



On The Square

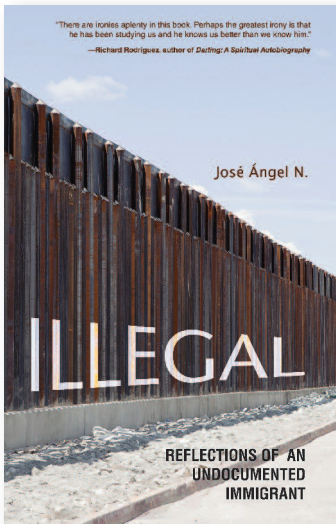
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The Quarterly Newsletter for the
McLean County Museum of History

Volume 46, Number 2

June - July - August 2014

Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant



The Museum is pleased to welcome José Ángel N., who will present a program about his life as an undocumented immigrant and the constraints, deceptions, and humiliations that characterize alien life “amid the shadows.” The program will be held in the Museum’s Governor Fifer Courtroom on Tuesday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m. This program is free and open to the public and is held in conjunction with the Museum’s current exhibit *¡Fiesta! A Celebration of Mexican Popular Arts*.

José Ángel N. is an undocumented immigrant, living in Chicago with his wife and daughter. His story is about the triumph of education over adversity. He arrived in the United States in the 1990s with a ninth-grade education. He traveled to Chicago where he found access to ESL classes and GED classes. He eventually attended college and graduate school and became a professional translator. Despite having a well-paying job, N. was isolated by lack of official legal documentation. A frustrating contradiction, N. lived in a luxury high-rise condo but couldn’t fully live the American dream. He did, however, find solace ***Illegal - continued on page 2***

2014 History Makers Represent Equality, Business, and Civic Leadership

Join us as the Museum honors five worthy individuals as local *History Makers* during the third annual *History Makers* Gala on Thursday, June 19 at Illinois State University’s Brown Ballroom.

Each year, this event recognizes senior citizens whose outstanding, life-long contributions of time and talents have helped to make McLean County the thriving community it is today. Presented in conjunction with the Museum’s annual meeting, the Gala dinner will feature live dramatizations to celebrate the honorees and their lives of service. New this year, Illinois Voices Theatre writer Kathleen Kirk and director Rhys Lovell have added live music to the performance. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6:15 p.m. State Farm is the 2014 presenting sponsor.

In April, Museum Executive Director Greg Koos revealed this year’s class of *History Makers*:

Sen. John Maitland – An Illinois Senator for 24 years, his leadership strengthened state support for education, ***Gala - continued on page 5***

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On The Square

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 46, Number 2, 2014

Edited by
Susan Hartzold
& Deb VanAntwerp

McLean County Museum of History

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Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

STAFF

Greg Koos, Executive Director
Susan Hartzold, Curator of Collections and Exhibits
Bill Kemp, Librarian/Archivist
Jeff Woodard, Dir. of Marketing & Comm. Affairs
Candace Summers, Director of Education
Rachael Kramp, Education Program Coordinator
Beth Whisman, Director of Development
Deb VanAntwerp, Dir. of Volunteers and Interns
Torii Moré, Curator of Digital Humanities
George Perkins, Archivist
Harlan Fuller, Bookkeeper
Betty Turchirollo, Volunteer Assistant
Tod Eagleton, Registrar
Amelia Hill, Development Assistant
Hannah Johnson, Asst. Education Program Coord.

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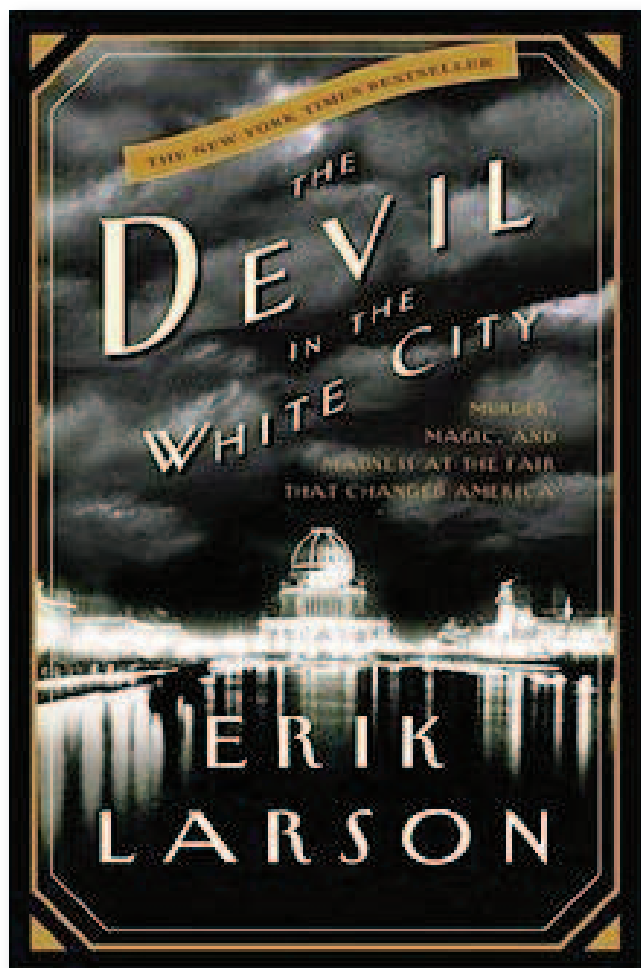
History Reads Book Club

