

McLean County Museum of History



On the Museum Square

June-July-August 2018

Tickets on Sale for 2018 *History Makers* Gala

The McLean County Museum of History has announced four recipients of the 2018 *History Makers* award to be presented during the Museum's seventh annual *History Makers* Gala, Thursday, June 28 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington.

Each year, the *History Makers* Gala recognizes senior citizens whose outstanding, lifelong contributions of time and talents have helped to make McLean County the thriving community it is today.

The Gala dinner will feature live entertainment that celebrates the honorees and their lives of service. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets for the 2018 *History Makers* Gala are on sale now through June 15. Reservations can be made at the Museum in Downtown Bloomington, by calling 309-827-0428, or online at www.mchistory.org/gala.php.

Tickets are \$60 for the general public and \$50 for Museum members. Proceeds support the Museum's educational programs.



This year's class of McLean County *History Makers*

- **Paul and Sandra Harmon**, whose work as philanthropists, community volunteers, educator (Sandra), and politician (Paul) have had a profound impact on the growth and culture of Normal and the broader community
- **Ronn Morehead**, whose work as a laborer and retraining specialist with unions across the state has helped build a strong workforce and who is known for his volunteer work with organizations such as Special Olympics Illinois
- **Don Munson**, whose career in radio that spanned more than 50 years made him a household name and trusted source of news and local history

With thanks to our newsletter sponsor:



State Farm is the Dome Sponsor of the 2018 *History Makers* Gala, with additional support from Rotunda Sponsors Town of Normal and WGLT.

On the Museum Square

Quarterly Newsletter

June-July-August 2018 Volume 50, Number 2

Produced by Samantha Yoder and Jane Flanders Osborn



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

and

Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66

Visitors Center



200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone 309-827-0428 Fax 309-827-0100
www.mchistory.org

Located on the corner of Main (Rt. 66)
and Washington Streets,
the Visitors Center and Museum entrance
is located on Washington Street on the
south side of the Museum Square

HOURS

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday
9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday (Free)
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday (May-September)

OFFICERS

Bill Zimmerman, President
Robert Watkins, First Vice President
Tom Eder, Second Vice President
Sandra Harmon, Secretary
John Killian, Treasurer
Carolyn Perry Yockey, Immediate Past President

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Michael G. Matejka	

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Benjamin J. Rhodes	Michael G. Matejka
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Nancy Froelich	Steve Wannemacher

History Reads Book Club

All avid readers are welcome to join us on Tuesday, August 7 at the McLean County Museum of History for the third *History Reads Book Club* of 2018. The discussion will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. Channel your inner scallywag, hoist the sails, and cover your booty before joining us in conversation about *The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock* (1996), Otto A. Rothert's riveting account of the infamous cast of river pirates and highwaymen who operated in and around the Ohio River cavern from 1795 through 1820.

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 the meeting. Free parking is available on the street or in 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 by phone at 309-827-0428; or contact Karen Moen at Bloomington Public Library at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org. The Museum looks forward to seeing our local swashbuckling literature lovers in August!



Movies Under the Dome: *The Visitor*

See Richard Jenkins, two-time Oscar nominated actor and Illinois Wesleyan University alum ('69), star in *The Visitor* (2007) on Tuesday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m. as part of the Museum's ongoing *Movies Under the Dome* series.

Walter Vale is a widowed economics professor who lives a fairly solitary existence. Asked to present a paper at an academic conference at New York University, he is less than enthusiastic about making the trip. When he arrives at his former Manhattan apartment, he is startled to find a young couple living there. Knowing the couple has nowhere else to go, Walter lets them stay. Through this framework, the film explores themes of friendship, citizenship, identity, and cross-cultural communication in a post 9/11 world.

The Visitor has a run time of 1 hour 44 minutes and is rated PG-13 for brief strong language. A short intermission presentation will provide further context on the film.



from the director of *The Station Agent* - from the producer of *Sideways*



This program is free and open to the public. Popcorn and beverages will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

Lincoln's Festival on Route 66



It's time for the annual *Lincoln's Festival on Route 66*, this year on July 20, 21, and 22. Activities during the festival weekend will include: living history performances, car shows and cruise-ins, period crafts and children's activities, Civil War skirmishes and a cavalry encampment, walking tours, a vintage bicycle display, plus speakers and musicians to guide your journey along the prairie path, to the steel rails, and on to the Mother Road.

FRIDAY, July 20

■ Free, family-friendly activities begin at 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with *Encounters with Lincoln's World* celebrating our state's Bicentennial with stories of real "Hometown Heroes" portrayed by the Historic Acting Troupe. Performances will be held in several locations in Downtown Bloomington. The Museum will serve as the starting point, and visitors are encouraged to arrive no later than 6 p.m. in order to see the entire presentation. Performances will begin every 20 minutes with the last performance at 7:40 p.m.

SATURDAY, July 21

■ Beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., play the highly popular *So You Think You Know Lincoln* and *Kicking it on Route 66* trivia games! Trivia will continue on Sunday, July 22 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Lincoln and Route 66 themed crafts for visitors of all ages will also be offered from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

■ At 11:00 a.m. the Museum's Executive Director Emeritus, Greg Koos, will lead a 45-minute walking tour of *Lincoln Sites in Downtown Bloomington*. Gain unique insight into Lincoln and his friends and associates in Bloomington. Meet inside the Museum's *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center.

■ At 12:30 p.m. in the second floor Governor Fifer Courtroom, retired historical actor and elementary school teacher Betty Kay will present *The True Story of Mary Lincoln*, which tells the story of the Lincolns through the eyes of Elizabeth Todd Edwards—sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. This program is sponsored by a grant from Illinois Humanities.

■ At 2:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom, Route 66 historian Cheryl Eichar Jett will present *Writing Women into Route 66 History*. Jett will discuss how various women made their mark on Route 66, how women's Route 66 history is evolving, and why it is important by sharing stories of women who blazed trails in traditionally male careers, wives who gained fame in mom-and-pop hospitality businesses, as well as a few outlaws and free spirits.

SUNDAY, July 22

■ At 1:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom, retired lawyer and local Lincoln historian Guy Fraker will present an illustrated program traveling the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Fraker's *Images of Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit* will give a visual tour of the sites Lincoln visited and the roads he took to get there as he practiced law and politics in Central Illinois.



Don't forget to visit the *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center located on the ground floor of the Museum.

