

On The Square

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The Quarterly Newsletter for the McLean County Museum of History

Volume 45, Number 3

September-October-November 2013

Asian Indian Installation to Open

The Museum is pleased to announce the opening of a new installation developed in partnership with the McLean County India Association. *The Asian Indian Experience in McLean County* will open Saturday, September 7 in the People Gallery of the permanent exhibit *Encounter on the Prairie*.

Asian Indian immigrants began arriving in McLean County in the 1960s.

They came seeking jobs and a better life. At first there were only a few families, but by 2010 Indian immigrants represented nearly three percent of our community's population. This installation explores the challenges they experienced— from the change in weather and loss of traditional food supplies, to religion and Western clothing. It also reveals their efforts to maintain important cultural traditions and practices while embracing American culture.

A special program will be presented at

1:00 p.m. on the installation's opening day to honor those who assisted and participated in this project. Please join us for this special program and the opening of this important new installation.

Development of this installation began in 2007 with an invitation to the McLean County India Association to partner with the Museum. The aim of the project was to research

New Installation - Continued on page 8

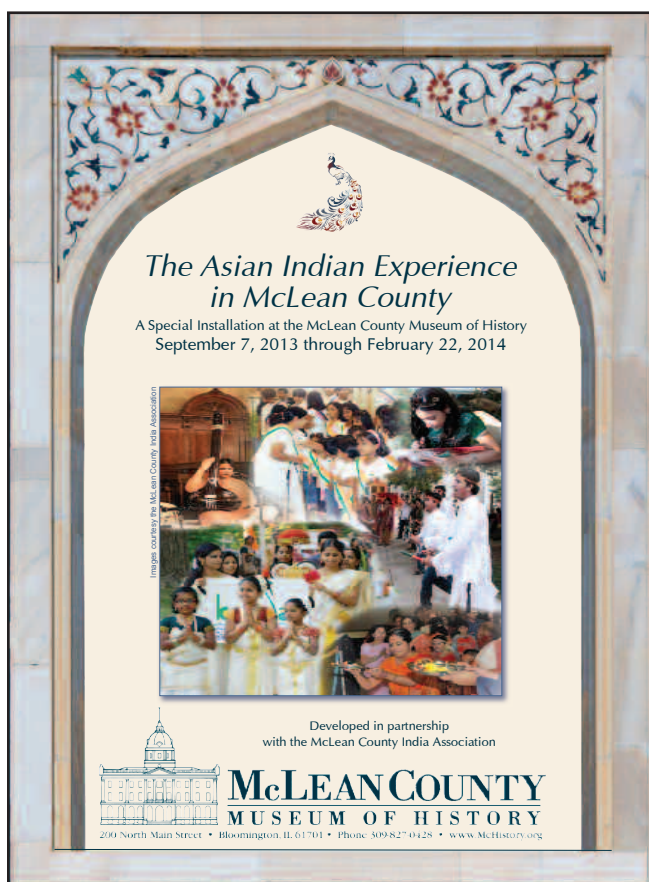
“McHistory” Now Airing on WGLT

The first edition of “McHistory,” a program that brings the voices of the past to WGLT 89.1 FM, aired Wednesday, August 7. This new offering, produced by WGLT, combines the extensive archival resources and voice talent of the Museum in creating a fresh perspective on local history. It features Museum staff (such as Director of Development Beth Whisman) reading excerpts from diaries, letters, and stories held in the Museum's Archives, followed by Museum Librarian Bill Kemp offering context and insight into the

McHistory - Continued on page 12

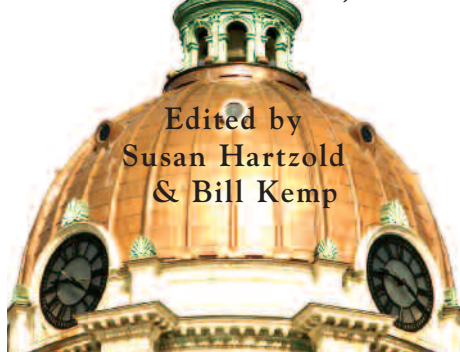
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Volume 45, Number 3, 2013



Edited by
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& Bill Kemp

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www.McHistory.org

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Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

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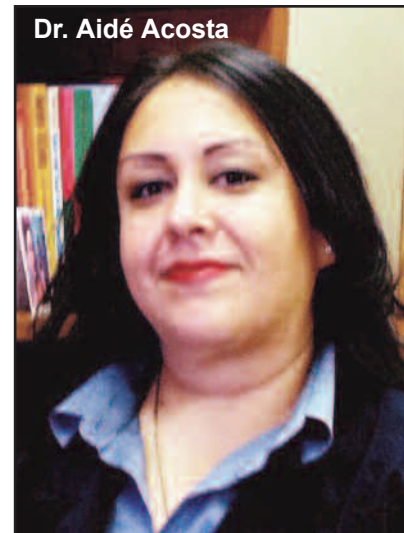
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Latino Settlement in Rural America Topic of September Talk

The Museum is pleased to welcome Dr. Aidé Acosta, visiting assistant professor of American Studies and the Latino Studies Program at Indiana University, who will present the program *Migrant Home Making, Reshaping the Heartland: Latino Diasporic Settlement and Cultural Practice in Rural America*. Her talk will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom on Saturday, September 21 at 1:00 p.m. This program is free and open to the public and is being held in conjunction with the Museum's current exhibit *¡Fiesta! A Celebration of Mexican Popular Arts*.

Dr. Acosta's will address the recent migratory flow of Latinas and Latinos into the Midwest, with a focus on Central Illinois. Since the 1980s, Latinas/Latinos have been making homes in rural and small-size cities throughout the Heartland. While these recent migratory flows are often designated as "new migrations," they are, in fact, part of the larger historical context of Latino migrations into the Midwest. Early in the twentieth century, Mexicans were recruited as laborers in the railroad and agricultural industries, and they often settled permanently near their places of employment. During World War II, Mexican workers known as "braceros" were recruited to meet the labor shortages, and they subsequently established ethnic enclaves throughout the Midwest.



