first “Message from the Dean” was clear, “. . . We are committed to *Cornerstone*. I hope this inaugural issue demonstrates our commitment to excellence in our communications with you and I am confident that future issues over time will demonstrate our long-term commitment to keep you informed about Morris Library.” In case you were not counting that was some form of the word “commitment” three times in two sentences. Today, in this issue, I’m pleased to write that we have maintained our commitment to *Cornerstone*—despite the chaos of renovations, the pressures of budget tightening, the stresses of staff reductions, and the rising costs for printing and mailing.

After six years and 25 quarterly issues this reflection is doubly appropriate, as this will be my last “Message from the Dean.” I have resigned as Dean of Libraries at Morris Library. I have accepted the position of Dean of University Libraries, Sterling C. Evans Chair, at Texas A&M University starting July 1st.

I have been Dean at Morris Library for nearly eleven years, the longest I have served in any one professional position. That is a long time, and it is filled with many good memories and many friends, personal and professional. I have been reflecting on some of the achievements of the last eleven years. I hope it is not too self-serving to write that I believe I am leaving Morris Library in a better place. These achievements would have been impossible without the wonderful faculty and staff at Morris and the support of our donors and friends, the gentle readers of *Cornerstone*. I am very grateful and appreciative.

Last year, I made a commitment to write, daily, a personal note to many of the friends and supporters of Morris Library expressing my appreciation for their support. In my (I hope decipherable) handwriting I wrote how donors make an immeasurable difference in the resources and services we are able to provide to SIU faculty and students. However, I noted that it is much more than this. The gifts from friends and alums affirm our mission in a way that goes well beyond the dollars themselves.

Consultants in fund-raising discourage direct pleas for funds based on need. In *Cornerstone*, we have generally followed this advice. We follow it not because it is a good fund-raising tactic but because I believe that a direct appeal for funds based on need misses the point. To be sure, the needs are real but in my experience they do not represent the most important reasons to give to the Library. I believe many of you give to Morris Library because SIU Carbondale made a difference in your life, and Morris Library was an important part of that. Your experience here was a major factor in what you have achieved and who you are today. You would like to see that difference achieved—that meaning in life enabled—in new generations.

As I depart SIU, I think this is the time and place for me to be direct: I encourage you in your giving to Morris Library. If you have never given to the Library, please consider a gift. And make it a habit. If you have given a little in the past (perhaps an occasional adoption of a book in Library Is Seeking), please think about how you might give more generously. With a larger gift, please engage us—challenge us—for creative ways in which your gift might be used to advance the mission of Morris Library as you know and envision it. There is so much opportunity and discussion of libraries in the 21st century! Delyte Morris’ vision has served us well and will continue as our foundation but what’s your vision of our future? Help us shape and achieve the New Morris.

Morris Library and the A&M libraries share membership in several important library organizations, including the Association of Research Libraries. There is a wonderful practice among ARL libraries of mailing newsletters to each other. We have always shared copies of *Cornerstone* with our ARL colleagues. When I get to A&M, please know I will be checking my mailbox, looking for the next issue of *Cornerstone*. I know there will be some great, new stories. I can’t wait to read them.



DAVID CARLSON

The Library Is Seeking . . .

With research library budgets strained by the increasing costs of electronic journals and databases, more traditional reference/replacement volumes are sometimes left behind. The Library Is Seeking . . . looks for private funding for those items that would not otherwise be purchased by the library. If you are interested in underwriting one of these items, please contact Kristine McGuire at kmcguire@lib.siu.edu or 618-453-1633.



\$420 for *The Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Society* edited by SARAH GREENWALD and JILL THOMLEY. Mathematics is at the root of modern civilization, from measuring temperature on a frigid day to driving a car to using a digital camera; enthusiasts might say applied mathematics rules the world. *The Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Society* presents some 490 articles showing the math behind our daily lives, explaining to students how and why math works, and allowing readers to better understand how disciplines such as algebra, geometry, calculus, and others affect what we do every day.



