

McLean County Museum of History



On the Museum Square

December 2018 - January-February 2019

Join us for Christmas at the Courthouse and Once Upon a Holiday

Each year on the first Saturday of December, the Twin Cities' annual Jaycees Christmas parade ends at the doorstep of one the community's largest free holiday parties—the McLean County Museum of History's *Christmas at the Courthouse*.

This year, on Saturday, December 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Museum will open its doors to the entire community for a day of family fun and holiday cheer.

The Museum's interior will be decked in holiday splendor. The exhibits and halls will feature festive activities for visitors of all ages. Mike Matejka's ever-popular model train will be on display. Wild Style Design Company will be transforming little ones into visions of Christmastime with free face painting. And, of course, Mr. Claus himself will be here to lend an ear to everyone's Christmas wishes.

Musical performances this year will feature the acoustic sounds of Marcos Mendez, the BHS Quartet, the Sunshine Bells, Loving Missionary Choir, Sound of Illinois Chorus, Wind Song Woodwind Quintet, and the State Farm Employee Activities Chorus.



Looking for unique gifts? The *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center on the Museum's ground floor has locally sourced food items, books, art, apparel, collectibles, and plenty of Route 66 and Abraham Lincoln related items that are sure to delight even the Grinches on your shopping list.

This event is our way of thanking our members, friends, sponsors, and the community for your continued support of our

mission, and celebrating another successful year of preserving and sharing local history through educational outreach.

Remember to keep the good cheer rolling into the following weekend, and come out for Downtown Bloomington's *F1rst Fr1day: Once Upon a Holiday* on Friday, December 7 from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. View the live window vignettes in the Downtown shops and visit the Museum for an evening of music and refreshments, including cookies, adult eggnog, and readings by the two student winners of "*The Christmas Story*" essay contest. For more information about the essay contest, see page 3 of this newsletter.

With thanks to our newsletter sponsor:



On the Museum Square

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2018 - January-February 2019 Vol. 50, No. 4

Produced by Samantha Yoder and Jane Flanders Osborn



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)

**All programs are
located in the
Governor Fifer
Courtroom on the
2nd floor unless
otherwise noted.**



**Contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or
309-827-0428 for more information on any program, unless otherwise noted.**

Whether east (Red) or west (Lime), north and south (Green), or in the neighborhood (Blue and Gold), Connect Transit has a bus route that will take you anywhere you want to go—including the Museum! So hitch a ride today. Or, rent your own set of wheels and ride yourself down to the Museum on any of the Zagster bikes available through Bloomington-Normal's Bike Share 309 program. Either way, you won't have to worry about parking!

Free 90-minute street parking is available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Downtown patrons are only allowed to park on the same block once per day. It is free to park on the street after 6 p.m. and on weekends. Free 4-hour daytime parking is available in the Market Street and Pepsi Ice Center garages. Paid daytime parking (\$1 per hour) is available in the Lincoln Parking Deck on Front Street, one block south of the Museum.



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The Christmas Story Contest

On Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m., the Museum and Illinois Voices Theatre – Echoes will present a short play inspired by Christmas stories written by local students, titled “*The Christmas Story Contest*.” Tickets for this one-night-only performance will be sold at the door for \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 per student.

The stories that inspired the play were submitted by area students during the holiday seasons of the 1920s through the 1940s as part of weekly contests held by the *Junior Pantagraph*, the *Pantagraph*’s weekly children’s section. Playwrights Jessie Swiech and Kat Gregory chose a selection of those essays to weave into a living memory of Christmases past. The play will feature Clara Louise Kessler, longtime children’s librarian at Withers Public Library, leading an ensemble cast of “students” who will read their prize winning stories, as well as reminisce about the many Christmases celebrated at Withers Public Library during Kessler’s tenure. The play is directed by Susan K. Thetard, artistic director of ILVT-Echoes.

In the spirit of the theme of the play, the Museum and ILVT-Echoes have invited area schools and home school families to participate in a short story contest of our own.

Using Christmas as the theme, students who participate in the holiday were asked to write a story about what Christmas means to them, about a profound memory of a Christmas they experienced, or a story about any number of the joyful things people share in during the holiday season. Two stories (one from grades 3-5 and one from grades 6-8) have been chosen as winners and will be performed around the Christmas tree as part of the Museum’s scheduled activities during the Downtown Bloomington *First Friday* event on December 7 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The two winners received a prize package from a local movie theatre and tickets to attend *The Christmas Story Contest* play.



