

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

September-October-November 2019

Volume 51, Number 3

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Practicing Inclusion

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Challenges, Choices, & Change: A Community in Conflict

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ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

Edited by Susan Hartzold and Hannah Johnson for the

McLean County Museum of History

and the



Visitors Center

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

Museum and Visitors Center Hours:

Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday til 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May through September

Admission:

\$5 - Adults \$4 - Seniors 65 +
FREE - Children and Students with valid ID

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Cover image: Timothy Jefferson and Emmanuel K. Jackson portrayed brothers Edward and Lincoln Bynum during Cemetery Walk 2017

Announcements

There will be a meeting of the general membership of the McLean County Historical Society to discuss and approve changes to the constitution and by-laws of the organization on September 18 at 4 p.m. in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom.

The quarterly magazine has
A NEW LOOK!
Like it or love it, let us know!



Shelli Opsal Joins Board of Directors

I've been a resident of Bloomington-Normal for 26 years. I'm originally from Champaign, where I also graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in Human Resources and Family Studies in the College of Agriculture.

After moving to Bloomington, I completed a second Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resource Management. I have been in the field of Human Resources since 1998, and

currently work for COUNTRY Financial (since 2006).

When not working, I enjoy reading and spending time with my two daughters, Karyss (14) and Kendall (12). We are passionate about art, music, and attending live theater events together! We also love trips to Disney and Universal Studios!

This is my first volunteer board position. As a former work colleague, I was invited to join the board by Bill Zimmerman. After receiving a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Museum, and meeting members of the incredible team that is so dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of McLean County, it was easy to say yes to the opportunity to be involved. I hope that through the board, I too will be able to help promote this incredible gem to others in our community. I want others to have the same experience I had upon my first exposure—which was, "WOW! All of this is right here in our Downtown! Let's take advantage of it!"

Welcome New Members!

Leisa Barbour
Ethan and Rachel Bliese
Mike Fitchhorn
Bruce Johnson

Mark Joy
Germaine Light
Adriane Powell
Marjorie Young

David and Jeanne Edmondson

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

Practicing Inclusion at the McLean County Museum of History



Bill Kemp leads a group of students on a *Social Justice* tour

The McLean County Museum of History welcomes and values all visitors. We are committed to representing the entire community by sharing your history, your story. In fact, it is part of our mission to “reflect the diversity of McLean County,” and we take that mission seriously. As an educational institution, the Museum’s job is to illuminate stories and foster opportunities for dialogue so people can learn from the experiences of one another—whether they lived 1,000 years ago or today. These stories must serve both as mirrors that reflect ourselves and as windows that allow us to view the wider world.

Significant change has happened at the Museum in a relatively short amount of time. The successful completion of the *Extending Excellence* capital campaign has bolstered educational programming, digital infrastructure, beautification of the square, and the total reimagining of our core exhibits. The campaign also showed us what internal changes were needed to maintain this forward momentum.

As a result, much change has occurred behind the scenes. Two years ago this November, a small group of staff members met to discuss how the Museum could become a more welcoming space for visitors. This group became the Inclusion Taskforce and now includes 11 staff members from seven departments.

If you have made a recent visit to the Museum or scrolled through our social media, you have noticed evidence of the efforts of this group and fellow Museum staff. In the past few months, we have added the following features: A social narrative on our website that allows all visitors, especially those on the autism spectrum, to preview their Museum experience using photos and text. This alleviates anxiety about visiting a new place and allows all members of the group to prepare for an enjoyable museum visit. Once here, sensory bags—provided by Autism McLean—allow guests to experience the Museum’s programs and environment in a way that is comfortable for them. These bags include noise-cancelling headphones, communication cards, fidget toys, and sunglasses, and are available for checkout in the Visitors Center. New restroom signage ensures that we offer a safe experience for guests of all gender identities. The revitalization of the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project, and our partnership with the Prairie Pride Coalition and recent programs on local LGBTQ+ experiences further demonstrate the Museum’s commitment to telling the full story of the people of McLean County.

From the recently-launched LGBTQ+ History Project to our collaboration with the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas to develop elements of the upcoming exhibit, *Challenges, Choices, & Change: A Community in Conflict*, Museum staff are taking intentional strides to diversify the stories we tell and to share authority with experts from outside the Museum walls. Changes like these are necessary to ensure that the McLean County Museum of History remains vibrant, relevant, and sustainable into the far future. We must continue to remove barriers to participation so that all voices have

Let us know about a barrier that is preventing you or someone you know from fully connecting with the Museum. Share your story with us. Contact inclusion@mchistory.org with your suggestions.

a place at the Museum.

We are proud of these accomplishments, but recognize that they are not enough. To fully support our mission, the McLean County Museum of History must become an even more visitor-centered organization. It is vital that we move forward with intentionality so that often marginalized voices are brought forward to amplify the lived experiences that have long been missing from our collections, exhibitions, and programs. We want this process to be transparent, instructional, and responsive to the needs of community members. So please get in touch.