Dr. Aidé Acosta

Dr. Acosta is serving as a project consultant during the Museum's redevelopment of its permanent exhibit, *Encounter on the Prairie*. She graduated from the University of Illinois with both a master's degree and a Ph.D. in anthropology. Her fields of interests include Latina/o migration and diaspora; labor, race and citizenship; social movements; immigrant rights; Latino cultural production; and gender and Chicana feminism. Her first book (of the same title as this talk) is forthcoming.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Illinois General Assembly, and support from COUNTRY Financial.

Book Club to Discuss *A Woman's Story of Pioneer Illinois*

The next History Reads book club, sponsored jointly by the Museum and Bloomington Public Library, will meet Tuesday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. Christiana Holmes Tillson's *A Woman's Story of Pioneer Illinois* will be discussed. Copies of this book will be available for checkout at the Bloomington Public Library or can be obtained through your local public library's interlibrary loan service.

Stivers to Discuss the Irish Drinking Stereotype

The Museum is pleased to welcome Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Illinois State University Richard Stivers, who will present a program examining the relationship between the Irish and drink. The talk will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom on Saturday, November 9 at 1:00 p.m. It is sponsored by State Farm. This program, free and open to the public, is presented in conjunction with the Museum's current exhibit *The Greening of the Prairie: Irish Immigration and Settlement in McLean County*.

Historically, the Irish in Ireland had a relatively moderate rate of alcoholism, while their Irish-American counterparts possessed an extremely high rate. This difference suggests that the context of drinking was significantly changed for the Irish as they settled in America. In this presentation, Dr. Stivers will examine the meaning of male drinking in Ireland in the nineteenth century. Subsequently he will explore the context of drinking for the Irish in America in the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Dr. Stivers received a master's degree from St. Louis University and a Ph.D. in sociology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He began his teaching career at ISU in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He became a full professor in 1982 and was appointed distinguished professor in 2001. He retired from ISU in 2008. Dr. Stivers has published seven books including *Hair of the Dog: Irish Drinking and its American Stereotype* (1976; 2000) and *The Illusion of Freedom and Equality* (2008). He and his wife Janet reside in Bloomington.

For more information about this program, please contact the Education Department via email at education@mchistory.org or by telephone 309-827-0428. Free parking will be available at the Lincoln Parking Deck located one block south of the Museum on Front Street.



Richard Stivers

Second Annual History Makers Gala Earns Rave Reviews

The Museum would like to thank all of our dedicated volunteers and supporters who made the second annual *History Makers* Gala a resounding success. More than 520 guests attended our hallmark event honoring five local leaders who have made a lasting impact in our community: Stevie and Roger Joslin, Judy Stern Harrison Markowitz, Woody Shadid, and Ruth Waddell. While their backgrounds are varied, the accomplishments of these individuals demonstrate a common element: extraordinary dedication to improving the lives of people in McLean County.

In addition to dinner, music, and lively conversation, guests enjoyed a one-act play depicting local leaders from history whose lives paralleled the lives of our honorees. Actors from the Illinois Voices Theatre played the roles of Carl and Julia Vrooman, Ulysses Doubleday, Alverta Duff, and Florence Fifer Bohrer. Their stories were woven together so as to highlight the interconnected nature of history. The evening reminded us that we all play a part in creating history, and we have the opportunity to change its course for the better.

Do you know a local community leader who made history? Nominations are open for the 2014 *History Makers* Gala. Please visit www.mchistory.org or call 309-827-0428 for more information.



Ruth Waddell accepts her *History Makers* award while Pam Muirhead looks on.

Cemetery Walk Enters Nineteenth Year

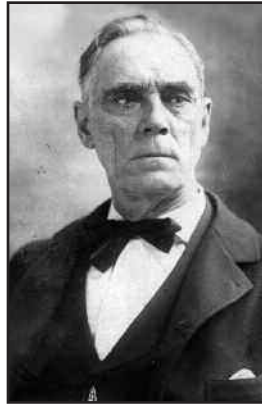
The *Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk* is the Museum's most successful, longest running public program, and you're invited to this year's installment. As always, we are very excited about the characters to be featured.

Sponsored by Calvert and Metzler Memorial Homes, the *Cemetery Walk* combines historical research by Museum volunteers, costumed actors from Illinois Voices Theatre, and the beautiful grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery into an outdoor theatrical presentation. Themes explored this year will include trapeze artists, the trades, parades, law enforcement, adversity, warfare, and more.

Tours will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 5; Sunday, October 6; Saturday, October 12; and Sunday, October 13. Ticket sales begin September 3, and tickets will be available for purchase at the Museum, the Garlic Press in Normal, Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, and Casey's Garden Shop in Bloomington. Prices are: \$14 for the general public, \$12 for Museum members, and \$4 for kids and students with a valid ID. A special \$2 pre-sale discount is available for general and Museum member tickets if purchased at least 24 hours before the day of the performance (no discount on kids / student tickets).

This year's featured characters include:

James Goodheart (1830-1913) enlisted during the darkest days of the Civil War, participating in the battles of Wilson's Creek, MO and Prairie Grove, AR, as well as the siege of Vicksburg, MS. After the war he served as sheriff of McLean County and then as U.S. deputy marshal, tracking down counterfeiters and murderers.

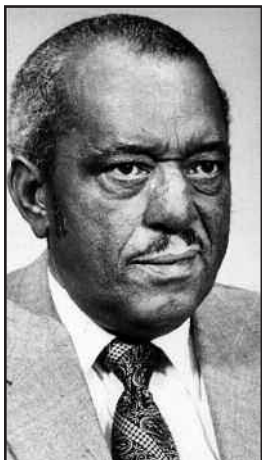


Lloyd Eyer (1885-1951): "I love a parade!" the song goes, but few people enjoyed planning



these events as much as he did. One of the city's most tireless organizers of civic events, Eyer personally oversaw more than 50 parades. In nearly half a century of public service, he held posts ranging from the YMCA's physical director to the organizer of the city's first Boy Scout troop.

