

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

March-April-May 2021

Volume 53, Number 1

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With thanks to our magazine sponsor:



ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

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



MUSEUM CLOSED

Watch for news.
We hope to announce a
reopening date soon!

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Susan Hartzold - Curator of Collections & Exhibits
Chelsea Banks - Registrar
Candace Summers - Community Education
Hannah Johnson - Youth & Family Education
Norris Porter - Director of Development
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Cover image: Clarence Ropp and Sharon Flurer enjoy springtime weather with their classmates outside the Gridley Church—in use as an extra classroom due to overcrowding in 1949.

Announcements

Your Museum, Your History, Your Gift

Thank you to our loyal members and friends who contributed to the Annual Fund Appeal! Launched in early December, we received \$14,690 towards our \$20,000 goal.

Directed towards closing the gap on lost revenue due to the pandemic, it's not too late. If you have not yet given to the Annual Fund and still want to participate, visit mchistory.org/participate/donate, email development@mchistory.org, or phone 309-827-0428 ext. 1205.



SAVE THE DATE!

We are making plans to honor our
2020 class of History Makers

Mark your calendar today for June 16, 2021
Gala details to be announced soon.

Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Robin Bagwell
John Browning
Martha Ehlers
Julie Emig
James Gildersleeve

David Hirst
Samantha Kern
Bob Lakin
Pamela Bittner Merrill
Blair and Becky Porter

Brock and Katie Porter
Neil and Betty Porter
Jen Ritchason
Laura Walden

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.

THE ART OF RESTORATION

If you are like me, any moment of quiet that can still the cacophony in your mind is a most welcome respite these days. As I rush from managing my daughter's Zoom Kindergarten into the noise of bathroom renovations on the ground floor of our shuttered Museum, I fret. I worry about our elders, the state of our democracy, acquiring a second Payroll Protection Program loan, and whether we have milk in the refrigerator at home. I try to take deep breaths. There was a time in my life when I did not like yoga. Now I delight in a local YMCA class that emphasizes balance, mobility, and strength. My muscles melt. I am restored, at least for a moment.



Claiming these moments of restoration seems urgent and necessary. In that vein, we are dedicating this issue of *On the Square* to the theme of restoration. We are actively restoring the historical light fixtures in the Museum's courtroom and rotunda to their original antique verde finish, funded by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Public Museum Grant and generous private donations. McLean County has approved a roof restoration project to begin in the milder days of spring. Our curatorial department is seeking a preservation planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will help us improve storage conditions and preserve our collections, enabling us to continue to interpret local history and challenge established narratives. Indeed, we have just reached a milestone for our IMLS-funded Pantagraph Negatives Project, restoring and annotating over 30,000 images that are now accessible through the Illinois Digital Archives.

We are in the process of creating a new strategic plan for the Museum as we look towards reaccreditation with the American Alliance of Museums in 2022, restoring and renewing a vision for our role in the community. We seek to restore the silenced voices from our past as we plan our next *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* to include McLean County Black residents Alverta and Julia Duff who experienced the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. After the events at our nation's Capitol on January 6, we are compelled to *"lean into [our] missions... As interpreters and educators of history and culture, museums and museum professionals have the power to uphold democratic and democratic norms, call out bigotry and hate, and fight for racial justice."* This comes from a joint statement published by national museum associations across the country,* restoring our belief in both what is necessary and what is possible. Restoration is at the heart of our work.

—Julie Emig, Executive Director

*American Alliance of Museums; American Association for State and Local History; Association of Art Museum Directors; Association of Children's Museums; Association of Science and Technology Centers; Council of American Jewish Museums

Artists, Advocates, Acrobats, & More!

Women Who Made McLean County History

Making history has always come naturally to women, and the women of McLean County are no exception. Yet, the stories of these historic women often go untold. Join Candace Summers, Director of Community Education, on March 30 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom for a program that will highlight 20 McLean County women who shaped our history. From the first woman Illinois State Senator, Florence Fifer Bohrer; to the "Queen of the Flying Trapeze," Antoinette Concello; and Civil Rights activist Sister Mary

Antona Ebo, this illustrated program will explore their lives and recognize their lasting contributions to our community and our world. To register, go to bit.ly/3it8FZz



Sisters Bear Witness—The Tulsa Massacre of 1921

Residents of McLean County have witnessed many salient moments in history, including tragedies. One truly horrific blemish on our nation's history—the Tulsa Massacre in 1921—was experienced by two sisters, Julia and Alverta Duff, both born and raised in Normal, Illinois.



