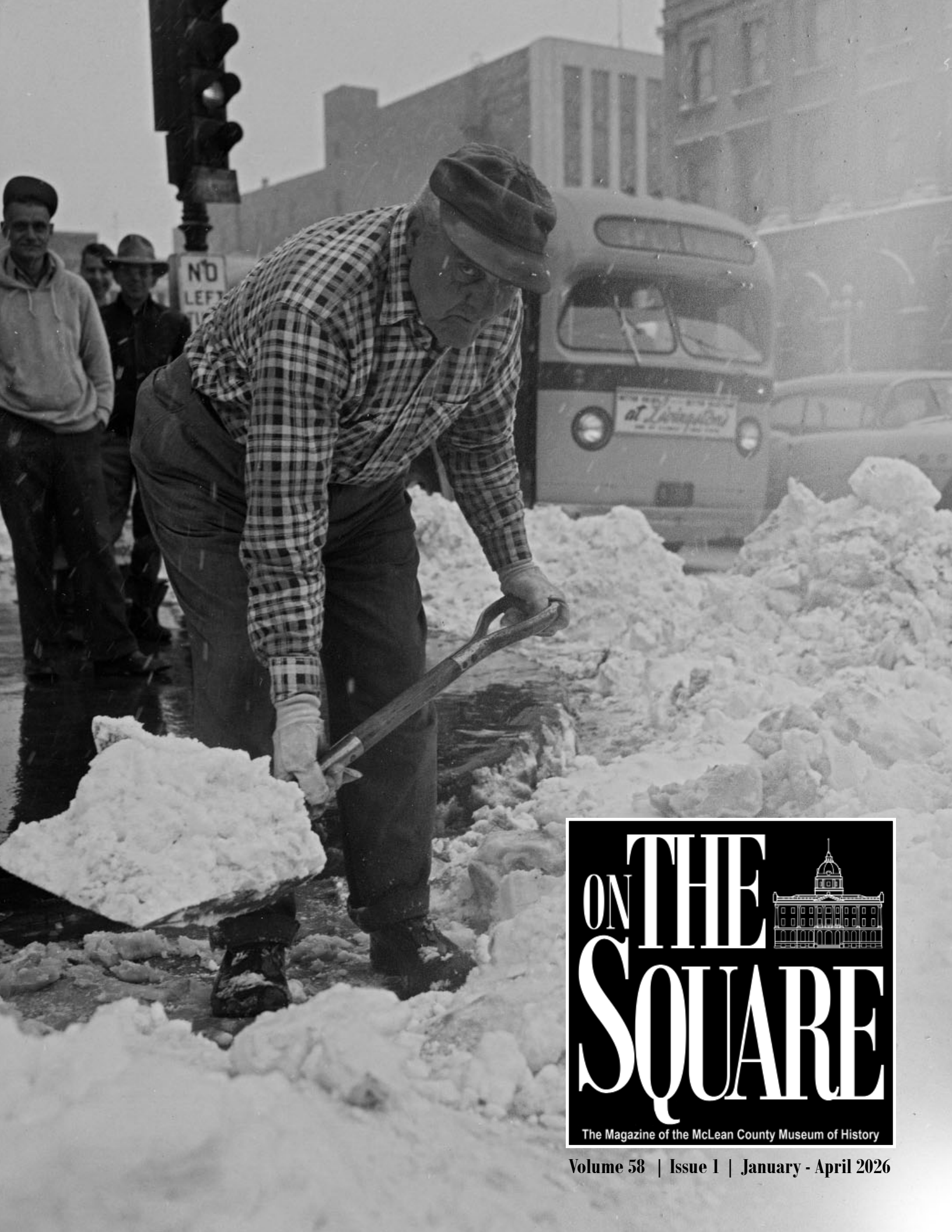




**ON THE
SQUARE**



The Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

Volume 58 | Issue 1 | January - April 2026

Cover Photo

Jim Alcorn, a City of Bloomington engineering department employee, shovels snow on the corner of Washington and Main streets in downtown Bloomington on March 15, 1960.

This *Pantagraph* image is one of 20,000 negatives our team digitized in 2025. Please visit bit.ly/McIDA to explore over 200,000 images just like this one via our collections on the Illinois Digital Archives.

Museum Staff

Bailey Babbitt	<i>Collections Technician</i>
Jackie Cain	<i>Curator of Collections</i>
Kathi Davis	<i>Visitors Experience Assistant</i>
Julie Emig	<i>Executive Director</i>
Rochelle Gridley	<i>Assistant Archivist</i>
Eric Hansen	<i>Director of Volunteers</i>
Micaela Harris	<i>Director of Communications</i>
Bill Kemp	<i>Librarian</i>
Jana Kiefer	<i>Assistant Archivist</i>
Brandy Maloney	<i>Development Assistant</i>
Emily McCusker	<i>Director of Youth & Family Education</i>
Maria Mears	<i>Curator of Historical Interpretation</i>
Torii Moré	<i>Curator of Digital Humanities</i>
Lisa Novak	<i>Director of Visitor Experience</i>
Norris Porter	<i>Assistant Executive Director & Director of Development</i>
Candace Summers	<i>Senior Director of Education</i>
Katie Sutrina-Haney	<i>Archivist</i>
Jeff Woodard	<i>Director of Marketing & Community Relations</i>

Museum Board

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From the Desk of Executive Director Emig

Dear History Enthusiasts and Museum Members,

Happy New Year! The year ahead is set to be one for the books at the McLean County Museum of History. We've spent months planning and connecting with community partners to celebrate two major anniversaries this year: the Route 66 Centennial and the Semiquincentennial of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

We're planning to bring this history to life through art, music, a new exhibit on the history of baseball and softball, and even a llama sculpture.

2026 is a year that invites reflection on the stories that have shaped us and to celebrate the shared experiences that continue to bring our community together.

That spirit of connection is beautifully captured by "Grassroots Baseball," in which Jean Fruth and her co-authors documented their journey along Route 66, photographing ballfields and cataloging the history of America's pastime along the Mother Road. The images in Fruth's work could easily include scenes from McLean County, where baseball and softball have long been woven into the fabric of our community.

Our upcoming exhibit, *More Than a Game: A Community History of Baseball & Softball*, explores how these sports – requiring little more than a ball, a bat, an open field, and a few friends – have built community and reflected broader American values. In much the same way, Route 66 has come to symbolize the promise of the open road and the boundless possibility of connection across towns, regions, and generations.