Evergreen Cemetery Walk Celebrates 25th

Twenty-five years ago, the Museum, Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, and Illinois Voices Theatre—Echoes came together to solve a growing problem in our community—cemetery vandalism. Leaders of these entities realized that there was a great need in our community to educate the public, especially students, about the importance of preserving and respecting cemeteries as part of our collective history. Thus began the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*, with its mission of preventing further vandalism by teaching community members the historical importance of cemeteries through the diverse voices of the very people who are buried there.

However, finding diverse voices to feature on the Walk was—and continues to be—a challenge at times. There are several factors that impact our ability to feature diverse groups of people each year, including that we are limited by our commitment to only feature the voices of those individuals who are buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. There are also instances in which we may come across a person who has a compelling story, but there is not enough research and documentation available to create a script about their life. Lack of documentation is an even more acute problem when attempting to research members of minority groups or individuals of low economic status. That said, since the Walk's inception in 1995, each year we have featured the story of at least one African American individual and strive for equal representation of men and women from all walks of life, ethnicities, and backgrounds as best we can. To date (including this year's cast), we have featured 183 different people whose stories illustrate the impact the people of McLean County have had on local, national, and global scales.

Dates for the 2019 Evergreen Cemetery Walk are Saturdays and Sundays, October 5-6 and 12-13, with tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. Tickets go on sale September 3 and can be purchased at the Museum, Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, or online via the Museum's website. Tickets are \$17 for the general public, \$15 for museum members, and \$5 for children and students w/ ID. Receive a \$2 discount on public and member tickets when purchased at least 24 hours before the performance. There is no discount on student tickets.

Anniversary

EVERGREEN
CEMETERY WALK
EST. 1995

John Bowen portrayed Captain Christian Reibsame during Cemetery Walk 2015



This year's Walk will feature the stories of a diverse group of individuals from our community, including:

Charles Kirkpatrick - a longtime Bloomington businessman, civic leader, and organizer; weekend performances only

Annie May Christian - an independent, single woman who was a capable, intelligent, and enthusiastic leader of the local Amateur Musical Club

Ebenezer Wright - head of the western agency for the New York Juvenile Asylum, an institution that sent children west on the "Orphan Train"

Napoleon and Louise Calimese - superintendent and matron, respectively, of the McLean County Home for Colored Children, who spent nearly 30 years investing in the lives of their charges

Florence Kaywood - spent 16 years caring for female prisoners and their children while serving as the police matron for the City of Bloomington

Oliver Munsell - helped revive a shuttered Illinois Wesleyan University in his time as president, though his tenure was tarnished by scandal

To read more about this year's feature characters, visit our website at www.mchistory.org

Don Shandrow portrayed Adlai Stevenson II during Cemetery Walk 2014

New Exhibit to Explore Power & Conflict

McLean County is home to diverse individuals who can be defined by their age, race, gender, culture, education, economic status, moral and religious views, and distinctive personal histories. This diversity of thought and lifestyles is what makes the world we live in a productive and interesting place. But what happens when those differences cause conflict—when individuals and groups, fueled by prejudice, ignorance, misogyny, fear, intolerance, racism, bigotry, and hate, choose to exercise their power and take action against those who are not like them? The Museum's newest (and final permanent) exhibit, ***Challenges, Choices, & Change: A Community in Conflict*** examines such instances of conflict in McLean County. Beginning with native peoples' struggles for sovereignty and continuing through fights for equal rights for women and minorities, the exhibit asks the question, "*Who had the power?*" — the power to have a voice, to gain respect, to define morality, to instill fear, and more. Join us Saturday, November 9 at 10 a.m. when the exhibit will open to the public, and stay for a special program at 11 a.m. presented by the exhibit curator Susan Hartzold.

Challenges, Choices, & Change:
**A COMMUNITY in
CONFLICT**

GRAND OPENING

Saturday, November 9

Ribbon Cutting at 10 a.m.
Opening Program at 11 a.m.

in the Governor Fifer Courtroom

In the spring of 1970, African American students protested racial discrimination at Bloomington High School

Since the time that people first occupied the land that would become McLean County, conflict has been part of its history. *"I felt strongly that the Museum needed to address some of the less savory episodes in our history. By providing the visitor with the known evidence of specific events, we hope to provoke thought and discussion of how and why the conflict occurred—especially since so many of the issues relating to the conflicts explored in the exhibit still ring true today,"* said Susan Hartzold, curator.

Organized chronologically, a timeline provides the visitor with additional context pertaining to the era and events that occurred across the United States during each

conflict. Issues of slavery, prohibition, marginalization, abolition, and the rights of native peoples are explored in the period leading up to the Civil War. The limited rights of women and African Americans are addressed in the period between 1870 and the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919. Labor conflicts, the stifling of local German culture, the prominence of the KKK, and limitations faced by women and African Americans in education round out the early 1900s. The post-WWII era brings to light issues of civil rights, homefront demonstrations during the Vietnam War, unfair labor practices, and the rights of women and emerging minority groups.