Alverta Duff



Julia Duff

Julia and Alverta were daughters of Peter and Fannie Duff. Born into slavery, Peter came north from Kentucky in the years following the United States Civil War to seek a better life. When he arrived in Normal in the early 1870s, he was hired by Jesse Fell, a well-known and respected member of the Bloomington-Normal community. The Duff family was one of the first Black families to establish themselves in Normal.

Education was important to the Duffs. Julia enrolled at Illinois State Normal University in 1912 intending to complete a three-year program in home economics. Alverta attended Brown's Business College and, upon completion of her training, became a bookkeeper at Casey Brother's Dyeing and Cleaning in Bloomington. Alverta was the only one of her brothers and sisters who was able to find a job in Bloomington-Normal because racial discrimination against African Americans was strong.

Because she was Black, Julia was not allowed to teach in white classrooms in McLean County. So, she left Bloomington-Normal to find opportunities that were greater in larger cities for African Americans. Julia moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma by November 1918 and began teaching home economics at the Booker T. Washington High School (located in the city's segregated Greenwood section, so named for the main street that ran through it).

After the First World War, Tulsa was recognized nationally for its affluent African American community known as the Greenwood District. This thriving business district and surrounding residential area (with some 15,000 residents) was referred to as "Black Wall Street." The events that took place from May 31 to June 1, 1921 nearly destroyed the entire district.

On May 30, a 19-year-old Black man named Dick Rowland was accused of violating 17-year-old Sarah Page, a white girl who operated an elevator in the Drexel Building in Tulsa. Details of the account remain unclear as to whether Rowland simply stumbled into her, or worse. Accounts of the incident circulated among the city's white community throughout that day and became more exaggerated with each telling. Tulsa police arrested Rowland on May 31 and began an investigation. An inflammatory report in the *Tulsa Tribune* on May 31, stating that a "*black man had tried to rape a white woman*," fueled a confrontation between crowds of Black and white armed civilians surrounding the courthouse, where the sheriff and his men tried to protect Rowland from a lynch mob of 1,000 white men outside the building.

View of the Tulsa Massacre destruction, 1921



Shots were fired and the outnumbered African American residents began retreating to the Greenwood District, followed by the white mob.

In the early morning hours of June 1, Greenwood was looted and burned by white rioters. The well-armed white mob razed 36 square blocks, looted hundreds of homes and businesses, and killed as many as 300 Black citizens. Many residents of Greenwood were herded into the streets, including Julia Duff. It has also been thought that her sister Alverta was visiting when the massacre occurred, but that remains unclear.

Ten days after the massacre, the *Chicago Defender* (a Black newspaper) printed a moving account of the tragedy—a letter written by two Black women to an unidentified family member in Chicago. Fortunately, the wealth of details contained in the letter made it possible to identify the authors. “E.A.,” the main author, was Alverta Duff. Her sister, only identified as “Julia,” was Julia Duff. According to the letter, Julia, who was too shaken to document the account herself, provided two short emotional postscripts. Alverta wrote that Julia came to her looking for a place to stay. She mentioned how Julia spoke of getting driven out of the home she stayed in, which belonged to the Smart family. White rioters ordered Julia at gunpoint to put down her traveling bags, but she refused. They made Julia march away from her home and then proceeded to raid the building for sellable items. Alverta wrote that Julia had been awakened at 4:00 a.m. to the sound and sight of the rioters with their guns. Julia reported to her sister that *“her legs gave way from under her and she had to crawl about her room, taking things from her closet, putting them in her trunk, for she thought if anything happened, she’d have her trunk packed, and before she got everything in, they heard footsteps on their steps and there were six out there, and ordered Mr. Smart to march, hands up, out of the house.”* In the postscript, Julia added, *“I don’t know what would be best for me—to express my feelings, running like someone mad or screaming. All I can say is it is horrible! Not a decent home left in Tulsa, and the men look so forsaken! All those fine churches are destroyed.”*

Despite this horrific experience, the rioters did not scare Julia away and she continued to teach at Booker T. Washington High School when it reopened that fall. After having taught in Tulsa for 15 years, Julia resigned from her position in 1934 and returned to Normal. In June 1935 she earned her degree from ISNU.

