



## What's Happening?

Here's an overview of upcoming events. Read inside for more details on each of these events or call the Vrooman Mansion at 309-828-8816.

### Cooking Classes

- June 9 Taste of Summer
- June 30 New Orleans Style Cuisine
- July 9 Tasty Tapas
- July 21 Home-Style Family Favorites
- August 4 Grilled to Perfection

### Other events

- June 14 Elegance in White vintage wedding gown fashion show
- July 11 Vrooman Mansion Travelers' bus trip to Fireside Theatre
- July 18 Lincoln's Bloomington event

*Come join us for all of these special events!*

## Become a part of history!

Vrooman Mansion Bed & Breakfast and Hospitality Establishment

## VROOMAN MANSION

1869

VROOMAN MANSION BED & BREAKFAST

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# from Julia's desk

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Vrooman Mansion Bed & Breakfast Newsletter

## Upcoming Events...

### Cooking Classes

Cooking Classes continue at the Vrooman Mansion. In January, we had 2 classes organized by the mansion. Our chef was Terry Mullin and the cuisines were German & Irish.

In February, we began a new adventure. We partnered with Heartland Community College with cooking classes. Eight successful classes have been held consisting of Soups, Valentine's dinner, Scones & Tea, Tea Sandwiches, Easy & Elegant Brunch and several others.

And, we have many more in the planning stages going through summer & fall. The summer line up is:

- June 9th – Taste of Summer
- June 30th – New Orleans Style Cuisine
- July 9th – Tasty Tapas
- July 21st – Home-Style Family Favorites
- August 4th – Grilled to perfection

We are hoping to work with some celebrity chefs both local & distant. Check the Heartland catalogs or go to the Heartland web site at [www.heartland.edu/communityEd](http://www.heartland.edu/communityEd) to find additional information and to register for the classes.

Along the cooking lines, watch for information late summer about a meal on the Titanic!

### Wedding Style Show

On Sunday, June 14th, "Elegance in White" will be presented. This is a vintage wedding gown fashion show and afternoon tea presented by both the Tea Ladies & the mansion. Two seating will be offered — one at 1:00pm and another at 3:30pm. Reserve a ticket with Nancy Perzo of the Tea Ladies (309.827.2200) or [admin@thetealadiesinc.com](mailto:admin@thetealadiesinc.com).

### Bus Trip

The Vrooman Mansion Travelers will be going to the Fireside Theatre in Wisconsin on July 11th to see the play "The Witness." Call Theora Stark at 309.452.1496 for details.

### Lincoln's Bloomington

On Saturday, July 18th, between 10:00am and 4:00pm the Vrooman Mansion will be participating in this 200th year Birthday Celebration. We will be one of several locations — including Downtown Bloomington, the David Davis Mansion and the Burr House participating in this event. The day will include Lincoln walking tours, Civil War re-enactments, Civil War and Victorian Era exhibitors & activities and Lincoln-Douglas debates. For additional info go to [www.lincolnsbloomington.com](http://www.lincolnsbloomington.com).

### New Ideas

In July or late August, we have discussed lunch on the porch featuring a lesson in watercolors, flower arranging & bow making, or gardening of some type. Final plans have not been made.

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## Missing Historical Items

If anyone owns or knows of an item related to the Vrooman Mansion or its past residents, and would like to return it to its home, we would welcome these items. You may have read or seen on TV about the plaque from the Lincoln Oak Tree returned home after 50 years! Tim Haney of Normal came to us with the plaque and a fascinating story of how he came to have this in his possession. We are indebted to Tim. We hope there are more "Tim's" who will come to us with a cherished memento from the mansion.



## History Nook

*Charles S. Bromwell*

Most of our visitors and guests have heard of Julia Scott Vrooman who was born in the mansion and died in the same room 104 years later in 1981.

She had a sister Letitia Scott who was 3 years older and named after her Aunt Letitia Stevenson, wife of Adlai Stevenson I.

It is Letitia Scott's husband, Charles Bromwell, to be featured in our history story. Much of the information we have we learned only recently and we are searching for his portrait at this time.

Charles grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, the son of a judge. He was appointed to West Point, graduating with high honors in June of 1890. He quickly became a Lt. Colonel. Some positions he served were being in charge of rivers and harbors in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas; being in charge in harbors & ports of the Great Lakes; and being sent to Greece as an American Government Representative at the maneuvers of the Greek Army.

He became a military aide directly under President Theodore Roosevelt. During this

time he formed an acquaintance with many prominent men in the U.S. as well as distinguished diplomats from abroad. He was in charge of buildings and grounds in Washington D.C.

In 1896 his skills as an engineer were used to lay out Yellowstone National Park. That year he also married Letitia Scott in Washington D.C. at another mansion of her mother's Julia Scott. They had two children, Mildred and Scott.

In 1914 Lt. Col. Bromwell was placed at the head of the corps of engineers in Honolulu. He helped design the fortress around Pearl Harbor.

On December 10, 1915 shocking news was received in Bloomington that he had committed suicide. The family was never satisfied with the government findings that it was suicide and not murder! However, there was a suicide note that was later discovered.

Lt. Col. Charles Bromwell is buried besides his wife Letitia, at Evergreen Cemetery in the Stevenson, Scott and Vrooman family plot.