As originally captioned in the Pantagraph, “December 26, 1945 young folks gather ’round to listen to a story being read by Harriett Brown during the children’s story hour at Withers Library. The reading and game sessions, planned by Miss Louise Kessler, children’s librarian, have been conducted daily during the holidays. The tree in the background is covered with stars bearing names of men who served in World War II.”

Help us meet our fundraising goal with your tax-deductible end-of-year gift

With 2018 coming to a close, we want to thank our members, donors, and friends for supporting the Museum and allowing us to continue to offer free programs, lectures, and educational resources to the community. 2018 saw the continued success of the *Extending Excellence* capital campaign, with our newest exhibit, *Working for a Living*, having opened in September. Additionally, we have seen unprecedented numbers of visitors from across the country and abroad, have begun construction on our new exhibit *A Community in Conflict*, and have served record numbers of students and older adults. Your continued support makes these things possible!

Now is a great time to consider a year-end, tax-deductible gift. We are currently addressing one of the biggest challenges facing our library and archives: outdated equipment. Although we have been improving the collections storage spaces since we moved into the former courthouse in 1991, we need to improve our technology so the staff can work smarter and achieve more. Our current fundraising goal to improve technology in the library and archives is \$6,000. To help us reach this goal, visit mcmh.networkforgood.com and make a one-time donation before December 31, 2018, or set up recurring weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual gifts to the Museum through this convenient online donation platform.

All gifts must be received by December 31 to be tax-deductible for 2018. If sending a check, please date your check on or before December 31, 2018 and mail it with a postmark on or before that date. Your gift by credit card or Paypal can also be processed easily via our website www.mchistory.org on or before the deadline. Credit card gifts sent through the mail will be processed on the date they are received, so please allow plenty of time to mail them before the deadline.

Planned giving is also an ideal way for Museum supporters to have a lasting impact. The Museum now offers charitable gift annuities for those who want to support the Museum while establishing a reliable retirement income supplement. Contact Divah Griffin, Director of Development, at 309-827-0428 for more information. As with any major financial decision, consult your financial advisor to decide if a charitable gift annuity is right for you. Thank you again for your continued support of the Museum!


EVERGREEN CEMETERY WALK EST. 1995

This year, 3,327 people attended the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*. Of that, 1,832 students and chaperones attended free of charge through support from our event sponsors Evergreen Memorial Cemetery and the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, with additional support from CEFCU, Museum member Willie Brown, and the generosity of other Museum members.



The theme of this year's *Walk* celebrated the Bicentennial of Illinois. One of the stories selected to commemorate this milestone in our state's history was that of Augusta "Gussie" Becker (played by Carolyn Stuckey) and Francis Cahill (played by Will Lovell). Becker was a housemother at the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School and Cahill was a resident of the Home during Becker's tenure. The ISSCS had a long history in Normal, Illinois, having originally been established as a home for indigent children of Civil War veterans. Together, this pair helped paint a picture of what life was like at the Home in the 1930s.




The 2018 *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* cast and crew hope you enjoyed the event and look forward to seeing you next year when the *Walk* will be celebrating its 25th anniversary!



Carole Knipp (left) and Mary Sheehan (right) are two of 40 plus volunteers who make this annual event possible. These volunteers research, serve as box office volunteers and tour guides, assist with the writing of the guide script and character biographies, and even bake cookies! This event could not happen without them.

Below, students listen to Henry Funk, played by returning actor and script writer Todd Wineburner. Funk was a career orchardist, apiarist, poultry man, and horticulturalist who managed the Lilly Orchard in Tazewell County for over 20 years. At the end of each performance, Funk asked members of each group to name another fruit grown at the orchard other than apples. The person with the correct answer received an apple as their prize.



Wet or Dry? Prohibition in McLean County



A number of McLean County sheriff's men line up in front of a successful bust of illegal bootleggers in 1926. This photo was taken behind the old McLean County jail located at Madison and Monroe streets in Downtown Bloomington.

