

OFF THE RECORD

❖ QUINCY, ILLINOIS ❖

13 STORIES

Mary Astor

Quincy Area's Famous & Infamous Leave Their Mark Near and Far

INSIDE

Scandal, Mystery, Fortune & Fame

Through storyettes and local places, discover true crime stories, intriguing characters and legendary tales: Silver Screen stars, history makers, adventurers, gangsters & felons.

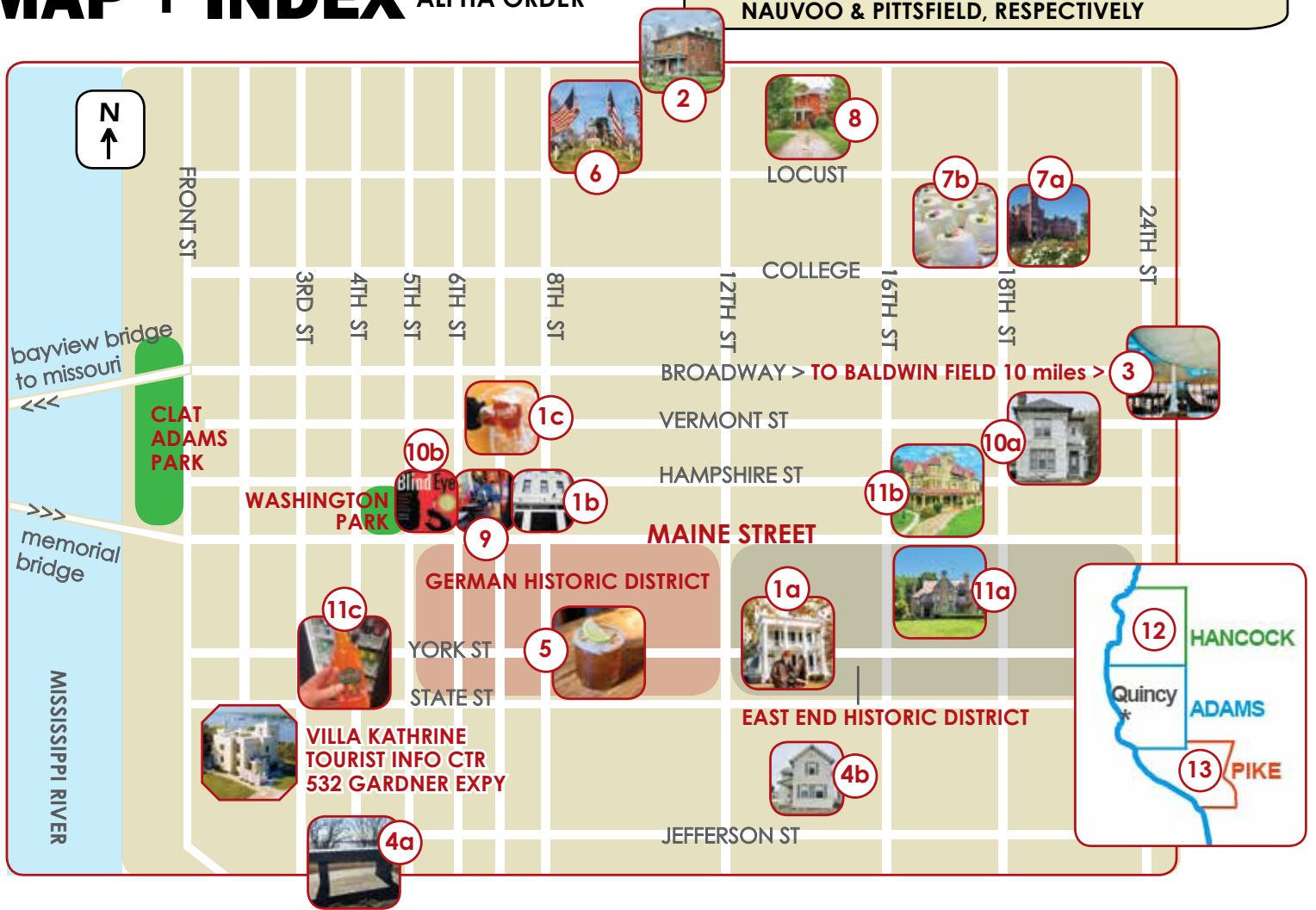
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enjoy
illinois

SEQUINCY

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STEAL A BIKE! Abscond with two adult bikes or one tandem for 2 hours, **FREE**. Bike Quincy is located at Villa Kathrine, 532 Gardner Expressway. Call or text to reserve > p 800.978.4748 / † 217.242.3728



JOHN ANDERSON

CHARACTER ACTOR / 1922-1992

John Robert Anderson was an American character actor who performed in hundreds of stage, film, and television productions during a career that spanned five decades.