In 2026, we will also mark another milestone: the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Though we may be located far from the thirteen original colonies, the ideals articulated in this foundational document continue to resonate with us here. This anniversary offers an opportunity to consider how those ideals have been interpreted, challenged, and expanded over time.

Turn to page eight to learn more about our upcoming Democracy Dialogues series, launching in partnership with Illinois State University, the Dirksen Congressional Center, and several other community partners.

We are also collaborating with the McLean County Arts Center on a community art exhibition, *A More Perfect Union*, featuring works by residents of all ages responding to questions of freedom, independence, and revolution.

There is so much history still to capture, share, and reflect upon. Thank you for joining us in 2026. We look forward to celebrating the year ahead with you!


Julie M. Emig, Ed.D.



SPONSORS

We are grateful for our 2025 Presenting Sponsors, whose support empowers us to continue preserving, educating, and collaborating in sharing the diverse stories of the people of McLean County. Contact Norris Porter if you, or your organization, wants to partner with the Museum.

Ace World Wide Moving
Livingston Santas' Reindeer

Anonymous
Speakers Bureau, Fieldtrips, Onsite Tours

Avanti's
Volunteers

Bridgestone
Futures in History Camp

COUNTRY Financial
Free Tuesdays at the Museum
On The Square Magazine

Cumulus Radio Bloomington
Christmas Under the Dome

Illinois Farm Bureau
Museum at the Farmer's Market

Jeffrey Alans & the Wandell Family
Livingston Santas

Lamar Advertising
Museum News E-Blast

MCK CPAs & Advisors
Lunch & Learn Series

Pontiac Granite Co.
Mourning in McLean

The Pantagraph
Rotunda Installations

WGLT
Live Stream Programs

Special thanks to Bloomington Township and Normal Township for supporting our Senior Reminiscence Program!

NEW MEMBERS

as of December 17, 2025

Krystle Able & Collin Stokes

Joseph & Irma Crawford

Donna S. Dickson

Chory Ferguson

Jim Ferrier

Alicia Henry & Wayne Karplus

Aaron and Christine Hornsby

Sharyl & Kirk Jennings

Jacob Johnson & Stacey Shawback

Lorraine Kjeldsen

Xavier Mancias

Marge Mosier

Joseph and Stephanie Newcomer

Mike Ohler

Mike Plantholt

Greg and Carolyn Poling

Colin Ringle

Jennifer Rushlow

Gail Staunton

Paul and Kay Swiech

Mark Webb

Karen Wilcox

Carol Williamson

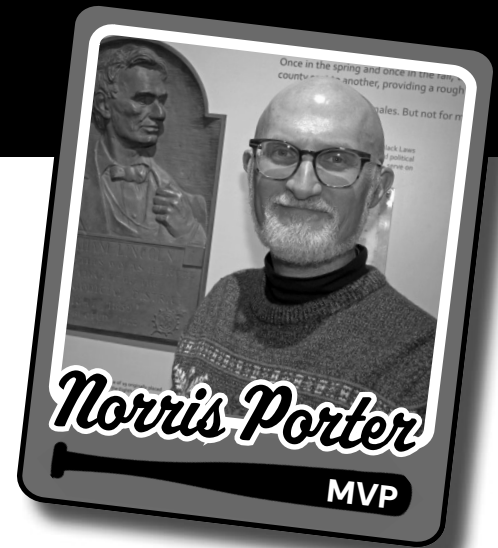
Elliott Wilshaw & Theresa Olkowski

Museum membership is an act of philanthropy that supports local history, preservation, and education for the entire community. Membership also offers direct benefits to you and your family with free admission to the Museum, Library & Archives, plus discounts in the Visitors Center & Gift Shop, special member pricing for events, this magazine, and a Time Travelers reciprocal membership that grants you free and discounted admission to hundreds of sites across the country.

Notes from Norris

Experience-Based Engagement

THANK YOU to everyone that contributed to our summer campaign to support new experience-based programming initiatives. Through your generosity over \$12,000 was raised to kick things off. Keep reading this magazine and follow us online to learn more about the unique experiences and programming planned throughout the year.



Sculpture on the Square

The Iconic Livingston Santas returned on Friday, November 14 for the 2025 Holiday Season. For the next several years the Normal Santa will be displayed outside of Jeffrey Alans until the Underpass Project is completed in Uptown. This spring our new Sculpture on the Square will be unveiled – an oxidized iron llama sculpture by the late local artist, Robert D. Cumpston. From his family farm near Colfax, Cumpston created a variety of sculptures throughout his life, using old farm implements. His work can be seen around town and around the country. Cumpston's life story is also featured in our Working for a Living exhibit gallery.

Save the Date for the 2026 History Makers Gala on June 17

Join us on the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2026 for our annual History Makers Gala. We will announce this year's honorees in late March, and tickets go on sale at that time too. Please visit bit.ly/hmgala26 for more information.

More Than a Game

The Museum will open its next temporary exhibit in July 2026. *More Than a Game: A Community History of Baseball & Softball* will provide an opportunity for visitors to embark on a journey through time, exploring 150 years of history through the lens of sport. As with most things, the cost of materials everywhere continues to rise. The cost to fabricate and install this exhibit is no exception. We are trying to close a \$40,000 funding gap before the end of May.

Our end-of-year funding appeal focused on support for this exhibit. We are grateful for the support we've received thus far. If you haven't had an opportunity to give or sponsor the exhibit, please contact Norris Porter at development@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428. You can also visit bit.ly/sponsor-mtag to make a gift online.

Grant Updates

Continued on the next page...

\$550,000

Congressionally Directed Grant through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission

Thus far we've spent \$505,686.54 of these funds to continue the digitization of the Pantagraph Negatives Collection. Through October staff uploaded 29,165 more images to the Illinois Digital Archives and are currently working on the 1960s.

\$366,000

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant

This grant is to be expended on digital infrastructure, accessibility and safety, support for education, and general capital improvements.

\$72,350

Museums for America grant via the Institute for Museum & Library Services (IMLS)

This grant expanded our capacity to store and preserve artworks. The total cost of the project is \$145,937 and will be completed in 2026. Thus far, we've spent \$72,350 to install SpaceSaver storage and rehouse the artworks. The new system has created 25% more space for future art accessions and room for preservation activities.

