



ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History
September-October-November 2021 Volume 53, Number 3

Paving the Way to a New Normal

page 3

'Night the Stars Fell' Promises Heavenly History

page 4

History of McLean County to Debut in December

page 5

Summer of Fun & Learning

page 6



With thanks to our magazine sponsor:



Also inside this issue:	
Announcements & New Members . . .	2
Pitfalls and Promises II	5
Development Updates.	8
NAACP Youth Council	9
Interns.	13
Calendar of Events	14

ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

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



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:

Visit mchistory.org for current hours and
Covid safety protocols

Admission:

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

Museum Staff

Julie Emig - Executive Director
Susan Hartzold - Curator of Collections & Exhibits
Chelsea Banks - Registrar
Candace Summers - Community Education
Hannah Johnson - Youth & Family Education
Kate Bass - Adult Education
Norris Porter - Director of Development
Brandy Maloney - Development Assistant
Bill Kemp - Librarian
George Perkins - Archivist
Rochelle Gridley - Assistant Archivist
Rachael Masa - Director of Volunteers
Betty Turchiollo - Volunteer Assistant
Jeff Woodard - Marketing & Public Relations
Torii Moré - Curator of Digital Humanities
Joe McDonnell - Visitors Center Manager
Kathi Davis - Visitors Center Assistant

Museum Board

OFFICERS

Tom Eder - President
Carolyn Perry Yockey - 1st Vice President
Michelle Pazar - 2nd Vice President
John Killian - Treasurer
Robert Porter - Secretary

DIRECTORS

Craig Alexander
Keith Cornille
John Davenport
Larry Dietz
Russel Francois
Terri Goss Kinzy
Sandra Harmon
Todd Lowery
Mike Matejka
John McIntyre
Pam Muirhead
S. Georgia Nugent
Shelli Opsal
Josh Rohrscheib
Ann Sullivan
Carl Teichman
Paul Van Ness
Robert Watkins
Bill Wetzel
Bob Williams



Cover image: Paving the intersection of
Jefferson & Madison streets with
bricks, 1940

Announcements

WE HAVE A NEW ROOF!

The McLean County Historical Society and the County of McLean have enjoyed a long history of working together, beginning in 1903 when the Society opened its first museum on the third floor of the then new McLean County Courthouse. The Courthouse (now McLean County Museum of History) was completed in 1903 after the Great Bloomington Fire of 1900 destroyed the previous structure. By the late 1980s, this centerpiece of Downtown could no longer adequately serve the administrative needs of the County and the fate of the building was in limbo. In 1988, Nancy Froelich (then Chair of the McLean County board) led a group of citizens to find a new use for the property. Strong community support was advanced for the conversion of the courthouse into a museum. The County board then established a partnership with the McLean County Historical Society to house the McLean County Museum of History, and in 1991 the Museum moved into the building.

The staff and board of the Museum would like to extend our deep gratitude and appreciation to the County of McLean for undertaking the replacement of the roof of our iconic building. We will be even more thrilled when repairs of the third floor changing exhibit galleries, which sustained extensive damage due to roof leaks and cannot be used in their current condition, are completed. At that time, we can fully serve our members as your Museum and the place for your history!

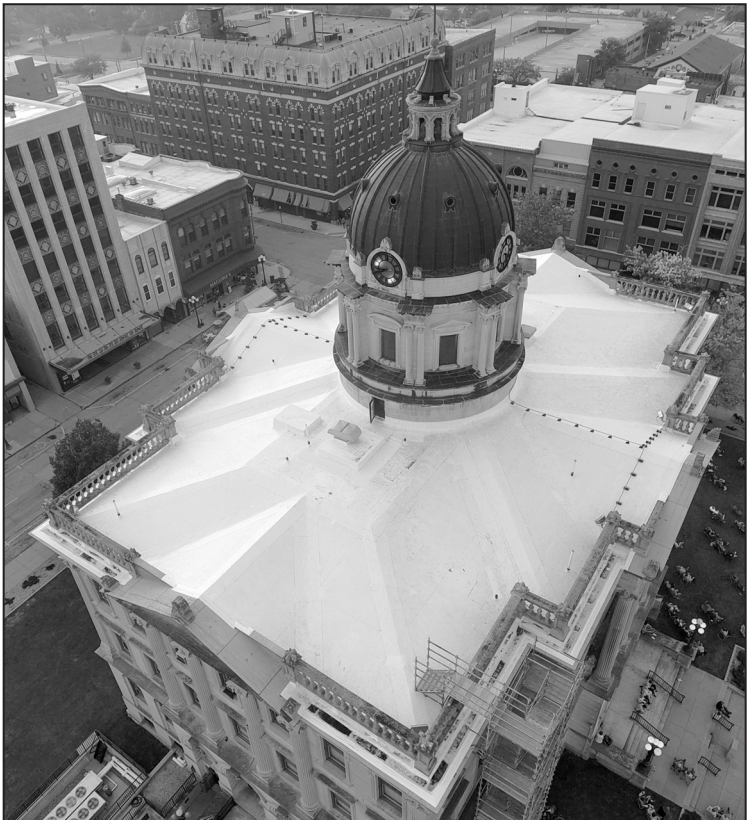


Photo courtesy
Tony Meizelis

Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Rick Bennett
John B. Bierbaum
Jill Cobb

Luke Dalfume
Craig Lutes
MCK CPAs & Advisors
Dan and Kathleen Steadman

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.

Paving the Way to a New Normal



As we continue to pave the way to a new normal of activity, we are glad to offer a full slate of programming while incorporating what we have learned over the past 18+ months. We know from recent survey results that McLean County Museum of History goers want “more virtual content,” in addition to “broader community outreach” (American Alliance of Museums & Wilkening Consulting, 2021). We are committed to providing both, especially given the shifting realities of the ever-present pandemic. We will be ready to offer our substantive and engaging programs across multiple venues for multiple audiences.