Join us at the Museum for our next History Reads Book Club discussion on Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. The featured book this quarter is *Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America* by Erik Larson. This free, quarterly program is brought to you by the Museum and Bloomington Public Library.

The discussion will last approximately 60 minutes. Participants are welcome to explore the Museum before or after the meeting. Free parking is available at the Lincoln Parking Deck, located one block south of the Museum on Front Street.

Copies of this book will be available for checkout at Bloomington Public Library or may be requested via interlibrary loan through your local public library. For more information on this program please contact the Museum's Education

Department at education@mchistory.org, or contact Karen Moen at Bloomington Public Library at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Illegal- continued from page 1 in the one gift America gave him—his education. His program will also discuss (and debunk) the stereotype that undocumented immigrants are freeloaders without access to education or opportunity for advancement.

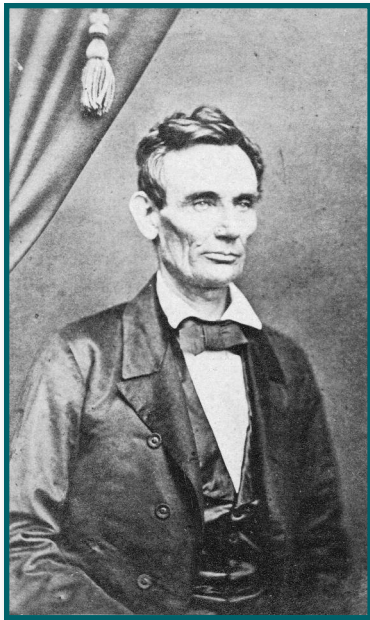
Copies of his book, *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant*, will be available for purchase immediately following the program.

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

Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington 2014

The McLean County Museum of History will take part in the annual *Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington* on July 18-20. This weekend event will celebrate the community's many connections to Abraham Lincoln and the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War with activities at multiple sites.

The Museum will participate on Saturday, July 19. This year our *Lincoln's Festival* activities at the Museum are brought to you by Trailblazers, the Museum's free children's membership program. They will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a walking tour of downtown Bloomington



Lincoln sat for this portrait around 1857. The image was taken by Preston Butler in either Decatur or Springfield.

sites, *Lincoln in Downtown*, led by Executive Director Greg Koos. Participants will explore places associated with Abraham Lincoln to learn about the town where Lincoln spent more time than any other place outside of Springfield. Those interested in joining this tour must meet on the east steps of the Museum at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

At 11:00 a.m. the Museum will welcome acclaimed Central Illinois storyteller and folklorist Brian "Fox" Ellis. In his program, *Lincoln Tales Tall and True with Austin Gulihur*, Ellis will share a mix of Lincoln history and humor. This program will be held in the historic Governor Fifer Courtroom of the Museum.

Throughout the day, visitors of all ages are invited to participate in the Museum's Looking for Lincoln Scavenger

Hunt and receive a free "Lincoln in Bloomington" audio tour CD for completing the activity.

At other sites in downtown Bloomington activities are planned including appearances by Civil War generals, infantry and cavalry encampments, and performances by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band and the Orpheus Mandolin Orchestra. Living history interpreters in period dress, including Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, will be on hand at numerous locations. Children's activities, carriage rides, and demonstrations of period craftsmanship will also be featured, along with cannon volleys, skirmishes between troops, and more.

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the Lincoln Parking Deck, located one block south of the Museum on Front Street. For schedules and details on activities at other Bloomington locations, call 309-824-8862 or visit the website at www.lincolnsfestival.com.

Meet Board Member Ann Sullivan

How did you get involved in the Museum? I had been participating in McLean County Museum of History activities such as the Evergreen Cemetery Walk (through the rain, cold, and sun—all kinds of weather) and numerous lectures. I joined the board in July of 2013.

Where were you born and raised? In Bloomington—I have lived here all of my life.

What's the best kept secret about the Twin Cities? Everyone loves the friendliness and helpfulness of the people in Bloomington-Normal. It's these people who make this area such a special place to live.