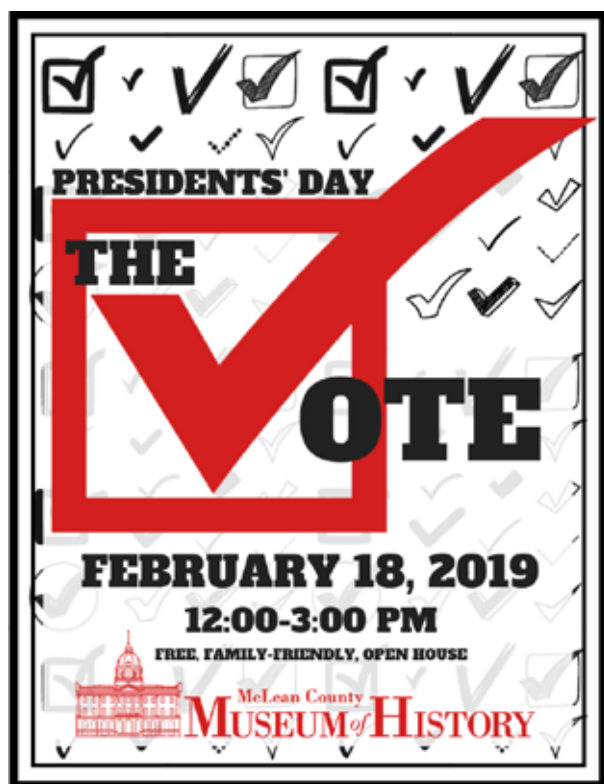
The Museum, in partnership with the Irish Heritage Society of McLean County, is pleased to present Director of Education Candace Summers' illustrated program, "Wet or Dry? Prohibition in McLean County," on Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m.

On January 16, 1919, the 18th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

was ratified—prohibiting the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. From that point on, Americans were fighting a ticking clock—counting down the months, days, and hours until National Prohibition went into effect one year later on January 17, 1920. McLean County may not seem like the typical area where bootlegging

and rum running flourished in the early 20th century—but it did! This presentation will explore the who, what, and why of national Prohibition at the local level, and ultimately why it failed. Rarely seen Prohibition-era items from the Museum's collection will be on display during the program.

Presidents' Day 2019: The Vote



A noun is a word that names something (such as a person, animal, place, thing, or idea), whereas a verb is a word that demonstrates an action, an occurrence, or a state of being. Yet, the word "vote" is both a noun and a verb—both a thing (or for some simply an idea) and an action (possibly even a state of being).

To discover more about what a vote is and what to vote means, make your way to the Museum on Monday, February 18 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. for *Presidents' Day* 2019. As always there will be crafts, games, treats, and more reasons to stuff the ballot box.

This family-friendly open house is free and open to the public. For more information, follow us on Facebook.



The Soldiers' Plot

Join us on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. for a screening of *The Soldiers' Plot*. This 90-minute documentary tells the story of the Civil War Soldiers' burial plot in Clinton, Illinois. Using cinematic techniques and many rarely-seen images, the production weaves a gripping tale of the hardships, perils, and life-altering events endured by the DeWitt County soldiers who left home to fight in the war—experiences much like those of McLean County soldiers. The film reconstructs the history of the sacred ground the people of DeWitt County set apart for their beloved war dead. Stick around for a Q&A with film producer Tony Long and DeWitt County historian Joey Woolridge immediately following the film.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults. Students and children are free.

Q&A with our new board member



Robert Porter

How long have you lived in the Bloomington-Normal area/McLean County?

I was born and raised in Bloomington, and have had the pleasure of practicing law in my hometown for the past nearly seven years.

Do you work? Have a family? Tell us a little about yourself!

I practice law at Costigan & Wollrab, P.C. in Bloomington and specialize in general civil litigation, municipal law, estate planning and administration, and guardianships. I am married and my wife, Stephanie, works as an Outreach and Program Coordinator at the University of Illinois' Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center. Stephanie is currently pursuing her doctorate in Slavic Languages and Literature.

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

I am really excited to see the Museum reimagine and update its former Politics gallery.

Do you have any hobbies?

In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, reading, cycling, and enjoying the arts with friends and family.

What is the last good book you read? And the last good movie you've seen?

Earlier this year, I read Robert Caro's *Master of the Senate: The Years of Lyndon Johnson, Volume III*. Caro is a brilliant writer and the book rightly claimed the Pulitzer Prize for Biography in 2003. Not only does Caro offer profound insights into a giant figure of the twentieth century, but *Master of the Senate* is one of the best books on American politics that I have ever read.

