

## People

### 1. Dellora and Lester Norris

Dellora Angell was 15 when she and her uncle, Edward Baker, inherited the John “Bet-a-million” Gates multi-million dollar fortune. She spent the rest of her life in St. Charles married to her childhood sweetheart, Lester Norris, raising their five children. While Dellora’s interests were in health care, Lester’s was in commercial art. His occupation was as Chairman of the Board at Texaco. Dellora and Lester contributed immeasurably to St. Charles by building the Arcada Theatre, Municipal Center, Delnor Hospital, and much more.

### 2. Colonel Edward Baker and Greyhound

Edward Baker was born in 1868 the son of local farmers Edward and Martha Baker. In his mid-40s, he and his niece Dellora Angell (Norris) inherited the estate of his deceased sister, Dellora Baker Gates, valued at \$40 - \$50 million. Although wealthy, Baker, as did his niece, remained true to their St. Charles roots, calling himself a farmer despite his business and philanthropic ventures. His love of fine race horses led a Kentucky Governor to grant him the honorary title of “Colonel.” This love also raised Greyhound, a world-champion trotter who kept the record for the fastest mile for over 30 years. Edward Baker died in 1959.

### 3. Bela Hunt

Major Bela Hunt arrived in St. Charles in 1836 and immediately began several entrepreneurial ventures such as building a dam, bridge, and mill, buying and maintaining the Burchell Hotel, owning a number of mills along the river, and becoming the first Kane County Treasurer.

### 4. Ira Minard

Merchant, farmer, factory owner, Ira Minard and brother George came to St. Charles in 1834. Becoming one of the wealthiest landowners in the county, Ira was elected State Senator in 1842.

### 10. Hotel Baker

Edward Baker built the \$600,000 Spanish-Moroccan style structure in 1928. It earned the nickname “honeymoon hotel” for its beautiful rooms, scenic location and proximity to local attractions. At construction, it had one of four “Rainbow Rooms” in the country. The oval ballroom featured a rainbow of light from a glass floor of over 300 blocks which lit up with music or created pictures. The Hotel was renovated and re-opened in 1998.

### 11. Municipal Center (National Register of Historic Places)

Built in 1940 by the Norris and Baker families, the Art Moderne style structure was designed to house city offices, council chambers, and a historical museum. Architect Harold Zook used white Georgian marble for the exterior and green marble for the interior and designed rotating colored lights to illuminate the tower at night.

### 12. Dunham-Hunt Museum (National Register of Historic Places)

Bela Hunt built this Greek-Revival brick residence from 1836 to 1840. Members of the Hunt family resided in the home until 1980, when Jane Dunham turned it into a museum. Jane Dunham died in 1994, leaving the care of the museum to the City and the St. Charles Heritage Center.

### 13. Beith House (National Register of Historic Places)

William Beith, a prolific stone mason, built this Greek Revival-style house in 1850. Beith was an outspoken abolitionist, and the house is said to have been a stop on the underground railroad. It is now a museum managed by the Preservation Partners.

### 19. Fox River

The Fox River (named after the Native American Fox people) provided an ideal place for people to settle along its banks for thousands of years. It originates in Wisconsin and flows into the Illinois River near Ottawa. It attracted settlers for its abundant sources of food, water, transportation and water power.

### 20. Main Street Bridge

The bridge has been rebuilt over seven times since its original construction in 1836. Early bridges were unstable, frequently folding to heavy spring rains. In 1902, a trolley car accident induced a permanent construction in which the stone beams lasted until 1997, when a new bridge was built.

### 21. Langum Trail

The scenic trail follows the Fox River to Pottawatomie Park and was first constructed as a WPA project during the Great Depression. It was laid with brick and the Pottawatomie Indian Statue was added in 1988.

### 22. “Ekwabet” Statue

The original statue, erected in 1915 in Pottawatomie Park, was destroyed in the 1960s. In 1988 sculptor Guy Bellavar built the 15’ artist’s interpretation of the American Indian and dedicated it to the “Neshnabek” or Pottawatomie, the last native group to live in the Fox Valley. Representatives from the Pottawatomie named the statue “Ekwabet” which means “watching over.”

### 23. Charlemagne Fox

*The Legend of the Charlemagne* was written by former Mayor C.V. Amenoff

### 5. Read and Dean Ferson

Brothers Read and Dean Ferson came to St. Charles in 1834 as blacksmiths, dry-goods merchants and teachers. They, along with other early settlers, were responsible for laying out the plans for the town of St. Charles.