\$5,000

Illinois Art Council Operating Grant

This grant supports our art initiatives, including Sculpture on the Square.

\$10,000

Bloomington Township

This grant supports our Senior Reminiscence program and other activities serving senior centers throughout Bloomington-Normal.

\$10,000

Normal Township

This grant supports our Senior Reminiscence program and other activities serving senior centers throughout Bloomington-Normal.

\$2,328

Landmarks Illinois

This grant will support external repairs to the historic Miller-Davis building.

\$6,700

Harriet Fuller Rust Grant – City of Bloomington

This grant supported external door repairs to the historic Miller-Davis building.

\$3,500

Looking for Lincoln

This grant supported the Lincoln Lost Speech Mural project.

Tasting History

Bloomington's longest continuously operating brewery has now been out of business longer than it was in business. However, the Museum and Casper Brewing Company are keeping its legacy alive by recreating a pre-Prohibition style lager inspired by the Meyer Brewing Company (1862-1920).

Plus, Casper is donating one dollar per draft pint and two dollars per every four-pack sold back to the Museum to support the preservation of local history.

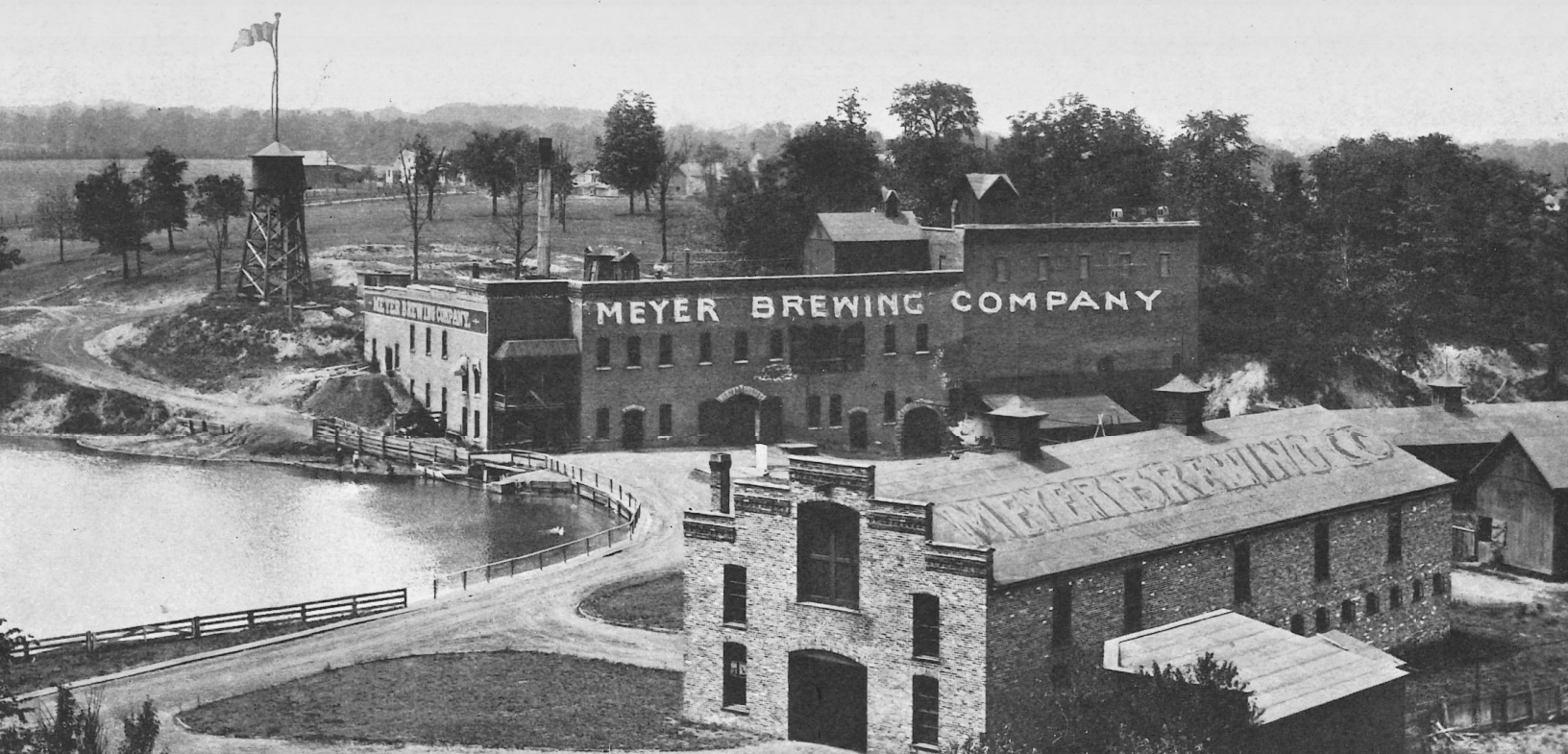
The brew is available on tap and in cans at Casper Brewing Company (3807 Ballybunion Rd. Bloomington), and on tap at Epiphany Farms Restaurant (220 E Front St. Bloomington). The Museum's Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center & Gift Shop has a selection of Meyer Brewing Company-inspired merchandise, but cannot sell the actual lager.



Meyer Brewing Company was founded by German brothers-in-law Anton Meyer and Francis Wochner. The brewery operated where Highland Park Golf Course is today – the clubhouse is original to the Meyer campus!

In its heyday, Meyer distributed throughout Central Illinois and produced over 30,000 barrels of beer per year. Waves of temperance in the twentieth century ultimately forced the brewery to close in 1920.

Please visit mchistory.org/beer to learn more about Meyer Brewing Company's history.



Democracy Dialogues

"Democracy is not an easy form of government, because it is never final; it is a living, changing organism, with a continuous shifting and adjusting of balance between individual freedom and general order." – Ilka Chase, 1942

Two-hundred and fifty years ago, on July 4, 1776, the thirteen American colonies severed political ties with Great Britain, declaring themselves independent states.

"Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." When the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1789, this nation established a representative democracy where citizens elect officials to make decisions on their behalf, representing their interests and opinions. As President Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg address, the United States established *"a government of the people, by the people, for the people."*

The Museum, in partnership with The Dirksen Congressional Center, Illinois State University, Not in Our Town B-N, Prairie Pride Coalition, YWCA, YMCA, Heartland Community College, NAACP, and the McLean County League of Women Voters, will be engaging in a series of "Democracy Dialogues" to explore four founding principles from the Declaration of Independence.

Each discussion will begin with a short presentation on the historical context of each phrase. Program participants will then break into facilitated small group discussions to reflect on what these founding principles mean to them, how they have changed in our society since 1776, and what impact they still have on our nation today. At the end of each discussion, participants will be given information about how they can stay involved in our community and become more civically engaged.

All ages are welcome to participate in any or all of the planned discussions.

Registration is encouraged but it is not necessary to participate.

Please visit bit.ly/Democracy1776 to register.

Questions? Contact Candace Summers at education@mchistory.org or

309-827-0428.

Senator Barack Obama speaks to a crowd in the Museum's Courtroom during a campaign stop, September 2004.



“Life and Liberty”

Saturday, February 28 at 1:00 p.m. at the Museum

featuring Dr. Matthijs Tieleman

Assistant Professor of History at Illinois State University

“Pursuit of Happiness”

Saturday, April 11 at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA

featuring Erik Rankin

*Instructional Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics
and Government at Illinois State University and President and
CEO of the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation*

“All Men Are Created Equal”

Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. at

Heartland Community College

featuring Dr. Meghan Leonard

*Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of
Politics and Government at Illinois State University*

“Consent of the Governed”

Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the YWCA

featuring Dr. Robert Bradley

*Professor Emeritus of the Department of Politics and
Government at Illinois State University*

We're also hosting a special event, in partnership with ISU and the Dirksen Congressional Center, to bring veteran politicians together for a dynamic conversation. Drawing on years of public service, they will explore the nation's founding ideals, how those principles have shaped our history, and the challenges and opportunities ahead. **More details will be coming soon about this unique kickoff event.**



Making More Than an Exhibit

The magic of museum work is making it look easy — seamless, even. One day, we have an empty gallery; the next, a new exhibit appears. But behind the scenes at the McLean County Museum of History, the day-to-day work is far more intricate. Creating an exhibit takes enormous dedication and skill. The most important factor, however, is always collaboration.

Just like in baseball and softball, every member of our team has a role to play in bringing our newest exhibit, *More Than a Game: A Community History of Baseball and Softball*, to life.

As Curator of Historical Interpretation, Maria likes to say, “my job is to connect the dots.” Our now-retired Curator of Exhibits, Susan Hartzold, and Librarian and Exhibit Co-Curator Bill Kemp compiled extensive research on local baseball and softball history.

Throughout much of 2025, Bill and Maria worked to refine that material, shape it into a compelling narrative, and identify the key stories we want to share.

Our Curator of Collections, Jackie Cain, and Collections Technician, Bailey Babbitt, continue to prep objects for the exhibit, ensuring those that will go on display are in good condition. Jackie is also building object mounts, so all of the artifacts will be safely supported. Currently, she is working on making new mannequins to showcase historical uniforms.

Along with Jackie and our Director of Communications, Micaela Harris, we developed a floor plan. Micaela has been essential in crafting an immersive and dynamic environment within the space, considering how people will move through the exhibit, and how they will engage with the information and stories we share.

This exhibit is set to be our most interactive temporary exhibit yet. Visitors will be able to “call the game” like local legends Bill King and Denny Matthews, learn about the artistry of pitching, watch archival footage of local games, test their knowledge with trivia, and explore locations of former and current fields across the county.

These interactive ideas came from all corners of the Museum, including from our Education team, Candace Summers, and Emily McCusker. Their input helped to ensure the interactives are engaging for people of all ages and abilities. Of course, none of these ideas would come to fruition without the creativity and problem-solving skills of Torii Moré, our Curator of Digital Humanities.

Right now, Torii is working on editing archival videos from VHS tapes digitized by Archivist Katie Sutrina-Haney. The videos will be shown on a 1990s television, transporting visitors back a few decades to gather around the TV.

We’re also grateful for our new partners in exhibit design and fabrication: Edwards Creative. Located in the Quad Cities, Edwards Creative provides tools and technology that are simply not feasible for a museum of our size to host onsite. They’re fabricating new walls, designing exhibit panels, and working with Torii on digital interactives. By partnering with an outside firm, we’re investing in the future of exhibits at the Museum and offering visitors an experience unlike anything we’ve ever done before.

Our Executive Director, Julie Emig, and Assistant Executive Director & Development Director, Norris Porter, have worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure we have all the resources necessary to pull this off, which involves A LOT of conversations with subject matter experts, donors, and other stakeholders.



Maria Mears

CURATOR



Jackie Cain

CURATOR



Torii Moré

CURATOR

In one of these conversations, we were asked, "Why an exhibit about baseball and softball? Why now?"

To that, we say: "Baseball and softball in McLean County have always been more than games—they are reflections of American life, where communities came together, barriers were challenged, and generations found joy, identity, belonging, and competition on the ballfield."

At the Museum, we like to say our local history is a microcosm of the national narrative. What played out locally often mirrored what was happening on a national stage — the same can be said for baseball and softball.

Often called "America's Pastime," baseball reflects the American story. Issues of race, gender, shifts in media consumption, access to technology, and changing cultural values all played out on our local diamonds. There once was a time when summers and weekends were filled with games from t-ball to fast pitch. Today, the rising cost of living and competing demands for our time have reshaped how we spend our leisure hours.

When the exhibit opens in July, we hope you'll share some of those precious leisure hours with us, and that the stories we share will resonate with you, inspiring you to think about the American experience in new ways.