To engage our audiences, the exhibit also includes a variety of digital interactives, including a touch screen activity that allows visitors to explore the experience of the Kickapoo—a native people who lived in McLean County for more than 100 years before European settlers arrived. Through a series of animated maps, the interactive illustrates the forced migration of the Kickapoo west from their ancestral homelands; to Illinois; to Missouri; then to Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico, where they still reside today. Along with maps, treaties between the U. S. government and the Kickapoo are used to demonstrate some of the many ways the Kickapoo were repeatedly lied to and mistreated by those in power. The development of this interactive was a collaborative effort between the Museum's Curator of Digital Humanities, Torii Moré; Lester Randall, Tribal Chairman of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas; and Jenny Flinders of the University of Kansas. Moré said, *"This experience has been a highlight of my work at the Museum. The opportunity to collaborate with Lester and Jenny, and to jointly put together the pieces of this very important story has been such a privilege. I hope museum visitors take the time to absorb the history of the Kickapoo Tribe during their visit to this exhibit."*

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of our final new permanent exhibit!

Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead Returns

A Celebration of *Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead* returns to the McLean County Museum of History on Saturday, October 26 from 1:15 to 4:30 p.m. Join in our community celebration with music and dance from local performers. Hear from community members who will share the history and meaning of the holiday, and the variety of ways that it is celebrated. Enjoy delicious refreshments and activities for all ages—including face painting, storytelling, and crafts!



A family poses after placing a picture of a deceased loved one on the community ofrenda.

Día de los Muertos originated in Mexico over 3,000 years ago and is increasingly celebrated throughout Latin America and the United States. Celebrations of the holiday vary from region to region, but one thing remains constant: Día de los Muertos is a celebration of life and a time to honor loved ones who have passed. So don't forget to bring a photo of a loved one who has passed to add to the community ofrenda—a tiered display of photographs, objects, and offerings.

Co-organizer Marianela Diaz, who was born in Venezuela, noted, *"I remember a sad ceremony—visiting the cemetery, with all of my family dressed in black, crying again for their dead relatives. When I started to work with the Hispanic community in Bloomington-Normal I discovered a different way to celebrate Día de los Muertos. For Central America, Mexico, and Guatemala it is a colorful and meaningful ceremony to celebrate life—honoring the memory of the lives of our dead relatives, as if they had never left us."*

This event is made possible through a partnership between the McLean County Museum of History, Western Avenue Community Center, and Conexiones Latinas de McLean County.



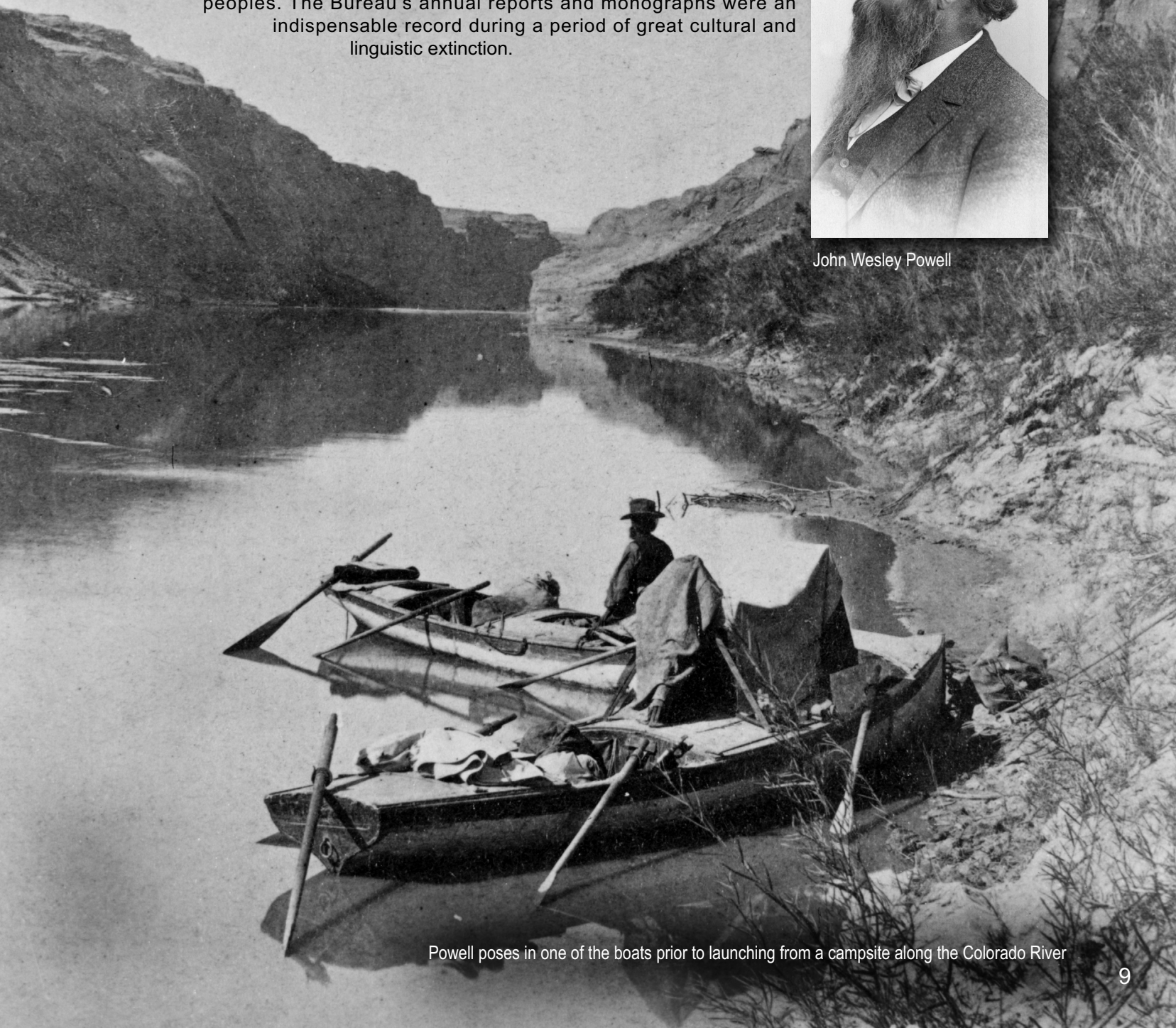
Program to Recognize 150th Anniversary of Powell Expedition