What special qualities do you bring to the Board? Being involved in other McLean County organizations: Old House Society, BroMenn Auxiliary, member of

McLean County Art Association, Block Party coordinator, and State Farm employee for 35 years.

What role do you think museums can play in the digital era? I believe it is important to provide a history for all generations. I have always enjoyed the history of McLean County as a fourth generation to live in the area.

What is one thing you think the Museum could do better? Communication of the Museum's activities and events.

What is the last good movie you've seen? I enjoy going to movies... in fact, I saw all nine Academy Award nominated movies for 2014.

What do you like to do for relaxation? I enjoy reading, garden work, antiques, and walking.

Museum, Bloomington Public Library Present Bilingual Story Time Program

On Saturday, July 26 the Museum and Bloomington Public Library will present another Bilingual Story Time. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be held in the Children's Story Room on the second floor at Bloomington Public Library. This program, which is free and open to the public, is being held in conjunction with the Museum's current exhibit *¡Fiesta! A Celebration of Mexican Popular Arts*.

This program is intended for all children, but we especially want to reach out to English Language Learning students and families. Presenters are Rocio Morales, adjunct instructor of Hispanic Studies at Illinois Wesleyan University, and Georgianne Schau, youth services librarian at Bloomington Public Library.

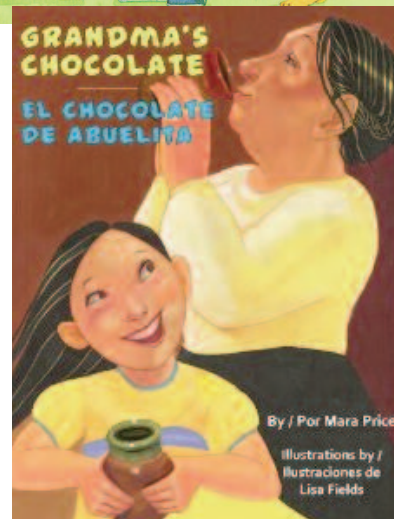
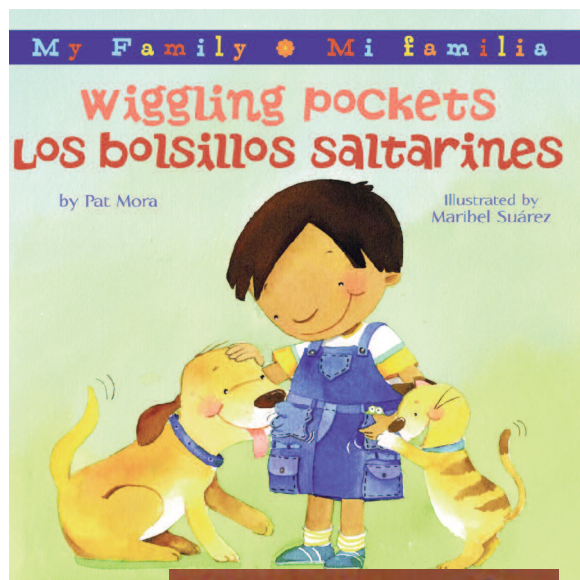
Short stories, including the book *Grandma's Chocolate* by Mara Price and *Wiggling Pockets* by Pat Mora, will be read in both

English and Spanish. Program participants will be taught several Spanish words as the stories are read and will have a chance to see traditional Hispanic/Latino cultural items. The program will wrap up with a craft activity where children will learn how to make their own origami frog or make a frog paper bag puppet.

For more information about this program please contact the Museum's Education Department at education@mchistory.org or by phone at 309-827-0428, or visit www.bloomingtonlibrary.org/, or contact the Library's Children's Services at 309-828-6094, or

via email at childreference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

This program is made possible by support from COUNTRY Financial.



Kids
Corner

Name that Bloomingtonian!

Directions: Match each description with the correct Bloomingtonian below:

1. First woman to become Superintendent of Bloomington public schools
2. One of the most well respected blacksmiths in Bloomington from 1904-1934
3. First woman to be elected Illinois State Senator
4. Started the first bank and oil company in Bloomington
5. Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher who still holds the record for 59 wins in a season
6. Helped form the policy in 1874 that prohibited discrimination on the basis of color in Illinois schools
7. Captain of the only regiment of African-American troops officered entirely by African-American men during the Spanish-American war



George
Washington
Thomas



Georgina
Trotter



"Old Hoss"
Radbourn



Julius
Witherspoon



Judge
Thomas
Tipton



Florence
Fifer
Bohrer



Asahel Gridley

Answers: 1. Georgina Trotter 2. George Washington Thomas 3. Florence Fifer Bohrer 4. Asahel Gridley 5. "Old Hoss" Radbourn 6. Julius Witherspoon 7. Judge Thomas Tipton

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

Gala - continued from page 1 agriculture, energy, and health care.