COUNTRY Financial Exhibit Ribbon Cutting

20



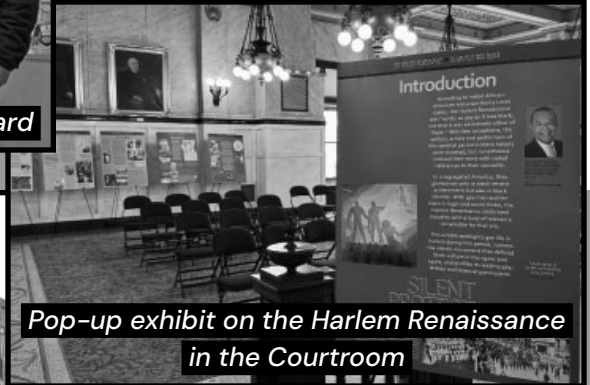
Bill dazzles the crowd



Guy Fraker & Jeff Woodard



Lisa, Norris, and Abe Lincoln



Pop-up exhibit on the Harlem Renaissance in the Courtroom

PHOTO

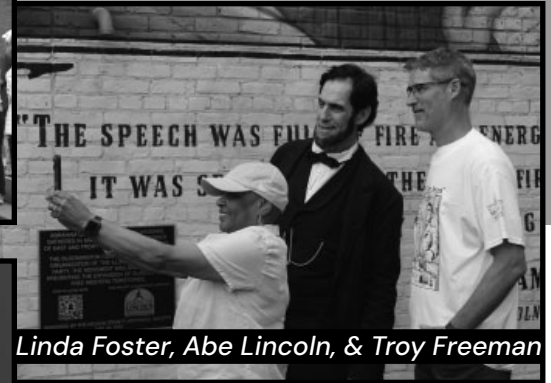


Celebrating the Visitors Center & Gift Shop's 10th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting



Lincoln's Lost Speech Mural Dedication

REVIEW



Linda Foster, Abe Lincoln, & Troy Freeman



Colleen Reynolds & Brandy Maloney



Installing Herb Eaton's "Star Crossed Pollinators" Sculpture on the Square

25



History Makers Rob Fazzini, Sally Rudolph, and Fr. Doug Hennessy



Pride Rotunda Installation



Intern Frankie encapsulates archival materials



Hundreds of photo negatives sit, in front of our new mural, ready to get digitized!



Julie, Jackie, Micaela, and Maria at the AMM Conference



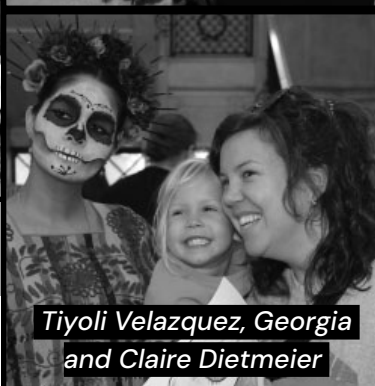
Past President Carolyn Yockey & President Michelle Pazar



Susan & Mike accept AASLH award in Cincinnati



"Order in the Court" cast photo



Tiyyoli Velazquez, Georgia and Claire Dietmeier



Emily snaps a selfie with former campers during a Girl Scouts' program



Eric, Katie, and Maria at Christmas Under the Dome



Miriam Padilla & Micaela celebrate Día de Muertos



The Pérez Family at Christmas Under the Dome



Exclusive vault tour during Dine with the Dead



Jose Antonio Patiño enjoys Maison & PJ on National Immigrants Day

NEW TO COLLECTIONS

PHOTOGRAPHS

- ◇ Panoramic, "First Annual Older Boys Conference of McLean Co.," 1921. *Donated by Linda Reavill.*
- ◇ Picture postcards, including Fifer and Garfield schools, and the Carlock Band from 1916. *Donated by Phylis VerSteegh.*
- ◇ Collection related to Frank Edwards Purcell (1890–1974), his family, and his career for Red Crown Gasoline / Standard Oil Co. *Donated by Beverly Bishop.*
- ◇ Picture postcards and views of East Bay Camp; swimmers at Camp Limberlost, July 1932; and more. *Donated by Nancy Phillips.*
- ◇ Eight black-and-whites of the April 1963 razing of the 1898 Bloomington City Hall. *Donated by Pam Bittner Merrill.*
- ◇ Black-and-white scenes of Bloomington, taken by donor's aunt, Faye Swisher Cunningham. *Donated by Doris Dash.*
- ◇ Collection of Unit 5 faculty and staff portraits, including Normal Community High School, from the 1960s. *Donated by Sherilyn Light.*
- ◇ Large collection relating to Bloomington Builders Supply Co. and its operations along W. Market St., in the 1950s & 60s. *Donated by Sue Wetzel.*
- ◇ Eugene D. Funk and Dr. Arnold Beckman receiving honorary degrees at Illinois Wesleyan University, 1991. *Donated by Duncan Funk.*
- ◇ Normal Central Junior High School, Class of 1945, and Normal Community High School, Class of 1946. *Donated by Casey Lartz.*
- ◇ Binder of color slides, and two binders featuring Middleton Associates Inc. projects, including Chiddix School, and much more. *Donated by Middleton Associates Inc.*
- ◇ Large collection of Sheridan Elementary portraits 1969–70 & 1989–90; and more. *Donated by Sheridan Elementary School.*
- ◇ Panoramic, 24th annual convention, Rural Letter Carriers of Illinois, Bloomington, August 1926. *Donated by Elizabeth Welch, with brother Joe Welch and his wife Cindy.*
- ◇ Hannah Lillford, Michael Francis Hirst, and children, Towanda, mid-1890s; tintypes; and more. *Donated by Joan R. Vogel.*
- ◇ Eighth grade class, Thomas Metcalf School, June 1949. *Donated by Patricia Martin.*
- ◇ Large-format print of well-known view of Illinois State Normal University's Old Main building falling to the wrecking ball, with Abraham Lincoln's silhouette visible in a shower of bricks, taken by longtime ISU photographer Nelson Smith. *Donated by Smith's daughters Dixie Lee Lewis, Dianna Dee Damkoehler, Dava Brooke Zschau, and Zonda Dawn Zschau.*
- ◇ Twenty-two color photos of area folk artist D. "Darwin" Bill and his carved telephone pole totems, undated; Raymond School kindergarten class, 1954, two photos; and more. *Donated by Dennis Fox.*
- ◇ Evergreen Cemetery Walk photographs, 2005–2023. *Donated by Amy Miller.*
- ◇ Washington Senators professional baseball club owner and future Hall of Famer Clark Griffith (who was raised in Normal) holding gold-engraved season passes for President Herbert Hoover and First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, 1932. *Donated by Aaron Henkelman.*

OBJECTS

- ◇ Softball jersey, pin and trophy used by donor, c. 2008. *Donated by Ashley Strupek.*
- ◇ Lady Hearts softball jacket, c. 1990. *Donated by Jeanie Wendt.*
- ◇ Jersey worn by Cornbelters mascot Corny, c. 2010. *Donated by Jarrett Rodgers.*
- ◇ Collection of items used by ISU softball team during the 1969 Championship game. *Donated by Melinda Fischer.*
- ◇ Tools used in Jaeger's Candy Shop in Bloomington, c. 1950. *Donated by Jim Jaeger.*



This collection of tools — scissors, taffy hook, and thermometer — were used in Jaeger's Candy Shop at 303 N. Clinton in Bloomington. Henry Jaeger owned and operated the business until the mid-1950s. He appears below with his wife and daughter, making candy canes in 1954.



