The Daniel Barrows family built this Italianate home in 1858 after their previous residence on the spot burned in Galena’s 1856 fire. The home was owned by several families thereafter until it was purchased in 1922 by the International Order of the Odd Fellows, who added the large rooms on the building’s rear. In 1938, the city came into possession of the property, and the Galena Historical Society was opened on its second floor.

Today, the entire building is devoted to the Galena & U.S. Grant Museum and its 10,000-plus artifacts. The Museum houses over 6,500 square feet of exhibit space, including the Museum’s newest exhibits: Driftless Area & First Peoples, which features the earliest history of our county, as well as our new Galena Generals exhibit.

Join us next year for the
52nd ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES
SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2020

For tickets & info:
call 815.777.9129
or visit galenahistory.org
The Lamberson House was constructed by D. Harvey Lamberson in the Galena Traditional style in 1870. In 1875, it was sold to Mr. Henry Wallace for $2,600, who added the Italianate front porch in 1876. The home features original windows, hardware, and hardwood floors. The formal dining room features two beautifully carved red oak built-in cabinets with matching carved friezes over the windows and doors, and the original fireplace, tile, and carved Corinthian columns. The oil lamp above the table is also original to the home.

The home was purchased and restored by the current owner as a Bed & Breakfast to include private baths in all 4 bedrooms and new plumbing and electric throughout. The Lamberson House was awarded the 2017 Jo Mead Historic Preservation Award.

James Spare grew up in Massachusetts, where he operated as a housewright before moving to Galena. Once here, James built houses before opening a lumber yard. In 1846, he used local Galena bricks to craft a late-Federal style home at the corner of Dodge and Mars. The house was one of the first built on “the hill” over the city. It pre-dates even the mansions on Prospect Street.

James died in 1854, leaving his second wife, Jane Mead Spare, the house. She stayed there a number of years. Their daughter, Elizabeth, operated a School for Young Ladies and Misses in the home. The home features an original staircase and arched Hudson parlor doors. The Spare home last appeared on the tour in 2002.

The Wadleigh House was originally built on Bouthillier Street circa 1875 across from the U.S. Grant Home. Milton Wadleigh worked on a project to connect Cairo, Illinois with Galena via a railroad, and moved permanently to Galena in 1843. In 1846 he was appointed the City Surveyor. Wadleigh created a “New Map For Galena” that embraced all the subdivisions, alterations, and additions of Galena in 1854; the map is on display at the Galena & U.S. Grant Museum.

Harold and Jane Foecking bought and moved the home to Franklin Street, where it remains today. Two rooms had to be removed from the house for the move. The home was restored in the early 2000s. The current owners have been in the home for the last fourteen years.

Nelson Stillman, a merchant in Galena since 1837, built his two-story brick Italian mansion in 1858. The building was used as a single family home for three families from 1859-1933. It was converted into a nursing home and served as such for twenty-six years (1942-1968). Pictures from that era show the vast changes the building underwent. From the 1970s until 2017, the mansion served as a guest house with outbuildings, like the Medieval Banquet Hall/Wedding Chapel to the east of the building, offering meals, drinks, and entertainment.

The Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society purchased the Stillman property and neighboring Crow Historical Society property in 2017 to serve as the site of the new museum. Currently, the building hosts administrative offices, board and committee meetings, and event space.