Joanne Maitland – She is a longtime community volunteer, a former Illinois State University trustee, and a fundraiser for several local charitable projects.

Margot Mendoza – A dedicated grassroots advocate for equality and change, her behind-the-scenes work helped organize local efforts to ban housing discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Carol Reitan (Oct. 25, 1930 - May 12, 2014) – The first female Mayor of Normal, she helped introduce the modern city manager style of town government. She co-founded multiple community institutions including Heartland Theatre, Collaborative Solutions Institute, and the Neville House domestic violence shelter.

Pat Wannemacher (March 17, 1931-Dec. 24, 2013) – A leading woman entrepreneur, she was the first female president of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce and broke through gender barriers in the local construction industry.

Tickets for the 2014 *History Makers* Gala are on sale now through May 30. Reservations can be made at the Museum in downtown Bloomington, by calling 309-827-0428, or online at www.mchistory.org. Tickets are \$60 for the general public and \$50 for Museum members. We are accepting credit cards this year with a \$2 per ticket convenience fee. If you are interested in becoming a table sponsor, please contact Beth Whisman, director of development, at bwhisman@mchistory.org or call the Museum.

Gala proceeds support our educational programs. The Museum has been educating the public about local history for more than 100 years, reaching 7,000 local school children and more than 1,000 senior citizens each year with free educational programs. The Museum is in the top seven percent of national museums accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, placing it in the top seven percent of all museums in the U.S. It is a not-for-profit corporation funded primarily through private donors and Museum members.



John and Joanne Maitland



Margot Mendoza



Carol Reitan



Pat Wannemacher



Sponsor a Budding Historian this Summer!

Each summer the Museum presents History Careers Day Camp for students entering fourth through sixth grades. Campers explore archaeology, architecture, museum studies, and environmental science through hands-on activities. Many students miss out on opportunities like this simply because their families can't afford them. So each year, members like you help provide scholarships. A gift of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 or \$125 will ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn, regardless of their ability to pay.

Split-interest Charitable Trusts

DEAR TRUST OFFICER:

I'm going to make a major charitable gift to my alma mater, but I also need to provide for my heirs. How can I balance these competing interests?

—BUDDING PHILANTHROPIST

DEAR BUDDING:

Explore a split-interest charitable trust. Such a trust has both private and charitable beneficiaries (hence, the “split”). You contribute assets to an irrevocable trust, either for a set number of years, a beneficiary's lifetime, or the lifetimes of more than one beneficiary.

The private beneficiaries receive trust distributions that are defined either as a specific dollar amount annually (an “annuity trust”) or a specified percentage of the trust's value, determined annually (a “unitrust”). In periods of inflation, growth in asset values will lead to growing distributions to beneficiaries. In periods of economic uncertainty, on the other hand, the annuity trust alternative gives beneficiaries the peace of mind of a set number of dollars coming in, regardless of what the markets do.

When the trust terminates, the assets pass to a designated charity, your alma mater. This facet of the plan gives rise to income, gift and estate tax charitable deductions, stretching the financial protection of your resources. A charitable remainder trust may be established during life or in your will. It can be especially appropriate if you wish to diversify a portfolio with highly appreciated assets.

Be sure to consult with your tax advisors before making any irrevocable decisions.

Do you have a question concerning wealth management or trusts? Send your inquiry to HeartlandTrust@hbtbank.com.

(March 2014)

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



MAIN OFFICE:

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309.662-4444 / 888.897.2276 toll free

www.hbtbank.com

Back 2 School Supply Drive --Your Help Requested!

Beginning July 4 through August 8, the Museum will be participating in the Back 2 School Alliance School Supply Drive to help collect school supplies for the 2014-2015 school year for local students in need.

The Back 2 School Supply Drive, sponsored jointly by District 87 and Unit 5, will help ensure that all students have a great start back to school on Day One. The supplies collected will be distributed to students who participate in the Back 2 School Party on August 12 between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum, and throughout Unit 5 and District 87.

Visit the Museum beginning July 5 through August 8, bring in any new school supply from the list below, and you will receive free admission on the day you visit!

