

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

September-October-November 2020

Volume 52, Number 3

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ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

Edited by Susan Hartzold and Hannah Johnson for the
McLean County Museum of History



MUSEUM CLOSED

to the public until
further notice

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Cover image: Emma Lou and Anita Olson prep for going back to school with their friend and neighbor Terry Van Huss, 1948.

Announcements

Museum Construction Projects Underway

The Museum and the County of McLean have embarked on two projects, one Museum-funded and the other County-funded, to address significant needs of our historic facility.

In July the Museum Board of Directors accepted the low bid for the construction of new public restrooms to serve the Visitors Center and Museum. This project demolishes the two existing ground floor restrooms (the circa 1957 men's room and the circa 1976 women's room) and installs two new restrooms—which will feature doorless entry, as well as touchless toilet and sink operation. The restrooms will feature tiled walls and floors, and a significantly improved ventilation system—all of which provide a necessary level of sanitation for this pandemic and upcoming flu seasons. Entry for the new restrooms will be adjacent to the Visitors Center reception desk. A new custodial service and storage area is also being constructed.

A second part of this project is to restore the historic light fixtures in the Governor Fifer Courtroom, hallways, and rotunda. Reeves and Bailey, the building's architects, intentionally designed a structure that was meant to appear 400 years old. Incorporation of aged bronze throughout the design was key to establishing a sense of longevity and passage of time. In the lighting project, 189 fixtures will be rewired and their antique verde finish restored to its 1903 appearance. Half of the rotunda fixtures were removed in the 1980s, and they will be reinstalled.

J. Spencer Construction, of Normal, was the low bidder for both projects at \$661,219. The Illinois Public Museum Grant is underwriting \$258,000 of the cost. Architectural and engineering services are being provided by Scharnett Associates Architects LLC and Farnsworth Group. Work will begin in September. The Museum will be closed to the public during this construction project and plans to reopen to the public in December. The estimated project length is impacted by newly implemented safety protocols that will limit exposure of workers and Museum staff.

The County of McLean has also started planning work on a project to replace the Museum's roof and drainage system, and to repair interior historic plaster ceilings, cornices, and walls damaged from persisting leaks over the past five years. Scharnett Associates Architects LLC has been retained to prepare specifications for this work, including scoping drainage systems and studying copies of the 1901 building plans held in the Museum's archives to analyze the cause of leaks. A schedule of work and costs for this project has not been developed as of this publication date.

Welcome New Members!

Allison Vaughn

Paula Radefeld

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.

Q&A with the Museum's New Executive Director Julie Emig



What role have museums played in your personal and professional life up until this point? When I was teaching high school English in the Boston area, I always took my public school students to local museums via the public transit system. I had designed an English course called “The Critic” in which students wrote reviews about literature, art, music, politics, and community events. Museums were central to these activities. Many of my students had never stepped inside a museum before and were awed by the experience. They learned that they could participate in cultural events, and even more importantly, they realized that they could comment on those events.

How will your background in teaching and education administration inform your work as Executive Director? The Museum, at its core, has an educational mission. My training and experience in educational leadership has taught me that the best institutions exist in partnership with the communities they serve. Furthermore, my background as a literacy specialist causes me to value “out-of-school literacies”—the opportunities for learning that exist outside of traditional classrooms—if accessed in ways that resonate with lived experience.

As an elected official who partly represents Downtown Bloomington, what role do you want the Museum to play as a Downtown anchor?

While I need to be mindful of distinguishing my role as a City Councilor

from my role as the Executive Director of the Museum, there is no doubt that the Museum can play a central role in the preservation and revitalization of Downtown Bloomington. There is much work to be done, of course, but we are well positioned to take advantage of the Lakota Group’s Community Preservation Plan, a much needed update of the preservation plan that was produced in 2004. The Museum continues to be a key partner in these efforts.

In the time that you have become familiar with the Museum, what has impressed you? My five-year-old daughter would want me to applaud the Discovery Room, but she is truly just as intrigued by the splendid staircase and high ceilings of the building. The permanent exhibits are remarkable—*A Community in Conflict* is an exceptional exhibit that is both timely and provocative. And, I have always been impressed with the engaging nature of the educational programming.