Henry L. Brown (1913-1987) was a most determined and resourceful man who fought against discrimination all of his life. Using his skills as a carpenter, bricklayer, and plumber, he built a proper home when discrimination denied him a rental place. For the rest of his life, he continued to learn new skills when discrimination locked him out of one job after another.

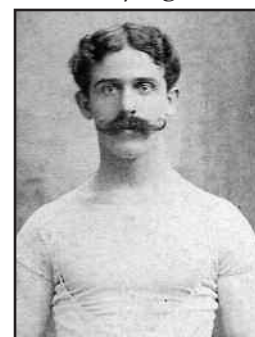


Ruby Edwards (1906-1977): President of the local branch of the NAACP, she was a civic

leader who served as a powerful voice for women of color during the turbulent 1960s. Passionate, and with a trademark sense of humor, she was deeply committed to a wide variety of organizations including the National Council of Negro Women and the Illinois Association of Club Women and Girls.



"The Flying La Vans," Fred Green (1858-1897) and



Harry Green (1867-1952) [pictured]: These brothers formed a trapeze act that began by using makeshift rigging in their father's barn. The act would eventually grow to international renown. They became one of the greatest aerial acts in the world at the end of the nineteenth century, thrilling

audiences with their famous passing somersaults.

Maria Sophia Bach (1836-1917): A military wife during the Civil War, she occupied the long worrisome months while her husband was away by working at the local arsenal making trousers for the troops. A devoted mother and Methodist, she counted the days praying for her husband's safe return.

Alice Orme Smith (1889-1980): A nurse in France during World War I, she experienced first-hand the horrors of war, often coming under German fire. As a result, she received a commendation for bravery from General Pershing and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre. When the war ended, this remarkable woman went on to earn a degree

Walk - Continued on page 5

Program to Explore the Golden Age of Aerialists

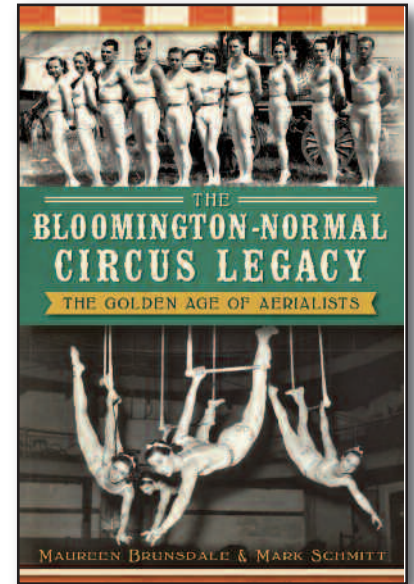
The Museum is pleased to welcome authors of the recently published book *The Bloomington-Normal Circus Legacy: The Golden Age of Aerialists* for a program on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. Authors Maureen Brunsdale and Mark Schmitt, who work in the Special Collections and Rare Books department at Illinois State University, will discuss some of the performers who called Bloomington-Normal home from the 1870s to the 1950s.

The art of the trapeze—instruction, training, performance, and management—became a Bloomington-Normal industry during the golden age of tented shows, when finding a circus flying act without a connection to this area would have been virtually impossible. The authors will introduce you to Fred Miltimore and the Green Brothers, runaways from Bloomington's Fourth Ward School who became the city's first flyers, as well as others.

Brunsdale is the special collections and rare books librarian at ISU. There, she oversees four collections, the most intriguing being the Circus and Allied Arts Collection. She is a member of both the Circus Fans Association and the Circus Historical Society, serving as a board member for the latter. She has an undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College and master's degrees from the University of Iowa and the University of South Dakota.

Schmitt is a senior specialist at ISU's Milner Library. As a lifelong native of Bloomington, having trod the very same high school hallways as Art Concello and "Tuffy" Genders, and as a graduate of ISU with a bachelor's degree in English, it was only fitting that he collaborate with Milner Library's Circus and Allied Arts Collection on this recent publication.

This program is free and open to the public. Book signing will immediately follow the program and copies of the book, *The Bloomington-Normal Circus Legacy*, will be available for purchase for \$19.99 plus tax.



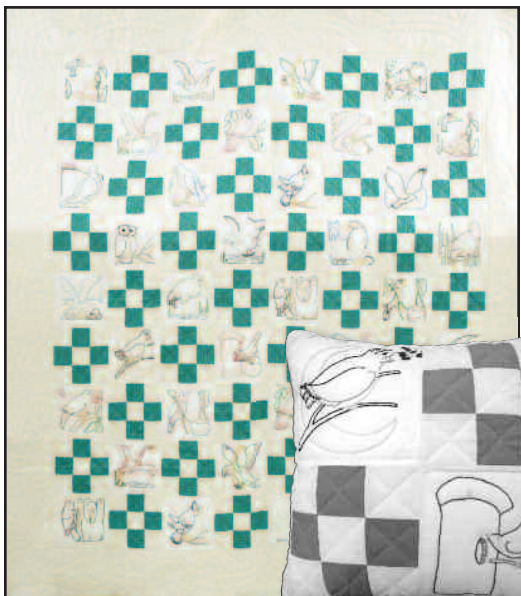
Heirloom Quilt Raffled this Fall

The Museum's volunteer quilters have produced an heirloom, hand-stitched quilt that combines local history and nature. The quilt will be raffled to benefit the Museum.

Titled "The Audubon" or "Bird Life Quilt," the design comes from a 1929 *Pantagraph* special series that offered local quilters one block pattern

each week over 24 weeks. The blocks featured birds drawn by Ruby Short McKim in a style similar to the famous avian art of John James Audubon. From the robin and blue jay to the more exotic parrot and flamingo, readers were invited to transfer the designs from the newspaper to fabric.