Anderson was born in Clayton, IL and grew up in Quincy. He received his masters in drama from the University of Iowa, then served in the US Coast Guard during World War II. His acting career began on the Mississippi River showboat Goldenrod and evolved into Broadway theatre in New York.

Eventually he headed West to Hollywood where he became a brilliant character actor. Standing 6'5" tall, he bore a strong resemblance to Abraham Lincoln, whom he portrayed three times. He was in a plethora of films & television shows, with his earlier work including appearances in many Westerns: **Gunsmoke** (12 times), **The Rifleman** (11 times), **The Virginian** (5 times). Anderson also was a recurring actor in **The Twilight Zone** and played the snooping used-car salesman, "California Charlie" in Alfred Hitchcock's **Psycho** (above, with Janet Leigh). He was in more than 30 movies.

Anderson returned to his hometown often to visit his mother and was active in community events. Counting TV shows and movies, John Anderson had 539 credits to his name, far more than any other Quincy actor. He is known as **one of the greatest character actors of the 20th century**.

TODAY



JOHN WOOD MANSION *pictured*
425 S 12TH ST / hsqac.org

- Filming site of the 1970 movie *A House Divided* in which Anderson played Abraham Lincoln; open to the public for tours

613 MAINE ST

- Anderson family apartment while he was a child

P 1



MARY ASTOR 1906-1987

AMERICAN FILM STAR

An only child, Mary Astor was born in 1906 as Lucile Langhanke to Otto and Helen Langhanke in Quincy. Both were teachers with strong aspirations for their daughter to achieve fame and fortune. Through beauty contest exposure, Astor was signed by Hollywood moguls at the age of 14. After several minor parts, she starred in John Barrymore's **Beau Brummel** (1924), during which time she had a lively affair with Barrymore.

In 1925, Astor's parents bought a Hollywood mansion and purportedly kept her sequestered there, living large from her earnings. Her father allocated her \$5/week allowance at a time when Mary was making \$2,500/week. At 19, she climbed from her second floor bedroom window and escaped to a hotel, as recounted in her memoirs, returning home when her father formed a \$500 savings account for her. Nevertheless, she did not gain control of her salary until she was 26 years old, at which point her parents sued her for financial support. Astor settled the case by agreeing to pay her parents \$100/month.

Mary Astor's crowning role was her indelible performance as the lying Brigid O'Shaughnessy in **The Maltese Falcon** (1941). Three divorces, alcoholism and attempted suicide took their toll, resulting in smaller parts till her last film **Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte** (1964), in which she played opposite her good friend, Bette Davis, above.

TODAY



2435 N 12TH ST

- Mary Astor's childhood home, former Langhanke residence

(Private residence- Park in Islamic Center lot to view home)

P 2



THOMAS SCOTT BALDWIN

1854-1923 / AVIATION PIONEER BALLOONIST

"It's Not Luck, It's Results!" was the motto of the showman whose success inspired the naming of Quincy's airport– Baldwin Field, and Baldwin School.

When Baldwin was a young boy, his family moved to Quincy after his father was killed during the Civil War; his mother died shortly after. Tom and his older brother raised themselves. Early on, Baldwin developed a series of acrobatic stunts and landed a job in a traveling circus, combining trapeze art and a hot air balloon. In 1887, **he made one of the earliest recorded parachute jumps from a balloon**, and on July 4, 1887, he performed his second parachute jump in Quincy's Singleton Park at 30th & Maine (now Baldwin School).

Baldwin was an overnight phenomenon. In the midst of his success, he married Caroline Pool in Quincy. He took his show to Europe, Hawaii and the Far East. In 1891 Baldwin returned to Quincy and redeveloped Singleton Park into "Baldwin Park," with bowling alleys, amphitheater, hotel and race track on 32 acres.