The Museum is an American Alliance of Museums (AAM) accredited institution. At a time when AAM is reporting that it is possible 1 in 3 U.S. museums will close as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, what future do you predict for the McLean County Museum of History? We are going to be experiencing the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic for years to come. Even so, we have strong support from our McLean County membership, many of whom are dedicated to the survival of the Museum and to our cultural institutions more generally.

In your opinion, what is the future of local history institutions in general? The head of the Smithsonian, Lonnie Bunch, recently said, “*I believe very strongly that museums have a social justice role to play, that museums have an opportunity to not become community centers, but to be at the center of their community, to help the community grapple with the challenges they face, to use history, to use science, to use education, to give the public tools to grapple with this.*” A local history museum can play this role in a contextualized and deeply personal way. We are not merely relics of the past, nor are we static displays. We provide interactive tools for people to use to confront the past in order to construct a better future.

What is the Museum’s greatest strength? And, how do you plan to apply/reinforce that strength? The Museum’s staff is exceptional. I look forward to collaborating with them to create a plan for the future. As I see it, my role is to make our collective vision a reality.

If you were to summarize the Museum’s mission in three words, what would they be?

Engaging. Educational. (Urgently) relevant.

Preparations Underway for Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk

The past few months, the Education Department has been hard at work reimagining the Museum's longest running and most successful outreach event, the **Evergreen Cemetery Walk**, for a virtual platform due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic. Working with Broadleaf Video Management, we are excited to share additional news about how our eager audiences will be able to access this year's Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk.

The video production of the Virtual Walk will be viewable through the online platform Teachable, allowing the Museum to present this year's production in a way that is accessible to both the general public and the many student groups who annually participate. Ticketholders will have the option to view the Walk in its entirety as a full-length video, or watch each performance individually. In addition to each performance, Teachable will allow us to add additional content and videos to enhance the Cemetery Walk experience like never before. An example of additional content may include a mini guided tour of the tree carvings throughout Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. This virtual experience will allow us to share even more information about the history of our community, of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, and this year's feature characters.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting the Museum's website mchistory.org. Household tickets are \$25 for the general public and \$20 for Museum members. A household ticket means that anyone in your immediate household can view this event at any time—and as many times—between October 3 and November 2. Ticketholders will be able to access this event from the comfort and safety of wherever they are and on any device.

Taking the Walk online best ensures the safety of our audiences, actors, staff, and volunteers, but this year's Evergreen Cemetery Walk will also be more accessible than ever before. Thanks to our sponsors Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, and Illinois Humanities, not only can any public, private, and home school group from anywhere participate for free, we are also

—Continued on page 5

Visit our website
today to purchase
tickets!
mchistory.org

Jessie Swiech portrayed Marie Litta in 2014.

Post Amerikan Digitized and Available Online

Last year, the Museum and Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library embarked on an exciting partnership to digitize Bloomington-Normal's storied alternative newspaper, the *Post Amerikan*. The project wrapped up this summer, and now most issues of the newspaper—from April 3, 1972 to August-September 2003—are available online both as downloadable PDFs and in a gorgeous "flipbook" format.

It was EIU professor emeritus and documentary filmmaker Gary Fritz who got the ball rolling by collaborating with *Post Amerikan* alum, such as Mark Silverstein and fellow EIU professors William Weber and Robert Funk, on a formal project to commemorate this underground paper. Dr. Fritz then contacted Museum Librarian Bill Kemp, when—to his happy surprise—he learned that the Museum holds a nearly complete 32-year run. EIU staff, working with Museum Archivist George Perkins, then transported the collection to Charleston, IL, and it was there that Tina Jenkins of Booth Library's Scholarly Communications unit oversaw the digitization work.

"The Post Amerikan was a critical voice to expose low-income, racial, feminist, LGBTQ, and law enforcement issues locally," notes Museum Board member Mike Matejka. *"It was a spirited volunteer effort and a focal point for not only youth culture, but many in the community."* Matejka knows whereof he speaks. After all, he was a volunteer writer at the paper beginning in 1973!