For example, we are planning for the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* to be offered both virtually and in person, capitalizing on each experience given the respective platform. Our series *Breaking Bread in McLean County* will continue to feature the stories of local migrant communities via Zoom, growing the digital catalogue of resources exploring these shared and disparate experiences in the process. Many groups of all ages have spent recent time onsite at the Museum, including our intrepid Futures in History Campers and pilot D87 summer schoolers.

The Museum was recently privileged to host the inaugural chartering and installation ceremony of the first Youth Council of the Bloomington-Normal NAACP, and the McLean County Genealogical Society has planned both in-person and online events. The Museum remains a ready partner in Downtown Bloomington events from First Fridays to the outdoor Saturdays on the Square concert series.

In the realm of research and lasting legacy, Executive Director Emeritus Greg Koos has finished his capstone work, *Freedom, Land and Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900*—a “story of the people of this county [that] centers on how we have worked to be free... Our successes in securing this freedom came through the strength of our communities.” So, prepare to pave the way with us as we continue to make history in McLean County.

—Julie Emig, Executive Director

Museum Contributes to Barb Adkins Scholarship

The McLean County Historical Society board recently contributed to an initiative to fund the Barbara Jean Adkins Scholarship at Illinois State University. Well known in our community, Barb was the first manager of the Museum’s *Cruisin’ with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center. Prior to that she served with the City of Bloomington for 32 years, first as a part-time police dispatcher and completing her career as Deputy City Manager. Barb passed away unexpectedly on November 7, 2020 at age 61.

As a city employee, Barb Adkins was instrumental in supporting the Human Relations Commission, the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon, and numerous programs to assist city residents and to support human rights.

Adkins helped initiate the local Not In Our Town movement with the first community forums held in December 1995 and the first march in July 1996. She helped sustain that movement by always being ready to stand up for justice and work to ensure community needs were met. Adkins served on the Bloomington Housing Authority Board, was active with the Bloomington-Normal chapter of the NAACP, and donated her time and talents to the Central Illinois Chapter of The Links, Inc.—an international service organization.

Adkins was one of five children who grew up in East St. Louis, Illinois. She was very proud of her Criminal Justice degree at Illinois State University, and to honor her legacy, a Criminal Justice scholarship is being created at ISU. Donations are being gathered by the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation under the name of the Barbara J. Adkins Memorial Scholarship. Once funds are raised, they will be transferred to ISU to establish the scholarship. Donations can be made electronically at ilprairiecf.org/barbara-j-adkins-memorial-scholarship or by sending a check earmarked for the scholarship and addressed to the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation at 915 E. Washington, Suite 2, Bloomington, IL, 61701.



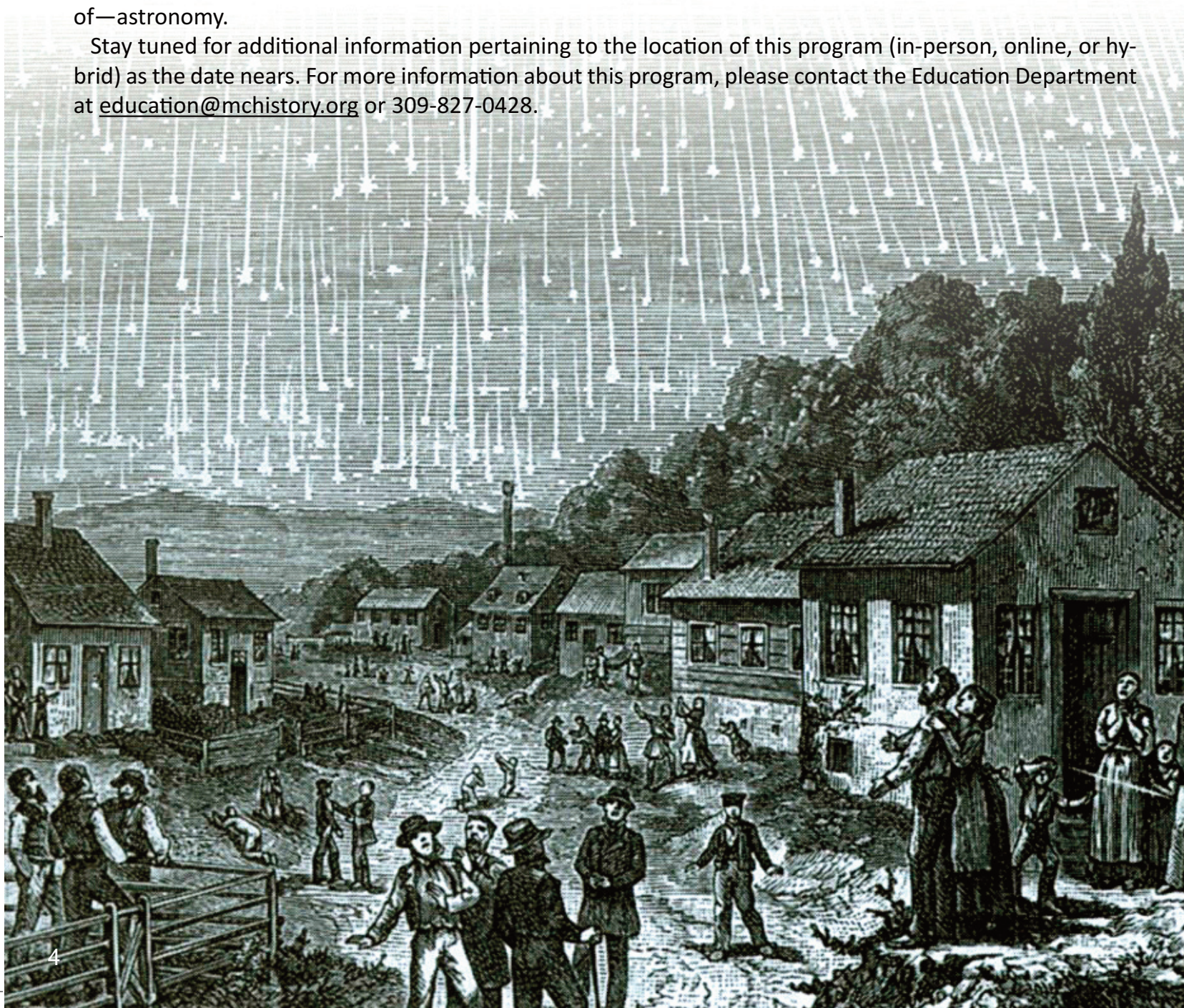
'Night the Stars Fell' Promises Heavenly History