\$400 for *The Handbook of Global Communication and Media Ethics* by ROBERT S. FORTNER and P. MARK FACKLER. This groundbreaking handbook provides a comprehensive picture of the ethical dimensions of communication in a global setting. Both theoretical and practical, this important volume will raise the ethical bar for both scholars and practitioners in the world of global communication and media. This volume brings together scholars from around the world in examining ethical issues raised by globalization, the practice of journalism, popular culture, and media activities.



\$265 for twenty additional maps of individual states and subject-specific maps of Mexico.

\$375 for *A Companion to Irish Literature* by JULIA M. WRIGHT. This two-volume set covers an unprecedented historical range of Irish literature. This companion presents a re-visioning of twentieth-century Irish literature and a collection of the most up-to-date scholarship in the field as a whole. It includes essays on leading contemporary authors, including Brian Friel, Seamus Heaney, Eavan Boland, Roddy Doyle, and Emma Donoghue.



\$130 for *Americans and Their Homes: Demographics of Homeownership* by the editors of *New Strategist*. "This third edition provides the latest demographic data for age, household income, value of home, and related topics in ten chapters (two more than the previous edition) about the nation's homeowners and renters. This new edition includes four chapters on renters. All chapters begin with a brief introduction and a summary of some of the data in tabular form to support each chapter. The American Housing Survey, which presents the Census Bureau's up-to-date, reliable information on the nation's housing, provided the data for 2009."—*Choice*



\$530 for *Smut Fungi of the World* by KÁLMÁN VÁNKY. Smut fungi are cereal crop pathogens that attack important agricultural crops, including corn and wheat. This nearly 1,500-page treatise is authored by the worldwide authority on the subject, DR. KÁLMÁN VÁNKY, who has spent more than 50 years collecting and describing smut fungi species. This work is an essential tool in helping the scientific community to identify smut fungi everywhere. It includes keys to the genera and species and a host plant—smut fungus list and compiles more than 3,500 micrographs and line drawings into a single sourcebook.

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\$100 for *Atlas of the Vernacular Architecture of the World* by MARCEL VELINGA, ALEXANDER BRIDGE, and PAUL OLIVER. The first world atlas ever compiled on vernacular architecture, this comprehensive work illustrates the variety and ingenuity of the world's vernacular building traditions from a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural and comparative approach, using over sixty world and regional maps.



\$75 for *Historical Dictionary of Soccer* by TOM DUNMORE. This English-born, Chicago-based, award-winning soccer writer packs a wealth of information into this dictionary on "the beautiful game"—now better known as "the global game" for its popularity and profitable commercialism. The brief preface prepares the ground for the meaty 250-page dictionary section (comprising more than 400 cross-referenced entries).

on my part of this war successfully and I am perfectly willing that others may make all the glory they can out of it.”

A few miles upriver (south) from Savannah, a large part of Grant’s force occupied Pittsburg Landing, near a small log church called Shiloh. One of the soldiers camped there was Private Isaac Parks of Company C, 52nd Illinois Infantry. A New York native farming in Naperville, outside Chicago, Parks enlisted in September 1861. On March 30, 1862, Parks wrote to his wife Sarah that he was feeling “somewhat lonely” and had taken a walk through the woods. “The peach trees are in full bloom, & the spring flowers are so pretty & innocent it about makes me forget for the time that my occupation is war.” He noted that his comrades “begin to feel rather *Impatient* for the fr[a]y. I guess they will get enough fight before the war closes.” And he joked of hearing that “it was telegraphed there that *I was killed at Donelson* but I dont believe it.”

When Confederate forces attacked a week later on April 6, they nearly drove the Federals into the Tennessee River. Fierce resistance by several surrounded units held the Confederates off long enough for reinforcements to arrive. On the 7th, Union troops rallied and drove their enemies from the field. The 52nd Illinois lost 170 men either killed, wounded, or missing. Isaac Parks was among the wounded, shot in the arm and through the abdomen. A surgeon amputated his arm but could do nothing more. Parks lived for nearly a month and wrote to his wife, Sarah, that he hoped to