Each week's bird block came with instructions and a color code for the bird's feathers, but quilters were free to create their own overall quilt design. The individual



embroidered bird blocks used for this quilt were completed many years ago by Lucille McNutt and Mary Bain. Martha Tyner donated their handywork to the Museum to be used as a fundraiser. The

Quilt- Continued on page 11

Walk - continued from page 4

in landscape architecture, designing the grounds of the American Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, CT.

Please call 309-827-0428, or email us at education@mchistory.org with any questions. We hope to see you there!



Meet Board Member Amelia Buragas

How did you get involved in the Museum? My father was a Museum Board member and he suggested that I get involved. My first project with the Museum was to help with the inaugural History Makers Gala.

How do you see your role as a Board member? I'm new to the Board so I'm still figuring things out, but I think that Board members primarily must preserve the Museum's tradition of excellence and service to the community. This requires vigilance, commitment, and a bit of creativity as we adapt to changes in the economic and political climates. I believe Board members also must envision where the Museum should be in 5 years, 10 years, even 100 years down the road, and take action to make that vision a reality.

What is your favorite thing about the Museum? The staff and volunteers. Their passion, enthusiasm, and knowledge make history come alive—without them the Museum is just a building full of stuff.

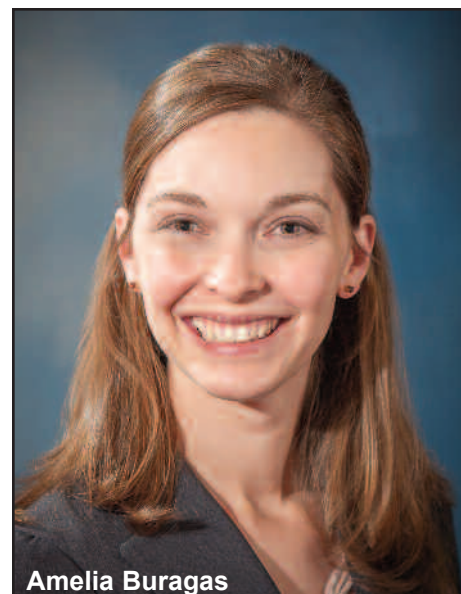
What challenges does the Museum face in the near future?

We are incredibly fortunate to have a solid foundation. The challenge is to figure out how to grow and improve, as well as to continue to update the museum's core programs so that they evolve over time.

Have you always had an interest in history? Yes! I was raised to believe that we cannot know who we are without knowing who we were.

What do you do for a living? I am an attorney. I work for a small firm that specializes in handling personal injury lawsuits (the law is another passion of mine).

Do you have family? My husband Michael and I have been married for 10 years. We have 2 sons, Alexander (4 years) and Sebastian (6 months).



Amelia Buragas

What is the last good movie you've seen? I can't even remember the last time I saw a movie. Maybe *The Avengers*?

What do you like to do for relaxation? Right now most of my spare time is spent fixing up a neglected old house in our neighborhood, but I don't know that I would call it relaxing. I also enjoy working in my yard and watching home improvement shows.

IRAs and Philanthropy

Charitable giving by individuals rose by 3.9% last year, to \$228.9 billion, according to a recently published annual report by the Giving USA Foundation and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Total charitable giving reached \$316.2 billion. That may sound like a lot, but it is off significantly from giving levels before the recent recession. According to the report, it may take another six or seven years of growth at recent rates to get back to the support levels achieved in the peak year of 2007.

Religious organizations received the largest share of gifts. The table below provides more details.

2012 Charitable giving, by donee organization (billions of dollars)

Religion	\$101
Education	\$41
Human Services	\$40
Foundations	\$30
Health Organizations	\$28

*Source: Giving USA Foundation and the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

The charitable IRA rollover

A popular tax break was renewed for this year, one that has been dubbed the "charitable IRA rollover." Those who are over age 70 ½ may want to consider the gift of a direct

IRAs- Continued on page 8

Focus on Volunteers

Many of our volunteers were born and raised in McLean County. Some come to us from other cities and states. Few have traveled as far as Aingeal Stone, whose last home was in Yellowknife, the capital city of Canada's Northwest Territories.

Aingeal and her husband, Harry, moved here in 2012 when he accepted a transfer from his employer to work for State Farm. Since Aingeal is not legally eligible for employment in the USA, she looked for volunteer opportunities as soon as she arrived. The Museum was the first to respond and she began with us in May of 2012.

When she's not volunteering, Aingeal is likely to be doing something that involves music. Her taste is broad, both as a spectator and a participant. She and her husband joined the ISU Civic Chorale earlier this year, performing in Durufle's *Requiem*. In June, they sang in the chorus of the Midwest Institute of Opera's production of Verdi's *Aida*. Last year they enjoyed many of the performances at the Normal Blues Festival. This summer they plan to attend Black Sabbath and Foreigner concerts. We did mention she enjoys all kinds of music, didn't we?

Recently, Aingeal returned to school where she is pursuing her bachelor's degree at a distance through Dalhousie University in Halifax. She plans to obtain a master's in information management and to return to her profession when she goes back to Canada. She says that her time as a volunteer at the Museum has changed the way she views her education. Since coming to the Museum, Aingeal has been choosing courses with more emphasis on history and archiving, including her current semester's Heritage Research class. She wants to work in a library setting that will allow her to incorporate her love of history when she returns to Canada. Until then, we will happily reap the benefit of her time and talents!



Day Camp 2013

Another fun and educational summer of History Careers Day Camp has come and gone. We had a bright and creative group of students this year—as we do every year. Due to the support of our members, almost half of these students attended camp for free. The Museum prides itself on being able to provide this educational camp experience to McLean County students whose families make less than \$32,000 per year. Thank you to all of our loyal members!

We would like to extend many thanks to our dedicated, hard-working volunteers who helped teach camp this past summer. Without them this program could not exist: Ceil Steinbacher-Kemp, Carolyn Guilford, Rachel Hunt, Mary Anderson, Jeff Schroeder, Emilie Crowley, and Anastasia Ervin. A special thanks goes out to our good friend and archaeologist from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency David Halpin, who has assisted with the camp's Archaeology Day since its inception in 2004. Many thanks to Dave for his commitment, loyalty, friendship,

and inspiration these many years.