Join Museum Librarian Bill Kemp on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. as he takes us back to November 12-13, 1833, when the nighttime sky lit up like a July Fourth firecracker during what's believed to be the most intense meteor shower in recorded human history.

At that time, Central Illinois was still the frontier, and meteor showers were mysterious and misunderstood phenomena. What did early settlers make of this spectacular—and for some, spectacularly terrifying—event? Where, in fact, did these meteors come from? And what is the connection between the “Night the Stars Fell” and the Leonids—the annual meteor shower that visits Earth every November?

This illustrated program will answer those and other questions. Along the way you'll learn how Indigenous peoples recorded this meteor shower; how enslaved Frederick Douglass and Mormon prophet Joseph Smith interpreted it; and what a twentysomething New Salem, Illinois boarder by the name of Abraham Lincoln had to say about it. This is a program sure to fascinate even those folks with little interest in—or knowledge of—astronomy.

Stay tuned for additional information pertaining to the location of this program (in-person, online, or hybrid) as the date nears. For more information about this program, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.



Koos History of McLean County to Debut in December

The Museum is pleased to host Greg Koos, local historian and Executive Director Emeritus, for a program to debut his new book *Freedom, Land and Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900*. This free, public program will be held Saturday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m. Location TBD.



Koos's new book tells the story of the diverse peoples and events of this county. Using sources contemporary with the events described, it relates the struggle to build communities and secure freedom—or a freedom as each community defined it. Native peoples, women and men, African Americans, Irish and German immigrants, and others all sought and contested for their freedom. People whose voices have not been heard in previous works about Central Illinois are included here.

Greg Koos served and led the McLean County Museum of History from 1977 to 2016. His work here was recognized with numerous state and national awards. His historical research has been published in the United States and Ireland. Koos lives with his wife, Carol, in his hometown of Bloomington.

Freedom, Land and Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900 will be available for purchase this holiday season. For more information about this program and how to purchase copies of the book, visit mchistory.org

Greg Koos

Pitfalls and Promise II: Public Art for McLean County Today

The Museum is pleased to welcome Felix Fiedler, art historian and psychologist from Germany, who will present a companion program inspired by Librarian Bill Kemp's presentation this spring about how local monuments have memorialized McLean County's past. This free, public program will be held on Saturday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Fiedler's program will explore how municipalities across the United States are calling on artists to mold new visions of their past and a more equitable future. Contemporary public art has long exposed the blind spots and distortions of mainstream memory. But even monuments that acknowledge racism and injustice can serve as fig leaves. How can we avoid that and foster public art that makes a difference? Fiedler will discuss examples from around the world and challenges right here in Bloomington-Normal and the surrounding area.

After serving as the Research Associate at the City of Hamburg's public art program, Fiedler taught art history at Illinois State University.

Keep an eye out for additional information pertaining to the location of this program (in-person, online, or hybrid) as the date nears. For more information, email education@mchistory.org or phone 309-827-0428.



Photo courtesy Mike Matejka

Summer of Fun and Learning!

Summer 2021 proved to be another season like no other. With the Museum's participation in District 87's novel, three-week summer school experience and our return to an onsite, immersive *Futures in History Camp 2.1*, we could not have asked for a better way to come together with our community kiddos in the spirit of history-loving, summer fun.

First let us recap the amazing time we had facilitating three weeks of hands-on learning and exploratory fun with D87's pilot summer school program. Hannah Johnson, Director of Youth & Family Education, had the privilege of spending almost every afternoon of June with nine bright and happy students as they engaged in themes including museum studies, migration, farming, archaeology, women's history, Black history, music and performance, visual art making, and more. The 15-day curricular schedule that Johnson created in collaboration with district staff and community partners sought to engage multilingual, Spanish-speaking students grades K-5 with the history of McLean County in a way that enabled and empowered them to see themselves reflected in the past, present, and future of this community. A huge shout out to all of our partners who never fail to help make this level of enlightening and inspiring engagement possible: University Galleries at Illinois State University, IWU Language School for Kids, Lisa Lofgren and Together Press, the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project, musician Alan Moore, Sugar Grove Nature Center, Miller Park Zoo, Coalescence Theatre Project, and BCAI Cultural Arts and Humanities. We must also say that the summer school program was expertly executed and supported by District 87, and the opportunity to collaborate with district teachers and future teachers through ISU's preservice intern program was a dream for the Museum staff involved. We hope that the program was well received by students, families, staff, and partners, as we are already looking forward to summer school 2022.



Look at those flags fly! On the first day of D87 Summer School, students and staff got to know each other by making their very own flags. Summer schoolers learned about the symbolism in flag design and created their very own design to represent themselves.