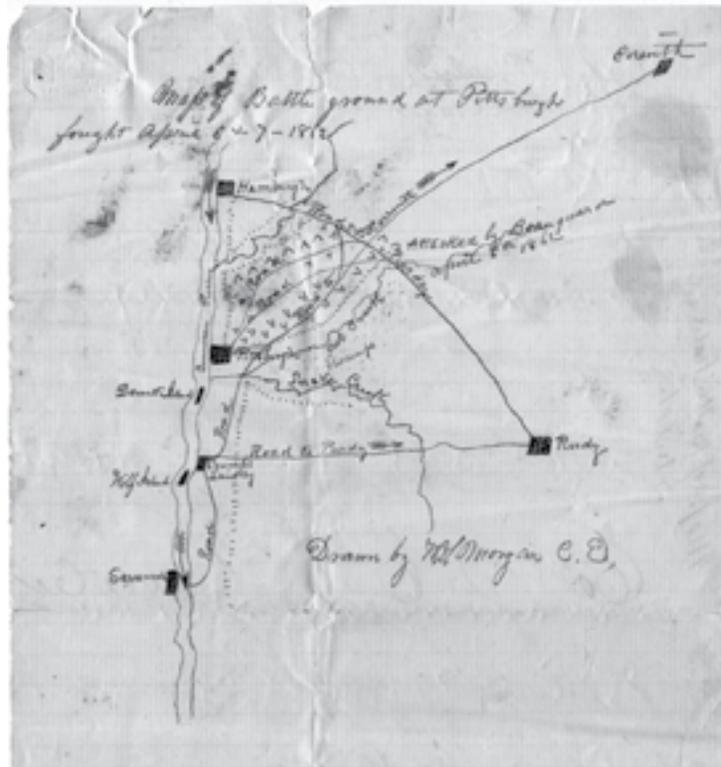
meet her in heaven. That letter is among the Sarah Parks Papers in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. SCRC holds only the single March 30 letter. Still more letters from Isaac to

ny K noted that Hutton was discharged in August 1862 “for deafness caused by concussion of cannon” at Shiloh. He reenlisted a month later, served to the end of the war, and spent his career as a surgeon in the U.S. Marine Hospital Service. Hutton’s letter is held by the John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro, Illinois. The museum graciously loaned its Wiley letters to SCRC to be scanned as part of our online, digital Southern Illinois Civil War collection (<http://tinyurl.com/6bfexjg>).

Arriving at the end of the battle with Hutton’s brother in the 53rd Illinois was Sergeant Villeroy A. Tambling, who described the aftermath in his pocket diary. “The fight has been severe & the dead and wounded are to be seen in all directions.” Tambling and his men of Company C spent two miserable nights in the rain without shelter. On the 8th,

they formed a battle line to meet a new attack, but it was a false alarm. On the 10th, Tambling wrote: “Today we have been burying the dead & carrying the wounded on board the boat & tonight sleep in the open air again—”

A month after the battle its horrors lingered. On May 9, 2nd Lieutenant William Nazareth Mitchell, Company E, 60th Illinois Infantry, wrote to his wife Rachel from Paducah. “I was on a hospital Boat just now that we met here with many sick soldiers from up the Tennessee . . . there were some 500 on board and their names not taken yet on any general Register.” On May 11, Mitchell wrote from a steamer that had stopped briefly



Drawn by William Morgan of the 18th Illinois, this map of the Shiloh environs is part of the Michael Lawler Papers at SCRC.

Sarah reside at Notre Dame.

On April 11, Private William H. Hutton, Company K, 20th Illinois Infantry, wrote to his aunt Emily Davie Wiley of Makanda about the “Busy times we have had here since last Sunday morning. What do you think of our new victory?” Hutton asked. “Some tall fighting done here . . . I went through it from Sunday morning through Monday night. I was struck on the heel with a spent ball. Stung my heel some . . . We have burried over 4,000 dead Secesh since the Battle . . . My Brother is here in the 53rd Ill Vol they got here about 5 o'clock Monday afternoon just as we had routed the Rebels.” An 1894 history of Compa-

at Pittsburg Landing. "I did not go to the battlefield, the scent was enough for me, it was very disagreeable." Mitchell had founded a small town in Crab Orchard Township that he named Attila, after the fifth century king of the Huns, which some locals derided as Poor-do. After the war, Mitchell served as Williamson County Clerk.