If anyone is interested in joining the fun and volunteering at History Careers Day Camp next summer, please contact Rachael Kramp in the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.



Participants in this summer's History Careers Day Camp pose for a photograph after an outside activity.

IRAs - continued from page 6 distribution from their IRAs. Up to \$100,000 may be transferred to charity in this manner. Couples may transfer up to \$200,000 if each partner has an IRA. In contrast to normal IRA distributions, amounts transferred directly to charity won't be included in ordinary income (and so no charitable deduction is appropriate).

The definition of who is permitted to take advantage of this tax strategy dovetails perfectly with those who are required to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRAs. So some taxpayers simply opt to direct their required minimum IRA distributions to charity, because the distribution requirement will be satisfied, even though the amounts distributed don't get taxed.

This tax break might be renewed again after this year, as has happened in the past, but in this era of major deficits and talk of tax reform, renewal is far from certain.

Extra tax advantages

In some sense, the income tax exclusion for a transfer to charity from an IRA might not seem like such a big deal. After all, one always has been allowed to follow an IRA withdrawal by a charitable contribution and claim an income tax deduction. However, the full benefit of that deduction is not available to all taxpayers.

- Nonitemizers. There are a great many taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions, even in the upper

tax brackets.

- Big donors. Percentage limits on the charitable deduction mean that some donors can't take a full charitable deduction in the year that they make a gift.

- Social Security recipients. An increase in taxable income may cause an increase in the tax on Social Security benefits for some taxpayers. The direct gift from an IRA avoids this problem. Accordingly, if you are 70 ½, you should consider a charitable gift from your IRA if: You do not itemize tax deductions, your charitable deductions have been maximized, or you do not need the additional income made necessary by your required minimum distribution.

As welcome as this tax planning opportunity is, every taxpayer's situation is unique. See your tax advisor before taking any action.

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We would be glad to help with any financial planning needs you may have. Give us a call today.

Installation - continued from page 1 and document the culture and experiences of Asian Indians who have settled in McLean County, as well as to identify and collect artifacts associated with their culture and lives. The Asian Indian History Project was guided by a committee of five leaders from McLean County's Asian Indian community — Prasad Kadiyala, Sharmi Shah, Archana Shekara, Vinod Thaker, and Ravi and Don Paul—and key Museum staff. The materials gathered through the project include oral history interviews, artifacts, and photographs. *The Asian Indian Experience in McLean County* installation is a test of the initial findings of this project. It was developed in preparation for a significant change in our permanent exhibit. The Museum's partnership with the McLean County India Association and the gathering of oral histories, artifacts, and images continues.

If you are a member of our Asian Indian community and have artifacts, images, or stories you wish to share with us about your experience of coming to McLean County, the challenges you faced once you arrived, and how you maintained important traditions and practices while embracing American culture, we want to know. Please contact the Museum's Curator Susan Hartzold by emailing her at skhartzold@mchistory.org.

Meet Amelia Hill, the Museum's New Development Assistant

How did you end up at the Museum? Torii Moré, our curator of digital humanities, told me about the position when it opened in March. I had worked at a few nonprofits in Sacramento and had previous experience in data management and solicitation.

How do you see your role as development assistant? I get to do the background work of development—managing our database, writing letters, and creating reports. It's a lot of fun working with Director of Development Beth Whisman and I love knowing that my work goes to support an important community institution.

What do you hope to accomplish in your new position? I'd like to clean the junk information from our database so that we can utilize the analytical tools available to us. Since this had been a one-person department for so long, my position also allows opportunities for developing new strategies.

Likewise, what are some particular challenges you face here? Learning a new database takes time. Beth and I are both new to this program and we both have to learn by trial-and-error much of the time. It can be challenging, but that's what makes it interesting.



Where were you born and raised? Sacramento, CA—in the valley, almost exactly half way between San Francisco and Lake Tahoe. I grew up with the American River and a view of the Sierras right in my backyard.

How did you end up in Bloomington? I came here for the sociology program at Illinois State University. I thought I would go back to Sacramento after graduating but, instead, I fell in love with the community in Bloomington-Normal.

What aspect of U.S. history most interests you? I'm inspired by stories of everyday people fighting to gain their rights: Women bringing their children to labor strikes, drag queens refusing to surrender to police at the Stonewall Inn, Appalachians organizing a school to educate and empower their own community. We can learn a lot about power, resistance, and social change from stories like those.

What is the last good movie you've seen? *Hedgehog*, a French film about a 12-year-old girl in the midst of an existential crisis. It's fantastic. I particularly recommend it for anyone who enjoys philosophy.

What do you like to do for relaxation? I love reading with a hot cup of tea, preferably during a thunderstorm, when the Midwest weather cooperates. I've also recently started doing linoleum block printing, which has been a nice artistic outlet.

Kids
Corner

Radical Riddles

Test your brain!



1. What goes up and never comes down?
2. What goes up and down stairs without moving?
3. Give it food and it will live; give it water and it will die.
4. You answer me, although I never ask you a question. What am I?
5. The more of them you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?
6. You can't keep this until you have given it.