Just one week following the conclusion of D87's summer school, the Museum launched into Futures in History Camp 2.1—

which may have been reduced in camper capacity, but not at all in breadth of exploration and engagement. This July, we welcomed nine campers representing four communities and nine different schools for a five-day journey through topics including law, community organizing, labor history, archaeology, foodways, ecology, architectural design, historic preservation and adaptive reuse, visual art making, curation and exhibit design, environmental science, and local manufacturing. Highlights of the week included a mock trial featuring the 1946 Gridley case *People v. Dailey, Parks, Smith, and Smith* with campers expertly acting out the roles of attorneys and witnesses; a visit to the West Side Community Garden with the Ecology Action Center to connect our campers to the natural world around them as we explored the field of archaeology and the study of historic foodways. This year's mock excavation



Our Futures in History Campers made history this summer by being the first young members of the general public to visit the Rivian plant in Normal for an onsite tour. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to be Adventurous Together on Environmental Science Day.

at the David Davis Mansion—made possible by the research and expertise of Public Programs intern Anastasia Ervin—recreated the 1980s excavation of the Barton Family house by the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project; a conversation with Connect Transit and representatives of Farnsworth Group about the architectural design of the future Downtown transfer center; a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum and a chilly peak inside the freezer that houses the invaluable Pantagraph Negatives Collection, and a site visit to the Rivian plant in Normal. Our Futures in History Campers made company history by being the first young members of the general public to visit the plant for an onsite tour.

If you can believe it, that is only a taste of all that we accomplished in our five days together, and we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the complete list of partners who made FiHC 2.1 possible. Thank you to Bob Bradley, Mike Matejka, Dr. Susan Kooiman of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Department of Anthropology, David Davis Mansion, McLean County Arts Center, Together Press, Connect Transit, Farnsworth Group, Ecology Action Center, West Bloomington Revitalization Project, Ensenberger Luxury Condominiums, Sugar Grove Nature Center, Rivian, Eatology, and Meltdown Creative Works.

And our utmost thanks to the following sponsors who provide necessary financial support that allows the Museum to offer full scholarships to eligible campers and to continue to provide and expand the unique opportunities available to all of our FiHC participants. Thank you to the Young Men's Club of Bloomington, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, WGLT, MCK CPAs & Advisors, Illinois Farm Bureau, and Heartland Bank and Trust Company.

Remember, there is a future for everyone at Futures in History Camp and we can't wait to see you in Summer 2022!



Campers Brooke Piotrowski, Eli Hartman, and Lucas Lamar stand proudly in front of their pop-up museum exhibit in the lobby of FiHC partner and Museum neighbor Ensenberger Luxury Condominiums on Museum Studies Day.

**The McLean County Museum of History, BN Welcoming,
and the Immigration Project present**

**BREAKING
BREAD**
in McLean County



Garam Masala Box
Indian American Cooking

Saturday, September 11th | 1:00 P.M. | Zoom

To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread8



Development News and Notes

The Development Team has been busy this spring and summer pursuing our goals of growing membership and seeking out grant opportunities to support the work of our talented staff at the Museum. The following summaries provide a look into what is happening and how your support and membership benefits you personally, and the community as a whole.

15% OFF
New and extended memberships
through October 3



Your Museum - Your History!

Visit timetravelers.com for a complete list of sites and benefits.

Membership Update

It has been a tough year for so many because of the lingering pandemic. We appreciate everyone who continues their support for the Museum. Memberships to the Museum make our work possible and lasting. Without strong membership support, the Museum would cease to exist. Private support represents 70 percent of our annual budget. As a way of thanking our members and to give back to our community, through the end of the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* on October 3, Museum memberships are 15% off when purchased online with a credit card. Support local history and become a Museum Member today or extend your current membership with a renewal. Visit mchistory.org or contact the development team at development@mchistory.org. Museum membership includes access to the Time Travelers free reciprocal membership network for historical museums, sites, and societies throughout the U.S. Currently there are over 400 participating institutions.



Museum Receives Digitization Grants

We are happy to report that the Museum is the recipient of two additional digitization grants to expand our efforts in making the Pantagraph Negatives Collection more readily available to the public online. The first grant in the amount of \$96,650 is from the Illinois State Library. The money will be used to digitize an additional 45,000 images. This grant is part of the Illinois History Digital Imaging Grant Program. The second grant is a \$5,000 matching grant from the Illinois Historical Records Grant Program through the Illinois State Archives. An additional 5,600 images representing the entire 1952 year will be digitized with metadata embedded and uploaded to the Illinois Digital Archives. **Contact Norris Porter at development@mchistory.org or by cell at 309-706-9242 if you would like to make a contribution to help the Museum achieve the \$5,000 required match.** Over 78,000 negatives from the collection have already been digitized and uploaded to the Illinois Digital Archives with the help of a 2019 IMLS Grant. Students, teachers, genealogical and academic researchers, and the general public continue to benefit from this collection.

2021 History Makers Virtual Gala

Thank you to Carolyn Yockey, our *History Makers Gala* chairperson, and everyone who helped to make our Gala a success this year! Multiple viewing options allowed an estimated 250 to 300 individuals to view the Gala live. We



History Makers and their families gather in the Governor Fifer Courtroom for the Virtual Gala

enjoyed a wonderful evening Under the Dome at the Museum honoring Carole & Jerry Ringer, Barbara Findley Stuart, and Marilyn & Robert Sutherland. The entire program, including the theatrical performance by Illinois Voices Theatre, remains available via our Facebook and YouTube channel. We are especially grateful to everyone who made financial contributions, including our many sponsors. Corporate partners this year include Cumulus Radio Bloomington, Pantagraph Media, Gailey Eye Clinic, WGLT, and Illinois Farm Bureau. We look forward to coming together again in-person for our traditional History Makers Gala on June 15, 2022.