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of John Wesley Powell's harrowing three-month expedition down the Green and Colorado Rivers and through the Grand Canyon, Museum Librarian Bill Kemp will present ***John Wesley Powell: Bloomington to the Grand Canyon and Beyond***. Kemp will retrace Powell's journey and look back on his larger-than-life exploits and his many lasting local connections—including those with Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State universities. Join us for this program at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 7.

Though a somewhat forgotten figure in Illinois history, Powell is revered in the western United States—both as an explorer and as a prophetic voice urging the cautious development of the region's arid lands. In the east his reputation rests with his leadership in helping to establish the modern federal science bureaucracy. From 1879 until his death, Powell headed the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of Ethnology. Under his leadership that office organized the nation's first systematic research into the lifeways of indigenous peoples. The Bureau's annual reports and monographs were an indispensable record during a period of great cultural and linguistic extinction.



John Wesley Powell



Powell poses in one of the boats prior to launching from a campsite along the Colorado River

New to Collections

Artifacts

- Capt. Isaiah W. Wilmeth's shoulder board and glove, c. 1864; donated by Mary Sue Kramer
- Dysert's Barber Shop ashtray, c. 1960; donated by Lisa Walsh
- Rick Harney sculpture of John L. Bandi, a Chicago & Alton Railroad

worker, c. 2004; donated by Rick and Sue Heiser

- Harold Boyd 3-D painting of Adlai Stevenson II, c. 1980; donated by Harold and Marlene Gregor
- Casket ornament from James M. Hart's coffin, 1967; necktie and box from Dewenter's, 1961; donated by

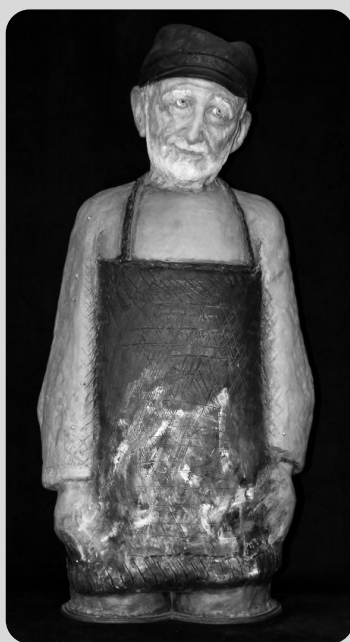
the Estate of Mary L. Kelly

- "Walter J. Reiner for Sheriff" matchbook, c. 1956; donated by Ruth Stewart
- Gobena coffee bags, 2019; donated by Greg and Carol Koos
- William Enfield's humidior, c. 1900; donated by William LaBounty
- AFL-CIO Convention badges from 1984 and 1992; American Federation of Labor union dues pins from 1953, 1956, 1957, and 1958; Normal firefighter strike t-shirt, 1978; "Post Amerikan" t-shirt, c. 1975; donated by Michael Matejka
- Baby ring, baby receiving blanket, and baby fork, c. 1959; donated by Lisa Rinkenberger Walsh
- Morris Tick refrigerator magnet, c. 1990; donated by Sandie Stengel
- Charlotte Smith Watson's doll, c. 1863; donated by Mrs. William T. Anderson
- Sugar and wax wedding sculpture, c. 1875; donated by Ross Reardon
- Normal firefighter strike t-shirt, 1978; donated by Frank Miles
- Gary Gilmore's Boy Scout Explorer uniform and New York World's Fair jacket and scarf, c. 1964; donated by Delores Gilmore Perry