NEW TO COLLECTIONS

ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

- ◇ Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union Local 342 materials, including by-laws, labor agreements, and more, 1976–2024. *Donated by BCTGM Local 342.*
- ◇ Cassette tape, *Ultimo Mondo Cannibale by Impetigo (1990)*, for the local music collection. *Donated by Library & Archives intern Aidan Coyne.*
- ◇ Collection of scrapbooks, 1982 through 2011, detailing the activities of the Green-Leafers 4-H Club of Normal. *Donated by Susan Parrent.*
- ◇ Normal Community High School Class of 1975 20th reunion booklet, 1995, and Bloomington High School Class of 1975 20th reunion booklet, 1995. *Donated by Casey Lartz.*
- ◇ Collection of nineteenth century documents featuring signatures of Lincoln's contemporaries, mostly related to the Eighth Judicial Circuit, to be organized into the Guy Fraker-Abraham Lincoln Collection and housed in the Museum Archives. *Donated by Guy Fraker.*
- ◇ McLean County Association for Home and Community Education materials—107th annual meeting booklet, 2025, and two annual member booklets, 2023–24 and 2024–25. *Donated by Ruth Stewart.*
- ◇ Booklet, "Songs of Yester-Year and Modern Parodies on Adult Education," compiled by Cecil McGraw, music instructor circa 1938. *Donated by Elizabeth Welch, Joe and Cindy Welch.*
- ◇ Working nomination papers for Miller Park as a National Register of Historic Places site, research and text by donor, 2022–2025. *Donated by Morgan Bueza.*
- ◇ Illinois DAR Genealogical Records Committee Reports, Series 2, Volumes 182 and 183, Bible Records. *Donated by the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.*
- ◇ "Adlai E. Stevenson II in McLean County," 2025. *Booklet compiled and donated by Bob Bradley.*
- ◇ Additions to the Bracken Family Collection, including correspondence, holiday cards, and more, such as a March 2, 1948 McLean County Bar Association memorial to William Kerrick Bracken. *Donated by Steven M. Campbell.*
- ◇ Philomathean Reading Circle scrapbook, 1971 to 1979, compiled by donor's mother, Evelyn Woods. *Donated by John Woods and the estate of Evelyn Woods.*
- ◇ Large assortment of local and vintage matchbooks numbering in the many hundreds collected by Helen Larkin (1929–2011), the donor's grandmother. *Donated by Adam Bandeko.*
- ◇ Multi-generation postcard scrapbook kept by Hannah Lillford Hirst and descendants beginning in 1910; promissory note, April 25, 1868; and more. *Donated by Joan R. Vogel.*
- ◇ Display charter, International Association of Lions Clubs, Lions Club of Saybrook, December 15, 1954. *Donated by Jerry Nord.*
- ◇ Baby book for the late Steven Evelsizer (1957–2009). *Donated by Norma Valentine.*
- ◇ Papers relating to the Rev. Frank Breen, Western Avenue Community Center, and East Bay Camp; collection of materials from the Bloomington Chapter, Sweet Adelines; and more. *Donated by Nancy Phillips.*
- ◇ Sheet music, "Evergreen City March," composed and dedicated to the Ladies of Bloomington, by Clark E. Stewart, souvenir from the Music House, 1894. *Donated by Dar Feldott.*
- ◇ Bloomington Bobcats baseball 1974 season program; Twin City Stars baseball 1998 program. *Donated by Judy Poultney.*
- ◇ Items relating to Martha Wendt and her time as a pitcher for the Bloomington Lady Hearts softball team, including programs for the Amateur Softball Association major women's fast pitch championships, 1989 & 1991; and more. *Donated by Jeanie Wendt.*
- ◇ Illinois State University baseball materials from the 1970s. *Donated by Dennis Fox.*
- ◇ Bloomington High School Dramatic Club program, "Sherwood" by Alfred Noyes, January 29–31, 1914. *Donated by Mike Stockum.*
- ◇ Collection of Sheridan Elementary School papers, scrapbooks, and more. *Donated by Sheridan Elementary School.*
- ◇ Additions to the existing ACLU Central Illinois Chapter archive collection, including speeches by current President Carol Koos, 2022 and 2025. *Donated by Carol Koos.*
- ◇ Picture postcards, including those of Fifer and Garfield schools, and the Carlock Band from 1916. *Donated by Phyllis VerSteegh.*
- ◇ Picture postcards and views of East Bay Camp; swimmers at Camp Limberlost, July 1932; and more. *Donated by Nancy Phillips.*
- ◇ Plans for "Constitution Trail Bikeway," 1988. *Donated by Christopher Sweet.*

Continued on next page...