Charitable Gifts from an IRA

Required minimum distributions (RMD) from retirement accounts resume in 2021 after being waived for 2020. Even though the required age at which the RMD requirement begins was raised to 72 by the SECURE Act, the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) age remains at 70.5. This gap can allow IRA owners who are not yet subject to RMDs to use QCDs, if they are at least 70.5. In addition to the benefits of giving to a charity, like the Museum, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income. Contact your tax advisor for details. The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. **Contact Director of Development Norris Porter if you would like to make a QCD to the Museum at development@mchistory.org or call 309-706-9242 (cell).**

Museum Hosts Historic Youth Council Installation Ceremony

The Museum joined the Bloomington-Normal National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in a historic and symbolic event in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on Saturday, August 7. The local chapter, after meeting strenuous charter requirements, formally activated a Youth Council in a ceremony that was the first of its kind in the organization's 103-year history.

With over 80 people in attendance, members of the community including State Rep. Dan Brady; Sonny Garcia of Black Lives Matter; and law officials from both the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington endorsed this bold new initiative. Senior chapter officers, including Madame President Ms. Linda Foster, 1st Vice President Dr. Carla Campbell-Jackson, and 2nd Vice President Mrs. Willie Holton Halbert were in attendance to offer members of the Youth Council words of praise and encouragement. Dr. Charles Morris and Dr. Jeanne Morris also congratulated the youth on their accomplishment and praised their enthusiasm. Museum Director of Marketing Jeff Woodard offered perspective on the Museum's long-standing relationship with the local African American community, the work of the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project (BNBHP), and the historic significance of the recognition and celebration occurring "where countless justices and injustices were meted out for over three-quarters of a century."

The inaugural Youth Council of 25 bright and ambitious youth from the area were chosen in July of this year with an objective to serve and inform the community on social justice and race issues, with an emphasis on education, economic, social, and

political equality issues. The council leadership includes Bradley Ross Jackson, president; Kamille Harvey, first vice president; Myles Manns, second vice president; Sydney Stewart, third vice president; Karcin Roth, treasurer; Miles Roth, assistant treasurer; Sitota Rogal, secretary; and Isaiah Martin, assistant secretary.



Bloomington-Normal NAACP Youth Council inductees
Courtesy The Pantagraph

Founded in 1909, the NAACP remains the world's largest, oldest, boldest, and most respected Civil Rights organization in the world. The NAACP's mission statement is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

New to Collections

Objects

- Parkland Foundations patch, c. 1980; donated by Nola Marquardt
- COVID-19 vaccination sticker distributed by the McLean County Health Department, 2021; donated by Chelsea Banks
- St. Joseph Hospital cafeteria plate, c. 1950s; donated by Shannon Perry
- Violin made by Daniel Sinks, 1926; donated by Donna J. Sinks
- Luella Sabick's Chiddix Junior High School pennant and pin; Oktoberfest homecoming pin from Illinois State University, 1974; toy football advertising Laesch Dairy Company and the Normal Community High School Iron Men, 1968; plastic coin purse advertising the Van Gundy Insurance Agency, c. 1970s; ballpoint pen advertising Steak 'n Shake

- restaurants, c. 1970s; donated by Rodney Sabick
- Watercolor landscape painting "Illinois Color-scape #56" by Harold Gregor, 1966; lithograph print "Two Grain Bins in McLean County" by Harold Gregor, c. 1972; donated by Marlene Gregor
- Sweatshirt and pencil from Centennial School belonging to Ellen Lorber, c. 1980s; donated by Michael and Ellen Lorber
- Set of Brokaw Hospital surgical scrubs, c. 1980s; infant CPR training manikin, c. 1990s; donated by Carle BroMenn Medical Center
- People First Coalition pinback button, 2021; donated by Kelby Cumpston
- Demonstration model of "Votomatic" punch card-voting machine used by the City of Bloomington, c. 1985; donated by the Bloomington Election Commission

- American Bicentennial wall calendar used in the home of Richard and Janet Zich, 1976, "Fonzie for President" pinback button, 1976; Republican National Committee lapel pin, 2020; donated by Janet and Richard Zich
- James W. Dooley's top hat, c. 1890s; mourning bonnet worn by Elizabeth Cowden Dooley, c. 1880s; donated by Libby Robinson
- Bohemian-style dress and accessories worn by Marcia Thomas as a student at Illinois Wesleyan University, c. 1970; donated by Marcia Thomas
- Louis J. Wellmerling items including his c. 1870s straight razor and shaving mug, 1933-1937 mayoral badge, 1940 Lutheran Layman's League convention ribbon, circa 1930 and 1952 Izaak Walton League lapel pins, 1940 mayoral campaign pinback button, and c. 1950 "Scott For Sheriff" pinback campaign button; wooden ruler advertising Z. Kaplan clothing and shoe store in Chenoa, c. 1920s; wooden yardstick advertising Noe Motor Company in Chenoa, c. 1940; donated by Jim Raymond
- Posters, candle, flowers, and artwork from vigil held for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community at Uptown Circle in Normal, April 2021; donated by Yvin Shin
- Souvenir campaign kit for the 1976 Carter-Mondale presidential campaign; donated by Robert J. Lenz
- Watercolor painting of the Coolidge farmhouse once located west of Normal, created by Nancy Sarff, 1961; donated by Frank Hamsher
- Pen-and-ink drawings of the 1832, 1836, 1868, and 1903 McLean County courthouses, created by Don Shirley, c. 1960s; donated by Chase Bank
- Presentation quilt made by the women of Towanda Methodist Church for Reverend Mrs. Dudman, 1907; donated by Alice Sutter Temple

Featured Artifact

Violin – donated by Donna J. Sinks

The Museum recently received this handmade violin crafted in March 1926 by Daniel Sinks (1851-1927), then a resident of Bloomington, Illinois. Born in Marion County, Indiana, Sinks came to McLean County as a young man in the late 1870s, bringing with him his wife, children, and mother. They settled in Stanford, initially living with Sinks's maternal relatives while he earned a living as a carpenter. The family remained in Stanford for over 30 years until 1909 when Sinks and his wife moved to Bloomington, residing at 1123 S. Barker Street, where they would live the rest of their lives. By then, Sinks had developed a reputation as a talented fiddler and violin maker, winning several county-wide fiddling contests. Sinks died in 1927 at the age of 71, outliving his wife by only a few years. It is probable that this was the last violin he ever made.