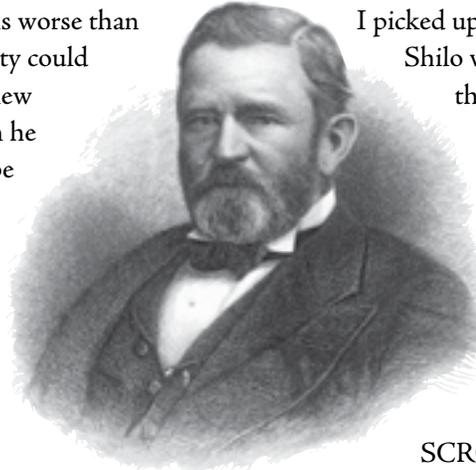


Courtesy of SCRC

U. S. Grant utilized the Cherry Mansion and the steamer *Tigress* (center ship) as his headquarters during the conflict at Shiloh.

Poor recordkeeping meant anguish for many who waited at home for battle news. On April 14, Nancy Mann wrote to her husband John (Company K, 5th Illinois Cavalry) from their home in Liberty on the Mississippi River in Randolph County. "It grieves me to hear of the slaughter of our men at Pittsburg on the Tennessee although it was a Victory it was dearly won." On April 21, Nancy wrote of her fears for her brother, Private Henry Clendenin, Company G, 34th Illinois Infantry. "[W]e have been anxious about Henry's safety since the battle at Pittsburg, but now we almost cease to hope that he is living. George Ball who was in the same company arrived home last night badly wounded he says Henry is missing, but can give no account of how he was lost . . . Ball reports six killed out of their company I dont know when Ball

was taken from the battle field it may be that my poor brothers body would be found after he left . . . we have examined carefully every list of wounded but his name was not to be found Oh this suspense is worse than the worst reality could be, if only I knew how and when he died I would be



reconciled." Henry Clendenin survived the battle and the war, but brother Harvey (Company A, 80th Illinois Infantry) was killed in the Atlanta campaign of 1864 (see *Cornerstone*, Summer 2011).



At Shiloh the nation learned at great cost that the war would not end in one decisive contest, as Grant had thought. For veterans, Shiloh was their baptism of fire. Those who joined later only knew secondhand.

William Hervy Lamme Wallace's life was chronicled by his adopted daughter in *The Life and Letters of W. H. L. Wallace*, which is currently in print from SIU Press.

Private Byron E. Webster, Company K, 111th Illinois Infantry, visited the battlefield in February 1864. On February 8, he wrote to his fiancée, Hannah Elliott, in Salem. "I send you a old button that

I picked up on the old battlefield at Shiloh when we stopped coming up the River from Paducah. I found it where the trees was all shot to peaces by cannon and musket shots I found it in my old vest pocket this morn" Webster survived the war to own a drugstore in Benton.

SCRC holds a single letter from William H. L. Wallace, the highest ranking Union officer (brigadier general) killed at Shiloh. On January 13, when he was still Colonel, 11th Illinois Infantry, he wrote to his wife Martha

Ann from Birds Point, Missouri. "I feel & have ever felt since I embarked in this cause that the hand of God was in it, and that out of all this seeming evil He would evoke the greatest good—Men, even the ablest & the best, are but instruments to accomplish His ends—and if He wills that they perish on the field or live to return to their homes, all is for the best—Man can die but once, & to fall in support of the constitution and the government our fathers established under so many evidences of Divine favor, is no mean ending of this period of existence." Mortally wounded in the worst of the fighting on April 6, Wallace was carried from the field to Grant's headquarters in Savannah, where he died on April 10, in his wife's arms. ✦

The Library Is Seeking ... continued from page 3

\$110 for *Peter Doig* by RICHARD SHIFF and CATHERINE LAMPERT. In every generation of artists, there are a few—or perhaps just one—who propose a new set of questions and alter the way we understand art. Peter Doig is such an artist.