Stephanie and I really enjoyed the film *The Death of Stalin*, which is a dark comedy satirizing the absurdities of the USSR and totalitarian regimes more generally. The film was directed by Armando Iannucci who also created HBO's *Veep*.

Q&A with our new staff member



Divah Griffin

How long have you lived in the Bloomington-Normal area?

Three years.

Tell us a little about yourself! How did you come to the Museum?

I was an Education Coordinator and Information Specialist at the African American Military History Museum in Hattiesburg,

Mississippi for six years before moving to Illinois. I worked in human services for almost three years before coming to work here.

What does a Development Director do?

Directors of Development oversee donor relations and fundraising initiatives for the organization.

What are the greatest challenges facing the Museum?

The greatest challenges are sustaining growth and finding new ways to expand without bursting at the seams. The museum constantly receives interesting items, and staff work hard creating new ideas, but the museum has limited space. I'd like to see how we overcome that.

What are you most excited about regarding the Museum's future?

Each year the number of programs, members, and guests served increases. It would be great to see what that growth looks like in just a few short years.

What do you like to do to relax?

I do yoga and read.

What's one thing most folks would be surprised to learn about you?

I'm from Mississippi. When I tell people where I'm from, they respond that they can't hear my accent.

What is the last good book you read?

The Pleasure of My Company by Steve Martin.

Charitable giving growing nicely

The nonprofit sector did very well in 2017, according to the June 2018 report issued by Giving USA. Total gifts to charity exceeded \$400 billion for the first time, reaching \$410.02 billion. Gifts from individuals are the largest component, and were \$14 billion ahead of the 2016 pace. All giving sectors grew, as shown in the table below:

Gift source	2017 total (\$billions)	% increase from 2016	Share of total charitable giving
Individuals	\$286.65	5.2%	70%
Foundations	\$66.90	6.0%	16%
Corporations	\$20.77	8.0%	5%
Bequests	\$35.70	2.3%	9%

Source: Giving USA 2018

Some charities are concerned that 2018 may not see similar growth in giving, because tax incentives for charitable giving have been reduced. The doubling of the standard deduction means that far fewer taxpayers will be itemizing, and nonitemizers see no tax benefit from their gifts to charity. The doubling of the amount exempt from the federal estate tax might mean that fewer Americans employ charitable trusts to control their estate tax exposure. It will be years before such behavioral changes can be identified with confidence, however.

Split-interest charitable trusts

There are trust-based strategies that allow an individual to create public and private beneficiaries and reap attractive tax benefits. These include:


Charitable remainder annuity trust. A private beneficiary (or multiple beneficiaries) receives a specific dollar amount from a trust for life or a number of years. When the trust terminates, a charity receives the remaining trust assets. Income, gift, and estate tax deductions are available to the trust creator.

Charitable remainder unitrust. Similar to the annuity trust, with this approach the income distribution for private beneficiaries is calculated each year as a percentage of the trust assets, rather than as a set dollar figure. This allows beneficiaries to share in the appreciation in the value of trust assets, while preserving all the rest of the tax benefits.

Charitable lead trust. This trust approach involves a role reversal, in that the charity receives the trust income distributions and the assets remain in private hands at the end of the trust term.

Interested in becoming a philanthropist? We'd be pleased to tell you more.

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Donations to Collections

New to Library/Archives

Ruth Olson's Brown's Business College (Bloomington) schoolwork, including ledgers, circa 1908; donated by Julie Shadid

Bumper sticker, "Farmers: Re-elect Nixon or Lose Your Butz," 1972 (a reference to Richard Nixon's Department of Agriculture secretary, Earl Butz, who was an Illinoisan); donated by Nancy Wilkey

Various items, including Hamilton Hotel stationery; WBLN TV correspondence; Janet Hayslip Dance Studio program, 1960; and other material; donated by Marie Ann Hill (donor's father, Jacob Schlemmer, owned the hotel from the mid-1940s to 1976)

Handwritten autobiographical essay from Louise Stubblefield, Dale Township Home and Community Education unit; donated by Anne Pagel Noud

Various items relating to the Equal Rights Amendment struggle; donated by Sally Pancrazio

Additions to existing Emerson Street Investment Club Collection, including partnership agreement and incorporation records; donated by Unitarian Universalist Church, care of Joan Banks