Backpack -13 inches to 18 inches in height
Zippered Binder -1.5 inches or 2 inches
3-Ring Binder -1.5 inches
Divider Tabs - 5 count per package
2-Pocket Folders
Index Cards - 3x5 lined
Loose Leaf Paper - wide ruled
Spiral Notebook - wide ruled, 70 count pages
Ruler- standard/metric 12 inches
Colored Pencils - 12 count
Markers - washable, thick, classic colors
#2 Pencils - 12 count
Black or Blue Pens - 10/12 count
Glue Sticks - washable
Crayons - 24 count
Highlighters
Fiskar Scissors (blunt and pointed tip)
Pink Erasers



The donation bin to drop off your items will be located on the first floor of the Museum. For more information please contact the Education Department via email at education@mchistory.org, by phone at 309-827-0428, or you can also visit the Back 2 School Alliance's website <http://back2schoolalliance.org/>. Every pen, pencil, ruler, and eraser will make a difference. Last year we were one of the leading collection sites. Please help out today!

Salutations to New Members!

The Museum would like to welcome the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and Camille Taylor
Ms. Tracey Sullivan-Covert
Ms. Diane Anderson
Ms. JoAnn Ferguson
Mr. John Bowen

Ms. Barbara Gilhaus
Lisa and Jamie Furman
Ms. Betsy Cole
Ms. Virginia Hougham
Mr. Thomas Gregg

Jack Kauffman
Mr. Rhett Felix
Ms. Kristin Richey
Mr. and Mrs. Sean LaBounty
Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Ressler

Your membership is an act of philanthropy that supports educational programs and preservation of local historic artifacts and stories.

Thanks so much for your support!



On April 30 the Museum staff celebrated, honored, and thanked all its wond



erful volunteers for the services they provided during the previous fiscal year.

New to the Collections

Objects

- ❑ "First Night 1994" pinback button, donated by Deer Creek District Library
- ❑ Livingston's hat, receipt pad from Freed's Royal Blue grocery store, Gridley, IL/St. Louis Expo coin, and George Freed's horseshow ribbons, donated by Janeene Raymond
- ❑ Necktie ironing board, c. 1948, donated by David Hall
- ❑ Floral painted pottery bowl, c. 1920, donated by William Fleming
- ❑ Spare light magnification lens and stool from the Majestic Theatre, c. 1925, donated by Tom Berglund
- ❑ *Pantagraph* delivery bag, c. 1980, donated by Meredith Schroeer
- ❑ Ronald Reagan political buttons, c. 1975 – 1984, donated by Amy Miller
- ❑ Hubbard's Cubard matchbook, IBEW-UAW-IUE-AIW pinback button, Barry Goldwater campaign pin, Reims Cathedral pocketknife and keychain, 1933 Chicago World's Fair compact, donated by Rodger Paul
- ❑ Aladdin Gasoline sign, c. 1957, donated by Benjamin & Caleb Downen c/o Steve Downen
- ❑ "The Zinnies" oil painting by Ann Herrick, c. 1928, donated by the Estate of John Colteaux
- ❑ Crown-bearer dress worn to 1948 Gridley High School homecoming, Alberta Keller's graduation dress and Gridley H.S. graduation pin, c. 1910, donated by Dee Perry
- ❑ Toy telephone and JC Penney Three Way Hairsetter curler set, donated by Paula Leifel
- ❑ Baseball thrown as first pitch by Mayor Chris Koos at Cornbelters' first home game, 2010, donated by Mayor Chris Koos
- ❑ Dress, c. 1968, donated by Norma Elliott

Archives

- ❑ C.W. Klemm, Inc. (Bloomington department store) "Baby Book," 1942; donated by Annette Lobdell
- ❑ Ogle School (Yates Township) journal / workbook, c. early 1890s, kept by Mary (Finley) Harrison; donated by great-granddaughter Mary Elizabeth Myer Sellmyer (Mary tells us: "This journal was found in a box of her newspaper clippings in 2013. It had not been opened in at least 50 years. What a treasure!")
- ❑ Scrapbook compiled by former McLean County Superintendent of Schools William B. Brigham, containing sample report cards, various years; and "Ginger Bean," three-page newsletter, July 7, 1938, for Methodist event at East Bay Camp, Lake Bloomington; donated by William Frinsko
- ❑ Booklets, "McLean County Rules of the County Board" (2007), and a second "Rules of the County Board," this one undated; donated by Ann Harding
- ❑ Scrapbook, compiled by Betty Markworth, containing dated and undated nineteenth century newspaper articles, including death and wedding notices of Bloomington-Normal area families; donated by Laura Ginter
- ❑ Audio (compact) disc, "Joe Dowell Sings Classic Hymns" (personalized autograph on inside cover); donated by Joe Dowell
- ❑ Street map of Bloomington-Normal, revised April 17, 1976; booklet, "Power Farms: The Story of George Power and the Illinois Farm He Developed," published by the Sangamon County Historical Society, 2011; donated by Dennis and Janet Faulk
- ❑ As You Like It Club material, including constitution and recent program booklets (update to existing As You Like It Club