“In a world where digital images run rampant and few contemporary painters stand steadfast amid the pixel stream, Peter Doig is a rock. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, he grew up in Trinidad and Canada, attended art school in England in the 1980s, and since then has exhibited across Europe, America, and Canada to growing approbation. The complex power of his arresting, mysterious paintings is beautifully embodied in this handsome, large-scale, definitive retrospective. . . . One detects the presences of Bruegel, Cezanne, Matisse, Canada’s Group of Seven, Milton Avery, and Winslow Homer. Essays by two art historians offering touchstone insights into Doig’s subjects and approaches complete this engrossing and exciting survey of an uncommonly receptive, inventive, and expressive painter.”—*Booklist*



\$215 for *Archimedes Palimpsest* edited by REVIEL NETZ. *Archimedes Palimpsest* is the Byzantine prayer-book which was written over a number of earlier manuscripts, including three unique examples containing works by Archimedes, unquestionably the greatest mathematician of antiquity. In this volume the scientists, conservators, classicists and historians involved in the project discuss in full their techniques and their discoveries. These include new speeches by the classical Athenian orator Hyperides, a lost commentary on Aristotle’s *Categories* from the second or third century AD and substantial re-readings and reinterpretations of the works by Archimedes. The book discusses the pioneering imaging and post-processing techniques used to reveal the texts and includes detailed codicological descriptions of all eight manuscripts comprising the *Palimpsest*.

\$210 for *The Weather Almanac: A Reference Guide to Weather, Climate, and Related Issues in the United States and Its Key Cities* by STEVEN HORSTMAYER, 12th Edition. *The Weather Almanac* is a resource for a variety of climate and meteorological data including both domestic and international weather trends, historical weather patterns dating back 1,000 years, natural disasters, and a twenty-page glossary of weather terminology. The book is complete with detailed maps, pictures, and tables compiling climate data from a variety of sources, including the National Weather Service and the US Geological Survey.



\$295 for four e-platbooks or e-platmaps of selected southern Illinois counties (to include Perry and Williamson counties). The Map Room at Morris has a collection of nearly 800 county plat books dating to the 1930s, though most are from the 1970s and later.



\$265 for *The Civil War Era and Reconstruction: an Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History* by MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS. “Mardi Gras and Bloomingdale’s: these topics are not what one would expect to find in an encyclopedia of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Readers will find them, however, in this interesting two-volume encyclopedia by SNODGRASS, the author of numerous textbooks and reference works including *Civil Disobedience* and *The Underground Railroad*. This encyclopedic set has, as its stated objective, coverage of “nonmilitary events, legal issues, philosophies, technology, agriculture, and expansion.” Going beyond the traditional military/political focus, it provides rich context for the period and is well designed to assist readers in reaching a broad understanding of a complex time.”—*Choice*

The Adopt-a-Book Program encourages donors to purchase needed titles within which a personalized bookplate is placed.

For more information, please call 618-453-1633.

\$140 for *The Oxford Handbook of American Literary Naturalism* edited by KEITH NEWLIN. After its heyday in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, naturalism, a genre that typically depicts human beings as the product of biological and environmental forces over which they have little control, was supplanted by modernism, a genre in which writers experimented with innovations in form and content. In the last decade, the movement is again attracting spirited scholarly debate. *The Oxford Handbook of American Literary Naturalism* takes stock of the best new research in the field through collecting twenty-eight original essays drawing upon recent scholarship in literary and cultural studies. The contributors offer an authoritative and in-depth reassessment of writers from Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, Theodore Dreiser, and Jack London to Kate Chopin, Edith Wharton, Ernest Hemingway, Richard Wright, John Steinbeck, Joyce Carol Oates, and Cormac McCarthy.



\$320 for *There Once Was an Island*, an 80-minute DVD. This film is an excellent case study for discussions about displaced communities, democracy, adaptation, conservation, and human rights. Four years in the making and winner of fifteen international awards, this PBS documentary inspires audiences young and old to consider the immediacy of climate change and its cultural, political and environmental impacts, now and into the future.