In 1900 Baldwin built a small pedal-motorized airship, followed by an aerodynamic cigar-shaped hydrogen filled dirigible, California Arrow, flown at the 1904 Saint Louis World's Fair. In 1910 Baldwin designed his own airplane, making history with **the first airplane flight over the Mississippi River**. 200,000 citizens lined the riverfront to watch Baldwin fly the Red Devil from St. Louis to Illinois.

TODAY



QUINCY REGIONAL AIRPORT *pictured* (BALDWIN FIELD) 1645 HWY 104

- The City of Quincy named the region's primary airport (est. 1972) in honor of Thomas Baldwin
- Relax in the visitor lounge of the mid-century modern terminal and read more about Baldwin
- Blue Haven Cafe on the upper level of the terminal / 217.885.3010

P 3



ROY BROCKSMITH 1945-2001

AMERICAN CHARACTER ACTOR



Roy Brocksmith was an Emmy-nominated character actor born in Quincy to Vera and Otis Brocksmith. He began his career on the bar at Hap Kuhl's Tavern in Quincy at the age of three.

As a boy soprano, he appeared regularly on local radio and television shows. At the age of 18, Brocksmith married his high school sweetheart, Adele, and graduated from Quincy College (now Quincy University) in 1970 before proceeding to Broadway.

Brocksmith was an accomplished stage performer, director, writer, and well-rounded theatrical artist. His career took him all over the United States and the world. At age 40 he flew to L.A. and never looked back. Among his more prominent roles are mortician Irv Kendall in **Arachnophobia** and the duplicitous Dr. Edgemar in **Total Recall**, in which his character is executed by Doug Quaid, played by none other than Arnold Schwarzenegger, above.

Brocksmith died of kidney failure from diabetes in Burbank, CA at the age of 56. He is buried in Quincy's Woodland Cemetery in the Memorial Bench Plot.

Film:

- *Psycho* (1998)
- *Who's That Girl*
- *Scrooged*
- *The War of the Roses*
- *Tango & Cash*

Television:

- *Seinfeld*
- *The Golden Girls*
- *Ally McBeal*
- *Star Trek*
- *LA Law* (1986-1991)
- *Picket Fences* (Emmy nomination)

TODAY



WOODLAND CEMETERY *pictured* 1020 S 5TH

- Brocksmith's gravesite is in Block 8, adjacent to the Honoring Soldiers Monument
- Woodland is a hotspot for paranormal activity; Cemetery Tours annually in Oct / 217.222.1835 / hsqac.org

603 S 14TH

- Brocksmith's childhood home

P 4



DICK BROTHERS BREWERY

SUDSY THE GHOST

As legend has it, one of the Dick family members died in a vat of beer, and **his ghost haunts the halls of the former brewery**. Over the years the name "Sudsy" was given to him. His remains rest in a crypt in the Woodland Cemetery Mausoleum.

Dick Brothers Brewery was opened in 1857 by three brothers: John, Jacob and Matthew. They discovered a clear, cold, bubbling spring on the property of William Shanahan and began building their empire.

In 1862, controversy broke out between three men at the brewery with the arrival of an illegitimate son to a neighborhood resident, Ms. Kristi Schmidt. The blonde mistress birthed a son, whose father is disputed to be either one of the two brothers, John or Jacob, or brewery worker Mr. Brauer, who had the odd first name of Jingleheimer.

Knowing the social implications of having a child out of wedlock, they all agreed Ms. Schmidt would raise the boy alone with the aid of the brewery family and German community. Ms. Schmidt's son went unnamed for several years, growing up as "Buddy" Schmidt. In an attempt to right her unmarried status and legitimize her son, Ms. Schmidt would often use the first name of whichever disputed father figure was within earshot to call her son. Buddy was mischievous, often up to neighborhood shenanigans. Whenever he would go out, the people would always shout, "There goes John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt...!"