"As future researchers look at McLean County from 1972 through the 2000s, having the Post Amerikan accessible and digitized will offer alternative viewpoints on local events," adds Matejka. *"EIU deserves commendation for preserving what was perhaps the longest-running alternative paper in the U.S."*

To view and search the *Post Amerikan* online, visit tinyurl.com/y656u7ce. The site also features Dr. Fritz's documentary work with highlights into the digitization process, accompanied by photos and video interviews.



Cover of the October 1976 *Post Amerikan*

Continued from page 4— pleased to announce that we will be inviting older adults in area senior care facilities to view the Walk for free as well. We are thrilled that barriers such as geography and mobility have been eliminated by embracing an online format for this year's Walk.

As we enter an unprecedented 26th year of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk, the Museum remains committed to its mission-driven work to educate the public about our local history and the importance of cemetery preservation. We also reaffirm our support of the arts in the midst of a pandemic that has ravaged opportunities for paid performers throughout the world. We are proud that we can continue to support members of our theatrical community, as they have supported the Museum for many years. Join us in a round of physically distant applause for this year's cast: Christie Hursey-Vellella (Grace Stewart), Cristen Monson (Susan B. Anthony), Robert Quinlan (Edwin Hewett), Diane Walker (Florence Funk), John Poling (Owen Cheney), Jessie Swiech (Almira Burnham), Connie Blick (Emily Howard), and Lolu Jimoh (William McCoslin).

They say the show must go on, and so it shall! But we could not dream of doing any of this without you—our members—and your unwavering support. Consider making an additional donation this year to help bring the Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk to area senior care facilities and student groups throughout the region and beyond. If you would like to donate additional funds to sponsor a student or older adult group's participation in the Walk this year, please visit tinyurl.com/y5ayu2n9 to make a contribution (and buy your household a ticket too!).

2020
EVERGREEN
CEMETERY WALK
EST. 1995

New to Collections

Archives

- Additions to the Corn on the Curb Collection, including correspondence and publicity materials; Revue of Revues, Young Men's Club program, November 16-17, 1920; donated by Marlene Gregor
- Baby Fold Story newsletters and other Baby Fold items, 1999-2000; donated by Ruth Cobb
- Poster and program for 2020 Illinois State University production, Hit the Wall; Video of commitment ceremony, Feb. 24, 2001; donated by Barb Dallinger
- Bob Johnson's Brandtville Restaurant placemats, many dating to the American Bicentennial, 1976, and other items; donated by Robin Roberts
- Two poems by James Hart—Farewell to the Standpipe and Old Time Bloomington (the former typed on Steak 'n Shake stationery); donated by Margaret Bratcher
- Booklet, A Century of Fine Candymaking, 1954, Paul F. Beich Co. history; donated by Carolyn Pfeifer
- Illinois aeronautical chart, 1969; two Amtrak timetables, 2015; donated by Eamon A. Rago
- Three-CD set of Willy Berry live performances at The Gallery in Normal, March 1977, November 1977, and April 1978; donated by David D. Melchiorre
- Four local postcards—East Washington Street, St. Joseph's Hospital, Miller Park, and Kelso Sanitarium—dated 1908, 1909, and 1919, from Mae Williams to Hallie Schmith; donated by Norma J. Honn
- Local theater programs, late-19th and 20th century, featuring Shakespeare productions, including the November 29, 1900 appearance of Helen Modjeska in Macbeth at the Grand Opera House; donated by Carolyn Jarvis
- Normal Community Garden Club materials, including annual booklets and handwritten minutes, 1949 to 1960s; postcard collection of Helen M. Littleton Burns (1900-1984) and family; donated by Charleen Burns
- Various items, including Lincoln in DeWitt booklet with citations, 2006, authored by donor; manuscript, Lincoln in Mason County, November 2008, authored by donor; and others; donated by Guy Fraker
- Booklet, University High School Class of 1957 30th reunion (1987); diploma, Phyllis Arlene Hanover, 1957; donated by Harold Atkins
- Correspondence, manuscripts, Not in Our Town papers, Bloomington City Council items, and much more; donated by Mike Matejka
- Prescription, White Front Drug Store, A.D. Loar proprietor, circa 1914-1915; donated by Terri Joyce
- Four issues of Bloomington-Normal Magazine