Collection in the Museum Archives); donated by the As You Like It Club, care of Sandra Groves

- ❑ 24 audio (compact) discs containing recordings of Bloomington-Normal Symphony Orchestra performances, April 27, 1971 to February 21, 1982 (transferred from reel-to-reel); donated by Roar Schaad
- ❑ Card, "Instructions for Operating the Meadows Washer," undated; donated by Brent Wielt
- ❑ Various, including five issues (1965 and 1966) of the "Trinitarian," newspaper of Trinity High School, Bloomington; Central Catholic High School sports banquet program, 1968; and other items; donated by Ruth A. Cobb
- ❑ Booklet, "McLean, Illinois: A Small Town with a Big Heart, 1855-1980," and other items; donated by Ann Shaw Kusic
- ❑ Three Chicago & Alton Railroad ledgers, "Record of Shop Employees" (in three volumes), early 1900s; donated by William Davis
- ❑ Personal recollection of World War II, seven pages, typed, as well as a poem, "Remembrance," written on occasion of visit to Cambridge American (military) Cemetery, Cambridge, England; donated by Ralph A. Bellas, author of both items
- ❑ DVD, "The History of the Illinois Farm Bureau," produced by the Illinois Farm Bureau, and three items (copies) relating to P.N. Jones, including two pages from minutes of the Illinois Agricultural Association's preliminary meeting, January 26, 1916; donated by IAA
- ❑ Large addition of papers to the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project Collection; donated by John W. Muirhead



That's Dee's maternal grandmother, Alberta, first row, left. The other girls are Eva Rowley, Elva Blumenshine, and Ada Coyle. The top row features Lloyd Benedict, Gridley High School Principal C.B. Anthony, and Ralph Flesher.

Gridley High School Class of 1910 Donation

Museum volunteer Dee Perry recently donated several objects belonging to her grandmother, Alberta (Keller) Steward. In addition to the dress worn to the 1910 Gridley High School graduation ceremony, the Museum also received Keller's graduation pin, name cards, commencement program, and photographs from her special day, including one of her graduating class (see image above).

Dee tells us that Alberta was her only grandparent to graduate from high school—the other three attended one-room schools and never completed their secondary education. As the “keeper of the family treasures,” Dee says that she donated this photo and the other items to make certain that they will be available to genealogists and those interested in local history for many, many years to come. “I wanted to make sure things are preserved that should be preserved,” she added. “No point in having these things sit in a cupboard for years.”

Receiving this wonderful collection reminds us that the rituals and traditions associated with high school graduation haven't changed much over the past century. We're still celebrating that special day in much the same way that Keller did back in 1910. Donations like this not only provide unique “snapshots” into the lives of local residents, but they provide evidence of historical trends and make history relatable to us today.

Alberta Keller's 1910 Gridley High School graduation dress

- ❑ Gridley Public Schools Catalogue, 1910; and graduating senior Alberta Keller's graduation card and commencement program, 1910; donated by Dee Perry

Books

- ❑ *Proceedings of the Black National and State Conventions, 1840-1865*, Vol. II; and *Proceedings of the Black National State Conventions, 1865-1900*, Vol. I; donated by John W. Muirhead
- ❑ Miniature book, two by two-and-a-half inches, red leather, memorial to Adlai E. Stevenson II, sent to Louise Kessler, Withers librarian, from Elizabeth “Buffy” Ives, Stevenson's sister; donated by Steve Young
- ❑ *America's Greatest Brands, Volume 3: An Insight into Many of America's Strongest and Most Trusted Brands* (includes section on State Farm

Collections - continued on page 13



Focus on Volunteers

Ardys Serpette has a long history with history, especially family history. Sound confusing? Put simply, Ardys has been researching her family history for more than 45 years.

Ardys joined the McLean County Genealogical Society in 1968, shortly after it was chartered. Currently, she serves as Society president. Ardys became familiar with the Museum by virtue of our long relationship with the Society and our shared facilities in the former McLean County courthouse. One long-term Society member, our own George Perkins, urged Ardys to consider volunteering in the Museum's library. She began as a library desk volunteer in February 1997 and has gifted us with her time and expertise for 17 years.

Ardys says she's always been interested in family history and that "researching is like detective work." She took a class in 1967 with Rachael Lundeen and was immediately hooked on genealogy. Ardys has researched both sides of her family. She's able to go back to the early 1700s on one side, and she is working on the proof she requires to finalize the other branch of her family tree back to the 1500s.