You can explore our exhibit to learn what traveling in Lincoln's era was like and about Route 66 in McLean County! You can also pick up many local favorites like BEER NUTS Brand Snacks, Funks Pure Maple Sirup, Steak 'n Shake souvenirs and seasonings, great local history books, and of all things Abraham Lincoln!

Keep an eye out for Mr. Lincoln who will be visiting the Museum during the festival too. He will be available to meet visitors, and even pose for a photo or two. Check our July monthly mailer for more details about his visit.



For more information about these activities and programs at the Museum during *Lincoln's Festival on Route 66*, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org.

The *Lincoln's Festival on Route 66* is an Illinois Route 66 Red, White, and Blue Corridor signature event and is a proud partner in the 42-county Looking for Lincoln Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Illinois Labor Journeys



The Museum is pleased to welcome labor historian Mike Matejka for a program exploring Illinois' labor history. This free, public program will be held in the Museum's second floor Governor Fifer Courtroom on Saturday, June 16 at 1:30 p.m.

With nineteenth century industrialization and economic expansion, how did workers win a voice on the job, and obtain safer working conditions and decent treatment? This illustrated program will demonstrate how Illinois was in the forefront of labor struggles—from Chicago's Haymarket Square to the Pullman Works, the Illinois coal mines, and the street car strikes right here on the streets of Downtown Bloomington.

Matejka is the Governmental Affairs Director of the Great Plains Laborers District Council representing LiUNA locals in Central Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. For the past 38 years he has edited the *Grand Prairie Union News* for the Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor Assembly. In 2000 the ILHS published his book, *Fiery Struggle: Illinois Fire Fighters Build a Union*. He speaks frequently on labor topics, does regular local radio commentaries, and is



always digging up Illinois labor history nuggets. He serves on numerous local agencies and other boards in Central Illinois, including serving as past President of the McLean County Historical Society.

For more information about this program, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or call 309-827-0428.

Social Justice History Walking Tour



The Museum is pleased to invite you to join labor historian Mike Matejka and Bill Kemp, local historian and the Museum's Librarian, for their popular Social Justice History Walking Tour on Saturday, June 9 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

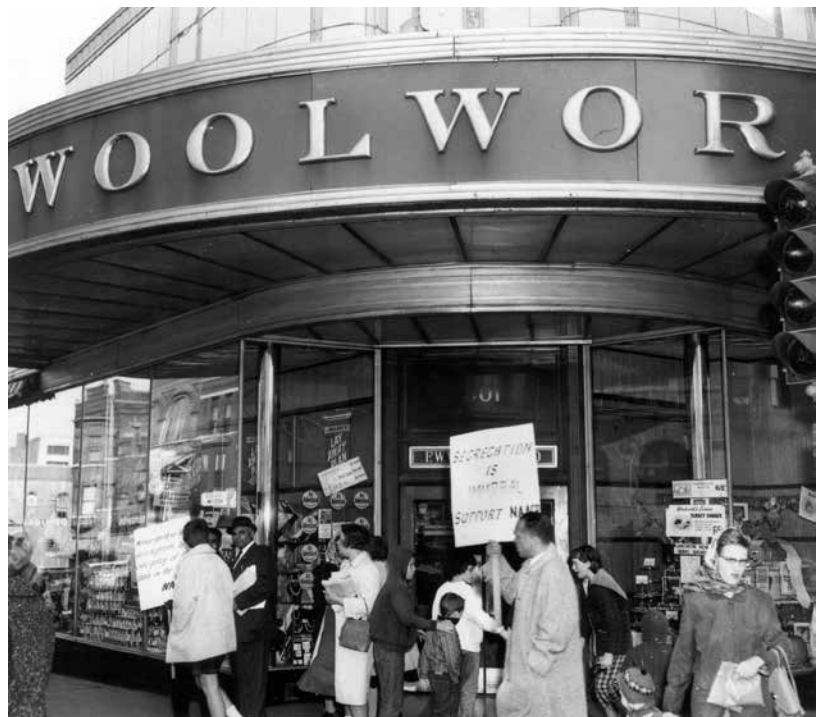
This program is free and open to the public. Participants will learn about the history of human rights efforts in Bloomington's neighborhoods. The walk will begin in Downtown Bloomington around the Museum Square, continuing south through the Warehouse District, and ending on the West Side at St. Mary's Church.

Please note that you will be walking approximately 2.5 miles and standing and listening at various stops along the way.

The tour last approximately two hours. We highly encourage you to bring bottled water and wear comfortable shoes.

Participation is limited to the first 30 people to sign up. To register, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or education@mchistory.org.

Registration deadline is Friday, June 8 at 5:00 p.m.



Meandering McLean County and Its Agricultural History Bus Trip



The Museum invites you to join Don Meyer, ag historian and guest curator for the Museum's new *Farming in the Great Corn Belt*

permanent exhibit, and Museum Librarian and local historian Bill Kemp, for a bus trip exploring southwestern McLean County.

Come time travel with us as we imagine exploring the county by horse-back or electric train on our journey by bus through one of the nation's major corn and soybean areas. Roadside discussion stops will take us through or near Dry Grove, Wilkesborough, Concord, Stout's Grove, Woodruff, Mosquito Grove, Moore's Mill, and Mount Hope Colony—all without leaving McLean County! Enjoy Cracker Jack snacks as we pause at an early production area! Experience the Funk/Stubblefield family influence and meander through the Funk's Grove area. Besides the day's historic theme, McLean County agriculture and geography will be featured along the way.