Julia and Alverta’s eyewitness accounts of this disaster will be featured during the 27th annual *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* this fall, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre. Dates for the 2021 Walk will be announced later this spring.

The Museum and our community owe a debt of gratitude to filmmaker, historian, and freelance writer, Paul Lee; local Black history historian Jack Muirhead; and Greg Koos, Executive Director of the Museum at the time of the discovery of the Duffs’ letter. Without their efforts, the story of Julia and Alverta Duff’s experiences during the Tulsa Massacre would have remained hidden.

Lee was working on a documentary about Black pioneers of the West when he found the Duff sisters’ letter published in the *Chicago Defender*. Lee’s search for these unnamed witnesses to the Tulsa Massacre provided the Museum and McLean County with a rare glimpse into the life of one family, and the life of a community, region, people, and time.



12 Months of COVID-19

One year ago, on Friday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m., as it became clear that it was only a matter of time before the pandemic arrived in our community, the Museum closed to the public. The first COVID-19 case in the county was announced by the McLean County Health Department on March 19, and the first death in the county was reported on March 22. Since then, at least 160 McLean County residents have lost their lives to the virus, and over 14,175 have had the virus. This has been a challenging time for many, most of all for those who have lost relatives and close friends to the virus, and those who continue to suffer long-term health consequences. Museum staff and board send their condolences to those who have lost someone to COVID-19, and acknowledge the shared trauma our communities have faced in the last 12 months.

To mark the anniversary of the arrival of the pandemic in McLean County, the Museum is partnering with Not In Our Town and local leaders and artists to present a brief ceremony on Friday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m. Join us in person (physically distanced with masks) on the Main Street side of the Museum, or virtually through our Facebook page, to honor the memory of McLean County residents who have lost their lives, and reflect on the impact the pandemic has had on our community over the past year.

Participate in 12MonthsIn6Words



Additionally, we want to know how the pandemic has impacted you. The Museum and its partners, Illinois Wesleyan University, Illinois State University, and Heartland Community College, invite you to contribute six words to the **#12MonthsIn6Words** project. Using the link provided here, bit.ly/12MonthsIn6Words, you can share any six individual words or a six-word sentence that are meaningful to you as you reflect upon the last 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. All submissions are anonymous, but will be shared with the participating institutions of the #12MonthsIn6Words project and may be shared publicly, as well as added to the Museum and university archives.

You can follow the project on Instagram @12monthsin6words.

Volunteers Spread Holiday Cheer!

The Museum prides itself in helping enrich the lives of local older adults living in senior care centers across Central Illinois through our Senior Reminiscence programs. Due to the pandemic, the Museum has been unable to uphold this valued community outreach service as we once did. But, what better way to show our senior friends how much the Museum misses them than by sending them a bit of holiday cheer? Candace Summers, Director of Community Education, had such an idea, and thus the Operation Tis the Season holiday card drive was born. With the help of the Museum's Pantagraph Negative Collection, a series of six historic photos complete with informative captions were chosen for the holiday cards.

We had hopes that a few volunteers might be willing to help write cards. We had no idea the huge response we were awaiting. Loads of heartfelt gratitude goes out to our 27 cheery volunteer card writers! Each volunteer handwrote 50 cards, giving us a total of 1,200 holiday cards to send to 24 different senior centers! This is a perfect example of the remarkable compassion and dedication for which our volunteer family is known.