Featured Artifact

Sculpture — donated by Rick and Sue Heiser



The Museum recently received this sculpture by Rick Harney of Chicago & Alton shop worker John Bandi. Harney's inspiration for the piece was a photograph taken by Arthur G. and Emma Walter in 1930. The Walters traveled across the midwest during the Great Depression photographing workers at their work sites. The couple carefully documented the names and locations of all of the sites they visited. A large collection of Chicago & Alton shop photographs that were taken by "Art and Emma" are preserved in the Museum's archives.

Harney's sculpture was purchased from a Bloomington art gallery by Ed Dries, who then gave it to his friends the Heisers, who lived near the Chicago & Alton tracks. The Heisers' neighborhood was once a key area for those working in the railroad shop.

Books/Periodicals/ Publications

- Trinitas (Trinity High School yearbook), 1945 and 1946; donated by Michael and Maria O'Donnell, through the family of Rose Schenk, a Trinity graduate
- A Baby Boomer's Book of Poems (2018); donated by Jim Tosh, the collection's author
- Selection of recipe books collected by Josephine Stubblefield Kelly; donated by Roger and Judy Augspurger
- Collection of books, including Autobiography of Silas Thompson Trowbridge M.D. (SIU Press, 2004); A Long Way from Normal: A Memoir (2018) by Adrian Vance; and others;

donated by Greg Koos

- Grogard: Ruminations on 40 Years in Gaming (Far Future Enterprises, 2017) by Loren K. Wiseman; donated by Marc Miller
- Illinois State University phone directories, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (the last two published ISU phonebooks!); donated by William P. LaBounty
- The Renault FT Light Tank (Osprey Pub., 1988); donated by James Hoppe
- 125 Years: History of Shirley Christian Church and Shirley, Illinois (1984); donated by Linda Shirk
- Danvers Community High School yearbook, 1947; and volumes 1 and 3 of the National History of the War for the Union; donated by Diane Hawk in

memory of Mary Sheehan

- Several titles, including Farm Plat Book and Business Guide, McLean County (1947); donated by Carl Behr
- Downstream, Claudia and the Science Club, Book 1 (2018) by Kathryn Foster (author with local connections); donated by Billy Burden
- Paula Clyde, or How the Buttoned Boots Marched (1907) by Kate W. Hamilton (local author); donated by Richard Stribling
- The One Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln (State of Illinois publication, 1908); donated by Mark Gibson
- Your Friend Forever, A. Lincoln (Columbia University, 2016) by

Charles B. Strozier; donated by Guy Fraker

Archives

- Various items, including a 1938 copy of The Metcalf Messenger, and eight local music / theater programs; donated by Bill and Martha Miller
- Miscellaneous early deeds and land records; donated by David Hiltabrand
- Two scrapbooks covering Bloomington-Normal Women's Golf Association activities, and a third scrapbook on Junior City Golf; donated by Ann Weber on behalf of the Women's Golf Association
- Fifty-plus postcards from / to Van Valey and Peasley family members, 1908-1940; donated by Teresa R. Miller
- Compact discs of local bands, including Matthew Curry, Backyard Tire Fire, and vonFrickle; donated by Todd Bettis
- Items relating to Union Army Capt. Isaiah W. Wilmeth, including hand-drawn map of Union retreat at Hancock Station, West Virginia; donated by Mary Sue Kramer
- Several items, including 2004 Bloomington-Normal Visitors Guide published by the Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, and 2006 US Cellular Coliseum ticket information brochure; donated by Ruth Cobb
- Citizens Savings Bank, Bloomington, centennial calendar, 1888-1988, featuring artwork by Ralston Scott Jones; donated by Jim Armstrong
- Six compact discs, two by the Spelunkers and four by vonFrickle (local bands); donated by John Ganser (a musician in both groups!)
- Scrapbook of "Prairieland Musicians" compiled by donor, and other items; donated by Pat Heiser
- Third year St. Joseph School of Nursing report card, 1958-59; donated by Shannon Perry
- Collection of research relating to the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS); donated by Doris Davis Gallagher