Delta Award Goes to William Iseminger

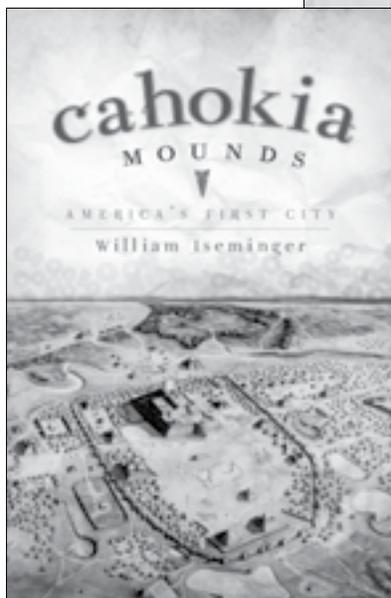
The Friends of Morris Library have awarded the Delta Award to William Iseminger for his *Cahokia Mounds, America's First City*. Since 1976, the award has recognized "an individual(s) or organization(s) that has written/published about southern Illinois with distinction or added to the cultural life of southern Illinois." Previous recipients include Robert Coover, Professor John Y. Simon, Senator Paul Simon, Gary DeNeal, and most recently, Jeff Biggers.

Iseminger will receive the Delta in a ceremony Wednesday, April 25th, 2012, at 5:00 PM in Guyon Auditorium of Morris, after which he will discuss his book. A reception will follow his presentation. *Cahokia Mounds, America's First City* is published by the History Press at \$19.99, and copies will be available at the reception. This event is free, and the public is cordially invited.

Born in Bloomington, Illinois, William R. Iseminger grew up in Arlington, Virginia. Majoring in anthropology he earned his BA



This marks the first time the presentation of the Delta Award has been separate from the Friends Annual Dinner. Please join William "Bill" Iseminger as he receives the award at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 25th, in Guyon Auditorium of Morris Library.



Courtesy of History Press

from the University of Oklahoma and his MA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He has lived and worked in the Cahokia area since 1971.

Cahokia Mounds, America's First City provides an understanding of the people and the archaeological research of this ancient metropolis on the Mississippi flood plain. When asked about the genesis of the book Iseminger responded, "I believed a book written more for the general public was in order that was mostly descriptive of the site—its origins, florescence, and

demise—and in language that was not full of

jargon. I relied on my 40 years of experience (now 41) working at the site in various capacities, include doing archaeology and working as a museum curator. But I continue to be amazed by this majestic site, and the learning process has not ended as colleagues continue to do research at and around Cahokia to reveal more about America's First City."

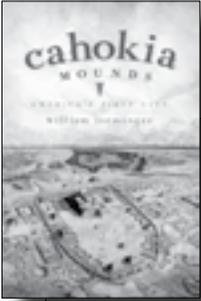
For over fifty years, the Friends of Morris Library have supported the library by hosting events, contributing to endowments, purchasing materials (books, computers, software, etc.), and underwriting various other activities. Recently, the Friends coordinated the funding of the construction of a courtyard patio on the east side of the library. **GP**

It was January 1949, and Delyte W. Morris had just taken the reins as president of SIU. This photo made the front pages of the *Carbondale Free Press* (which was in transition to becoming the *Southern Illinoisan*) and the *Egyptian*, which wasn't yet a daily. The *Carbondale Free Press* reported, "A mob of yelling, shouting, singing students from Southern Illinois University marched in a dramatic demonstration today to support the school's demand for an eight million dollar appropriation from the state legislature."

Vintage Image Corner



Courtesy of SCRC



Join us for the presentation of the Delta Award to William Iseminger at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 25th in Guyon Auditorium

of Morris Library. Iseminger has received the award for writing *Cahokia Mounds: America's First City*. This event, with a reception to follow, is open to the public.

Library Friends

Financial gifts from library friends empower Morris Library and ensure its position as one of the top research libraries in the country. We appreciate this tradition of private support, which is critical to the quality of the library's collections, programs, and services. In furtherance of the goals of SOUTHERN AT 150, SIU Carbondale and the SIU Foundation retain six percent of all gifts to strengthen the advancement program.

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