### 6. General John Farnsworth

John Farnsworth, a St. Charles resident, was an attorney, Congressman and personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. In 1858 he advised Lincoln during the Lincoln-Douglas debates and nominated him for president during the 1860 Republican Convention. In 1861 he started a training camp for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> IL Cavalry Regiments called Camp Kane (now Langum Park).

### 7. Alice Davis

Devoting all of her adult life to education, Alice Davis was an accomplished teacher, principal, and local historian. Perhaps the best known of her many contributions to research in local history was *The Growth and Settlement of St. Charles* (1924 and 1940). She died in 1966 at age 82.

### 8. William Luckett and Harriet Luckett Harris

This third-generation family came to St. Charles in the 1860s via the Underground Railroad. Luckett was a painter and commercial artist from the 1920s to the 1940s. He invented a formula for repairing porcelain which was sought after worldwide. William’s sister, Harriet Harris, was foster parent to over 40 needy children and learned how to speak Lithuanian to communicate with people in her neighborhood.

### 9. Belgian Person with Pigeon

The Belgians emigrated to St. Charles around the turn of the century primarily to fill the need for labor at the Moline Malleable Company. They brought many aspects of their heritage with them, including pigeon racing and Rolle Bolle, still played by local Belgians.

## Places

### 14. Arcada Theatre

Built in 1926 by the Norris family, the Theater was equipped for live performances, film, and post-performance entertainment. Lester Norris envisioned the Spanish/Moorish-style structure from trips to Florida and Spain. \$500,000 worth of elaborate decoration filled the 1000 seat theater and provided luxury uncommon for a small town. Famous acts such as Burns and Allen, Ginger Rogers and John Philip Sousa performed there.

### 15. St. Charles Public Library

The original part of this Classic-Revival Architecture style building was built in 1908 with money from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. Additions were made in 1964 and 1988.

### 16. Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

Built in 1953, Edward Baker dedicated the church to the memory of his parents, Edward and Martha Baker. The church is an impressive display of the Gothic Architecture style.

### 17. Old City Building

The original city building was built in 1892, 18 years after the first mayor, K.L. Lewis, was elected. The first fire station was also located there.

### 18. Delnor Hospital

Delnor Hospital was built in 1940 by Dellora and Lester Norris. It was considered distinct because of its colonial design, home-like atmosphere and state-of-the-art equipment. Today it is a senior-living center.

## Things

in 1970. The “four sons” (religion, business, education and recreation) are represented by a fox that watches over St. Charles from Main Street Bridge.

### 24. Richards Riot Bullet Holes

These bullet holes were made during the Richards Riot of 1849. The Franklin Medical Institute, founded in 1842, was the first medical school in Illinois. Students occasionally stole cadavers from nearby cemeteries to study. After a theft in a Sycamore Cemetery, a mob invaded the home of the Director, Dr. George Richards. A riot ensued and two people died.

### 25. Dancing Family Sculpture

The sculpture was cast in Naples, Florida, by Milton Hebard. It weighs 900 lbs., stands 5’2” tall at the Norris Cultural Arts Center and adheres to the theme of supporting the visual/performing arts among young people.

### 26. St. Charles Belle

This boat is one of a long line of riverboats which has entertained thousands along the Fox River. The Chet Anderson family has been piloting the boats for over 45 years.