- Itineraries, programs, news clippings, and other items relating to the School Band of America / School Chorus of America and its European tour, summer 1970; donated by Arthur Drake (who played in the band during this tour)
- F.M. Funk estate cash book, 1899-1906; donated by James Brown, from the estate of Thelma Meeks Ryder
- Various items, including Jessie Gaddis Dyser's Colfax High School report cards, and "Reading Circle" book from Ritter School, Martin Township; donated by Lisa B. Walsh
- Program book, Sound of Illinois barbershop chorus 77th annual show, March 16, 2019; donated by Jim Stahly
- Nineteenth-century family papers, including Ulrich Steffen land deed, 1865; donated by Richard S. Steffen
- Large collection of programs, newspaper and magazine clippings, recordings, and other items relating to donor's theater and music career; donated by John "Jack" Waddell
- Various items, including material relating to Loretta Hundman and Eugene Kelly (donor's parents); donated by Patricia K. Pence through the estate of Gene and Loretta and Mary Kelly
- Items relating to Evergreen Memorial and Park Hill cemeteries, including rules and regulations pamphlet for Park Hill, and bylaws of the Bloomington Cemetery Association, 1904; donated by John Peterson
- Shirley Kaufman Koos funeral items, including eulogy; donated by Greg Koos
- Illinois State University student research paper on 210 W. Wood St., a home of architect Paul O. Moratz, 1990; donated by Velma Nordine
- Update to Vladimir / Canterbury Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal Collection; donated by Ann B. White
- Material relating to donor's visit to Normandy, France and the gravesites of local residents killed in action during the Allied D-Day campaign, 1944; donated by David Williams

The Museum
collects novels, short story
compilations, poetry
collections, and all kinds of
writings—published and
unpublished—from authors
with connections to
McLean County.

What's gathering dust
on your bookshelf?

- Lists (by cemetery) of 230 firefighters from the Bloomington and Normal fire departments buried in McLean County, compiled by Rich Batka and Robert Wills; donated by Robert Wills
- Several VHS tapes, including a Normal Theater restoration promotion, and a look at the Baby Fold "Festival of Trees," 1998; donated by Gigi Miles
- More than a dozen issues of The Aegis, Bloomington High School's student newspaper, 1966-1969; donated by Linda Lacy
- Various items, including those relating to donor's Air Force career; donated by William P. LaBounty
- Several items, including Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System bus schedule, 1974; and Paul S. Penn retirement dinner program, 1982; donated by Mike Matejka
- Various neighborhood association notices / newsletters, and Old House Society's "George Miller Tour of Homes" poster; donated by Karen Schmidt

Photographs & Images

- Two photos of Wilma Ilene Runge and John C. Francis Forrest wedding, October 3, 1947, and other photos; donated by the children of Wilma and "Pat" Forrest, care of Janice Metz
- Several photographs relating to Lyle Snively and the American Legion; donated by Edgar Lundeen, Jr.
- Several photos, including photo assemblage featuring McLean County Supervisors (predecessor to County Board) with view of the county court-

— continued on page 12

Volunteer Spotlight



One may think first of our cheerful and welcoming volunteers at the reception desk in the Visitors Center, or our helpful and knowledgeable volunteers in the Library—but, many different people volunteer at the Museum to assist with a wide range of tasks. From age 5 to 95. From east, west, and everywhere in between. This diverse group of willing volunteers is the lifeblood of the Museum, and we could not do what we do without them. Or, without you! Take a look at one of our youngest volunteers in action!

Our youngest volunteer, Olivia, is five years old and has been giving the Museum's Abraham Lincoln Bench a lot of love. *"I have loved Abe my whole life!"* she told us. *"I saw Abe when we went to the Farmers' Market to pick up our eggs. We would see all the delicious food and end our trip with a picture of me and Abe on the bench."*

Olivia's mom Jen says she became interested in Abe when she was two years old. A social studies teacher, Jenn answered all Olivia's questions about Abe and told her how he was an important president of our country.

As a Lincoln fan, Olivia recently made it her volunteer job to be our official Lincoln Bench Decorator—a job she takes very seriously. *"I saw that he was decorated for Halloween, Christmas, and St. Patrick's Day, so I decided I wanted to help decorate Abe. I had to buy him some*

pink bunny ears for Easter. I was so happy when Ms. Candace said I could be the official volunteer decorator for Abe. After we decorate Abe, my mom and I wait for a few minutes and there are people who come up and laugh and smile and take pictures with Abe. I love making people smile and sharing happiness."

Olivia is already planning costumes and decorations for Abe for Back to School, Labor Day, Talk Like a Pirate Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and more. Be sure to stop by and take a selfie with Abe on these special days. He loves to have visitors!

Olivia's favorite costume for Lincoln was Obi Wan Kenobi from Star Wars.

"I loved dressing him up as a Jedi for "May the Fourth Be With You" day! It was fun for Abe and me to both have light sabers and pretend we were having a duel.