## Follow up on past events

*The Christmas Tour,*

*December 20th, 2008*

With the ice storm and having no power until 3:58 p.m., we were so fortunate to have so many guests (over 1,000) tour the Vrooman, Broadview and David Davis Mansions from 4pm-9pm. An added bonus was a "mystery house" which belonged to Karen Schmidt & John Elrich. We appreciate the time and the talents of the musicians, Host & hostesses, sponsors, shuttle drivers, planning committee & food preparers. Thank you to Karen & John for showcasing your beautiful home.

Mark your calendars for "Christmas at the Mansions", Saturday, December 19th, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. Tickets we be on sale one month in advance. We already have a different "mystery house" to add to the tour. Can you guess where this home might be?

*Progressive Dinner*

*February 13th, 2009*

The winner of the raffle to benefit the Alzheimer's Association was **Steve Dillon**. He and 9 guests were treated to appetizers & drinks at the David Davis, dinner at Vrooman and dessert & coffee at Broadview with exclusive use at all 3 sites for Steve's party. We will, again, sell raffle tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 to benefit an agency yet to be selected this year. Tickets will go on sale September 1st and the winner will be selected on December 21st. Steve purchased his ticket while on the tour at the Vrooman Mansion!

*Pam's Recipe Box*

## Carrot Cake Pancakes:

*Prep time: 20 minutes*

*Cook time: 2-3 minutes per side*

### Ingredients:

2 3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
5 1/2 tablespoons sugar  
1/2 tablespoon baking soda  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
3 large eggs  
3 cups buttermilk  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1 1/2 cups finely grated carrot  
1 cup golden raisins (optional)  
1 cup pecan pieces (optional)

### Mascarpone Cream topping:

1- 8oz. container of mascarpone cheese or 1- 8oz. package of cream cheese, room temperature  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1 cup chilled whipping cream

### Garnish:

Powdered sugar  
Carrot curls  
pecan pieces



### Directions:

For the cream topping; using electric mixer beat first 4 ingredients in medium bowl to blend. Add 1/2 cup cream; brat until soft peaks form. Add 1/2 cup cream; beat until thick and stiff. Keep in refrigerator until ready to use.

For the pancakes; in a large bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, and nutmeg.

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, buttermilk, and melted butter.

Combine the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients.

Stir in grated carrots, raisins, and pecans.

Heat griddle to 350 degrees. Use 1/3 cup measure to spoon batter onto griddle. Cook pancakes 2 to 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown.

Serve with dollop of mascarpone cream. Dust with powdered sugar and sprinkle of pecan pieces. Garnish with carrot curl. Serve immediately with maple syrup. Makes 24 large pancakes.

Enjoy!!!

## A Wonderful, Talented Volunteer!



Recently a local resident volunteered her services at Vrooman in a much-needed capacity. She is **Nancy Miller** of Bloomington. She is helping to organize photographs, books, historical items, and newspaper articles with much expertise. She has ties to the mansion because at one time she was a legal secretary to the attorney who wrote many wills for Julia Vrooman.

We also have research projects to work on & trips to related historical sites to take. Nancy knows just who to contact and how to access information which might be available. In due time, we have a goal to have scrapbooks available for our guests to browse through and maybe a history book describing some of the endless history which is part of the mansion. Nancy thought we could accomplish this by May!! We appreciate her and the work she is doing so very much.

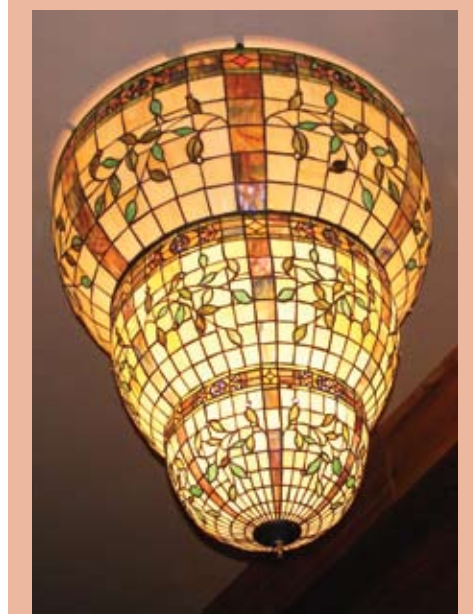
## Dana's Tool Box

Progress on the Carriage House has been moving forward. Within in the past 6-10 weeks, **all of the woodwork** on the second floor stained and varnished with 2-3 coats. Dan, Pam & Lorie decided on the paint colors for the two upstairs suites and hallway. And, we have completed the painting of everything on the second floor. Finally to see color on the walls — exciting!

Andy Streenez, from Bill's Lock & Keys, has installed the **old doorknobs** that were salvaged from one of the houses that used to stand on Wood Street. We purchased them from the Old House Society Salvage Warehouse. Thank you Andy & Marie (Andy's patient wife).

Another exciting event: The hanging of the **huge stained glass light fixture** in the Charlevoix Suite — it's magnificent!! It's approximately 3' at the base and hangs down about another 3'.

And finally, the built-in shelves, bench seat and custom designed shower in the **Fern Suite** bath room are complete — including the installation of the ceramic tile in the shower. So, we have now moved back downstairs and started on the rough-cut cedar ceiling and the framing of the half bath.



*The new stained glass fixture is now hanging in the Charlevoix Suite!*