Her great-grandparents on both sides immigrated from overseas between the 1830s and the 1880s. One of her more interesting discoveries is about her great-grandfather Serpette. In November 1886 he took a ship from New York to Guadalupe to visit his brother and possibly put down money on property there. On his return trip via the *E.M. Bacon*, he passed away and was buried at sea. His family received letters from his trip, as well as a letter from the ship's captain explaining what had happened. Serpette's thirteenth

child, Ardys' grandfather, was born one month after the incident.

Ardys likes to assist others with their family tree, helping them to enjoy the research and the discoveries they make. As well as doing so during her shifts at the Museum, she also volunteers at the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center in Metamora, where she has been a member since their inception in 1970 and currently serves as co-chair of the Illinois Mennonite Archives.

Even Ardys' travels sometimes tie into genealogy. Her first trip to Europe was on a tour with her sister. They went to Rugen Island in Northern Germany and were able to visit where one of their great grandfathers lived prior to his U.S. immigration. Her

appetite whetted, Ardys' next visit was to the Alsace - Lorraine area of France, where she and her sister researched more about their family. Her third trip was to Somme, in the Picardy region of France. Somme includes the area of Curlu, where her great-grandfather Serpette was born.

Ardys says that she and her sister, who usually researches her husband's side of the family during these trips, both enjoy seeing the areas where their ancestors lived, even if a specific house or grave site cannot be located. She pointed out

that unless someone is buried on private land, there are many places where the burial sites are recycled, so finding records is more likely than finding a grave site.

For her next trip Ardys would like to return to Germany and visit Munich. She says she doesn't know when that will be. Given her passion for her research, we're betting it will be soon!



Ardys Serpette

Collections - continued from page 11

- Insurance); donated by State Farm Insurance, Company Heritage Unit
- ❑ *George P. Rowell & Co's American Newspaper Directory* (1879); donated by Greg Koos
- ❑ *Pennsylvania Colonial and Federal: A History, 1608-1903, Vol. 1*; donated by Nancy Miller
- ❑ Large number of Gridley High School yearbooks (called *The Pylon*), 1948-49, 1950-51, 1963,

and 1965-1966; and larger collection (though not a complete run) of Gridley Grade School yearbooks, mid-1950s to 1970s; donated by Dee Perry

Photographs

- ❑ Poster-size portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt, displayed in Livingston's (downtown Bloomington department store) Washington Street window, at the time of FDR's death; donated by

Paul Vertin

- ❑ Illinois Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, annual state convention at Wayman AME Church, Bloomington (from the papers of Caribel Washington); donated by John W. Muirhead
- ❑ Class of 1910, Gridley High School; full portrait, Alberta Keller (GHS class of 1910); 1948 Gridley High School homecoming court; donated by Dee Perry

To make donations of photographs, books or archival materials call the Museum's Librarian, 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.

School Yearbooks Wanted

College and high school yearbooks (also known as "annuals") represent one of the better local history and genealogy resources. These keepsakes offer a wealth of information, such as the names (and usually photographs) of faculty, administrative staff, and students; the schedules and final records of athletic teams; membership and activities of school clubs and organizations; important events in the school's history; and on and on.

Over the past decade, the Museum's Library has made a concerted effort to increase its collection of area school yearbooks. We hold nearly complete collections of Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan annuals, but still have plenty of gaps when it comes to Bloomington-Normal high schools, as well as those in rural McLean County (whether the school is still open or closed due to consolidation). The Museum is also actively collecting grade and middle school annuals, though those are harder to come by and were often published irregularly.

The next several issues of "On the Square" will include listings of yearbooks the Museum is interested in obtaining by way of donation. We'll begin with Bloomington High School and University High School in Normal.

"Missing" BHS yearbooks: 1950, 1954, 1959, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2002, and 2005

"Missing" U-High yearbooks: 1933, 1940, 1950, 1961, 1968, 1969, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1984, and 1996.

Regardless of whether you have one of these or not, feel free to call 309-827-0428 or email Librarian Bill Kemp at library@mchistory.org if you are interested in donating local yearbooks.



The 1951 Bloomington High School *Aepix* (the name of its yearbook) included advertisements. All pictures, including this one, were taken by class photographers, and the "models" were members of the junior and senior classes.

McLean County Museum of History

Calendar of Events

Through January 16, 2016

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

For the past 200 years, Irish people have made their way to Central Illinois. This exhibit tells their story through historic objects, photographs, maps, and more. Sponsored by State Farm.

Through January 16, 2015

¡Fiesta! A Celebration of Mexican Popular Arts

Travel through time in this bilingual exhibit to learn about the rich history of Mexican culture and folk arts. Sponsored by COUNTRY Financial.

Through spring 2015

The Asian Indian Experience in McLean County

Asian Indian immigrants began arriving in McLean County in the 1960s. This exhibit explores the challenges they faced and the efforts made to maintain important traditions and practices while at the same time embracing American culture.