TODAY



DICK BROTHERS BREWERY DISTRICT
929 YORK / dickbrothersbrewery.com

- Underground spring & caverns
- Museum, event spaces, tunnel tours
- Annual events: MayFest / Oktoberfest
- The Ratskeller, an underground German bar with biergarten: Sudsy cocktails available (Jager-ita shown: Jägermeister, triple sec, agave + fresh lime)



JENNIE HODGERS / ALBERT CASHIER

1843-1915

Jennie Irene Hodgers was an Irish-born immigrant who made her way to Illinois in 1862. Dressed in men's clothing, she walked into the recruiting office to volunteer for service in the U.S. Civil War. The physical exam inducting men into the Army consisted of nothing more than a tap or two to the chest, a quick look in the eyes and ears, with no undressing required. **Hodgers walked out as Albert Cashier.**

Assigned to the 95th IL Infantry, Cashier fought in nearly 40 battles, including the Siege at Vicksburg. Other soldiers thought him small, preferring to be alone. He was once captured in battle, but escaped back to Union lines after over-powering a prison guard.

After the war, Cashier labored in Saunemin, IL for forty years as a janitor, cemetery worker and street-lamp lighter. Because he lived as a man, he was able to vote, use tobacco publicly, and later claimed a veteran's pension.

While working for Senator I.M. Lish in 1910, Cashier was hit by a car and the attending physician discovered he was a woman but kept the secret. In 1911 he was moved to the IL Veterans Home in Quincy. He lived there as a man until he was committed to a state hospital, where he died in 1915.

Dressed in the uniform he was so proud of, Albert D. J. Cashier was laid to rest in Sunnyslope Cemetery in Saunemin with full military honors.

TODAY



ILLINOIS VETERANS HOME
1707 N 12TH / 217.222.8641

- Cashier's biography was penned by veteran Lon P. Dawson, also a resident at IL Veterans Home
- Also Known As Albert D.J. Cashier: *The Jennie Hodgers Story* available at the All Wars Museum on the Veterans Home grounds



JOHN MAHONEY 1940-2018
ENGLISH-AMERICAN ACTOR



John Mahoney was an award-winning actor, best known for playing retired police officer Martin "Marty" Crane in the American TV series **Frasier** on NBC.

Charles John Mahoney was born the seventh of eight children in Blackpool, England. His father was a baker who played classical piano, and his mother was a housewife who loved reading. The family had been evacuated to Blackpool from their home city of Manchester when it was heavily bombed during World War II.

Visiting the States to see his older sister Vera, a "war bride" who had married an American, the young Mahoney decided to emigrate and was sponsored by Vera. He eventually won his citizenship in 1959 by serving in the U.S. Army.

After his military service, Mahoney attended Quincy College (now Quincy University), earning his Bachelor of Arts. He worked as an English professor at an assortment of colleges, and while employed as a medical journalist at 37 years old, made the decision to transition to acting.

Mahoney played the cantankerous but lovable Marty Crane from 1993-2004. He received nominations for **two Golden Globe Awards and two Prime-time Emmy Awards**. He later returned to the theater, which he considered his home.

TODAY



QUINCY UNIVERSITY
1800 COLLEGE AVE
• Mahoney's alma mater

UNDERBRINK'S BAKERY *pictured*
(across from Quincy University)
1627 COLLEGE AVE / 217.222.1831
• Authentic German bakery frequented by college students
• Known for Angel Food Cupcakes



MONCKTON MANSION
LOCAL LEGEND WITH STORIED PAST



Mob activity, ghosts, basement vaults and elaborate underground tunnels are some of the rumored characteristics of this mysterious estate which contribute to its status as a local legend.

Built in 1865 by Charles Savage, the manager of Quincy Toledo Railroad, the mansion still sits on over 4 acres. The property was acquired by Leo and Mildred Monckton in the 1930s and was their home for the next 45 years— years of heavy involvement with Prohibition, illegal gambling and the mafia.

With the Monckton family's reported ties to the Chicago Mob, it's believed that periodically gangsters, including **Al Capone, would use the home as a safe house** when their criminal pursuits were being investigated in the windy city. It's said that the home held underground tunnels large enough to drive a car through all the way to the river.

Quincy has Leo Monckton to thank for the building of the Art Deco-style State Theater, which opened Christmas Day, 1938. The State Street Theater is now a special events venue located at 434 S 8th Street.