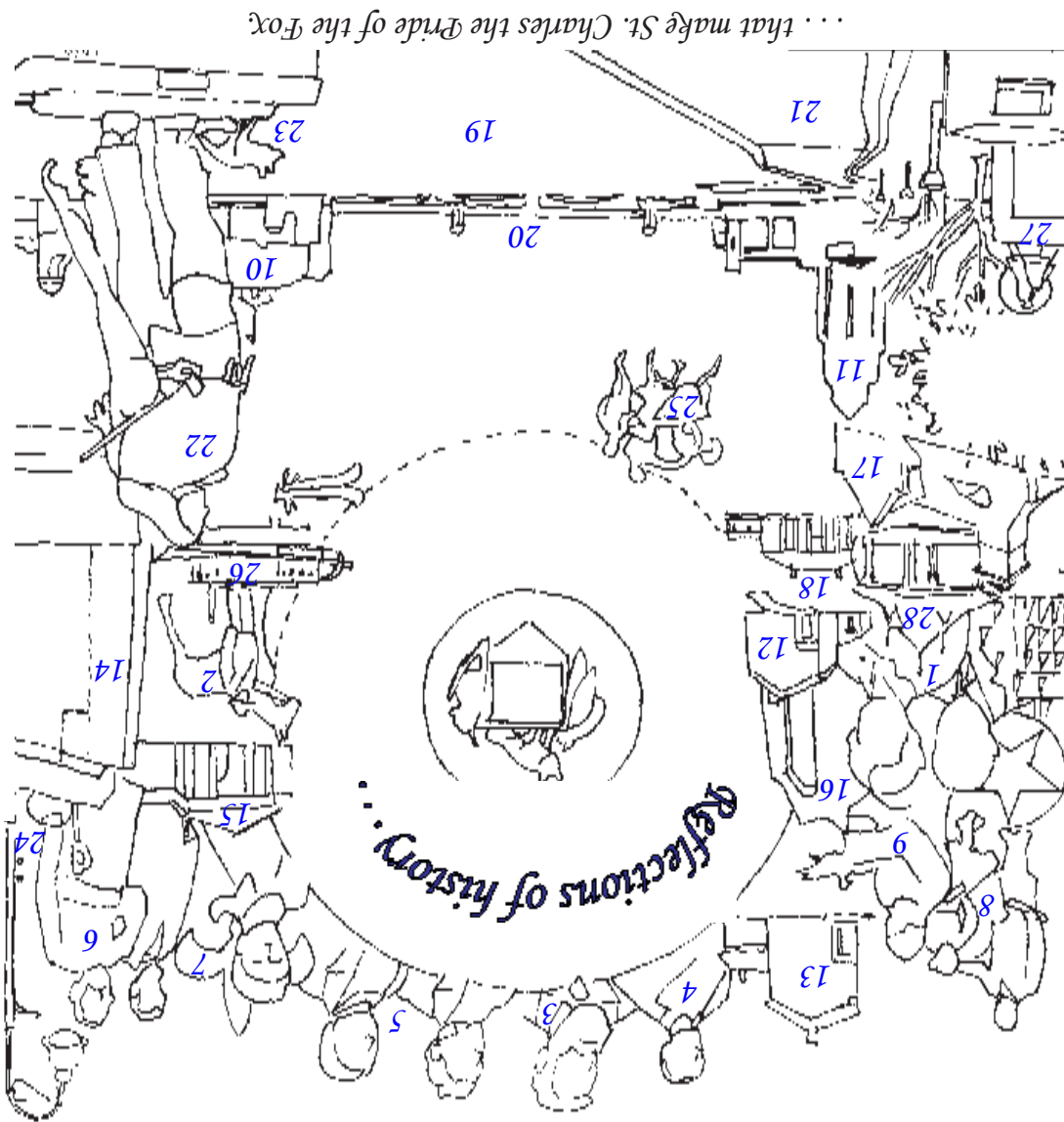
### 27. Shelby School Bell

The bell came from the Shelby School that was located on the west side of St. Charles from 1854-1930.

### 28. Lincoln Park Gazebo

Built in 1988, the gazebo was designed to replicate the one that stood in

...portraying individuals and landmarks...



... a collage of color, form and space ...

### About the Artist ... Tom Mahady

Thomas D. Mahady was born in Nyack, New York, and raised in Stamford, Connecticut. He earned his Bachelors degree in Fine Arts from South Hampton College and completed his final internship with Roy Lichtenstein. Tom continued his education with a Masters in Fine Arts from Hunter College in New York City. He now does private tutoring and teaches at Judson College, Wheaton College and the Naperville Art League.

Tom's fine mural work can be viewed here as well as in the Glen Ellyn Brewery, Glen Ellyn's McChesney And Miller grocery store, the Geneva Depot Express coffee shop at the train station and Villa Verona on Hamilton Street. His diverse works also include oil portraits, landscapes, equestrian renderings, pen and ink Christmas cards, and calendars.

Mahady currently displays at Gallery 129 1/2, West State Street in Geneva. Solo exhibits include University of Illinois, Beverly Art Center, Aurora College, Elaine Benson Gallery, Campbell House Art Gallery, Owls Head Airport and Glen Ellyn Library. Tom has also participated in group shows at, among others, Harbor Square Gallery, Camden, ME; Visner Gallery, New York City; Westbeth Gallery, New York City; John Hancock Building, Chicago; and Fermilab, Batavia.



The captions contained in this brochure were written by Jeanne Schultz Angel, Curator/Educator, St. Charles Heritage Center. Our thanks to Jeanne Schultz Angel and Karen Ponton for the help and advice they provided throughout the duration of this project.