Saturdays through October 25

Tour the Museum's latest exhibits and shop at Farmers' Market

The Museum opens at 8:30 a.m. to all visitors! Visit www.downtownbloomington.org/farmersmarket for more information.

June 7 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Downtown Bloomington Route 66 Cruise-In

Celebrate the lasting legacy of Route 66, the “Mother Road.” Over 300 vehicles, including motorcycles and trucks, are expected to participate. Music provided by “The Bygones” & JD’s DJ Service. For more information visit www.downtownbloomington.org.

June 7 3:00 p.m.

Route 66 Then and Now, Stories from the Mother Road

Award-winning author and Route 66 historian John Weiss discusses the past and present history of Route 66 in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. This program is free and open to the public.

June 10 7:00 p.m.

Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant

José Ángel N. will present a program about his life as an undocumented immigrant and the constraints, deceptions, and humiliations that characterize alien life “amid the shadows.” See page one for more information. The program is free and open to the public.

June 14 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Miller Park Zoo Birthday Party

Come celebrate the 123rd birthday of Miller Park Zoo! Children's activities, games, animal encounters, as well as a tasty birthday treat will be offered. Learn about the Koethhoefer Animal Building, designed by well-known Bloomington architect Arthur Pillsbury, which opened 100 years ago this year. The party is free with regular paid admission to Miller Park Zoo. For more information, please visit 4.17.232.139/parks/Miller-Park-Zoo/about-the-zoo.htm.

June 19 Doors open at 5:30 p.m., program begins 6:15 p.m. at ISU's Bone Student Center

History Makers Gala

Join us as we celebrate the contributions of Sen. John and Joanne Maitland, Margot Mendoza, Carol Reitan, and Patricia Wannemacher to our community. See page one for more information.

June 23 through June 27

History Careers Day Camp Session I (Registration full)

Open to students entering fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in the fall. This camp explores the history-related careers of archaeology, museums, art history, architecture, and environmental science, now expanded to a five-day camp. For more information contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or via email at education@mchistory.org.

July 4

The Museum closed for Fourth of July holiday

Starting July 4 through August 8

Back 2 School Alliance School Supply Drive

For more information see page seven.

July 7 through July 11

History Careers Day Camp Session II (Registration full)

See Session I above.

July 19

10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington

Join the Museum for this annual festival celebrating Lincoln's legacy in Bloomington-Normal. See page three for more information about this program.

July 19

11:00 a.m.

Lincoln Tales: Tall and True with Austin Gulihur

Join the Museum in welcoming back Brian "Fox" Ellis, acclaimed Central Illinois storyteller and folklorist, who will share a mix of history and humor with his stories of Abraham Lincoln. All ages are welcome to this free program. See Lincoln's Festival on page three for more information.

July 26

11:00 a.m.

Bilingual Story Time

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library for a free bilingual story program open to families. For more information about this event, please see page four.

July 28 through August 1

History Careers Day Camp Session III (Openings still available)

See Session I above.

August 5

7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library for the third installment of the History Reads Book Club for 2014. See page two for more information. This program is free and open to the public.

August 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!" Light refreshments will be provided. This program is free and open to the public.



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Mystery History

We had a fair share of correct guesses from last issue's mystery photograph, which showed the old Bloomington Coliseum, located on the north side of the 400 block of West Front Street (across the street from the present-day U.S. Cellular Coliseum). Designed by Bloomington's Paul O. Moratz, the original Coliseum opened in 1898. Many longtime residents might remember the public building's armory-like hall with a ceiling topping out at 60 feet in height. For stage events, the Coliseum's capacity was about 5,000, and over the years the venue hosted political rallies, great American orators (such as William Jennings Bryan), live theater, German-American gatherings, dances, and even famed soprano Amelita Galli-Curci. For two years in the 1910s, the Coliseum was transformed into the "Corn Palace" for a harvest time festival. In its latter years the Coliseum served as a roller rink, jazz ballroom, and even a bowling alley. It was torn down in 1961.

Those who knew the correct answer included Jim Armstrong, Donna Curry, Arlin Ehrlich, Gary Faulk, Dennis Fox, Robert E. Handley, Sue Kohl, Robert Lanham, Tom Marquardt, William Miller, Nadine Reining, Andy Streenz, and Mel Theobald. As always, if we forgot anyone, our apologies. Longtime Museum volunteer William Miller remembers attending a Golden Gloves boxing tournament at the Coliseum with his father around 1933.



For this issue, can you identify this building and tell us anything about it? If you think you know the answer, contact Librarian Bill Kemp via email at library@mchistory.org, or by phone at 309-827-0428. As always, good luck!