- (BNM), 1980s; McLean County Historic Sites calendar, 1976; donated by Alan Chapman
- Various items, including Miss Bloomington Pageant program, 1951; donated by Billie Jackson
- Weighted (with two small rocks) sandwich bag containing eight fliers with Ku Klux Klan / white nationalist messages, one of many such "hate" bags tossed onto Bloomington front yards, July 12, 2020; donated by Dr. Catherine Crockett
- Booklet, Favorite Songs of East Bay Camp, undated; donated by Debra Baxter
- Various items, including family genealogical record book, kept by Otto J. Brenneman (donor's great-grandfather); journals of Elsie Brenneman (donor's great-aunt), 1916-1921; material related to April 1936 visit to Bloomington by aviator Amelia Earhart; and many other items; donated by Sandra B. Oldendorf
- The Tugboat, 1935 children's picture book purchased at Livingston's department store by donor; Clem and Wilhelmina Hundman golden wedding anniversary memory book, 1949; and other items; donated by Pat Pence
- Additions to the Harold Sinclair Collection, including photocopied correspondence between Sinclair and his literary agent in New York; donated by Dr. Gary Heath
- World War II ration books; Producers Stockyards (located along the Illinois Central Railroad at Lafayette Street in Bloomington) receipts, 1956; and other items; donated by Jean Newmister

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- Master of science dissertation, Distribution of Hybrid Corn in the Corn Belt, December 1942, by Arthur Weldon Watterson (who would go on to become professor of geography at ISU from 1946 to 1966, and is the namesake of ISU's Watterson Towers); donated by Dr. Watterson's son David Watterson
- Five genealogy titles, including Genealogy of the Keen Family of Wayne County, Illinois by H.T. Keen (1965); donated by Paul Craig

- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 51, Bloomington Unit, bylaws; and GTE network field guide; donated by Doug Welch
- Several titles, including Reasonable Doubt (edition with postscript to paperback edition, 1990), Lincoln's Land: The History of Abraham Lincoln's Coles County Farm (2009), and others; donated by Robin Roberts
- Illinois Airport Directory, 1954, published by the Illinois Department of Aeronautics; donated by Eamon A. Rago
- Collection of books written by donor, including The Theatre in America during the American Revolution (1995), and • Moss Hart: A Prince of the Theatre (2006); donated by Jared Brown
- Aegis, 1924, Bloomington High School annual; donated by Billie Jackson
- Fundamentals of Machine Operation: Crop Chemicals, published by John Deere & Co., 1976; donated by Pat Huth

Photographs

- Nine Twin Cities and ISNU / ISU postcards, 1950s and 1960s (three published by Randall's of Normal and four by View-Cards of Pontiac, IL); donated by Fred Schule
- Approximately 70 (mostly color) slides relating to donor's work to place the White Place neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places; donated by Fred Thomas
- Small collection of unidentified portraits, late 19th, early 20th century, from Bloomington studios, including Fenwick, Kadgihn, and C.U. Williams; donated by the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society
- View of 1897 Bloomington High School; donated by Billie Jackson
- Four postcards, Jumer Hotel Chateau, undated; donated by Debra Baxter
- Various images, including portrait of James Hart, two postcard photos of Dr. Alan Browning as a child, St. Mary's School eighth grade graduation, and others; donated by Pat Pence

The Library/Archives is looking for small town telephone books prior to 1990 to add to the Museum's collections. Our Library includes an impressive run of Bloomington-Normal and Illinois State University phone books, but there are few from outlying communities such as Danvers, Heyworth, LeRoy, Lexington, and elsewhere. If you have pre-1990 directories from these or other McLean County communities and are interested in donating them, contact BKemp@mchsitory.org or phone 309-827-0428 ext. 6. As always, thank you!