Answers: 1. Age 2. Carpet 3. Fire 4. Telephone 5. Footsteps 6. A Promise

BECOME A TRAILBLAZER MEMBER OF THE MUSEUM FOR FREE

You must be 18 years old or younger. Call or email the Education Department for more info at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428

New to the Collections

OBJECTS

- ❑ Animal trap from Dillon horse farm, Hohner harmonica, silver-plated crumber set, sifter, set of four aluminum tumblers, corn knife, James Tipton's wooden model airplane, toy wooden sword and boxing gloves; donated by the estate of Mary Kathleen Tipton
- ❑ Red Cross identification tag, c. 1918; donated by Sybil Mervis
- ❑ Metcalf sweatshirt, c. 1980; donated by Mary Rozum
- ❑ Wood shorebird carving by Hal Riss, c. 1995; donated by Kathy McDermott
- ❑ Blanche Reeves Maxwell's brooch, c. 1930; donated by Delmar Hunter
- ❑ Prom dress, girl's jumper, FFA

jacket, Lone Ranger game, teething rings, straw cowboy hat, butchering tools, baby bottle and nipples, wool suit, maternity top, wool snowsuit, girl's sundress, woman's clothing (skirts, hat, sweater, jacket), wedding dress with garter, gloves, purse, and hat, "going away" suit, and Harriet Yoder's graduation dress; donated by Betty Ann Golden-Yoder

- ❑ David Allen's top hat, c. 1860; donated by Mary Cranston
- ❑ Stained glass window from Second Presbyterian Church, 1895; donated by Second Presbyterian Church

ARCHIVES

- ❑ Souvenir program, June 15,

1909, tenth annual floral ball, P.H. Morrissey Lodge No. 62, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, held at Lake Park, Bloomington; program booklet, Brokaw Hospital Follies, 1981, and other items; donated by Nancy J. Miller

- ❑ Various, mostly related to Illinois State University and University High School, including invitation to ISU College of Education Hall of Fame induction ceremony, October 5, 2012; donated by Robert Neuleib
- ❑ Collection of miscellany, including booklet, *Post 635 the Early Years* (American Legion, Carl Martin post); donated by Jim and Jerry Armstrong
- ❑ Various railroad-related items, including employee time books, 1918-1919, 1934, 1937, and 1938; donated by Sal Valadez
- ❑ Commencement item, Blanche Phillips, June 1896, Stanford High School; donated by Delmar R. Hunter and Ruth M. Hunter (Delmar followed up with a second donation of items relating to Phillips)
- ❑ Three bound volumes of *The Daily Pantagraph*, 1900s; donated by Jim and Sue Perhai
- ❑ Three line drawings/blueprints of the miniature steam engine, Voiture #24, used by local American Legionnaires as a parade truck; donated by Jim and Reta Holderby
- ❑ Financial/investment records of Harry Stern, 1930 and 1933; donated by Sybil L. Mervis
- ❑ Four scrapbooks, 1930s, compiled by Winifred Wade Russell, wife of J. Howard Russell, managing officer of the Illinois
- ❑ Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS), includes

Collections - continued on page 11

Mary Cranston recently donated a man's top hat (circa 1860) that belonged to David Allen. This donation is an extraordinary reminder of times past. Allen was born December 15, 1823 in County Monaghan, Ireland, and emigrated to the United States in 1867 at the age of 44. He married Isabella Wager in Cambridge, NY on April 27, 1867. Allen may have purchased the top hat, made by Barringer of Troy, NY, for his wedding. By 1868, he and his wife had moved to Bloomington, where he became a carpenter by trade, and a respected individual within the community.



Allen's silk top hat is typical of those made in the mid-to-late 1800s. Top hats, with their high crowns and narrow brims, came into fashion around 1810 and reached the height of their popularity in the 1840s and 1850s. Their popularity resulted in the beaver being hunted almost to extinction. Consequently, silk slowly replaced beaver felt in the late 1800s and early twentieth century. They became less popular at the turn of the twentieth century, being replaced with bowlers, boaters, and other hat varieties. Top hats are still worn today as an accessory during formal events.

Collections - continued from page 10
information on ISSCS, as well as local activities relating to the American Legion and National Guard; donated by Sally R. Yntema

- ❑ Bloomington High School, commencement program (2 copies) and ticket, May 31, 2011; donated by John Learned
- ❑ Several items pertaining to Arrowsmith Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including booklet on history of church, published in 1979; donated by Wally and Betty Ann Yoder
- ❑ American Passion Play souvenir program, 1960, and program for fifth annual Gridley Community Club horse show, 1958; donated by Janeene M. Raymond

BOOKS

- ❑ Large collection of 30-plus local cookbooks, including *A Century of Good Cooking*, commemorating

the 100th anniversary of Centennial Christian Church, Bloomington (2009), and *Traditions* (1985), featuring entries by the employees of Gailey Eye Clinic Ltd.; donated by Laura Gowdy

- ❑ Echols Family History, *Nine Generations* (family genealogy book); donated by Ann Hauck
- ❑ *Fieldbook of Native Illinois Shrubs, Illinois Natural History Survey Manual 3*, by Leo R. Tehon, December 1942; donated by Greg Koos
- ❑ Booklet, *Heavy Rain, Hail, and Tornadoes on 15 May 1968*, by Stanley A. Changnon and John W. Wilson, 1971, Illinois State Water Survey, 48 pages; donated by Eldon Mehlberg
- ❑ *Mysteries and Haunts of Central Illinois (Part I): McLean County, the Land of Lincoln, Route 66, and Beyond...* (2010) by Deborah

Carr Senger; and *The Psychic Next Door: Ordinary People with Extraordinary Powers* (2011) by Karen Zimmerman (includes chapter on Deborah Carr Senger); donated by Deborah Carr Senger

- ❑ *Jackson's Famous Photographs of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1903, St. Louis* (1904), and similar souvenir photo booklet of the
- ❑ Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893; donated by Nancy J. Miller

PHOTOGRAPHS

- ❑ Morgan School, Randolph Township, 2¼ by 4 inches; donated by Jim and Jerry Armstrong
- ❑ Stanford High School, 1896, large format; donated by Delmar R. Hunter
- ❑ Collection of C.U. Williams postcards of evangelist Billy Sunday; donated by Judy Brown

To make donations of photographs, books or archival materials call the Museum's Librarian/Archivist, Bill Kemp. If you have objects you wish to donate to the collection call the Museum's Curator of Collections, Susan Hartzold. Both can be reached at 309-827-0428.

Gifts to the Museum in Honor and Appreciation

Your donations to the Museum's annual fund account for almost 24percent of our income. Occasionally, a donor prefers to make their gift in honor or appreciation of one of our volunteers, board members, or staff.

Mr. and Mrs. Gina and Mike Wey made a donation in appreciation of John J. Killian.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Williams made a donation in appreciation of Guy C. Fraker.