This violin was handcrafted by McLean County resident Daniel Sinks in 1926 from wood cut in the early spring of 1917. This data, inscribed on the inside of the violin, is barely visible through the F holes on the front. Sinks also wrote his name and residence on the interior of the violin's body. These inscriptions were discovered when the violin, which had been damaged prior to the time of its donation, was restored by Illinois luthier Dan Martin of Morton. The violin also came with several accessories including a wooden, coffin-shaped storage case, violin bows, a shoulder pad, and a metal pitch pipe for tuning.

Archives

- Campaign materials from 2021 municipal races; donated by Torii Moré
- Normal Community Garden Club ledger, 1946-1947, compiled by Helen Littleton Burns; additions to the Helen Littleton Burns Postcard Collection; miscellaneous items; donated by Charleen Burns, care of Dan Clark
- McLean County voter registration forms; Pantagraph articles and programs for area spelling bee, 1989-1993; donated by Ruth Cobb
- Collection of papers relating to John McFee, 1830-1877; autograph book of Kate Gingerich, 1848; and other items; donated by John Yoder
- Abstract of title for Broadway Place lot, Cedar Crest addition, Normal; donated by Jose and Beth Losada
- "Century of Progress" 1933 Chicago World's Fair, various items collected by 13-year-old Eloise Diggelman; donated by Mike Meece
- Jacob Hay reunion minutes, West Township,

Can you fill a gap in the Museum's object collection?

iPod
mp3 player
smartphone (internet model)
videocassette player/tapes
digital camcorder
boombox
Discman

If you have one of these items, used it while a resident of McLean County, and would like to donate it, email our registrar, Chelsea Banks, at cbanks@mchistory.org or phone 309-827-0428.

1939-1986; donated by Carol Dorward

- Scrapbook of local theater programs, late 1800s-1910s, collected by Fred Hitch; donated by Illinois Wesleyan University

- Brochures, programs, and miscellany relating to the Town of Normal, Normal Community High School, and Illinois State University; donated by Rodney Sabick

- Large collection of annual reports, promotional pieces, employee and community newsletters, nursing school materials, and miscellaneous papers relating to Brokaw, Mennonite, and BroMenn hospitals, late 1800s-2010s; donated by Carle BroMenn Medical Center

- Collection of notecards, poem, and print featuring local artist Herb Eaton's "Illinois Dancer" imagery; donated by Pamala J. Eaton

- Various, including Bloomington Telephone Co. receipt, July 1881; bids relating to the construction and furnishing of the 1903 McLean County Courthouse (now Museum of History); and other items; donated by David Parker

- Collection of World War I-era sheet music; typed recollections of settling in the Twin Cities in the 1960s and raising a family on Karin Drive, Normal; and other items; donated by Janet and Rich Zich
- Young Men's Club program, April 24, 1958; donated by Jeanette Baumgart

- Two oversized 33 1/3 RPM records relating to Adlai E. Stevenson—one from the 1952 presidential campaign labeled "Hollywood for Sparkman/Stevenson," Universal Records, Inc.; donated by Hila Feil in the name of her late husband, filmmaker Gerry Feil

- Expansive collection of catalogues, fliers, mag-

azine articles, and other materials relating to the career of the late artist Harold Gregor; donated by Marlene Gregor

- Local election materials from 2021 LGBTQIA+ candidates (added to existing Prairie Pride Coalition Collection); donated by Dave Bentlin

- Collection of materials relating to the Sweet Adelines of Bloomington, including videotapes, charter documents, minutes, correspondence, and other items, held by Margaret Lipp (donor's grandmother-in-law); donated by Eric Vinsel

- Various items relating to the City of Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners, including 1914 election data, miscellaneous twentieth century petitions, information on the commission's 100th anniversary, and other materials; donated by the Board of Election Commissioners

- Allin Township records, including supervisor's account book, 1911-1931; treasurer's account book, 1921-1931; and other items; donated by Allin Township

- Assortment of Wellmerling family travel postcards; Emma Wellmerling and Mildred Wellmerling Raymond scrapbook; and other items; donated by Jim Raymond

- "The Year 1930 Psalm" poem, otherwise undated, typed on Daily Pantagraph stationery; donated by Steve Vogel

- Collection of booklets, newsletters, announcements, and other material relating to the Old House Society; and other items; donated by Bill LaBounty

- Collection of material relating to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County, 2006; local political materials, including directories of Democratic Central Committee men of McLean County, 1950s; donated by Robert J. Lenz

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- Special Method in Natural Science of the First Four Grades of the Common School (Bloomington: Public-School Pub. Co., 3rd edition, 1899), by Charles A. McMurry and Lida B. McMurry; donated by the Spencer family

- World War II cookery / recipe booklets, including "Tempting, Thrifty, Wartime Meals;" donated by Mike Meece

- Reflections of Grand Canyon Historians: Ideas, Arguments, and First-Person Accounts (2008), includes chapter by donor, "John Wesley Powel: White Water to White City;" donated by Marcia Thomas

- A History of the New York Juvenile Asylum and Its Orphan Trains, six-volume set (2021), compiled and published by Clark Kidder; donated by Rochelle Gridley

- Light and Hope: The Story of the Rev. John A.