Chicago & Alton Railroad items, including rolled plat map, "16th Street to Brighton Park, Chicago;" donated by Steve Gossard

Collection of material relating to donor's efforts to pass the ERA in Illinois, 2017-2018; donated by Kay Moss

Various items, including flier on the reopening of the Normal Theater, 1993; and an undated David Davis Mansion brochure; donated by Robert and Barbara Blunk

Two Chatterton Opera House (Bloomington) programs, 1914; donated by William and Martha Miller

Scrapbook detailing William K. Baumgart's year as president of local Kiwanis chapter, 1967; donated by Tom and Jeanette Baumgart

Several items, including McLean County 4-H Fair booklet, 2018; and McLean County Farm Bureau calendar featuring antique tractors, 2016; donated by Ruth Stewart

Additional receipts from Arrowsmith business Virgiel Brothers, late nineteenth / early twentieth century; donated by Al Arnolts

Singer-songwriter Joe Dowell items, including five 45s; a promotional copy of the Smash Records LP "Wooden Heart," August 1961; and a collection of Dowell's "image ballads," 2006-2010; donated by Jim Robinson

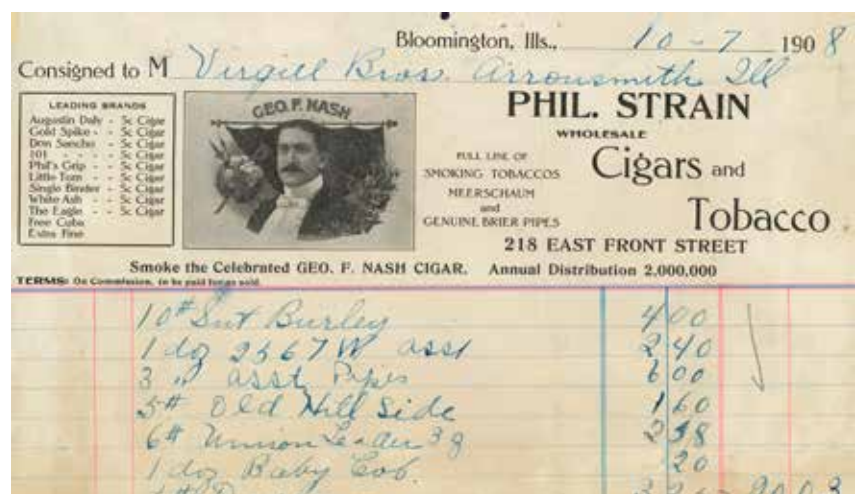
Collection of sports cards featuring athletes with local connections, including Illinois State University baseball standouts Buzz Capra, Neal Cotts, Paul DeJong, and others; donated by Frank Kemp

Collections Spotlight Featured Artifact

Virgiel Bros. of Arrowsmith

Al Arnolts donated a large number of business and bank receipts, credit vouchers, and business postcards from the Virgiel Brothers (Frank and Louis) of Arrowsmith. The Virgiels first operated an implement "house" (or dealership), and then sold groceries, meats, drugs, and hardware, among other items. At least one of the brothers was in business from the mid-1880s into the 1940s.

Phil Stain Co. of Bloomington sold cigars, pipes, and tobacco products from the early 1890s to the mid-1920s. Stain also manufactured cigars during his first decade-plus in business.



Several additions to the Edgar and Rachael Lundeen Collection, including Rachael's notebook when she was a Bent Elementary School art teacher; donated by Patricia Lundeen Hume

Additions to the Gummerman Printing Co. Collection, including photographs, stationery, and other items; donated by Kurt and Martha Gummerman

Set of McLean County Association for Home and Community Education scrapbooks; donated by Kathryn McNeely

Items from Carrol and Jan Cox, including newsletter of the Bloomington-Normal chapter of CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador), and other material; donated by Catherine L. Cox (daughter of Carrol and Jan)

Large collection of items relating to the life and career of Colfax-area folk artist/sculptor Robert Cumpston, including fliers, price lists, correspondence, and more; donated by the family of Robert Cumpston

Political campaign material collected by Brandon Bosshardt (1956-2018), including framed collection of John F. Kennedy/Lyndon Johnson; and Kennedy bumpers tickers and buttons; donated by James Bosshardt (Brandon's brother)

Books/Published Materials

Several titles, including *Our Proud History*, the District 87/Bloomington Public Schools history published in 2007; donated by Barb Maxwell

Booklet, "Randolph Cooperative Grain Co., 100 Years of Service 1918-2018;" donated by Steve Cope, manager, Randolph Cooperative Grain Co.