The cost per person is \$40/Museum members and \$50/general public. The trip includes transportation by Peoria

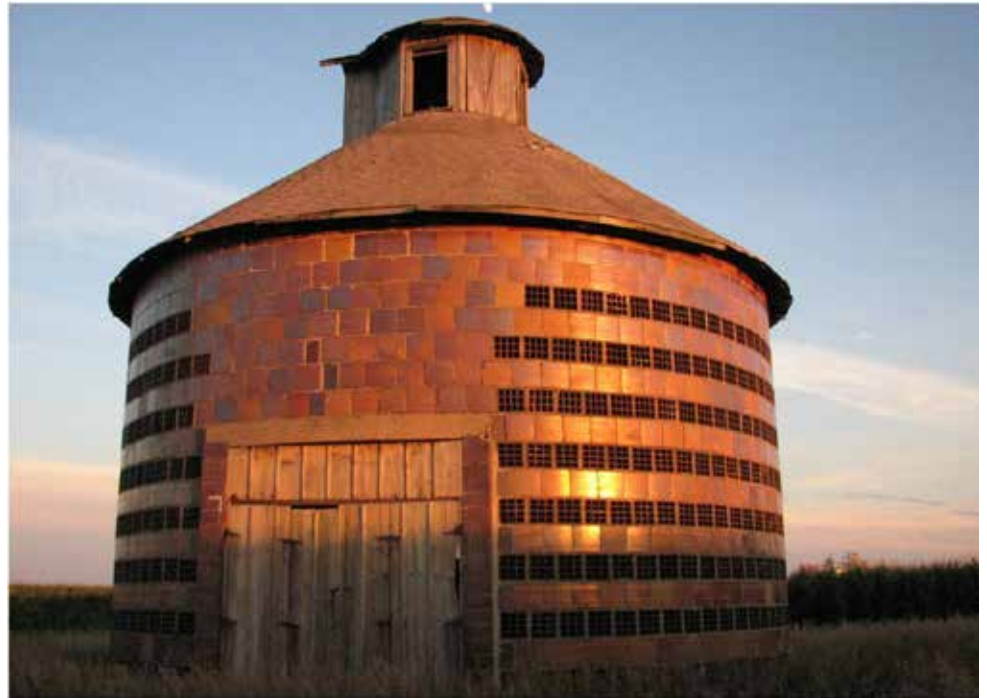
Charter Coach to all sites, box lunch, and bottled water. We leave the McLean County Museum of History at 8:30 a.m. (please park in the Lincoln Parking Deck, located one block south of the Museum on Front Street), and arrive back at the Museum at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Box lunch choices are either Ham and Swiss sandwich, Turkey and Cheddar sandwich, or Veggie Delight sandwich. Box lunches also include chips, cookie, whole fruit, and bottled water. Seating

is limited to 52 passengers.

Registration is due by August 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Registration can be made by calling the Museum at 309-827-0428 or emailing the Education Department at education@mchistory.org. Payment can be made via all major credit cards or by check (payable to MCMH).

For more information about this tour or to register to participate, please contact the Education Department.



McLean County before McLean County

Museum librarian Bill Kemp will look back at McLean County prior to statehood and the pioneer settlement era. His presentation will emphasize the area's natural environment and landscape, its flora and fauna, and the native people that called it home. This free, public program will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 28, in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom.

Kemp has served as librarian for the McLean County Museum of History for 14 years. He has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois Springfield and a master's in history from Illinois State University. Kemp's weekly *Pantagraph* column, "A Page from Our Past," debuted in 2005. Since then, there have been more than 600 original columns in the award-winning series.



For more information about this program, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428. Free parking is available on the Museum Square and surrounding streets, or at the Lincoln Parking Deck located on Front Street.



Cemetery Walk to Celebrate Illinois Bicentennial

Since 1824, when people began settling the land that would later become known as McLean County, its citizens have helped shaped the history of Illinois. From being home to the first public university in Illinois (Illinois State University), aiding Abraham Lincoln's rise to the nation's highest office, leading the way in agricultural innovations, and producing and training internationally known circus performers, the citizens of McLean County have made an indelible mark on almost 200 years of Illinois history that is worthy of celebrating.

In said celebration of the Bicentennial of Illinois, attendees of the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* can look forward to hearing stories of: Augusta "Gussie" Becker and Francis Cahill (housemother and resident of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School, respectively, weekend only); Henry Funk (horticulturist, apiarist, general steward of the land, and not a known relation of the well-known local Funk family); Emily Vecchi and Clyde Noble (world renowned aerialists and theater enthusiasts); Jane Frankenberger Hendryx (early settler of the region that came to be known as McLean County); Lue Anna Sanders Clark (supporter and active member of the African-American community who helped provide black ISU students housing when they were barred from residing on campus); and Adlai E. Stevenson II (politician, diplomat, and the only Illinois Governor buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery).

To mark the special nature of this year's theme, the Walk features a 45-minute performance by the Brass Band of Central Illinois each day of the weekend tours beginning at 1:00 p.m. Formed in 2004, BBCI is a traditional brass band based in

Bloomington-Normal made up of 30 volunteer musicians.

The Museum is pleased to again announce that all students participating in the school tours of the 2018 *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* will attend for free due to the continued sponsorship of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, additional sponsorship from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, and support from Museum members.

Mark your calendars now for September 29 and 30, and October 6 and 7. Performances each day will begin at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase on September 4. Please visit the Museum or call 309-827-0428 to place an order. Tickets will also be for sale at Casey's Garden Shop, The Garlic Press, and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.

Attendants should be prepared to walk approximately one mile, and to stand for six performances lasting five to seven minutes each. Each tour lasts 90 minutes to two hours. Wheelchairs and seat canes will be available to borrow free of charge, but quantities are limited. Patrons who have their own are encouraged to bring them.

Please visit www.mchistory.org/learn/programs/cemwalk.php for more information on the Walk and this year's featured characters. For more specific questions, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or email us at education@mchistory.org.



A group shot of the many volunteers, staff, and interns of the Museum who attended the reception.

Samantha Yoder, Director of Volunteers and Interns, recognizes volunteers for their many hours and talents shared in the 2017-18 fiscal year.



Volunteer Appreciation Reception April 25, 2018

Rochelle Gridley, Bill LaBounty, Jane Flanders Osborn, and Nola Marquardt ponder answers to the movie trivia questions.



Pete Moore of Twin Cities Trivia hosted "Classic Movie Trivia" for the group.

You Can (3D) Print It!

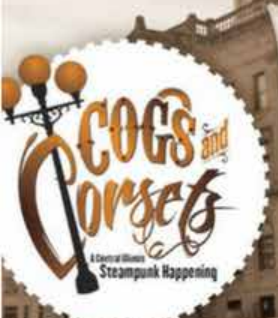
In conjunction with the Museum's newest exhibit, *Pedal Power!*, we invite you to explore, design, and create your very own rubber-band-powered vehicle. Participate in a guided exploration of *Pedal Power!*, then cruise across the street to Open Source Classroom to learn all about 3D design and production. Finally, print and assemble your masterpiece of industrial art.



Making a Rubber Band Car

This workshop will take place on Saturday, August 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is open to students entering grades 5 through 10 and an adult partner. Registration is \$15 per participant and is capped at 24 total participants (12 adults and 12 students). Each student must be accompanied by an adult.