New to Collections continued—

- Eleven reprints given to donor by Augie Jones, retired Chicago & Alton firefighter; donated by Steve Gossard
- Carte de visite of Union Army Capt. Isaiah. W. Wilmeth; donated by Mary Sue Kramer
- Three photographs of donor relating to St. Joseph School of Nursing and 1959 graduation; donated by Shannon Perry
- Large collection of local postcards; donated by Emily Jordan

- E.R. Darlington Lumber Co. building with employees; donated by Laura Walden
- Two panoramics of Sound of Illinois Chorus members, 2005 and 2018; donated by Jim Stahly
- Large collection of photographs relating to donor's theater and music career; donated by John "Jack" Waddell
- Collection of photographs, including those on the Holy Trinity Catholic Church fire of 1932; donated by Patricia K. Pence through the Estate of Gene and Loretta and Mary Kelly

- Carousel of slides from a 1988 trip to the Soviet Union to investigate Sister City opportunities; donated by Ann B. White
- Eleven Kodachrome slides of the "Century of Progress" parade, downtown Bloomington, 1950, taken by Millard A. Lloyd; donated by Randall Lloyd
- Two prints, Arnold family members; donated by Dennis Fox

Philanthropy and your IRA

Making a direct transfer from an IRA to a charity, long a valuable planning strategy, has become even more valuable following the enactment of 2017's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. That's because the higher standard deduction coupled with the \$10,000 cap on the deduction for state and local taxes effectively means that for many taxpayers there will no longer be a tax benefit for charitable giving. They won't have enough itemized deductions to get over the standard deduction threshold. A direct transfer from an IRA to a charity provides a tax benefit in addition to the standard deduction. What's more, the transfer satisfies the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules that apply to those who are over age 70½.

Seven requirements

1. *Only those over age 70½ are permitted to use this strategy.* Watch for this tax trap in the year that a donor reaches the magic age. All IRA distributions made during the year one turns 70½ count toward the RMD, but only those made after the half birthday may be rolled tax free to a charity.
 2. *IRAs only.* Distributions from 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, pension plans, or profit sharing plans are not eligible for charitable IRA rollover treatment. For those plans, the donor must first roll the assets into a new IRA.
 3. *Direct transfers only.* The check from the IRA must be made out to the charity. A check made out to the IRA owner that is endorsed over to the charity will not work.
 4. *Public charities and private operating foundations must be the recipient.* Ineligible recipients include private grant-making foundations (non-operating foundations), donor-advised funds, and supporting organizations.
 5. *The payment would have qualified for a full charitable deduction.* In other words, no quid pro quo; the donor must receive nothing in return. The qualified charitable distribution cannot be used to purchase a charitable gift annuity, for example, or even to pay for tickets to a fundraising dinner.
 6. *Distributions are limited to \$100,000 per year and must be otherwise fully taxable.* Nondeductible IRA contributions are not taxable when distributed, and thus they are not eligible for treatment as qualified charitable distributions.
 7. *Documentation required.* The charity must supply a contemporaneous written acknowledgement of the gift and certify that the donor did not receive any financial benefit from making the gift.
- Failure to meet any requirement results in the entire distribution being taxable to the donor.

Benefits

The biggest winners in using the charitable IRA rollover are those seniors using the standard deduction. They would otherwise get no tax benefit from their charitable gifts.

Those who pay more tax as their adjusted gross income rises also are better off with this strategy. This includes people subject to the 3.8% tax on net investment income, those whose income is high enough to cause their Social Security benefits to be taxed, and those who are paying higher Medicare part B premiums because of their high income. Donors who live in states that do not allow a charitable income tax deduction generally will achieve a tax benefit from the direct transfer to charity, as their adjusted gross income for state tax purposes won't be increased. The 60% of AGI limit on the charitable deduction does not apply to the charitable IRA rollover.

Finally, the heirs will be winners as well. They will prefer to receive assets that receive a basis step-up to getting income in respect of a decedent, which will be fully taxable as ordinary income.

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Summer 2019 Interns

Interns provide a wide variety of services to the Museum while learning and developing new skills.

Do you know a student interested in the Museum field?

For more information about future Museum internship opportunities, email volunteers@mchistory.org

This summer the Museum was thrilled to host four interns who worked throughout the Museum doing a wide variety of tasks.

Logan Janicki, a junior at Illinois State University, worked as the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk Biography Intern*—helping write and research biographies for the this year's walk. Marcel Tworek, a senior at the University of Dayton, worked as a Collections Research Intern—researching and collecting information on artifacts in the Museum's collection and updating biographical information. Kelli Judd, a junior at ISU, worked as the Museum's Social Media/Marketing Intern, with a focus on developing social media campaigns for the *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center. Drew Sanford, a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, worked as our Accessibility Intern—working on creating subtitles for exhibit video interactives, YouTube channel videos, and digital workflow within the Museum.

Hartman to Discuss Culture Wars

The Museum is pleased to welcome back Dr. Andrew Hartman, professor of history at Illinois State University, who will present a program about America's struggle over the unprecedented social changes that have continued to manifest since the 1960s, when the cluster of social norms that had long governed American life began to give way to a new openness to different ideas, identities, and articulations of what it meant to be an American. This free, public program will take place at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, November 16.