The mansion is currently privately owned and being restored to its former glory. It contains over 6,000 square feet, eight fireplaces, numerous chandeliers and over 10 rooms.

TODAY



1419 LOCUST ST
• *Private residence- observe from street only*
• Commissioned by Queen Victoria and displayed at the World's Fair in St. Louis, the Venetian chandelier was purchased by the Moncktons and remains intact today



JAMES B. STEWART

1952-present / AMERICAN AUTHOR



James Stewart is an American lawyer, journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author and received his degree from Harvard Law School. His work includes a professorship at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Editor-at-Large of SmartMoney Magazine and a columnist for *The New York Times*.

Stewart penned the unsettling true **crime story of Michael Swango**, his junior by only two years, also raised in Quincy. Stewart compiled his book about the "Doctor of Death" in 1999, titling it *Blind Eye: The Terrifying Story of a Doctor Who Got Away With Murder*. Stewart traces **the story of the physician who the FBI believes may be one of the most prolific serial killers in American history**, discussing Swango's checkered career throughout his practices in Ohio, Illinois, South Dakota, New York and Africa.

It is estimated Swango may have been involved in as many as 60 fatal poisonings of patients and colleagues. During Swango's time in Quincy as an emergency medical technician in 1984, he was arrested by the Quincy Police Department, convicted of aggravated battery for poisoning co-workers and sentenced to five years imprisonment. He is now serving life imprisonment in Colorado.

James B. Stewart won a Pulitzer Prize in 1988 for his reporting on the stock market crash and insider trading. **His New York Times best-selling book about Swango won the 2000 Edgar Award.**

TODAY



220 N 18TH *pictured*

- Residence where Quincy Police Dept arrested Swango (*private residence; please do not disturb*)

ENCHANTED BOOKS

532 MAINE / 217.262.1786

- Bookstore in historic downtown Quincy where *Blind Eye* is available for purchase

P 9



PAUL TIBBETS 1915-2007

BRIGADIER GENERAL US AIR FORCE



General Paul Tibbets was born in Quincy in 1915. He is best known for his role in World War II as the pilot who flew the B-29 Superfortress known as the Enola Gay when it dropped "Little Boy," the first of two atomic bombs used in warfare, on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

Tibbets graduated from Western Military Academy in Alton, IL in 1933, and later attended the University of Florida and the University of Cincinnati where he majored in chemistry. He entered the Army Air Corps in 1937 and was made commander of the 340th Bomb Squadron in 1942. In March 1943, he was returned to the United States for the purpose of participating in the B-29 program.

In 1944, he was assigned to the Atomic Bomb Project as the Air Force officer in charge of developing an organization capable of employing the atomic bomb in combat operations. In 1945, during preparation for the first atomic mission, Tibbets assumed command of the aircraft and named it after his mother, Enola Gay Tibbets.

General Tibbets flew the first atomic bomb mission against enemy forces on August 6, 1945, dropping the bomb on Hiroshima. Tibbets was 30 years old.

The restored *Enola Gay* is on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, in Washington, D.C.

TODAY



WARFIELD HOUSE *pictured*

1624 MAINE (*private residence*)

- Extended family home of Tibbets

QUINCY MUSEUM (across the street)

1601 MAINE / 217.224.7669

- 20,000 sq-ft mansion; open to public

WINKING'S MARKET

416 S 4TH / 217.223.4764

- Corner deli & grocery since 1948 with penny candy, cold cut sandwiches

P 10



JONATHAN BROWNING

1805-1879 / AMERICAN INVENTOR



Jonathan Browning was an American inventor and gunmaker, born in Tennessee. He initially earned his living as a blacksmith, later transitioning to a gunsmith.

While living in Quincy from 1834-1842, **Browning invented a "sliding breech" repeating rifle also called a Harmonica gun**, which was a major success. It is estimated that each gun took two weeks to make, selling at \$24 a piece.

With his local prominence in Quincy, Browning was elected justice of the peace. He came to know a young lawyer by the name of Abraham Lincoln, who was an overnight guest in his home on at least two occasions.

In 1843 Browning moved to Nauvoo, IL, joined the Mormon community and established a gun shop. As was common in the Mormon community at that time, Browning was a polygamist, having taken three wives. He fathered 22 children; prominent among them was the gun designer, John Moses Browning, one of the most important figures in the development of modern automatic and semiautomatic firearms.