A Community in Conversation Series Relaunched

The Museum and its collaborating partners are excited to announce the relaunch of our **A Community in Conversation** program series on Tuesday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Following the success of two immersive community conversations inspired by the Museum's *A Community in Conflict* exhibit earlier this year, the Museum, Not In Our Town, YWCA McLean County, the Town of Normal Human Relations Commission, and the League of Women Voters of McLean County will pose the question, *Who Has the Power to be Heard?*—considering specifically the role of women in politics, at the polls and in office.

This online, dialogue-based program will engage members of the community in facilitated conversation around this relevant question ahead of the upcoming election season. Conversations will be prefaced by a brief introduction to the topic complete with historic examples from the Museum's

A Community in Conflict exhibit, before participants are randomly assigned to small groups for continued discussion with fellow community members, area experts, and local women in politics.

To register for this free, public program, visit tinyurl.com/y3ygvgdx.

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

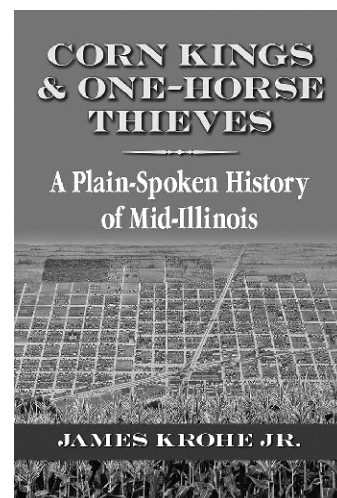
Book Club to Read *Corn Kings & One-Horse Thieves*

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library on Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. for the final installment of the 2020 **History Reads Book Club**. We will meet online via Zoom to discuss *Corn Kings & One-Horse Thieves: A Plain-Spoken History of Mid-Illinois* by James Krohe, Jr. Visit bit.ly/2P6yfpn to register for this free, online discussion.

Krohe describes in lively prose the history of mid-Illinois from the prehistoric Woodland period until roughly 1960, covering the settlement of the region by peoples of disparate races and religions; the exploitation by Euro-Americans of forest, fish, and waterfowl; the transformation of farming into a high-tech industry; and the founding and deaths of towns. The economic, cultural, and racial factors that led to hostility and compromise between various people of different backgrounds are explored, as are the roles of education and religion in this part of the state. The book examines remarkable utopian experiments, social and moral reform movements, and innovations in transportation and food processing. It also offers fresh accounts of labor union warfare and social violence directed against native groups, immigrants, and African Americans; and profiles three generations of political and government leaders, sometimes extraordinary and sometimes corrupt.

Accessible and entertaining, yet well-researched and informative, *Corn Kings & One-Horse Thieves* draws on a wide range of sources to explore a surprisingly diverse section of Illinois, whose history is America in microcosm.

To request a copy of the book, please contact the Reference Desk at Bloomington Public Library at 309-828-6093 or email reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Museum Thankful for Willing Volunteers

Despite the pandemic, several volunteers have continued to keep history alive through their service to the Museum on and offsite. On June 1 select Museum volunteers returned to work onsite on a limited basis. Each volunteer is required to follow the same safety protocols as staff while working onsite, which means wearing a mask at all times, keeping six feet physical distance, and washing hands frequently.

Jana Kiefer, longtime library and Evergreen Cemetery Walk volunteer, has been volunteering both on and offsite. From remote research of local architecture, ISU Quad markers, and photo publication dates, to refiling three months' worth of archival materials and shelving dozens of books, she has been busy.

John Capasso, Visitors Center reception desk and Evergreen Cemetery Walk volunteer, has been conducting research for this year's inaugural virtual Walk and has even auditioned to offer his virtual tour guiding expertise. See page 4 for more information about this year's virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk.

Nola Marquart, longtime library volunteer, has been reorganizing and relabeling books.

Vinny Carta, former ISU intern turned volunteer, has continued his work on the Baby Fold archival collection, which he began processing during his internship this past spring.

Grace Bartlett, also a former ISU intern turned volunteer, assisted the Education

Department staff in taking the Museum's annual Futures in History Camp online for the first time. Grace's tech savvy and friendly demeanor kept campers connected and engaged for two 5-day sessions. Hudson Carney, a three-time Futures in History camper himself, shared a fourth summer with us as a junior volunteer.