Look to the July monthly mailer and to the Museum's social media channels for additional registration information. For questions, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.



Cogs and Corsets
A Central Illinois Steampunk Happening

June 1-3
DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON

FIRST FRIDAYS

- Tea Dueling

SATURDAY &/or SUNDAY

- Tea Room
- STEAMPunk Activities with **children's discovery museum**
- Speaker Series
- Photo Ops
- Vendors
- Tea Pot Races
- Costume Contest
- Makers' Faire
- Sideshow Performances
- Mystery Dinners
- & More!

This event is free to attend and open to the public. Some fees apply for specific activities. For more information on activities and tickets, visit <http://www.cogsandcorsetsil.com/> and like Cogs and Corsets: A Steampunk Happening on Facebook

Museum Board Q&A



Todd Lowery

How long have you lived in McLean County?

I have lived in Gridley for 15 years.

Tell us a little about your work and family.

I serve as the Advanced Leadership and Alumni Relations Director for the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation (IALF) in Bloomington. My wife Jennifer and I will soon be celebrating

our twentieth anniversary, and we have a 16-year-old daughter Sophia. She attends El Paso-Gridley High School.

How were you chosen to be on the Museum Board?

I was approached by then Executive Director Beth Whisman on a referral from Dan Kelley, who serves as chairman of the IALF Board. Beth and I were former colleagues at WJBC.

What do you think you will bring to the Board?

Those who know me realize my love of all things that tell a story. History has always been a passion of mine and I hope to bring that enthusiasm in my service on the MCHS Board.

What are you most excited about when it comes to the Museum's future?

Where to begin! Route 66 has opportunities with interest from all around the world, our attachment to one of the greatest presidents/leaders in history, as well as McLean County's position and history as a top producer in agriculture.

Do you have hobbies?

I enjoy military history and participate with others in real time military strategy computer simulator games. I also golf when I can, although I believe the holes are getting longer or I'm just not hitting it as far. I will go with the former.

What is the last good book you've read?

The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant

Museum Staff Q&A



Adam Lovell

What brought you to McLean County as the Museum's new executive director?

I worked in the museum field for the past 18 years, starting with collections and over time expanding into exhibits, curatorial, and then management. I wanted to come to the McLean County Museum of History to use my experience to build upon the programs and help develop a positive vision for the future.

Where did you grow up?

Tell us a little about yourself?

I grew up less than a mile from historic Route 66 in Edmond, OK. I studied History at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK, Museum Studies at John F. Kennedy University in Berkeley, CA. Having worked for museums in seven states and overseas in New

Zealand, I'm accustomed to moving to new areas. I'm really looking forward to calling McLean County my new home.

How would you describe your management style?

I'm a firm believer in Robert Greenleaf's concept of servant leadership. I view my role as Executive Director as someone who serves the staff and volunteers by providing the resources, support, and guidance to do their job as best they can. Good concepts can come from anywhere, so I always stay open to hearing the ideas and opinions of others.

In your view, what's the biggest challenge facing our Museum, or museums in general, today?

We live in a very competitive world right now. Museums compete for time, space, resources, and funding. People have to make a conscious choice to visit the Museum. Our challenge is to convince them we are worth their time and support. Local residents tend to not frequent their own local museums, so getting people to experience all we have to offer is a big challenge.

What makes you most excited about our Museum?

The Museum has so much momentum right now with the successful completion of the *Extending Excellence* campaign. I'm most excited to get the word out about everything we have to offer. I think we are in a good position to build upon our accomplishments and reach out to new audiences in the community.

What's one thing about you that would surprise a lot of folks?

I went to college in Tahlequah, OK, which is the capital of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. For my foreign language credit I took two years of Cherokee, learning to speak a little of the language, as well as write in the Cherokee syllabary.

Do you have a hobby?

What do you like to do to relax?

I have many hobbies—all of which help me relax. I cycle, kayak, ski, cook, work on classic cars, and go on road trips. My vacations tend to be more of a busman's holiday since I always visit other museums anywhere I go.

Bunching charitable gifts

With the dramatic increase in the standard deduction in 2018, to \$24,000 for married couples, many charities are worried that the tax incentive for donations will disappear, leading to lower gifts. Because the state and local tax deduction is now capped at \$10,000, married taxpayers will need to have at least \$14,001 in additional deductions before itemizing makes sense. A large majority of taxpayers are expected to rely upon the standard deduction instead.

Fears of declining charitable gifts may be unwarranted. Many, many Americans are motivated to make gifts to further their philanthropic goals, rather than to secure a tax deduction. Historically, aggregate charitable giving has fallen only during times of recession, and even then has remained remarkably strong.

Still, it is true that some taxpayers augment their charitable giving by the amount of tax savings that they generate. For the tax-sensitive donors, one way to get maximum “bang for the buck” is to bunch charitable gifts into alternating years.

Example. Mr. and Mrs. Jones donate \$15,000 to their church every year. They have more than \$10,000 in SALT deductions. They still will itemize their deductions, as their total reaches \$25,000. At a top tax rate of 37%, that deduction will save them \$9,250 in taxes, \$18,500 over two years.

Now let's say that this couple doubles up on their gift in the first year, and make no charitable contribution in the second year, taking the standard deduction instead. They will save \$14,800 in taxes in the first year, \$8,880 the second year, or \$23,680 over two years. Bunching their charitable gifts in this way saves them \$5,180 in federal income taxes if they are in the 37% tax bracket. Those in lower brackets would have less dramatic savings.

If this strategy catches on, it could lead to an increase in the use of donor-advised funds dedicated to charitable giving. A donation to such a fund is irrevocable when made, but the distribution to a charity at the donor's direction comes later. The tax deduction becomes available the year that the money is placed in the fund, and, therefore, there is no deduction when the charity receives the gift. Any increase in the value of the account from the time of the initial donation to the charitable distribution is tax free.