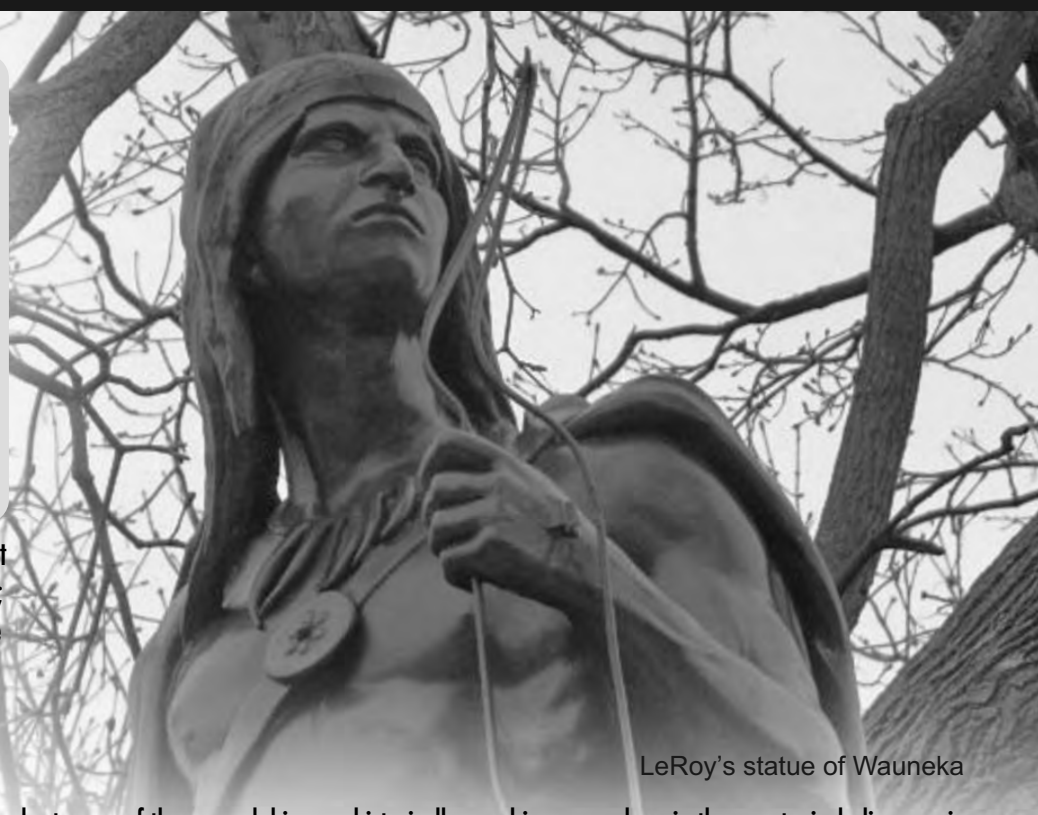
In no particular order, thank you to the following volunteers for your warmhearted kindness: Marcia Albert, Bob Watkins, Joann Hart, Phyllis VerSteege, Kathryn Kerr, Carol Koos, Tom Eder, Shelli Opsal, Flora Foltz, Diane Hawk, Kay Henrichs, Suzie Knepler, Kay Ramseyer, Carolyn Yockey, Stan Geison, Pat Hiser, Claron Sharrieff, Tom Sullivan, Anastasia Ervin, Gretchen Monti, Denise Fries-Romack, Sami Romack, Judith Brown, Jo Mink, and Amy, Zoey, and Ellie Bowman.

Since mailing the cards in early December, we have received several thank you sentiments! Carriage Crossing Senior Living in Bloomington said, "Thank you for the beautiful vintage cards for our residents. They really appreciated them and so many said, 'it's just so nice to be remembered!'" The Museum has since sent out collections-inspired Valentine's Day cards to keep spreading the love.



Pitfalls and Promise: Memorializing McLean County's Past

Join Librarian Bill Kemp on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom as he takes measure of how McLean County has chosen to remember the past in the form of historic markers, monuments, plaques, statuary, and the like. Illustrated with historic and contemporary images, this program—sometimes light-hearted and sometimes serious—will delve deep into this fraught issue with case studies of sites both familiar and forgotten.



LeRoy's statue of Wauneka

You'll hear all about the fantastical tale of spiritualist Simeon West's Kickapoo statue in downtown LeRoy; the repeatedly misguided attempts to memorialize Abraham Lincoln's "Lost Speech;" the sad and lonely fate of the marker to bohemian poet Richard Hovey; and how it came to be that Downtown Bloomington is home to no less than three Abraham Lincoln statues.

