

# ArkyFacts

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at  
The Irwin Center  
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

## FEBRUARY - 2019

- February 21      Joseph Wheeler ~ 7:30 PM  
                         "Highways Through Time: The I&M Canal  
                         National Heritage Corridor"
- March 4            Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM  
                         Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
- March 21          Pauline Saliga ~ 7:30 PM  
                         "Rethinking Middens for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
                         Excavations at Charnley-Persky House"

Deadline for material to be included in the next  
Arkyfacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.

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# ArkyFacts

February 2019

Thursday, February 21 ~ 7:30 PM

HIGHWAYS THROUGH TIME: THE I&M CANAL  
NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

By Joseph Wheeler

The story of this region is best understood not as the impact of the Chicago Portage, or the I&M Canal, or the Chicago & Alton Railroad, or Route 66; but as the trajectory of thousands of years as a nexus of transportation, trade and commerce. Join Midewin Archaeologist Joe Wheeler as we look at that history and prehistory, and search for vestiges of it still visible on the land today.

Joe Wheeler was born and raised between the I&M and old Route 66 in Cicero, Illinois. He graduated from Loyola University of Chicago and enlisted in the Marine Corps, retiring as a Colonel in 2009 after over 28 years of service. He attended graduate school in Anthropology, specializing in Archaeology, at the University of Wyoming on the Post 9-11 GI Bill. He worked with the U.S. Forest Service as a field archaeologist in 2011, and in 2013 became Heritage Program Manager and Tribal Liaison at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington, Illinois.

For more information on the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor, visit <https://iandmcanal.org>

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**Special Note.....** to all those who receive *Arkyfacts* via email, this month you'll notice that we're experimenting with a new format that may enable online viewers to more easily read our newsletter "cover sheet" We hope this is helpful.

**Summer Excursion Revision.....**this summer, we are making plans to visit the Chicago Portage National Historic Site (instead of the Peabody Estate). Plans for an additional trip to Cahokia are still on track.

**Our Next Business Meeting.....** will be on Monday, March 4 at 7:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 18219 Dixie Hwy., Homewood.

*If you've not already done so, please remember to send in your 2019 Membership Application.*

**Bookmarks! Find us online.....**

**Search: "South Suburban Archaeological Society on Weebly"**

**OR: <http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/>**

**OR: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>**

**South Suburban Chapter Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>**



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at: **NITEL**

## SAVE THESE DATES .....

The Homewood Historical Society is sponsoring two events at the Homewood Public Library:

March 13, 7:00 PM – “Searching for Marquette”

Art historian and educator Ruth Nelson will tell the story of the 17<sup>th</sup> century French Jesuit missionary and explorer Jacques Marquette through the many works of art and monuments dedicated in his honor, which reflect his enormous impact upon what is today the State of Illinois.

April 10, 7:00 PM –  
“Updates on the Underground Railroad South of Chicago”

Dr. Larry McClellan will look at new underground railroad stories with developments in the Little Calumet River area, Crete and Lockport.

**Both programs are free and open to the public.**

**Homewood Public Library  
17917 Dixie Highway  
Homewood, Illinois  
(708)798-0121**

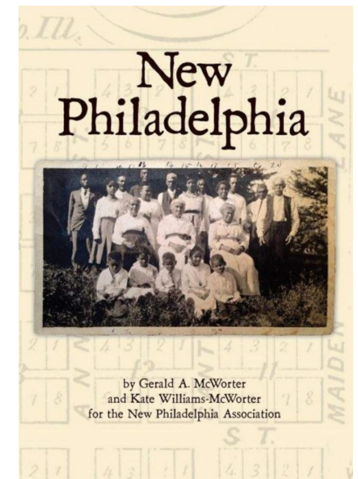
## GREAT NEW READING.....

“**New Philadelphia**” (*Path Press, Inc., 2018*)  
By Gerald McWorter & Kate Williams McWorter

In 1831, Frank McWorter, a freed slave, bought a tract of land in Pike County, Illinois, to establish the town of New Philadelphia. By 1836, he had mapped out the town lots and registered it with the county. It soon became an active, integrated, abolitionist town with a post office, school, store, blacksmith, shoemakers, and farming families. The population reached 160 people in 29 households, but like so many new towns on the frontier, it withered and by about 1885, disappeared.

In this engaging volume, Frank’s great-great-grandson and spouse, both professors at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) tell his story and that of New Philadelphia. They also tell the story of recent archaeological excavations at the town site by the Illinois State Museum, University of Illinois, and University of Maryland.

Today, New Philadelphia is a National Historic Landmark and an archaeological preserve that is partially owned by The Archaeological Conservancy. The National Park Service is conducting a feasibility study to add it to the National Park system.



*The Archaeological Conservancy*