Local barbershopper items, including 1976 Sound of Illinois chorus, Illinois District champions, publication; donated by James A. Stahly

Drawn from Nature: The Botanical Art of Joseph Prestele and His Son (Smithsonian 1984); donated by Jim White and Andy Willits

Collection of nine cookbooks, twentieth century; donated by Robert and Barbara Blunk

Family history, James Dawson from Wales and His Descendents (1968), compiled by Carol R. Dawson; donated by Bill Clark

Bound issues of the *German-American Historical Review of Illinois*, 1904 (in German); donated by William and Martha Miller

Family history, Seefeldt Will Morgan Briggs (2010), authored by donor; donated by William Detmers

Armadillo Sculpture

— donated by the Family of Robert Cumpston

The Museum recently received this reticulated armadillo sculpture (this little guy's head and tail move in multiple directions) made by Colfax artist Robert "Bob" Cumpston (1930 – 2018).

Cumpston grew up, lived on, and worked the family farm in Colfax, which he eventually took over. But in his free time, he used the skills he developed repairing farm equipment to weld together spare equipment parts and scrap metal to create amazing animal sculptures. As he enjoyed making these artistic sculptures and was successfully selling them, in 1981 Cumpston cash rented the farm and gave up farming so he could focus on making art.

Though Cumpston, a graduate of Colfax High School, never attended college or took art classes, he was extremely successful—selling much of his work locally, but also selling it to clients across the U.S. If you aren't familiar with his work, visit Bloomington's Miller Park Zoo, where some of his "animals" are on display; or visit the Museum's new *Working for a Living* exhibit to view a video of Cumpston's work.



Crumbaugh Spiritualist Church, 39th anniversary booklet, 1966; donated by Joan Travis

Lexington High School yearbooks, 1965-67, 1982-84, 1986-87, and 1990; donated by the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society ("The Fort")

Several books, including *The Boys in Blue* (E.B. Treat & Co.; C.W. Lilley, 1867); donated by Greg Koos

Bloomington City Directory, July 2004; donated by Mike Dolan, Pantagraph Printing

Photographs/Images

Two photographs, Bloomington YWCA and East Bay Camp, 1944, 5x7; donated by Marie Ann Hill

Ninety-plus colored slides of downtown Bloomington, taken by Gert Shadid in the 1970s; donated by Jean Shadid

Three black-and-white photographs of the Adlai E. Stevenson II funeral in Bloomington, July 19, 1965; one showing President Lyndon Johnson and the presidential limousine; donated by Patrick D. McCowan

Valentine family / flying acts home movies, including footage inside the Valentine circus barn, 401 N. Grove St., Normal; donated by Cherie Valentine

Black-and-white photograph, miniature locomotive at Miller Park, 6x6; donated by William and Martha Miller

Farewell dinner for Mr. and Mrs. John Karr, February 1904, 11x14; donated by Brian Riley

Great Bloomington Fire of June 19, 1900, 8x10; donated by Susan Manahan

Lincoln School, Bloomington, 8A class, January 1936, includes Jewel Schalk as a student (Schalk was a longtime Museum volunteer); donated by Sara Kellum (Schalk's daughter)

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, member price for event tickets, and our Time Travelers reciprocal membership that offers free and discounted admission to hundreds of sites across the U.S.

Thelma Larson Alicia Henry Amie Mondl Elaine Vincent Paul Dunn

Join today at www.mchistory.org!

History Reads Book Club

The Last Lincolns: The Rise & Fall of a Great American Family (2008) by Charles Lachman begins where most Lincoln stories end—the President's assassination on April 14, 1865. Lachman tells the tale of what happened next, the trials and tribulations of Lincoln's lineage, and the family's eventual fall from grace.

Join us at the first *History Reads Book Club* of the New Year for a lively Lincolnian discussion on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. This free, quarterly program is brought to you by the Museum and Bloomington Public Library. The discussion will last approximately 60 minutes.

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. The Museum looks forward to seeing you in February!

History Reads Book Club



Bloomington Public Library
Books are just the beginning.