Sprunger and Katharina Sprunger and Their Heritage (2021), authored by donor; donated by Rev. Max Haines

- Exhibition catalogue, "Poetry of Light and Motion" (Metropolitan Press, 2019), and supporting material featuring the work of local artist Gary Justis; donated by Gary Justis

- History of the Laesch Dairy (2021); written and donated by Ellen Laesch Dalrymple

Photographs

- Two views of Illinois Central Railroad wreck, September 19, 1911, outside of Kumler, Bellflower Township; donated by Kathie M. Weaver

- Picture postcard of unidentified child, portrait taken by Nellie Neher, daughter of W.D. Neher, at the family's studio in Chenoa; donated by Carolyn Winterroth

- Large collection of photographic prints and slides relating to Brokaw, Mennonite, and BroMenn hospitals, late 1800s-2010s; donated by Carle BroMenn Medical Center

- Additions to the John (Jack) Wadell Collection—12 large-format color slides featuring donor's work on German television program, "Broadway Show Tunes;" donated by John Wadell

- Large format colorized aerial of Norris farm, with note on back—"The corn production story of the century"—more than a quarter million bushels from 2,500 acres, signed by Funk Bros. Seed Co. hybrid seed scientist Jim Holbert; donated by Paul Johanson

- Collection of photographs, including c. 1900 William F. Enfield and John W. Mackey cigar factory building, 300 block of South Center Street, Bloomington; donated by Carolyn Penn

- Eleven black-and-white photos of November 18, 1980 campaign stop at the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean, taken by Nancy Saul for the McLean Lens newspaper; donated by Sara Kellum

- Small collection of color photographs of political/community events, 1970s; donated by Robert J. Lenz

**The Museum
collects personal, military,
household, business, art , and
native objects, created and used by
the people of McLean County.**

**What's gathering dust
in your attic?**

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 72.

SEVEN REQUIREMENTS

1. Only those over age 70½ are permitted to use this strategy.
2. IRAs only.
3. Direct transfers only.
4. Public charities and private operating foundations must be the recipient.
5. The payment would have qualified for a full charitable deduction.
6. Distributions are limited to \$100,000 per year and must be otherwise fully taxable.
7. Documentation required.

BENEFITS

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

This information is not intended to be and should not be treated as legal advice or tax advice. Readers should under no circumstances rely upon this information as a substitute for their own research or for obtaining specific legal or tax advice from their own counsel. © 2020 M.A. Co. All rights reserved.



Grow, protect, and transfer your wealth **with confidence.**

Wealth Management
hbtbank.com | 855-244-1217

It's more than an investment,
it's your legacy.

Heartland Bank and Trust Company

Not FDIC Insured	Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency	Not a Bank Deposit	

Museum Hosts Large Class of Interns

The Museum recently said farewell to eight interns as they completed their summer semester internships—the largest crew of interns the Museum has hosted in a semester. To experience this wave of interest after a turbulent pandemic year has been awe-inspiring for staff! Throughout the summer term, each of these Illinois State University students has shown the utmost professionalism, work ethic, and passion. It has been an absolute pleasure watching each student grow in their chosen department. Please help us in congratulating these students for their fantastic contributions and efforts!

Anastasia Ervin, an anthropology and music double major, served in our Education Department as our Public Programs intern leading older elementary students in our highly interactive Futures in History Camp. **Haley Youhas**, history education major, served as our Evergreen Cemetery Walk Intern enhancing our teacher packet curriculum and writing character biographies. **Dennis Awuah**, an international student from Ghana studying history, worked in the library organizing two large archival donations, including the Brokaw Nursing School collection. **Kim Stahl**, an anthropology major, completed her summer internship in Collections researching artifacts for deaccession, and will be continuing her internship experience in Collections this fall. **Erica Mallek**, a graphic design major, worked with our Development and Education departments to design marketing materials for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk and History Makers Gala. Classmates **Abigail Etchison** and **Mollie Spoerer**, both fashion design majors, worked in the textile collection where they updated condition reports, built custom storage containers, repaired damage, and photographed clothing items such as undergarments, swimsuits, and bonnets. This summer, the Museum was also pleased to partner with Not In Our Town to offer a social justice mapping internship as part of a grant funded project seeking to create an interactive and walkable map of significant sites of social justice in Bloomington-Normal. **Aaron Sanders**, a geography major, joined us for this internship spending most of his time conducting research in our library.



Kim Stahl

Meet Museum Volunteer Kathe Conley



Known for her fabulous research, writing, and presentation skills, as well as her sense of humor and sharp wit, Kathe Conley has poured her heart into Museum stewardship since 1992. She was attracted to the Museum because of her love of history, libraries, and volunteering. In her time with the Museum, Kathe has volunteered as a Library Assistant, researcher, writer, and tour guide for the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*.

A Chicago native, Kathe has lived in Bloomington-Normal since 1964 when she came to Illinois State University as a freshman. She earned a B.S. in elementary education and an M.A. in English literature at Illinois State. Kathe also has an M.S. in library and information science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She was a library tech and then a librarian at ISU's Milner Library for 36 years. Kathe was married to Loy, also a history fanatic and Museum volunteer, for 44 years. He passed on December 31, 2020.

Kathe enjoys crossword puzzles, Zumba, performing with her senior acting group, and cooking new recipes. She loves to laugh and to make others laugh, although she admits that her sense of humor was mostly shaped by reading *Mad Magazine* voraciously as a “tween.”

The best advice Kathe would like to give us is “don’t be afraid to try new things and meet new people. Try to be kind and show generosity of spirit in all encounters and endeavors—well, most of the time.” A grandiose thank you to Kathe for her selfless dedication to the Museum these past 29 years!

Be sure to attend this year’s Evergreen Cemetery Walk (in-person or online) to witness Kathe’s work firsthand. For ticket information, see page 15. Interested in getting involved at the McLean County Museum of History? Contact Rachael Masa, Director of Volunteers and Interns, at rmasa@mchistory.org or phone 309-827-0428.