This tour of the remembered past will take a hard look at some of the more dubious—historically speaking—markers in the county, including one in Hudson Township commemorating a supposed "last stand" of the Potawatomi, and one in Downtown Bloomington celebrating the site of the nation's first brick street (spoiler alert: Not true!)

Kemp will also detail the partnership between the Museum and Dr. Mark Wyman, Illinois State University distinguished professor of history, to erect an official Illinois State Historical Society marker at Miller Park. This marker, dedicated in September 2018, addresses the fact that Bloomington enforced racially segregated public beaches during the first half of the twentieth century.

Rather than make lofty pronouncements and sweeping historical judgments, this program will pose a series of questions: Who decides who or what is officially memorialized? How have these decisions been made in the past? What do we owe the past and those who seek to interpret it for us? Lastly, how can communities ensure historical rigor, transparency, openness, and inclusivity when seeking to commemorate the past?

To register for this online program, go to bit.ly/3bYCP5N

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

A 10-part program series that explores migration stories while emphasizing shared elements, such as food, family, tradition, trauma, and exchange. Each program will include multiple voices from the community who will speak to the migrant experiences of the cultural group, relying on scholarship, expertise, and firsthand accounts.

March 13 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Johnny Cakes to Paddy Cakes: Irish Cookery with Greg Koos, Emeritus Executive Director, MCMH. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread2

April 13 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Ça va, Cassava? The Roots of Congolese Cooking with Chris Callahan, Professor of French at Illinois Wesleyan University, and Patrick Lubala, Multicultural Leadership Program alum. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread3

May 8 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Kaffe, Knäckebröd, & Coal: Swedish-Americans in Central Illinois with Hannah Johnson, Director of Youth & Family Education, MCMH. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread4

**BREAKING
BREAD**
in McLean County



New to Collections

Objects

- Vitesse Cycle Shop bicycle racing uniform, c. 1993; Protester Flash Sale vinyl banner hung outside Vitesse Cycle Shop during protest against restrictions during the COVID-19 shutdown, 2020; donated by Chris Koos
- Nursing school bonnet and collar worn by Hortense Burdette Stuckey, c. 1915; nursing school bonnet worn by Ida Burdette Reeder, c. 1920; donated by Vicki Shroyer
- Still bank from the German-American bank, c. 1902-1918; Cake Box Bakery flour scoop, c. 1970;

oversized novelty Bloomington souvenir penny; McLean County Courthouse souvenir paper-weight, c. 1905; VFW 454 Drum and Twirling Corp pinback button, c. 1960s; Essig sheriff campaign pinback button, 2005; Woith sheriff campaign pinback button, 1978; advertising plate from C. S. Ells Cash Variety Store in Heyworth, c. 1920s; Lancaster's Fine Dining advertising banner, c. 2012; pinback button from the 1983 Men's Class A National Fastpitch tournament held in Bloomington; McLean County Health Department identification badge, c. 2000s; donated by Larry Carius

Featured Artifact

Swedish Folk Costume – donated by the Estate of Dave and Norma Ashbrook

The Museum recently received this traditional Swedish folk costume worn by Norma Ashbrook (1931-2009). She purchased it from a home craft store in Stockholm in 1952 near the end of a six-month stay in Sweden as part of the International Farm Youth Exchange. Then a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ashbrook was one of two Illinois delegates to participate in the program that year. During her stay in Sweden, Ashbrook lived and worked on the farms of three host families, forming lifelong friendships and a deep appreciation for Swedish culture. After her

return to Illinois, she wore this costume to various speaking engagements at which she shared her overseas experiences. After graduation from college, Ashbrook continued to be involved with international outreach, hosting international students and working in the Office of International Studies and Programs at Illinois State University.



The style and colors of this traditional Swedish woman's folk costume identify it as an example of the regional dress of Rättvik in Dalarna, an area of Sweden known for preserving its folk traditions. Entirely handmade, the costume includes a green satin bodice decorated with embroidered flowers and ribbons, a white blouse with woven decorative bands on the sleeves, a white shawl with tatting, a silver brooch, a striped wool skirt, and a wool "bonnet" with bright red pom poms.