Browning fled Illinois with Brigham Young in late 1846 to escape religious persecution. He died in Ogden, Utah at age 73.

TODAY



350 N MAIN, NAUVOO

- Jonathan Browning Home and Gunshop, restored during the 1960s, part of historic Nauvoo
- Registered with the Ensign Peak Foundation
- Open to the public free of charge / 217.577.2610 nauvoohistoricalsociety.com



ROBERT EARL HUGHES

1926-1958 / WORLD'S HEAVIEST MAN

Robert Earl Hughes Jr. was the heaviest human being recorded during his lifetime weighing 1,071 pounds. He remains the heaviest human in the world able to walk without the need of assistance.

Robert Hughes was born weighing 11 pounds 4 ounces and was a "fairly average-size baby until he contracted whooping cough at about five months old." At the age of six, he weighed 203 pounds. His excessive weight was attributed to a malfunctioning pituitary gland.

During his adult life, Hughes earned income by selling self photographs and making appearances at carnivals and fairs. At age 27, he joined a traveling roadshow and by 1957 had acquired bookings throughout the country.

While traveling with an Indiana roadshow, he contracted the measles. Unable to be moved to the nearest hospital, Hughes was treated by doctors at his trailer. He subsequently developed uremia and died at the age of 32.

Robert Hughes was buried near his hometown, with 2,000 people in attendance at the funeral. *The Guinness Book of World Records* listing reads "He was buried in a coffin the size of a piano case." His headstone inscription, "**The world's heaviest man.**"

TODAY



400 E JEFFERSON, PITTSFIELD

- The Pike County Historical Society Museum features a display about the life of Robert Hughes
- Museum is located in the historic East School 217.491.2391 pikecountyllhistoricalsociety.org

THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT

& JAMES EARL RAY / 1928-1998

Confessed (later recanted) and convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the most prominent African-American civil rights leader of the 20th century.



Quincy held a key spot on the upper Mississippi that brought a spirited mix of entertainment and riverfront business. Social gathering establishments grew and prospered on Front Street. Disguised by front rooms and a lively burlesque nightlife, riverside bordellos generated a booming river culture.

Centered near the waterfront at the foot of Oak Street, the initial red light district flourished for decades legalized by city council. Unhampered by authorities, there were **“50 brothels on Maine below Third Street” at the turn of the century.** By 1918 local officials were calling for an end to such longstanding practices; eleven brothels remained. A red cloth over the transom signaled services available and the term “red transom district.”

Newspaper reports said particular houses were “nearly always visited by famous out-of-town criminals.” One such visitor was James Earl Ray. Ray was born in Alton, IL in 1928 and his family moved to Quincy in 1935. At age 14, “Jimmy” stole a patron’s trousers from Big Marie’s brothel at Third and Vermont in Quincy. So began the criminal life of James Earl Ray. The extended Ray family lived in the thick of the seedy district, and young Ray fell under his elders’ tutelage. Ray’s father was a bootlegger and career criminal and his uncles had mob ties. His grandfather ran a bar at Fifth and Broadway with gambling in the back room.

Ray went on to live a life of crime, in and out of prison from L.A. to Chicago and the South. He bought a rifle in Birmingham, AL on March 29, 1968, using the name Harvey Lowmeyer. Ray told the House Committee he got the alias from a criminal associate in Quincy.

On April 3 and 4, 1968, Eric Galt, an alias Ray had used before, was a guest in the New Rebel Motel in Memphis. Ray admitted being in Memphis at the time. Dr. King was staying at the nearby Lorraine Motel. At around 6pm on April 4, Dr. King was shot while standing on a balcony at his motel. Ray fled Memphis and led law enforcement agents on a two-month chase until he was arrested in London’s Heathrow Airport on June 8, 1968.

In March 1969 James Earl Ray pled guilty and was convicted. He spent the rest of his life professing his innocence and promoting various conspiracy theories from a prison in Nashville, TN.

TODAY

THE PINBALL JOINT 610 MAINE / 217.617.1933

- Historic downtown Quincy
- Underground arcade
- Full bar + food menu