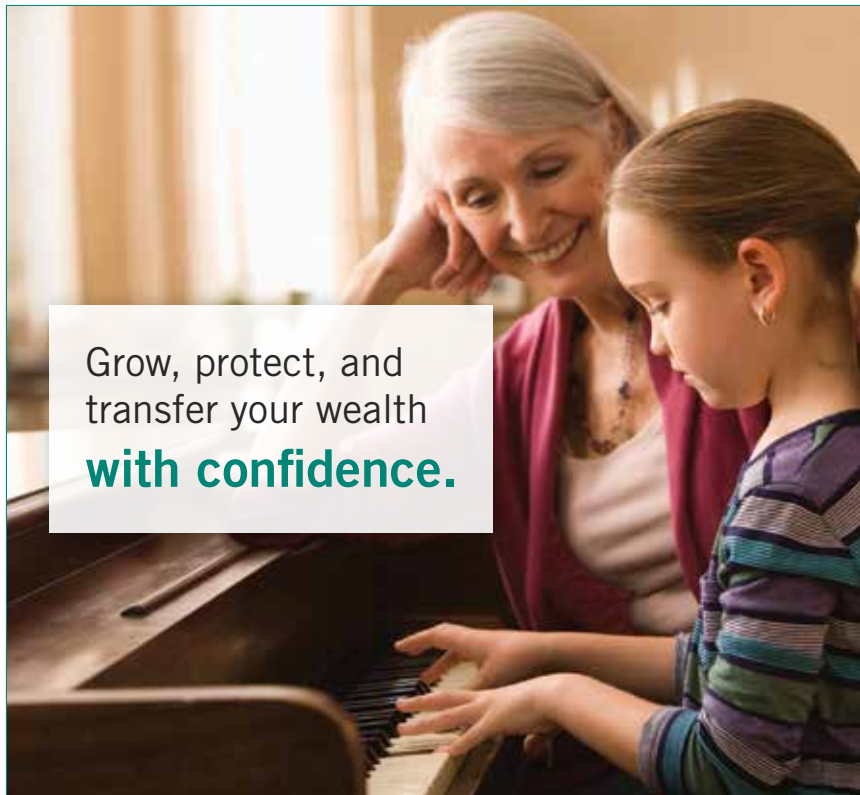
Going back to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, they might consider contributing their \$30,000 to a donor-advised fund in 2018, securing the full tax deduction this year. They would direct the fund administrator to give their church \$15,000 in 2018 and another \$15,000 in 2019. In that way the church continues to get steady annual support, rather than the roller coaster ride of on-again, off-again donations.

For older retirees

Those who are older than 70 ½ and who have an IRA have another alternative available. They may arrange for a direct transfer of a gift from their IRA to a charity. The amount so transferred will not be included in taxable income, even though it does satisfy the minimum distribution requirements for those in this age group.

Because there is no addition to income, there will not be a corresponding charitable deduction. In effect, the retiree gets the benefit of a full charitable deduction on top of the standard deduction. This “new math” of charitable giving is expected to increase direct gifts from IRAs to charities significantly.

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Donations to Collections

New to Collections

Surveyor's transit with stand, plumb bob, and stadia rod used by Len Evans Jones, c. 1925; donated by Jim Brokaw

Money bag crimper and closure, coin tray, currency counter, credit card reader, tally counter for daily transactions used by People's and later Commerce Bank employees, c. 1985; donated by Commerce Bank c/o Nicholas Kessler

Hand drawn ink advertisements by Marion Ruth Gibbs used as commercials for WBLM TV, c. 1952; donated by Kellie Doyle

Collection of political pins, 1976-1988 and premium top from Klemm's, c. 1925; donated by Tom Ewing

UAW/Mitsubishi jacket, c. 2000; donated by Dan Irvin

Normal Pool swim tags, 1966-1972; donated by Catharine Knight

Westside Improvement Association bumper sticker c. 1990; donated by Mike Matejka

Funk's G pen, c. 1950 and Normal Community High School football pin, c. 1940; donated by Janice Metz

Art Carnahan's pilot license signed by Orville Wright, and set of aircraft tools, c. 1930; donated by Ed Rust

Sister City committee wind breaker and name tag, 2012; donated by Mary Anne Schierman

Photographs/Images

Seven postcard scenes of East Bay Camp at Lake Bloomington; donated by Eric Noland

Miller Park scene with bridge, postcard; donated by Alvin Schaut

Collection of photographs, including Franklin School, Bloomington, 1958, and 11 by 17 inch view of the entrance to the old Bloomington High/Junior High building looking out to Washington Street; donated by Catharine Knight

Four photographs of American Nazi Party marchers in downtown Bloomington, celebrating founder George Lincoln Rockwell's birthday, 1978; donated by Jane Osborn

Photo identified as first grade training school, Normal, IL; donated by Renato Barahona

Collections Spotlight Featured Artifact

Village of McLean, unpublished history

Earlier this year, Henrietta Crain donated several fascinating manuscripts, including "The McLean Homes," a block-by-block examination of nearly every residential and commercial building within this small village in the southwest corner of McLean County. The manuscript, numbering 500 or more pages, was compiled by Henrietta and her late husband Claude W. Crain over several years of steadfast research. Included are original photographs, typed summaries, news clippings, and handwritten notes (see page at right for a representative page). This manuscript will prove indispensable for those interested in the history of this community.



McLean County Museum of History Welcomes Our New Members!

Museum membership is an act of philanthropy that supports local history, preservation, and education for the entire community. Each membership also offers direct benefits to you and your family with free admission to the Museum and Library/Archives, discounts in the gift shop, memberprice for event tickets, and our Time Travelers reciprocal membership that offers free and discounted admission to hundreds of sites across the U.S.

Adam Lovell

Bette Ohlenkamp

Bobby Nash Castillo

Larry Youngs

Max Albritton

Mike and Beth Golowski

Michael and Robin Heffron

Colleen Reynolds

Denise Pace

Paula Pratt

Ralph Bauer

Steve Lancaster

Join today at www.mchistory.org!