“‘Make America Great Again.’ Donald Trump’s now famous campaign slogan evokes the fervent belief among many Americans that the nation is no longer theirs. The slogan has had contemporary appeal, to be sure. But it also speaks to a narrative of decline that has defined conservative attitudes since the 1960s. At bottom, it is a call to revive and restore the orderly, disciplined, and authority-respecting America that seemingly held fast before the 1960s. Related, this was the America before the sixties social movements endowed people of color, women, gays and lesbians, immigrants from strange lands, and other seeming outsiders and fringe characters with the privilege to call themselves Americans. In this way, Trump’s slogan marks but the latest volley in the culture wars that have polarized the United States for decades. This lecture will explore the grand historical arc of these culture wars with an eye for how it helps us make sense of Donald Trump and a polarized American political culture.”

Hartman is the author of *Education and the Cold War: The Battle for the American School* (2012), *A War for the Soul of America: A History of the Culture Wars* (second edition 2019), and co-editor of *American Labyrinth: Intellectual History for Complicated Times*. He is currently at work on his third book, *Karl Marx in America*. Hartman is the winner of two Fulbright Awards, having served as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark for the 2013-14 academic year, and currently as the Fulbright British Library Eccles Center Research Scholar for the 2018-19 academic year. Hartman co-hosts the intellectual history podcast, *Trotsky and the Wild Orchids*.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2

Museum Closed for Labor Day

September 4 at 7 p.m.

History of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk with Candace Summers at Normal Public Library

September 6 from 5 to 8 p.m.

First Friday: Ask an Artist with Lisa Lofgren of Together Press

September 7 at 1:15 p.m.

John Wesley Powell: Bloomington to the Grand Canyon and Beyond with Bill Kemp (see page 9)

September 10 at 7:15 p.m.

Picture This!: Unseen Photos from the Pantagraph Collection Join us as we launch this exciting new collection, soon available to view online.

September 18 at 7 p.m.

Sojourner Truth Returns at Second Presbyterian Church. Reenactor Patricia James Davis will reminisce about Truth's life and why she dedicated herself to correcting injustices.

October 5-6 and 12-13 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Evergreen Cemetery Walk Tickets go on sale September 3 (see pages 4-5)

October 26 from 1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Día de los Muertos (see page 8)

November 14 at 7 p.m.

Lucy's Girls: Lucy Orme Morgan and the Girl's Industrial Home with Candace Summers at Normal Public Library

November 16 at 1:15 p.m.

War for the Soul of America with Dr. Andrew Hartman (see page 14)

November 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Knit In at Green Top Grocery

November 28

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving

December 6 from 5 to 8 p.m.

First Friday: Once Upon a Holiday

December 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Christmas at the Courthouse

LUNCH & LEARN

September-October-November programs
Co-sponsored by the Museum and Illinois Wesleyan University

September 12 at 12:10 p.m.

Unlocking Beethoven's Fifth Symphony - A Conductor's Perspective with Ken Lam, Music Director - Illinois Symphony Orchestra

October 10 at 12:10 p.m.

What Insights Does the 1860 Presidential Election Provide for the 2020 Election with Robert Bradley, Emeritus Professor of Politics and Government - Illinois State University

November 14 at 12:10 p.m.

A Passion for Detail - The Architectural Legacy of A.L. Pillsbury with Museum Curator Susan Hartzold

Pack a lunch and feast on some food for thought every second Thursday of the month September through May.

November 5 at 7:00 p.m.

The Woman Who Smashed Codes - A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies

by Jason Fagone

History Reads Book Club



Bloomington Public Library



Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us as for a showing of our favorite performances by Bloomington native

McLean Stevenson from the hit TV series

M*A*S*H*

Door prizes awarded!

All programs are presented in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on the 2nd floor of the Museum unless otherwise noted.



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Mystery History Quiz

Last issue's photograph showing a group of boys swimming in the old YMCA's indoor pool was correctly identified by a half-dozen of you. An almost equal number incorrectly guessed the pool as the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School in north Normal. "Looks like all the kids in the water and sitting are naked, so it has to be the YMCA," Dennis Fox told us!

The old YMCA, located at the southeast corner of East and Washington streets in downtown Bloomington, was designed by prominent local architect Arthur L. Pillsbury. The building's cornerstone was laid on September 22, 1907. Sadly, this Pillsbury building fell to the merciless wrecking ball as the YMCA moved to its present location in the early 1970s. Today, the old site is a surface parking lot.

Those who correctly identified the photo were Jack Campbell, Pamala Eaton, Dennis Fox, David Hiltabrand, Peg Schickedanz, and Dee Volle.



Here's a challenge for the sharpest Mystery History sleuths out there. Where was this gas station and business located? Do you know anything about its history? If you think you know the answers, send Librarian Bill Kemp an email at library@mchistory.org, or ring him up at 309-827-0428. Good luck!