Mrs. Sybil L. Mervis made a donation in honor of Bob and Nancy Papp.

Linda and Jerry Lienhart made a donation in honor of Stevie and Roger Joslin.

Quilt - continued from page 5 Museum's quilters stitched the blocks into a simple design with teal sashing, white blocks, and yellow binding, then beautifully quilted it by hand. The quilters also fashioned a matching pillow from a couple of extra blocks!

The quilt will be raffled this fall to benefit the Museum's artifact collection. Tickets will be available beginning at the annual *Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk* which will run October 5-6 and October 12-13. Tickets will cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5. They will remain on sale at the Museum through Saturday, December 7 when the winner's name will be drawn at the annual *Christmas at the Courthouse* event. The winning ticket holder will receive the quilt, the matching pillow, and the original *Pantagraph* clippings that contain the bird patterns.

Look for updates on the quilt raffle in the newsletter, our Monthly Mailer, on the Museum's Facebook page, or sign up for email updates by sending a request to Development@mchistory.org.

Summer Interns Wrap Up Projects

This summer the Museum has benefited from the efforts of two talented interns.



Jenna Gernand worked in the Library organizing and creating finding aids (a description of the contents of a particular archival collection) for various collections. It can be as simple as a list of folders within a collection, but usually includes a listing of items within each folder.

Jenna is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University majoring in English with a concentration in journalism. Her major project was creating a finding aid for the Goben Family Collection. According to Jenna, "I know the Goben family better than my own." Although she loved learning about history and visiting museums as a child, this internship is Jenna's first venture into the museum field. She is excited to gain experience and insight not only into how the museum world functions but also in how she could use her skills as an English major in a similar setting.

Brigitte Anokwa is a senior at Illinois State University with a double major in geography and history. After graduation she hopes to work for a not-for-profit organization where, in her words, she can "make a difference in the lives of people" with whom she comes in contact.

As a child she had been to all of the major museums in the Chicago area, but never thought she would intern in a museum until her junior year, when her advisor mentioned the idea to her. From that point, she was determined to make it happen.

This summer she has been working with Torii Moré, curator of digital humanities, to place Bloomington-Normal buildings designed by architect George Miller on Historypin, a digital, user-generated archive of historical photos. Through Historypin, users are able to view historic photographs and compare them to contemporary Google Street views. To her work, go to www.historypin.com. Brigitte enjoyed her project so much that she will continue her work on Historypin with us this fall as a volunteer. Thanks for your dedication Brigitte!



Salutations to New Members!

The Museum would like to welcome the following new members:

Mr. Bob Summerell	Mr. Roger Meredith
Mr. and Mrs. Hunt Henderson	Mrs. Kathy Shultz
Mr. Tom and Dr. Claire Lamonica	Mr. Alan Waller
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Straw	Ms. Amelia Hill
Mr. and Mrs. John D. McIntyre	Ms. Claire Hedden
Mr. and Mrs. Jess and Fawn Ray	Dr. James R. Carter
Mr. Mel Theobald	Ms. Sally Heffernan
Mr. Clayton R. Johnson	Ms. Hannah Russell
Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow G. Shadid	
Deb and John VanAntwerp	
Mr. Eric Vogel and Mrs. Beth Whisman Vogel	
Mr. and Mrs. Katie Lenzini and Mr. John Zeman	

Thanks so much for your support!

Mchistory - continued from page 1

readings. Audio copies of the program will be available at www.wglt.org.

"McHistory" installments air every other week as part of WGLT's new hour-long local show "Sound Ideas," running weekdays from 11:00 a.m. to noon. This new audio magazine is part of a general format change that began August 5. Its goal is to bring more local news and information programming to WGLT listeners, weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Meet the Museum's New Director of Volunteers and Interns



The Museum is thrilled to introduce its new Director of Volunteers and Interns, Deb VanAntwerp.

What did you do before coming to the Museum? For the past 11 years I have been the head youth librarian at the Pittsfield Public Library. The library developed a steady schedule of camps and events, for which I recruited and coordinated volunteers. Before then, I worked as the executive director at Pittsfield Main Street, another volunteer-driven organization. For many years prior, I worked in the computer software field at both corporate and university settings in the metro D.C. area.

What attracted you to the Museum? After working for Main Street and the public library system, I had the not-for-profit bug. I think most people would prefer to put their energy toward something meaningful and, personally, I could never go back to working just for the sake of a paycheck. When our family decided to relocate to Bloomington-Normal to join my husband, who is a contractor at State Farm, I researched not-for-profit positions available in the area. The Museum has an amazingly solid volunteer base and I knew it must be something special to attract and keep so many of them. The timing was perfect, and I consider myself to be very lucky to be here!

What do you hope to accomplish in your new position? I plan to continue the legacy of maintaining a great group of volunteers and attracting excellent interns. In addition, I hope to broaden our volunteer population to include more folks of different ages and backgrounds. Volunteerism is on the rise for teenagers and young adults, and I'd like to take advantage of that trend! I'd also like to bring in more volunteers from the various ethnic communities in Bloomington-Normal. Finally, I hope to work with departments that don't currently use many volunteers or interns and help them determine how we can enhance their productivity.

What is a particular challenge you face as volunteer and intern coordinator? Learning everyone's names! I'm especially bad at matching names with faces, which is why in my first volunteer newsletter I reminded everyone to wear their name badge. I'm slowly getting to know the core group, and I'm looking forward to meeting more volunteers as Cemetery Walk kicks into gear.

Tell us about your family. I am married and will celebrate my 25th anniversary with my husband, John, this September. We have two daughters. Callie, who is 16, will be a junior at Normal Community High School. She is a wonderful writer and enjoys both drama and speech, so she is looking forward to the expanded opportunities at her new school. Dana, who turned 14 at the end of August, will be a freshman at Normal Community. She enjoys other activities but her passion is swimming. I frequently joke that as a swim parent, I'm just the soggy equivalent of a soccer mom!