- Dish set once owned by Florence Fifer Bohr, c. 1910s; formal dress worn by Thelma Bailen, c. 1950s; lounge dress worn by Emma Rosenberg Bailen, c. 1940s; penlight, mortar and pestle used by Dr. J. Lewis Bailen; cobbler's hammer, Masonic apron, Shriner's fez used by Frank Goldman, c. 1910s-1920s; donated by Ann Bailen
- Mascot costume for "Chip the Buffalo" of the Bloomington PrairieThunder minor league hockey team; team set of trading cards of the 2006-2007 roster; donated by Tim Leighton
- Deposit bag used by vending machine supplier B.W.'s Specialty Co., c. 1965; still bank from the Bank of Carlock, 1986; Yoder's Sunoco trucker hat, c. 1990; Carlock centennial trucker hat, 1988; Carlock Lions Chicken Flying Contest T-shirt, 1980s; Carlock Junior Woman's Club polo shirt; Carlock Community Club T-shirt, c. 2016; Carlock Park Palooza T-shirt, c. 1998; Kid's Club Day Care T-shirt, c. 1988; toy troll house and dolls, 1960s; donated by Patricia Lynn Luber
- Blooming Grove Church collection basket; wedding fan carried by Hulda Cox Deems, 1870; quilt made by Sophronia Cox; childhood bathing suit of Norma Ashbrook, c. 1930s; Swedish folk costume worn by Norma Ashbrook, 1952; from the estate of Norma and David Ashbrook
- Laborers' union membership card and patches belonging to Douglas Shankel; Biden/Harris campaign yard sign and four Democratic Party pinback buttons from the 2020 presidential election; donated by Mike Matejka
- Architectural drawing, 1948; donated by The Baby Fold

Archives

- Heartland Theatre Co. Collection, including programs, news clippings, promotional material, and documentation of company's founding, 1986-2020; donated by Heartland Theatre Co., Gail Dobbins, managing director
- Signed print, "Funks Grove," artwork by Doug Johnson, June 2020; donated by Doug Johnson
- Receipt, \$5.00, for donation to the Stevenson-Kefauver Campaign Committee, October 22, 1956; donated by Tom Bates
- Carlock Junior Woman's Club Collection, including minutes, handbooks, news clippings, scrapbook, 1982-2016; donated by Patricia Lynn Luber
- Collection of advertising cards from Alvina Luber, mostly late 19th century; donated by Patricia Lynn Luber
- Five audio CDs of local music groups, Public Display of Funk and Micah Walk Band, 2000s; donated by Jana Kiefer
- Twenty-two sports cards featuring athletes with McLean County connections, including Topps of Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Curt Raydon (born and

raised in Bloomington), 1959; donated by Frank Kemp

- Scrapbook of U.S. Postal Service postmarks from hundreds of Illinois communities and other states, 1930s-1950s, collected by Colfax resident Pearle Mae Douglas; donated by Paulette Feit
- Voter materials from the Bloomington Election Commission relating to supplemental ballot for 2020 general election; donated by Ruth Cobb
- Kiwanis Club of Bloomington scrapbook, 1974-75, and weekly Kiwanis newsletters, 1974-1975; donated by Gail Dorsey and the Bloomington Kiwanis Club
- Arthur O. Floyd Collection, including fastpitch softball lineups, scorecards, scorebooks, news clippings, early 1950s to 1980s; donated by Larry Carius
- Large collection of local ephemera, mostly local sports programs, including Bloomington High boys' basketball and football programs, 1970s-1990s; donated by Larry Carius
- Full-page newspaper advertisement, "Taft Mass Meeting," *Pantagraph*, April 5, 1912; and Biasi's drugstore receipt, 1935; donated by Sybil Mervis
- Run of intact *Pantagraph* issues, mid-July to early August 1969, spanning coverage of Apollo 11 moon landing, collected by Melvin F. Bonke of Bloomington; donated by Carol Springer (Melvin's sister)
- United Way of McLean County Collection, including 75-plus scrapbooks containing news clippings, promotional materials, fliers, etc., detailing the activities of the organization and its predecessor, Community Chest, 1930s-2000s; donated by United Way of McLean County, David Taylor, president
- Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity (Illinois Wesleyan), \$100 mortgage bond, Liberty State Bank, Bloomington, September 1927; donated by David A. Hall
- Correspondence and newspaper clipping relating to Carl Riddle, killed in action serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and other items; donated by Lori Farley
- Collection of Valentine's Day and other holiday cards from students to teacher Ruth Steele, 1920s, and other items; donated by Marian Hartzold
- Abstract of title for parcel in Downs Township, including last will and testament of Asahel Gridley; donated by Richard Roggy