New to Library/Archives

50th anniversary program recording, Sound of Illinois Chorus, 1992, cassette tape; donated by James A. Stahly

Normal Community High School, two LP recordings—varsity and freshmen choirs, 1972-1973 school year, and symphonic band, orchestra and choirs, 1973-1974; donated by Harlan Fuller

Large collection of material relating to the meetings and other activities of the KodaRoamers Camera Club, organized locally in 1944; donated by David Weber on behalf of the KodaRoamers

Paul J. and Fairy G. Martin scrapbook, including items relating to Benjamin Funk School; donated by Robert “Bobby” Zenor

Chauffeur’s license, 1942, for Anchor resident Wayne Jordan; donated by Joseph and Michele Richey

Collection of papers relating to Justin C. McNutt, M.D., as well as material regarding the estate of Margaret N. McNutt; donated by Jan Fries

Unpublished manuscripts, including “Speaking of My Past” and “Bits of Wisdom,” as well as “Town of McLean,” a block-by-block overview of the village; donated by Henrietta Crain

American bicycle advertisement featuring Leonard “Baby” Bliss; official scorebook for Chicago Americans (White Sox), 1922 season; and information on Miller Park bell, once housed the Central Fire Station on East Front Street (and before that at Engine House #1); donated by David A. Hall

Large collection of material relating to union, labor, and political activities, including bound volumes of Bloomington-Normal Labor News (1951 and 1956), commemorative booklet on the retirement dinner for Paul Penn, 1982, and many more items; donated by Mike Matejka

Several items, including pocketsize travel log by Henry Saar (donor’s father) detailing an autumn 1921 automobile trip from Delevan to California; donated by Tena Saar

Collection of items, including run cards, from McLean County Emergency Squad, covering various years between 1968 and 2005; donated by Ed Books

The Daily Pantagraph, August 26, 1930 (McLean County Centennial Edition—100 years of McLean County History); donated by Kevin Callis

Large collection of material, including lists of members, minutes, and supporting items, 1915 to present, relating to the As You Like It Club, a still-active Twin Cities organization; donated by members of the As You Like It Club

Collection of material relating to Up Front Gallery, downtown Bloomington, 1980s to early 1990s, including meeting minutes and gallery schedules; donated by Joanne Goetzinger

Large collection relating to the career of father and son A.J. and Frank Bill, two *Pantagraph* farm reporters and editors, including scrapbooks and loose news clippings and photographs, among other miscellany; donated by David Bill, Linda Reavill, and John Bill

St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing capping ceremony, program, February 1957; donated by Shannon Perry

Various items, including Robert Hendon campaign poster (37th Illinois State Senate district, 1970) designed by Illinois State University art professor Mike Stack, and an undated bumper sticker, “I Closed Whalen’s 20 Grand Tap;” donated by Greg Koos

Extra issue, no. 146, of the *GM&O Historical Society News*, which features several articles on local railroading history, including one by Mike Matejka on Bloomington’s Union Depot; donated by Dale Jenkins and Andrew Sisk

Various items, including “Directory of Bloomington Public Schools” booklets, 1925-26 and 1945-46; donated by Steve Lancaster

Books/Published Materials

Sagebrush Sayin's by John Michael Cullinan (1930); donated by Jim Armstrong

The Families of Gottlieb Frederick Brucker & Katharine Anna Glabe by Mary O. Stein (2004 update); donated by Bill Detmers

McLean County 4-H Fair programs, ten years, between 1997 and 2012; donated by Ruth Stewart

Sound of Illinois: 75th anniversary, 1942-2017 by the Bloomington chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society; donated by James A. Stahly

Several books, including 1852 edition of John Reynolds' *The Pioneer History of Illinois* (N.A. Randall, publisher); donated by Nancy J. Miller

Various titles, including *The Chinese Doll* by Wilson Tucker (Dell Publishing Co., 1946); donated by Greg Koos

First Christian Church, Bloomington, membership directories, 1984, 2007, and 2012; donated by Jan Fries

Collection of material relating to Up Front Gallery, downtown Bloomington, 1980s to early 1990s, including meeting minutes and gallery schedules; donated by Joanne Goetzinger

Louis O. Lussier: Illinois Portrait Artist (1832-1884) by Merle H. Glick; biography by Robert Mathiesen, published by Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences, Peoria, 2003; donated by Amanda Pierce Ghahramany

Various comprehensive plans, associated studies and revised ordinances of area communities; donated by the McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Large collection of McKnight and McKnight (local school publisher) textbooks featuring covers designed by H. Harris Howeler (donor's father), most published in the 1960s; donated by Kurt Howeler

Several State of Illinois / Lincoln-related publications, including *New Salem; A Memorial to Abraham Lincoln: Catalogue of New Salem Collection of Pioneer Relics* (3rd edition, 1937); donated by Timothy L. Ervin

The Best Western Travel Guide, published in 1965; donated by Sandy Vogel

Several titles, including *The Thirteenth Decade: Illinois State University, 1977-1987* (1989) by Roger Champagne; donated by Steve Lancaster

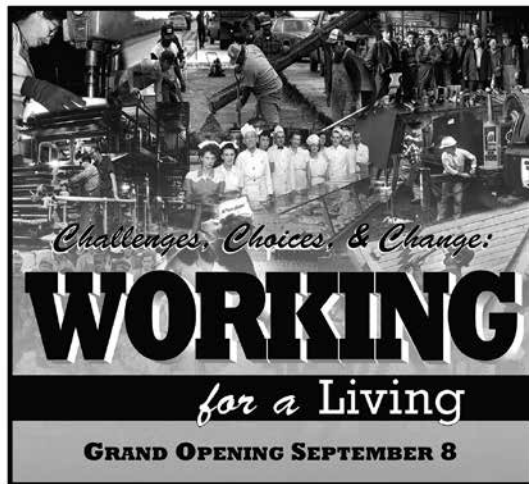
EXHIBIT NEWS

***Working for a Living* Opening September 8**

Mark your calendars for the opening of our newest permanent exhibit ***Challenges, Choices & Change: Working for a Living*** on Saturday, September 8. Watch for the monthly mailer for information on the ribbon cutting and a presentation by Mike Matejka.

For nearly 200 years, the people of McLean County have daily earned their bread "by the sweat of their brow" (and the engagement of their brains). Where did they work? What were their tasks? Did they get the job they wanted? If not, why not? How did they win a voice at work? How did work change with new technology? These questions and more are answered in ***Working for a Living***—featuring jobs in physical labor, trades, manufacturing, merchandising, entertainment, and public and civil service.

Mike Matejka and Susan Hartzold dug deep into the Museum's resources for artifacts, images, and the individual stories of over 80 men and women from all walks of life who worked in McLean County. "Work takes up so much of our waking lives. Researching and exploring the stories of workers earning their living and practicing their unique skills, and providing a deeper understanding of the choices workers



had in the kind of work they were able to get and how those choices changed over time, were key goals of the exhibit," said Hartzold. "It was important to make clear what limitations gender, ethnicity, economic status and education had on those choices."

Working for a Living is the fourth of five new permanent exhibit galleries created using funds from the Museum's recently completed *Extending Excellence* Capital Campaign.