UPCOMING EVENTS*

Saturdays through October 30

The Museum opens at 8:30 a.m. to all visitors, with FREE admission until noon! Tour the Museum's latest exhibits and shop at the surrounding Farmers' Market.

Saturdays through October 30

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Museum at the Market!

Join us at the Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market. Stop by the Museum's plaza on Washington Street to purchase all of your local history needs and favorite treats, and participate in a variety of free activities for all ages!

August 31

Evergreen Cemetery Walk Tickets on Sale Today

September 6

Museum Closed for Labor Day holiday

September 11 1:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County – Garam Masala Box: Indian American Cooking with Archana Shekara, Associate Professor of Graphic Design at Illinois State University and Art Director of Design Streak Studio, and fellow members of the community for an exploration of Indian American cuisine and culture in Central Illinois. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread8

September 18 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

LSK Language and Culture Festival

Join the Museum, IWU Language School for Kids, Normal Public Library, Bloomington Public Library, and a variety of other community organizations for a festival to promote early childhood education in second languages; explore language programs at IWU; and celebrate cultural diversity in the Bloomington-Normal community. This free, family-friendly event will be held on the IWU Quad.

September 25-26 & October 2-3

11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day

Evergreen Cemetery Walk. For more information, see page 15.

October 12 6:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County – America Meets

East Asia: Mayonnaise in the Sushi with Nobuko Adachi and James Stanlaw, professors of Sociology and Anthropology at Illinois State University, as they explore the intersection of East Asian and American cuisines and cultures. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread9

October 26 7:00 p.m.

The Night the Stars Fell with Bill Kemp, Librarian, McLean County Museum of History. For more information, see page 4. Location TBD.

October 29 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Downtown Trick-or-Treat

November 1 through December 31

Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk. For more information, see page 15.

November 6 1:00 p.m.

Pitfalls and Promise II: Public Art for McLean County Today with art historian and psychologist Felix Fiedler. For more information, see page 5. Location TBD.

November 13 1:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County – Sunday Sauce: An Italian Staple with Jack Capodice, for an exploration of his Italian American family's experience in Central Illinois. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread10

November 20 1:00 p.m.

Buckle of the Corn Belt: An Illustrated Tour of McLean County and Everyone's Favorite Cereal Grain with Bill Kemp, Librarian, McLean County Museum of History. Archaeological excavations tell us that corn has been a staple crop in what is today McLean County for the better part of a millennium. Today, acre-upon-acre of genetically modified corn represent the single defining characteristic of the county's landscape. Kemp will lead a mostly light-and-breezy tour of what corn has meant to McLean County, with his historical narrative enlivened with dozens of informative, imaginative, wistful, and humorous illustrations and photographs. He promises a "corntacular" time for all. Location TBD.

November 25

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

***All events will be held online via Zoom unless otherwise noted.**

LUNCH & LEARN

November 2 at 7:00 p.m.

***From Slave to State Legislature:
John W. E. Thomas, Illinois' First
African American Lawmaker***

by David A. Joens

To register, go to bit.ly/historyreads110221

History Reads Book Club



Bloomington Public Library
Brought to you by the
McLean County Museum of History

September 9 at 12:10 p.m.

Beekeeping for Fun and Nature with Karen Schmidt, local beekeeper, and Patti Kopranda, treasurer of the Central Illinois Beekeepers Association. To register, go to bit.ly/MCMHseptlunch

October 14 at 12:10 p.m.

Math is Your Friend with Dan Roberts, Associate Professor of Math, and Zahia Drici, Chairperson/Professor of Math at Illinois Wesleyan University. To register, go to bit.ly/MCMHoctLL

November 11 at 12:10 p.m.

TBD

EVERGREEN CEMETERY WALK

mchistory.org

EST.1995

#cemwalk

2021

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
SEPTEMBER 25-26 AND OCTOBER 2-3, 2021
11 A.M. AND 2 P.M. EACH DAY
302 E. MILLER ST., BLOOMINGTON, IL

ADVANCE TICKET SALES BEGIN AUGUST 31

IN-PERSON

\$20 General Public
\$18 Museum Members
\$5 Under 18 & Students w/ID

VIRTUAL

NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31
\$25 GENERAL PUBLIC HOUSEHOLD
\$20 MEMBER HOUSEHOLD

HYBRID

\$30 (GOOD FOR ONE TICKET TO ATTEND
IN-PERSON AND FOR HOUSEHOLD
ACCESS TO THE VIRTUAL WALK)

TICKET SALES LOCATIONS

EVERGREEN MEMORIAL CEMETERY, MCLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY,
ONLINE AT [MCHISTORY.ORG](https://mchistory.org)



NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
BLOOMINGTON IL
PERMIT NO. 118

Mystery History Quiz

Our last mystery photo—an early picture postcard of Brokaw Hospital (now Carle BroMenn Medical Center) in Normal—stumped more than a few history sleuths, with it often mistaken for Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington. Edgar Lundeen, Jr., on the other hand, had no trouble identifying old Brokaw. “I delivered prescriptions and medical supplies (six-gallon wooden crates of distilled water, etc.) to these buildings in 1946 from Biasi’s Drug Store in downtown Bloomington,” Ed told us by email. “Fun for an afterschool late-afternoon job for a 16-year-old boy.” In addition to Ed, others who knew or guessed the correct answer include Frank Beck, Bobby Nash Castillo, Roger and Carol Elliot, Dennis Fox, David A. Hall, Don Meyer, Dennis Vogel, Joan Vogel, and—last but not least—Jeanne Wroan (who we mistakenly left off the previous list of successful mystery history sleuths). If we forgot anyone this time around, our apologies.



Here’s the latest mystery photo. Can you tell us where this was and what, exactly, is going on? If you want to make an educated (or not-so-educated!) guess, contact Librarian Bill Kemp at bkemp@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