The Museum has even managed to welcome a few new volunteers, including Julie Gerke, former editor for the *Pantagraph*, who recently began volunteering with Museum Curator Susan Hartzold to assemble acid-free artifact storage boxes.

On behalf of the Museum, thank you to these volunteers for their service. And for the rest of our volunteers, thank you for your patience! We miss you dearly and cannot wait to work with you again soon!



Top to bottom: Library volunteers Jana Kiefer, Nola Marquardt, and Vinny Carta

Reduce Estate Taxes to Zero

With the temporarily doubled exemption from the federal estate tax (\$11.58 million per person in 2020), not many families need to worry about this aspect of estate settlement. For those who still have that concern, or who expect to live until 2026 when the exemption is scheduled to fall roughly in half, a recent private letter ruling shows an IRS-approved method to bring that tax down to zero.

A taxpayer's estate plan includes a marital deduction trust should his spouse survive him. At the spouse's death, the trust becomes a charitable lead annuity trust (CLAT). This kind of trust pays income to a charity for a set period, after which the assets pass to private beneficiaries without additional tax. The annuity in this case will be 5% of the initial value of the trust. The term of the trust will be determined by a formula, rather than set as a fixed number. The trust will last the number of years required to create a charitable deduction large enough to bring federal estate tax obligations down to zero.

Should the spouse die first, the CLAT will be created by Taxpayer's estate, with the same formula—a 5% annuity for the number of years needed to zero out the federal estate tax then due. (Separate trusts were created to use the value of the unified transfer tax credit.)

In private advice (Private Letter Ruling 201933007) the IRS held that the formula will provide numbers that are determinable as of the date of creation of the CLAT, and therefore the charitable deduction will be allowed.

Interestingly, by using a formula instead of a set number of years, this plan will bring the estate tax down to zero regardless of what Congress does about the estate tax in the future. Should the amount exempt from estate tax drop on schedule, the income going to the charity will last longer, long enough to offset that change. If this element of the estate plan is not earlier amended, there will be no estate tax due for either Taxpayer or spouse, regardless of the order of death.

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Futures in History Camp Reimagined!

Since first announcing registration for *Futures in History Camp* 2020 in the spring issue of our *On the Square* quarterly magazine, much has changed. But, two things have remained constant—campers and community. In that spring issue, we strove to highlight the many community collaborations that make Futures in History Camp (FiHC) possible, not knowing at all just how important those partnerships—let us say friendships—would prove as the Museum and organizations around the world pivoted to engage their communities in new ways through innovative virtual and hybrid programming.

Only second to our lingering excitement for having had the opportunity to spend our summer with 27 enthusiastic and intuitive campers, is our great gratitude and appreciation for the 20 community collaborators who helped take Futures in History Camp 2.0 to the next level. Join us in a much deserved shout out to our friends at: Connect Transit, the David Davis Mansion, Children's Discovery Museum, University Galleries at Illinois State University, Department of Anthropology at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville, PrairieErth Farm, Main Street Yoga, Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission, Landmarks Illinois, Workbench Architects, Prairie State Legal Services, School of Theatre and Dance at ISU, the Immigration Project, Sugar Grove Nature Center, the McLean County Regional Planning Commission, the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal, Stefen Robinson, Silver Back Apparel Company, Meltdown Creative Works, and the Little Art School.

Thanks also to the power of Zoom for enabling and empowering our campers to join us live every morning from the safety and comfort of their own homes in Bloomington, Normal, Towanda, Clinton, LeRoy, Hopedale, Heyworth, and Hennepin, IL. These morning Zoom sessions featured live engagement with Museum staff and area experts as we together explored topics ranging from Museum Studies to Archaeology,



Camper Piper Terando of Hennepin, IL works on hands-on, self-guided afternoon activities on Museum Studies Day. Campers went on a virtual behind-the-scenes tour of the McLean County Museum of History, David Davis Mansion, and Children's Discovery Museum, with the help of friends at Connect Transit, and met up live over Zoom with the staff of University Galleries to explore themes of collection curation and exhibit design.