NEW TO COLLECTIONS

ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

- ◇ Stanford High School (1892–1968) and Stanford–Minier (1969–1972) Alumni Association materials; Stanford High School record book and ledger, 1891–92 through 1913–14. *Donated by Martha Tyner on behalf of the Stanford High School Alumni Association.*
- ◇ Collection of items saved by donor's mother, Lucy Catherine Mailer Patton, including family correspondence, primarily to Sarah Dougherty Patton,, dating to the 1870s & 1880s; and more. *Donated by Phylis VerSteegh.*
- ◇ Unpublished children's book, *The King's Flower Garden*, text by donor, illustrations by Richard Becker, 1980, with 2025 update. *Donated by James Bennett.*
- ◇ Scrapbook related to Campbell Holton Co., Bloomington wholesale grocers, compiled by employee Leo William Forbes Sr. (1905–1991). *Donated by Jenny Forbes Draeger, Forbes' granddaughter.*
- ◇ "Your Man In Service" recording during World War II, 78–speed 45 record, by Willard Johnson (donor's father), from Camp Plauche, LA, to his family, no date. *Donated by Lynne Fazzini.*
- ◇ Normal Community High School football programs, 1968–1970; textbooks published by McKnight & McKnight of Bloomington, used by Royale "Roy" Everett Diveley (1916–2015); and more. *Donated by Sherilyn Light.*
- ◇ "Reflections 1952–1989, Saybrook–Arrowsmith School District," supplement to the Colfax Press. *Donated by Renee Nord.*
- ◇ Two maps, including "Oil and Gas Industry in Illinois, 1968," from late local resident Robert Overfelt (1924–2013), a pipeline district superintendent for the Texaco Oil Co. *Donated by Linda Adams*
- ◇ Maid instructions for Charles A. Stephenson's house, no date; Bill Brady campaign materials. *Donated by Duncan Funk.*
- ◇ Papers related to "Honest John" Moore (1793–1866), Illinois lieutenant governor, including a certificate of indenture dated May 5, 1808. *Donated by Carla Knobloch.*
- ◇ Large collection of historical papers, including the diaries of Francis Micajah Hall of Wilkesboro, 1868–1917; West Twin Grove Christian Church records 1908–1954; various copies of the Danvers *Dispatch* newspaper, 1881–1912; one-room Dement School papers, mostly 1940s; and more. *Donated by the Danvers Historical Society.*
- ◇ Additions to the phonograph / music / spoken word collection, including the cassette tape, "The 1984–85 ISU Redbirds Working Overtime" (Proceeds to the ISU Arena Campaign). *Donated by Chris Young.*
- ◇ Bloomington High School Class of 1939 materials, including materials from the 1979, 1984, and 1989 reunions, gathered by Bette Smith Hutchinson. *Donated by her son, Joe Hutchinson.*
- ◇ Collection of papers relating to Bloomington Builders Supply Co., including the company's newsletter, "Concrete Gossip," late 1950s to early 1960s; and more. *Donated by Sue Wetzel.*
- ◇ Collection related to Frank Edwards Purcell (1890–1974), his family, and his career for Red Crown Gasoline / Standard Oil Co. *Donated by Beverly Bishop.*
- ◇ Harber Bros. Co. catalog of "High Art Vehicles," 1909–1910; local newsletter "The Challenge," 1933. *Donated by Books to Benefit.*

BOOKS

- ◇ *Totem*, Saybrook–Arrowsmith High School yearbooks, 1976–1981. *Donated by Renee Nord.*
- ◇ Additions to existing Paul Harmon Collection, including scrapbooks, mostly relating to professional career and campaigns for Normal city council and mayor, 1972–2006, as well as related papers; collection of Sandra Harmon journals during the COVID–19 pandemic. *Donated by Paul and Sandra Harmon.*
- ◇ *The Gulf, Mobile and Ohio* by James Hutton Lemly (1953); "micro" book, memorial to Adlai E. Stevenson II, keepsake produced by his sister Elizabeth "Buffy" Stevenson Ives, printed in 1965. *Donated by Duncan Funk.*
- ◇ Church directories, including those for Grace United Methodist Church and Centennial Christian Church. *Donated by John Baker.*
- ◇ *Front N Center Design Charrette Proposal*, prepared by Strong Towns Blono, 2025. *Donated by Noah Tang.*
- ◇ *Bloomington–Normal in Brush and Ink, Volume II: More Hometown Favorites* (2025) by Eileen Marie Yvonne Backman. *Donated by Brandy Maloney.*
- ◇ Adlai E. Stevenson II Lecture Series souvenir book, 1966 and 1967. *Donated by Susan Nevius.*
- ◇ Writings, unpublished, by the late Blake Leach, brother of the donor, including synopses and sample chapters for two "Dr. Carlock mysteries," 1998 (Leach and Linda Scovill writing as "Elby Shelton"); and *Petticoats and Union Suits*, a musical in two acts, book by Leach, music by Tina Hoff, lyrics by both, 1975. *Donated by Elizabeth "Becky" Leach O'Donnell.*

Continued on next page...

NEW TO COLLECTIONS

BOOKS

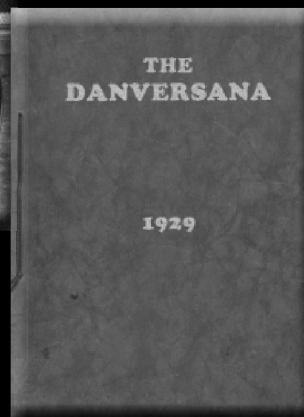
- ◇ Danvers High School yearbooks, 1929, 1948–51, 1954–55, and 1958; and Danvers Elementary / Grade School yearbooks, 1970 through 1985–86 (missing only 1982–83). *Donated by the Danvers Historical Society.*
- ◇ *Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 150 Years of Resiliency* by Mary Gemberling, undated; and *The Preacher's Family* by Marsha Blake (2012). *Donated by Martha Tyner.*
- ◇ *Scenes From the Life of Owen Lovejoy* by William F. and Jane Ann Moore, a student workbook (1997); *Profiles of Illinois Business Leaders* (1974). *Donated by Jack Muirhead.*
- ◇ *Uncommon Hope: One Team ... One Town ... One Tragedy ... One Life-Changing Season* (2017) by Jim Collins. *Donated by Jim and Kelly Collins.*
- ◇ *The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History* (2023) signed by author Edward Achorn. *Donated by Kay Henrichs.*
- ◇ Middleton Associates Inc.,
- ◇ *Clarion*, University High School yearbooks, 2023–2025. *Donated by the University High School Alumni Association.*
- ◇ Collection of Harold Sinclair hardcover works, including his first novel, *Journey Home*, and *Music Out of Dixie* (1952). *Donated by the Gridley Public Library District.*
- ◇ Chronological listing of projects, beginning in 1955; collection of blueprints, plans, and specifications for the Adlai E. Stevenson Boyhood Home; set of rolled plans for "old Saybrook High School;" and more. *Donated by Middleton Associates Inc.*
- ◇ Collection of local author Harold Sinclair works, from *Westward the Tide* (1940) to *The Cavalryman* (1958); local cookbooks, including *Downs Christian Neighbors*, featuring St. Mary's Catholic and the United Methodist churches (undated); *For Better Health*, recipes from the Myerling Retirement Home (undated); additions to the Emmett Douglas Collection, including *Teachers' Manual to Accompany Frye's Geographies*, 1896; *Lincoln Sonnets* (2020) by Bob Bray; and much more. *Donated by Books to Benefit.*
- ◇ *Educated and Trained: Recollections from the Diploma Nursing School Experience 1968–1971* (2025). *Written and donated by Ila Minnick.*