Pedal Power! Now Open

Since the dawn of the Automobile Age, pedal cars have captured the imaginations of both children and the young-at-heart. Visitors are invited to explore the Museum's newest exhibit and discover child-sized autos in a multitude of colors, shapes, and sizes from the Bruce Callis Pedal Car Collection.

Calendar of Events — ongoing programs and upcoming events

Saturdays through October 27

Our Museum opens at 8:00 a.m. to all visitors, with free admission until noon! Tour the Museum's latest exhibits and shop at the surrounding Farmers' Market.

Now through September 30

Because of the success of the pilot program last summer, the *Cruisin' with Lincoln* on 66 Visitors Center and Museum will be open again on Sundays during the summer of 2018. Now through the end of September, the Visitors Center and Museum exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Stevenson Ives Library will remain closed on Sundays.

June 1 through 3

Cogs and Corsets: A Steampunk Happening

Prepare yourself for splendor this June when the Museum will once again participate in the annual *Cogs & Corsets* festival, taking place throughout six square blocks of historic Downtown Bloomington. This area is home to over 90 shops, galleries, and restaurants—many in historic buildings with ties to Abraham Lincoln. The galleries will feature local artists' new work and host visiting artists whose pieces exude that Steampunk vibe. The Museum will be the site of tea dueling on Friday, steampunk inspired activities on the lawn with the Children's Discovery Museum on Saturday, history presentations and a Tea Room on Saturday and Sunday, a photo op, and so much more happening all around the Square! The streets will be bustling with a costume contest, promenade, Splendid Teapot Races, vendors, performances by Carnival Epsilon, Makers' Faire entries, and more! We can't wait to see you there!

For registration and more information, please visit <http://www.cogsandcorsetsil.com/>

June 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Social Justice History Walking Tour

Join labor historian and Museum board member Mike Matejka, and the Museum's Librarian Bill Kemp for their popular Social Justice History Walking tour. Participants will learn about the human rights efforts in Bloomington by visiting sites in the Downtown area and adjacent West Side neighborhoods. Registration is limited to the first 30 people to sign up. For more information and how to sign up, see page 4.

June 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Illinois Labor Journeys

The Museum is pleased to host a program exploring Illinois' labor history and how Illinois was at the forefront of labor struggles that had a national impact. Mike Matejka, labor historian and Governmental Affairs Director of the Great Plains Laborers' District Council, will present this free program in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. For more information, please see page 4 of this newsletter.

June 18 through 22 and July 9 through 13

Futures in History Camp

Building off the 15 year legacy of History Careers Day Camp, at Futures in History Camp, campers entering fourth through sixth grades will once again explore the history-related careers of law, archaeology, architecture, museum studies, and environmental science during this week-long day camp. Campers will learn more about these careers by spending time with professionals in each field and by exploring the Museum, the David Davis Mansion, and Sugar Grove Nature Center.

June 28 Doors open at 5:30 p.m., program begins 6:15 p.m.

7th Annual History Makers Gala

Join the Museum as we celebrate four individuals who have dedicated their lives to making our community a better place to live. The seventh annual *History Makers* Gala will be presented in conjunction with the Museum's annual meeting. The 2018 honorees are: Paul and Sandra Harmon, Ronn Morehead, and Don Munson, whose outstanding, lifelong contributions of time and talents have helped to make McLean County the thriving community it is today. The Gala dinner will feature live theatrical dramatizations to honor the honorees' lives of service. Tickets are available at the Museum or online at www.mchistory.org. See page 1 of this newsletter for more information.

July 4

Museum Closed for Independence Day Holiday

Starting July 7 through August 4

Back 2 School Supply Drive

The Museum will be helping the Back 2 School Alliance collect school supplies for local students in need for the upcoming 2018-19 school year. The Back 2 School Supply Drive, sponsored jointly by District 87 and Unit 5, will help ensure that all students will have a great first day of school. The supplies collected will be distributed to students who participate in the Back 2 School Party on August 9 at the Grossinger Motors Arena and throughout Unit 5 and District 87. See the July monthly mailer for more information.

July 20-22

Lincoln's Festival on Route 66: Trails, Rails, & Roads

Join the Museum for this annual festival, which has been expanded to celebrate Bloomington-Normal's ties to Mr. Lincoln and Route 66 as part of the Red, White, and Blue Corridor events on historic Route 66. Lincoln's Festival on Route 66 will highlight Trails, Rails, & Roads with a variety of activities at numerous locations throughout the community. For more information about this three-day festival, including activities hosted by the Museum please see page 3 of this newsletter.

July 28 at 1:00 p.m.

McLean County Before McLean County

As part of the continuation of the Museum's Bicentennial of Illinois series of programs, Museum librarian Bill Kemp will present a program looking back at what McLean County was like prior to statehood and the pioneer settlement area. See page 5 for more information about this free program.

July 31 at 6:30 p.m.

Movies Under the Dome: The Visitor

Come join us for the seventh installment of our film series featuring movies with a McLean County connection. Along with a screening of the film, the program will include a display of thematic artifacts (some otherwise not on display) from the Museum's archival and object collection, and commentary about the film's local connection. This program is free and open to the public. See page 2 of this newsletter for more information.

August 7 at 7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club: Outlaws of Cave-In-Rock

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library for the third installment of the *History Reads Book Club* for 2018. The discussion will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. For more information, please see page 2 of this newsletter.

August 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Museum at the Illinois State Fair

What's better than cattle shows, corn dogs, giant slides, and cows made completely of butter? All of those things plus fun and games with Museum staff! Join the Museum for a third year at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. Find the Museum's table stationed outside the Illinois Building in the Looking for Lincoln area (with indoor bathrooms in close proximity)! Test your knowledge of Route 66 and Abraham Lincoln by taking a spin on the Museum's trivia wheels, and prove yourself an expert to collect a prize! Bribes of deep-fried candy bars will be regrettably declined. Can't wait to see you there!

August 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You Can (3D) Print It! Making 3D Rubber Band Cars

The Museum, in partnership with Open Source Classroom, will be hosting a 3D printing workshop in honor of the Museum's newest exhibit, Pedal Power! Participants will be able to explore, design, and create their very own rubber-band-powered vehicle. See page 7 for complete details and registration information.

August 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Illinois Memoirs: Our Story and Your Opportunity

The Museum, in partnership with Bloomington Public Library, is pleased to host author, and literary and cultural historian John Hallwas for a program exploring fascinating memoirs by Illinoisans throughout its 200 year history. This free program will be held in the Community Room at Bloomington Public Library. See the August monthly mailer for more information.