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- *Normal's Sun* by William Wantling, poetry collection, Black Rabbit Press, 1989; *A Trip Down Memory Lane*, a collection of reminiscences of the Gallery in Normal, signed by Ray "Spike" Spakowski; and *Everything Shapes Itself to the Sea*, collection of poems by James Plath; donated by Greg Koos

- *How Luther Oaks Survived COVID-19*, compilation by donor and several other residents, March-June 2020; donated by Nancy E. Wilkey
- *Ten Tours in Illinois: A Guide to the State Parks, Scenic Beauties, Historic Memorials, and Lincoln Shrines*, 1941; and several other titles; donated by Patricia Lynn Luber
- *Aepix*, Bloomington High School yearbook, 1995; donated by Pat Hiser

- *Nuts in the Dugout (Ruminations on a Softball Summer)*, James Keeran's unpublished manuscript, 1990; donated by Larry Carius
- Two manuscripts, *The Kiwikapawa / Quicapu / Kickapoo: In a Historical Way Station*, 2019; and *Comets of Conscience: Abolitionists and Leaders of the Underground Railroad in Central Illinois*, 2020; donated by J. William (Bill) Goold (author of both works)
- *Reflections on the Impact of COVID-19*, with submissions by members of the Letitia Green Stevenson chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; donated by Laura S. Baue
- *Bloomington's Deutsche in Wort und Bild* (translated as *German Population in Word and Picture*), compiled by Julius Dietrich, published in 1893; donated by David A. Hall

Photographs

- Print of McLean County settlers reunion in the Village of McLean, 1850s; undated news clipping of same; donated by Craig Alexander
- Eighteen color photographs of the Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State homecoming parades, taken by donor, October 1967; donated by Sheryl W. Detloff
- Framed collection of portraits of the Illinois State

Board of Agriculture, 1913-1914; donated by Rae Ann Ahlers

- Six color photographs, Bloomington "Sesqui!" (150th anniversary) celebration, featuring Bloomington Mayor Judy Markowitz, July 1, 2000; and other photos; donated by Sybil Mervis (Mayor Judy's sister)
- Picture postcard, rare view of old Normal depot, undated; donated by Mike Schulz
- Print of Bloomington Centennial parade showing Lincoln School group, September 1950; donated by Judith Wills (pictured in the photo!)
- Picture postcard, Moore's Mill, Mt. Hope Township, published by C.U. Williams, Bloomington, postmarked 1915; donated by David A. Hall
- Collection of Hartzold and Rengel family photographs, including tintype of Eugene Rengel and siblings; donated by Marian Hartzold

**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?**



REGISTER MAY 1 for Futures in History Camp 2.1!

- Open to any area camper entering 4th - 6th grades in Fall 2021
- June and July sessions available
- Explore law, archaeology, architecture, museum studies, & environmental science
- Health & safety guidelines will dictate format of in-person camps
- Follow the Museum on Facebook, or visit mchistory.org for more info

Utilizing Split-Interest Charitable Trusts to Distribute Gifts

Let's say you are planning to make a major charitable gift to your alma mater or other qualified charity, but you also need to provide for your heirs. How can you balance these competing interests?

Here is a solution: Explore a split-interest charitable trust. Such a trust has both private and charitable beneficiaries (hence, the "split"). You contribute assets to an irrevocable trust, either for a set number of years, a beneficiary's lifetime, or the lifetimes of more than one beneficiary. The private beneficiaries receive trust distributions that are defined either as a specific dollar amount annually (an "annuity trust") or a specified percentage of the trust's value, determined annually (a "unitrust"). In periods of inflation, growth in asset values will lead to growing distributions to beneficiaries. In periods of economic uncertainty, on the other hand, the annuity trust alternative gives beneficiaries the peace of mind of a set number of dollars coming in, regardless of what the markets do.