New to the Library & Archives: Danvers Yearbooks

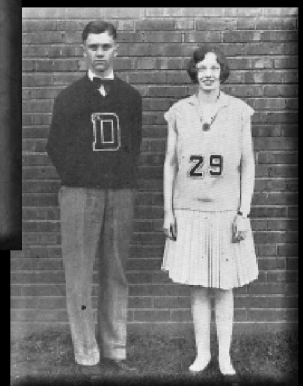
The Danvers Historical Society recently donated yearbooks from Danvers High School and Danvers Grade School spanning from 1929 to the late 1950s. Yearbooks, such as the one below, offer a wealth of information for researchers, genealogists, and other enthusiasts alike. Many thanks to the Danvers Historical Society for the generous donation!



Pictured above are Mrs. Levi Johnston and Mae Hess. 1929 was Mae's first year in school. The yearbook notes that Mrs. Johnston, previously Miss. Smith, taught at the Danvers school for many years.



The yearbook identifies the cheerleaders below as Lowell Newlon and Dorothy McClure, documenting: "These are the personalities that put "pep" in our atheltes... that drew lusty yells from the loyal "rooters" as they "pulled" for the team."



Upcoming Events

January

Day Off, Art On Programming for Kids
Monday, January 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed for Staff Development Day
Wednesday, January 14

FREE Admission for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 19 at 12:10 p.m.

February

History Reads Book Club at Bloomington Public Library
Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Tour de Chocolat
Friday, February 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Knit In at Green Top Grocery
Saturday, February 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Day Off, Art On Programming for Kids
Friday, February 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FREE Admission for President's Day
Monday, February 16

Democracy Dialogues: "Life and Liberty"
Saturday, February 28 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

April & March

Rachel Crothers: Broadway Innovator, Feminist Pioneer with John Bassett
Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Normal Public Library

Democracy Dialogues: "Pursuit of Happiness"
Saturday, April 11 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the YMCA

Holi Moli! A Festival of Colors in Uptown Normal
Saturday, April 18

June & May

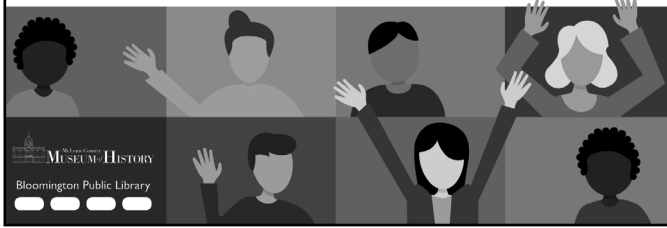
Illinois Symphony Orchestra – Fabulous "Finnish" Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 at the ISU Center for Performing Arts
Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor
Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3

Cruisin' Through the Century: 100 Years of Route 66 in McLean County
Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7

History Reads

BOOK CLUB



History Reads Book Club meets quarterly
at Bloomington Public Library
from 7 to 8 p.m. This year we're reading:

Tuesday, February 3

*Fifty-Nine in '84: Old Hoss Radbourn,
Barehanded Baseball, and the Greatest
Season a Pitcher Ever Had*

By Edward Achorn

Tuesday, May 5

The Jungle
By Upton Sinclair

Tuesday, August 4

*The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John
Wesley Powell's Perilous Journey and His
Vision for the American West*

By John Ross

Wednesday, November 4

*Onward to Chicago: Freedom Seekers
and the Underground Railroad
in Northeastern Illinois*

By Larry McClellan

Volunteer

We're currently looking for volunteers to aid in our Senior Reminiscence programming, and in other various areas around the Museum. Please visit mchistory.org/participate to learn more about our volunteer program, or contact our Director of Volunteers Eric Hansen at volunteers@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

Save the Date

HISTORY Makers GALA

Wednesday, June 17, at 5:30 p.m.

and

A MORE PERFECT UNION

Art Exhibit Opening at the
McLean County Arts Center

Friday, June 19, 5 to 7 p.m.

On the Square is a tri-annual magazine for members of the McLean County Museum of History. New editions of the magazine are mailed the first week of the following months: January, May, and September. Questions? Concerns? Feedback? Please contact Micaela Harris, Director of Communications, at mharris@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428 ext. 114.

Please visit mchistory.org/events for more information on all of our upcoming events.



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

200 N. Main St. Bloomington, IL 61701

mchistory.org | 309-827-0428

Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE & open late every Tuesday until 8 p.m.

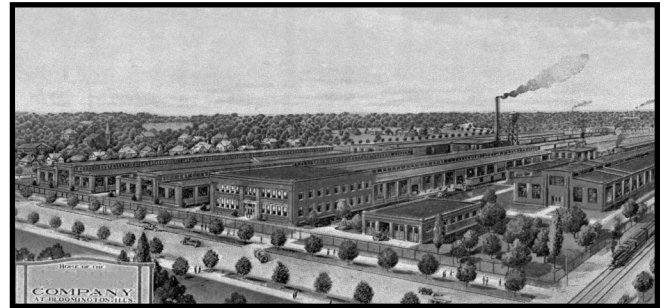
Always FREE for students & members

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Mystery History Quiz

Those industrial buildings featured in the previous issue are in Bloomington, along the west side of Hannah St. / Morrissey Dr. and Bell St. That's right, they are still there!

They were built around 1920 by Meadows Mfg. Co., a local maker of washing machines and other things. Eureka Williams Co. later expanded into the former Meadows buildings in the mid-1950s. The buildings are currently unoccupied.



Congratulations to our latest "Mystery History" winners: Thomas Cherry, Roger and Carol Elliott, Dennis and Janet Falk, Denise Fries-Romack, Tom Gregg, Kathleen Kilmartin, and Michael Sublett.



Okay, this beautiful postcard is our latest puzzler. It shows a church somewhere in McLean County in what appears to be a leafy neighborhood. But remember, appearances can be deceiving!

Contact Librarian Bill Kemp if you can identify the church and its location.

You can reach Bill at bkemp@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

As always, whether you get it right or wrong, we always love to hear from you!