

Chamber encourages local businesses to join 62626 Spirit Week

By MELISSA LYNN  
Enquirer~Democrat Reporter

The Carlinville Community Chamber of Commerce is inviting local businesses to participate in 62626 Spirit Week, taking place from Monday, June 22, through Friday, June 26, also known as 62626 Day, a once-in-a-lifetime date matching our ZIP code.

The Chamber says Spirit Week is a unique opportunity to boost visibility and welcome more visitors into your business during one of Carlinville’s most memorable celebrations. The week is designed to celebrate community, support local businesses, and encourage people to shop local. Businesses may participate in one day or all five days of the week. Spirit Week is as follows:

- Monday, June 22: Carlinville Kindness Day.**  
Staff and customers are encouraged to start the week off making someone else’s day brighter by spreading kindness.
- Tuesday, June 23: Hometown Heroes Day.**  
Give a shoutout to

someone who helps make Carlinville special and tag the Chamber on Facebook.

**Wednesday, June 24: 62626 Spirit Day.**  
Decorate storefront in red and blue, have staff wear 62626-themed apparel, and share photos online.

**Thursday, June 25: Carlinville Gives Day.**  
Host a giveback event or donate a portion of Thursday’s sales to a local nonprofit or a community cause that makes Carlinville stronger. The Chamber will promote your business on their website and social media all week.

**Friday, June 26: 62626 Day!**  
Participate in sidewalk shopping and celebrate with pop-ups, specials, and fun 62626-themed promotions.

**Sign up**  
The Chamber wants you to share with them your specials, giveback events, sidewalk shopping plans, or 62626 Day promotions, so they can promote your events throughout the week. You can sign-up on the Chamber’s website at [www.carlinville.com/62626-spirit-week-sign-up](http://www.carlinville.com/62626-spirit-week-sign-up).

Sarah Hackett Stevenson was a Ground-Breaker on Many Fronts

By TOM EMERY  
Enquirer~Democrat Contributor

In the 1860s, few women graduated from college, and of those that did, most ended their careers when they married. But some, like Sarah Hackett Stevenson, managed a lifetime of professional achievement in a time of overwhelming oppression.

Stevenson, a member of the Illinois State University Class of 1863, became a highly regarded physician, and the first female member of the American Medical Society.

Born in present-day Polo, Ill. on Feb. 2, 1841, Stevenson attended Shimer College before graduating with honors at ISU in the fourth Commencement in school history. She then spent four years as a teacher in Bloomington, followed by teaching stints in the northern Illinois communities of Mount Morris and Sterling, where she was also the principal.

At some point, however, she decided on a career change. As a result, she settled in Chicago and studied anatomy and physiology at Woman’s Hospital Medical College, which was established in 1870 and later became part of Northwestern University.

In 1874, Stevenson graduated with highest honors. During her time there, she spent a year of study in London under the renowned anatomy expert Thomas Huxley.

Stevenson, who never married, then returned to Europe for postgraduate work in London and Dublin. At one point, she studied under Charles Darwin, who was famed for his theory of evolution. While



Sarah Hackett Stevenson, a ground-breaker on many fronts. She was the first female member of the American Medical Association, the first woman appointed to the State Board of Health for Illinois in 1893, and the first female physician on staff at the Cook County Hospital.

she was overseas in 1874, Illinois Gov. John Beveridge named her as a delegate to the fourth International Sanitary Conference in Vienna, which addressed disease epidemics.

After a year abroad, Stevenson returned to Chicago and served as physiology chair of the Woman’s Hospital Medical College from 1875-80, concurrently teaching physiology and histology in the department. Later, she was a professor of obstetrics at the school. She was also elected as a member of the Illinois State Medical Society, and directed the society’s committee on progress in physiology.

In 1876, she was an alternate delegate to the AMA convention in Philadelphia, and acted as a full delegate when a scheduled presenter could not attend. In turn, she was accepted as the first female member of the AMA. It was a quick departure from the AMA’s previous policy; just five years earlier, the group refused to discuss female membership.

Stevenson attended three more AMA conventions, chairing a special committee in 1878 for the advancement of physical sciences. The following year, she presented research on the sympathetic nervous system.

Back in Chicago, Stevenson became the first woman

appointed to the State Board of Health for Illinois in 1893. She was also the first female physician on staff at the Cook County Hospital.

In 1880, she helped found the Illinois Training School for Nurses. Stevenson was also a consulting physician at Bellevue Place in Batavia, a facility for the mentally ill. For four months in 1875, Mary Todd Lincoln, widow of the assassinated President, had been confined at Bellevue.

A skilled writer and researcher, Stevenson published Boys and Girls in Biology, a volume for high school students based on her study under Huxley. In 1880, she published The Physiology of Women and eight years later, produced Wife and Mother: Or, Information for Every Woman, which advised women on pregnancy.

In 1893, Stevenson successfully lobbied the Chicago Woman’s Club to establish a safe home for women and children who needed shelter, but had no money.

Stevenson was forced to retire in 1903 from a cerebral hemorrhage. Her health deteriorated from there, and she spent the last year of her life in a coma before her death on Aug. 14, 1909.

Sarah Hackett Stevenson was one of many women among the early ISU graduates who left an imposing legacy, helping countless others with a myriad of professional and personal achievements.

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