Where were you born and raised? I grew up in Pittsfield, Illinois, which is another town with a lot of Lincoln history. It's about an hour west of Springfield. I lived there until I left for college at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. After college I did my stint on the East Coast until about 15 years ago. I left the corporate world when John and I moved back to raise our family in my hometown.

What do you like to do for relaxation? I'm an avid reader, and I usually have two or three books underway at the same time. I also enjoy movies and board games with my family (when I can get them all together) and prowling through flea markets, festivals, antiques shops, and museums.

What is the last good book you read? I'm reading *The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun* by Gretchen Rubin. I find intriguing the idea of deliberately setting out to increase the amount of happiness in one's life, even if one is not "unhappy" to begin with. The author has such a systematic, ordered way of approaching something that is inherently complex and chaotic, but it worked for her!

McLean County Museum of History

Calendar of Events for September, October, and November 2013

Through August 9, 2014

The Greening of the Prairie: Irish Immigration and Settlement in McLean County

For the past 190 years, Irish people have made their way to Central Illinois. This exhibit tells their story through historic objects, photographs, maps and more.

Through August 30, 2014

¡Fiesta! A Celebration of Mexican Popular Arts

Travel through time to learn about the rich history of Mexican culture and folk arts and how they were incorporated into the decorative arts “north of the border.”

Saturdays through October 26

The Downtown Bloomington Associations Farmers’ Market

Museum opens at 8:30 a.m. to all visitors. Tour the Museum’s latest exhibits and shop at the wildly popular (and wildly healthy!) Farmers’ Market. Visit the DBA’s website at www.downtownbloomington.org/farmers-market to learn more and find out what’s fresh at the market.

September 2

Museum closed for Labor Day holiday

September 3

Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk Go on Sale

Tickets cost \$14 non-members, \$12 Museum members, \$4 for students with ID and kids. Buy them in advance and save \$2 each (no discount on student tickets). Tickets can be purchased at the Museum, the Garlic Press in Normal, Casey’s Garden Shop, and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. For more information see page four.

Saturday, September 7 through February 22, 2014

The Asian Indian Experience in McLean County

Asian Indian immigrants began arriving in McLean County in the 1960s. They came seeking jobs and a better life. This installation in the People gallery of the permanent exhibit *Encounter on the Prairie* explores the challenges they experienced and reveals the efforts made to maintain important traditions and practices while, at the same time, embracing American culture. See page one for more information.

Saturday, September 7 1:00 p.m.

The Asian Indian Experience in McLean County

Join us for a special program presented in honor of those who assisted and participated in the Museum’s ongoing Asian Indian History Project. See page one for more information

Second Thursday of every month until May 2014 12:10 to 12:40 p.m.

Lunch and Learn at the Museum

Bring your brown bag lunch to the Museum’s Governor Fifer Courtroom the second Thursday of every month for the presentation of a new and engaging topic, followed by discussion.

Saturday, September 21 1:00 p.m.

Migrant Home Making, Reshaping the Heartland: Latino Diasporic Settlement and Cultural Practice in Rural America

Dr. Aidé Acosta, visiting assistant professor of American and Latino Studies at Indiana University, will discuss the history of migratory flows of Latinas and Latinos into the Midwest. For more information see page two.

October 5-6 and 12-13 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day.

19th Annual Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk

See page four for details on this year's featured characters and performances.

Tuesday, October 22 7:00 p.m.

The Bloomington-Normal Circus Legacy: The Golden Age of Aerialists

Maureen Brunsdale and Mark Schmitt will discuss their new book on Bloomington-Normal aerialists. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, see page five.

Tuesday, November 5 7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library for a discussion of Christiana Holmes Tillson's *A Woman's Story of Pioneer Illinois*. The discussion will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. See page two for more information about this meeting.

Saturday, November 9 1:00 p.m.

The Irish and Drink

Dr. Richard Stivers, distinguished professor emeritus of sociology at Illinois State University, will present a program examining the meaning of male drinking in Ireland in the nineteenth century and how that tradition accelerated in the United States. See page three for more information.

Saturday, November 16 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Under the Dome Knit-In

Grab your friends, needles, hooks and yarn, and stop by the Museum to "knit for a bit!"

November 28

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 7 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Christmas at the Courthouse

Join the Museum staff for this annual holiday tradition following the Jaycee's Christmas Parade. Enjoy holiday music, Christmas carols, homemade cookies, children's crafts, and a multicultural St. Nicholas for the kids. We will announce the winner of our quilt raffle that afternoon.

December 24 & December 25

Museum Closed for Christmas Holiday

December 31, 2013 and January 1, 2014

Museum Closed for New Year's Holiday



For this issue, can you tell what's going on here? Hint: It was a major fire less than a decade after the end of World War II. If you think you know the answer, contact Librarian Bill Kemp via email at library@mchistory.org, or by phone at 309-827-0428.

Mystery History

A goodly number of history buffs had no problem identifying last issue's mystery photograph—an undated portrait of Harold Sinclair, whose critically acclaimed novel *American Years* (1938) debuted 75 years ago this May. In it, Sinclair recounts the settlement and early years of “Everton” (short for “Every and Any Town”), a fictional community based to a considerable extent on good ol’ Bloomington. *Years of Growth* (1940) and *Years of Illusion* (1941) completed the Everton trilogy. Sinclair (1907-1966) was raised in Bloomington, and spent much of his adult life here. Among his other novels are *Music Out of Dixie* (1952) and *The Horse Soldiers* (1956).

Those who correctly identified the brilliant but troubled writer included Bill Butler, Don Cavallini, Marian Elson, Elizabeth Glidden, David A. Hall, Jewel Schalk, Jen Schroeder, Barb Stuart, Dee Volle, Robert L. Wills, Jeanne Wroan, and Carolyn Yockey. Our apologies if anyone was left off this list. Bill Butler tells us, “Sinclair worked as a young man for my great-grandfather, Sam Holder, at Holder’s Hardware store, and he incorporated a bit of his experience at the store into one of the Everton books.”