2019

February 5

The Last Lincolns: The Rise and Fall of a Great American Family
(Charles Henry Lachman, 2008)

May 7

Corrupt Illinois: Patronage, Cronyism, and Criminality
(Dick Simpson & Thomas J. Gradel, 2014)

August 6

Escape Betwixt Two Suns: A True Tale of the Underground Railroad in Illinois
(Carol Pirtle, 2000)

November 5

The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies
(Jason Fagone, 2017)

**UNDER THE DOME
Knit In**

**Saturday, February 2
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Benefiting
Little Hats, Big Hearts
through the
American Heart Association

Calendar of Events

December 1 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Christmas at the Courthouse

For more information about this annual holiday tradition, see page 1 of this newsletter.

December 7 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

First Friday Once Upon a Holiday

See page 1 of this newsletter for more information, or visit the Downtown Bloomington Association's website at downtownbloomington.org for a complete list of participating locations.

December 13 12:10-12:40 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Slovak Christmas Traditions Past, Present, and the Future with Eva Ferguson

Pack a lunch and feast on some food for thought at the Museum's monthly Lunch and Learns—held every second Thursday of the month from now until May. These free, public programs are co-sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan University.

December 24-25

Museum closed for Christmas holiday

December 31, 2018 and January 1, 2019

Museum closed for New Year's holiday

January 10 12:10-12:40 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Nuclear War: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and a Workable Moral Strategy for Achieving and Preserving World Peace with Ray Wilson

Pack a lunch and feast on some food for thought at the Museum's monthly Lunch and Learns—held every second Thursday of the month from now until May. These free, public programs are co-sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan University.

February 1 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

First Friday Tour de Chocolat

The Museum is pleased to once again participate in this annual event by offering a sweet, locally sourced, chocolate treat. For more information, visit the Downtown

Bloomington Association's website at downtownbloomington.org for a complete list of participating locations.

February 2 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Under the Dome Knit In

This quarter's featured knitting/crocheting charity is Little Hats, Big Hearts through the American Heart Association. In recognition of American Heart Month, volunteers are knitting red hats for all babies born in February at participating hospitals to raise awareness of heart disease (the number one killer of Americans) and congenital heart defects (the most common type of birth defect in the country). Little Hats, Big Hearts is collecting both newborn and premie sized hats. Locally, hats will be donated to Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. For more information about the project and for hat specifications, please visit <https://bit.ly/2cXcUv6>

February 5 7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club:

The Last Lincolns: The Rise & Fall of a Great American Family

For more information about this program offered in partnership with the Bloomington Public Library, please see page 10 of this newsletter.

February 12 6:30 p.m.

Wet or Dry? Prohibition in McLean County

For more information about this free, public program presented in partnership with the Irish Heritage Society of McLean County, see page 5.

February 14 12:10-12:40 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: The Good Limb, the Bad Limb, and Recovery: What Animal Models Tell Us about Improving Behavioral Recovery after Stroke with Abigail Kerr

Pack a lunch and feast on some food for thought at the Museum's monthly Lunch and Learns—held every second Thursday of the month from now until May. These free, public programs are co-sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan University.

February 18 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Presidents' Day: The Vote

For more information about this free, family-friendly event, please see page 5 of this newsletter.

February 21 6:30 p.m.

The Soldiers' Plot

See page 5 for more information about this program.





McLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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MYSTERY HISTORY



Here's another aerial photo to ponder. Do you know where this unique building was located and what it was used for? And do you know its name? 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. As always, good luck!

Last issue's mystery photo was an undated aerial of Walker School, a one-room school located in southern Bloomington Township, just outside the southernmost edge of the city's sprawl. The aerial showed the 1903 schoolhouse building, which remains today as a single-family residence. One of the school district's early residents was George E. Walker. While not the school's namesake, George is the great-great grandfather of the nation's 41st president, George Herbert Walker Bush, and thus great-great-great grandfather of George Walker Bush, the 43rd president.

Those who correctly identified the school include Kodi Andreas, Dorothy Basting (who attended the school from 1932 to 1940!), Karen Downen, Helen Ogar, and Paula Pratt. "I went there in the early 50s after my Grassy Ridge School (another one-room school in Bloomington Township) closed in the consolidation efforts," Downen tells us. "It now is a beautiful home."