Futures in History Camp 2.0 participants practice facial exercises with Jimmy Chrismon, Assistant Professor of Theatre Teacher Education, as part of a mini acting lesson on Law Day. Campers explored skills in public speaking that would aid them in a career as a lawyer. Campers also got first-hand accounts of careers in law from Adrian Barr with Prairie State Legal Services and staff from the Immigration Project.



Futures in History campers engaged with online materials through an immersive Google Classroom experience, complete with interactive Bitmoji-inspired portals with additional content.

Architecture, Law, and Environmental Science.

Joining us all the way from SIU in Edwardsville, Assistant Professor Dr. Susan Kooiman treated our campers to an expert look into the career of an archaeologist and her personal research into ancient foodways and pottery on Archaeology Day.

"It was an honor and a pleasure to participate in the Futures in History Camp 2.0," said Kooiman. "I had never worked with kids in this age group before, and I was blown away by their attentiveness and participation, especially given the online format."

The kids were highly curious about what a career in archaeology was like, even after I told them that it is nothing like Indiana Jones!"

Kooiman's presentation on foodways was scaffolded by an original video featuring PrairiErth Farm in Atlanta, IL; a live, pinch pot-making demo; a mouth-watering cookie excavation activity; and an afternoon of self-guided, hands-on mock archaeological excavation.

"The museum team created a wonderful program of at-home activities around my research that helped reinforce those topics with the students. I received a Master's degree in Archaeology from Illinois State University, so I will forever have a deep connection with McLean County, and it felt natural to pay forward some of the lessons I learned there to the local youth of the community. It was an overall wonderful and engaging experience."

Embracing a hybrid-virtual format undeniably allowed us to expand our geographic reach and inspired us to reimagine all the things that FiHC can be. But, there were inevitably some elements of the typical FiHC experience that simply could not be replicated—one of which was our annual Law Day mock trial in the Museum's own Governor Fifer Courtroom. However, though our campers made it known how much they missed the mock trial, they were nevertheless eager to ask questions of our guest expert, local lawyer Adrian Barr.

"I really enjoyed talking with the campers. It was fun to hear them describe their perception of the legal system and to help them understand the importance of it in our society," said Barr. "I appreciate Hannah Johnson and the McLean County History Museum staff's help to translate adult concepts in a way that would connect with and inspire the children. The kids seemed very comfortable with the online format and our conversation was open and honest. I learned a lot from the experience."

As with Adrian, there is no doubt that we all learned a lot from FiHC 2.0—a lot about our past, our present, our possible futures, and most importantly, ourselves. Thank you again to our campers and their families who welcomed this adventure with us; to our collaborating partners and volunteers who each contributed their own perspective to our shared experience; and to our members and supporters who donated almost \$4,500 to help ensure the future of Futures in History Camps to come.



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

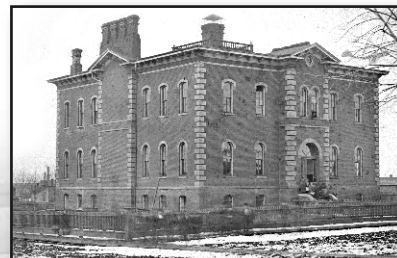
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PERMIT NO. 118

Mystery History Quiz

Last issue's mystery photo of an institutional-looking building sparked many a well-educated guess, but only one that was spot-on. It was super sleuth Dave Hall who correctly identified the building as Bloomington Ward School No. 5, built in 1870. District 87's Bent Elementary School now sits on that site. Incorrect guesses included old St. Joseph's Hospital, a building on the County Poor Farm grounds, David Davis' first Clover Lawn (pre-mansion), the Lucy Orme Morgan Home for Girls, and several others.



We've decided to ease up on the difficulty level. In fact, a lot of you no doubt spent a lot of time in this activity center! If you can identify this building—or think you can—email BKemp@mchistory.org, or leave a message at 309-827-0428. Bonus points for those who can date the photo, and/or identify some of the girls and women shown here. As always, best of luck!