When the trust terminates, the assets pass to a designated charity. This facet of the plan gives rise to income, gift, and estate tax charitable deductions, stretching the financial protection of your resources. A charitable remainder trust may be established during life or in your will. It can be especially appropriate if you wish to diversify a portfolio with highly appreciated assets.

Be sure to consult with your tax advisors before making any irrevocable decisions.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12 at 5:00 p.m.

12 Months of COVID-19, A Remembrance

This event will be live-streamed via the Museum's Facebook page. For those who wish to attend in person, masks and social distancing will be required. For more information, see page 6.

March 13 at 10:00 a.m.

#12MonthsIn6Words Visit the Museum's Facebook page for a virtual commemoration of the one-year anniversary of COVID-19 in McLean County with a video presentation of the 12MonthsIn6Words project. For more information on how to contribute to the project, see page 6.

March 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County - Johnny Cakes to Paddy Cakes: Irish Cookery with Greg Koos, Emeritus Executive Director, MCMH. For more information see page 7. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread2

March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Pitfalls and Promise: Memorializing McLean County's Past with Bill Kemp, Librarian. For more information see page 7. To register, go to bit.ly/3bYCP5N

March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Artists, Advocates, Acrobats, & More! Women Who Made McLean County History with Candace Summers, Director of Community Education. For more information see page 3. To register, go to bit.ly/3it8FZZ

April 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County - Ça va, Cassava? The Roots of Congolese Cooking with Chris Callahan, Professor of French at Illinois Wesleyan University, and Patrick Lubala, Multicultural Leadership Program alum. For more information see page 7. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread3

May 1

Register for Futures in History Camp 2.1

Registration for Futures in History Camp 2.1 is open to any area campers entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in Fall 2021. There is a future for everyone at Futures in History Camp 2.1! For more information see page 9.

LUNCH & LEARN

March-April-May, including a bonus April program!
Co-sponsored by the Museum and Illinois Wesleyan University

March 11 at 12:10 p.m.

Bloomington-Normal Innovation Alliance: Partnering for Our Digital Future with Jamie Mathy, Bloomington City Council, and Kevin McCarthy, Normal Town Council. To register, go to bit.ly/MCMHMarLunch

April 8 at 12:10 p.m.

Avoiding a Midlife Crisis: The Ecology Action Center at 50, Looking Back and Moving Ahead with Michael Brown, Executive Director, Ecology Action Center. To register, go to bit.ly/MCMHAprLunch

April 29 at 12:10 p.m.

(Bonus) - Assessing the First 100 Days of the Biden Presidency with Robert Bradley, Professor Emeritus, Politics and Government at Illinois State University. To register, go to bit.ly/MCMHLunchApr2

May 13 at 12:10 p.m.

Brahms's Use of Motive to Unify his Three Intermezzi, Opus 117 with Franklin Larey, Director and Professor School of Music at Illinois Wesleyan University. To register, go to bit.ly/MCMHMayLunch

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

May 8 at 7:00 p.m.

DEATH IN THE HAYMARKET

A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement, and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America

by James Green

To register, go to bit.ly/historyreads050421

History Reads Book Club



Bloomington Public Library
Partnership with the Museum

May 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County - Kaffe, Knäckebröd, & Coal: Swedish-Americans in Central Illinois with Hannah Johnson, Director of Youth & Family Education. For more information see page 7. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread4



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701

309-827-0428 or mchistory.org

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Mystery History Quiz

Last issue's mystery picture postcard featured Asian Arts Associates, a long-gone business located two miles north of Towanda on old Route 66. Richard Long opened his shop in 1965 to sell imported handicrafts and objet d'art from Asia and the South Pacific. The parking lot included a rebuilt Philippine stilt house and granary. Those who knew at least part of this story included Mark A. Cooper, Bill Caisley, Linda Garbe, Jane Haab, Norm Hiser, and Terry Irvin. The Asian Arts postcard was donated to the Museum last year by volunteer Nola Marquardt.



Does this body of water—seen here in 1933—look familiar to anyone? Today, this park-like area is well within Bloomington's city limits. For many years, it was a popular spot for outdoor recreation, including swimming and fishing. Can you name this pond / lake and tell us something about its history? If so, contact Librarian Bill Kemp at bkemp@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.