August 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Meandering McLean County and its Agricultural History

In honor of the Museum's ongoing commemoration of the Bicentennial of Illinois and to celebrate McLean County's rich and long agricultural history, please join the Don Meyer, ag historian and guest curator for the Museum's new farming exhibit, and the Museum's Librarian Bill Kemp, for a bus trip touring the agricultural nooks and crannies of southwestern McLean County. See page 5 of this newsletter for more details.

August 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Under the Dome Knit In

The Museum welcomes all knitters and crocheters to come and create charity items or work on your own project. Light refreshments will be provided. This quarter's feature charity opportunity will be making hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for local students that will be distributed through the Promise Council. Look for more details coming to the August monthly mailer and the Museum's Facebook page about this opportunity. This program is free and open to the public.

August 28 at 7:00 p.m.

How Frontier Illinois Became the Land of the Independent Producer, and Why it Matters Today

Join us as we commemorate the Bicentennial of Illinois with a presentation by Illinois Wesleyan University Professor James Simeone, whose talk will highlight the social and political tensions at work in Illinois during its first constitutional era (1818-1848). For details about this free program, watch for the August monthly mailer.

August 30 at 7:00 p.m.

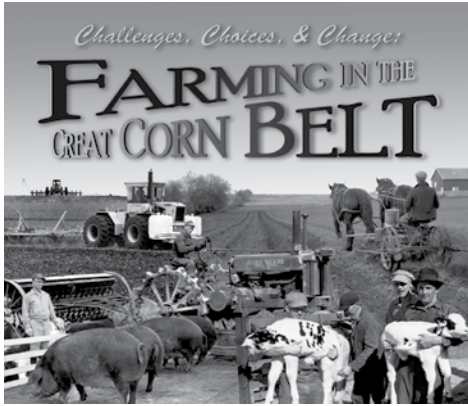
A History of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk

Join Director of Education Candace Summers for a program on the Museum's longest running and most successful outreach program, the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. This program will explore the roots of this event and how it began as a call to action because vandalism was a major problem at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Audience members will also be introduced to the individuals who will be featured during the 2018 Bicentennial of Illinois Cemetery Walk. The program will be held in the Community Room at Bloomington Public Library and is free and open to the public.

September 3

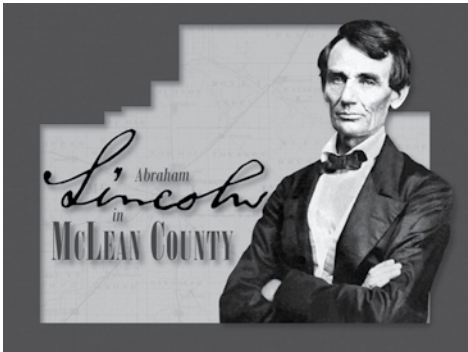
Museum Closed for Labor Day

EXHIBITS



Challenges, Choices, & Change: Farming in the Great Corn Belt

This unique exhibit tells the story of farming as it was done by McLean County farmers. It follows a nearly 200-year timeline, using images and experiences of area farmers to tell their stories and reveal the difficult choices they had to make in order to be productive and profitable. Gallery interactives demonstrate the drastic changes farming has gone through since frontier farmers first arrived, including the size of farms, urban sprawl, technology and equipment, and even the types of crops grown.



Abraham Lincoln in McLean County

This exhibit examines Lincoln's work as an attorney in McLean County and on the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit. It defines his pivotal role in the anti-slavery movement and the formation of the new Republican Party in Illinois, and makes clear the circumstances of his nomination for president in 1860. Through revealing reminiscences from the residents of McLean County, the exhibit explores the lasting connections Lincoln made with the people of this community.



Challenges, Choices, & Change: Making a Home

From the arrival of native people to the immigration of Asian Indians and Latinos in the late 20th century, this exhibit explores the experiences of individuals and families who came from all over the world to make McLean County their home. Their stories reveal the many challenges this diverse group of people faced after their arrival: stories of determination and hard choices, of maintaining traditions and inventing new ones, stories of how their lives unfolded and changed, stories of making a home.



Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66

Located on the ground floor of the Museum, the Visitors Center includes an exhibit that features many local Route 66 landmarks, past and present. It allows visitors to compare and contrast travel, dining, and lodging in Abraham Lincoln's time with that of the Route 66 heyday. The Visitors Center is free and open to the public during regular Museum hours.

Encounter on the Prairie: Work

This exhibit highlights the many occupations and industries throughout the history of McLean County. It contains photographs and objects associated with McLean County businesses, including many of the goods produced locally.



Encounter on the Prairie: Politics

This exhibit provides insight into our political history through government, war, and education. Notable political figures such as Abraham Lincoln, David Davis, and Adlai Stevenson are highlighted, as are common people who have called McLean County home. Their stories teach the importance of education in the community and detail our involvement in military conflicts—from the American Indian Wars through World War II.

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Susan Hartzold
Curator of Collections and Exhibits

Bill Kemp
Librarian

Candace Summers
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MYSTERY HISTORY



Okay, for this issue's mystery photo, we know the who (union bricklayers), but not the what, where, and the why. What's going on here? Where is this? And why are they doing what they're doing? If you think you know the answers to these questions, contact Librarian Bill Kemp by email at library@mchistory.org, or by phone at 309-827-0428.

Last issue's photograph was a mid-1930s aerial of Cropsey, one of the small and friendly villages in McLean County's northeast quarter (Anchor, Colfax, and Cooksville would be the others).

Those telling us it was Cropsey included Jack Keefe, John Keeley, Franklin Lewis, Virginia Lewis, and Tom and Nola Marquardt. Herb Steffen got it right too. "I do recognize this as the little village of Cropsey," he told us. "I have lived here since my birth in 1948. Actually I live a mile north and three-quarters of a mile east on the farm my grandfather bought in the early 1900s."

Tampa Bay, Florida and Cropsey lawyer David Abbey (and a friend of Herb's!) shared much of what he knows about Cropsey with us. "Young 'Dutch' Reagan visited Cropsey on a number of occasions to see his old Eureka College sweetheart, a teacher at the Cropsey High School building depicted," David wrote in an email. "Jim Roberts owner/editor of the *Fairbury Blade* [newspaper] reported on the visits after the President asked him if Fairbury was close to Cropsey while Jim was in a receiving line at the White House."