

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

June-July-August 2021

Volume 53, Number 2

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Your History*

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ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

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



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www.mchistory.org

Museum and Visitors Center Hours:

Visit mchistory.org for current hours and
Covid safety protocols

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\$5 - Adults \$4 - Seniors 65+

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Cover image: The restored lighting in the
Museum rotunda.

Announcements

Corporate Alliance Program

The Museum is launching our new Corporate Alliance Program to make it easier for business partners to invest in our work with greater value to them. We are engaged in an array of programming each year, which allows for a variety of sponsorship opportunities for our partners to consider based on their specific goals. The Corporate Alliance Program bundles sponsorship opportunities, making it easy to invest with one contribution to those Museum programs that align best with specific business goals. We can also provide an invoice and/or payment plan based on individual needs.

Our goal is to establish relationships with businesses where we can develop an annual funding level that is beneficial to both our partners and the Museum. Individual program sponsorships are still available if preferred. The Museum serves the entire community with programming for learners and educators of all ages. We are the primary source for those who are looking to study the past and actively preserve their present for the future.

Your story is our story at the McLean County Museum of History. We look forward to discussing how we might partner together. For questions and program details, please contact Norris Porter at development@mchistory.org or by phone at 309-827-0428 | 309-706-9242 (cell).

Q&A with New Director of Adult Education Kate Bass

What was your experience prior to being hired as the Museum's Director of Adult Education? I was a graduate student in the Museum and Exhibition Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). While in Chicago, I was fortunate enough to work within the National Public Housing Museum, the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and contributed to the work at the African American Cultural Center at UIC. Prior to graduate school, I attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I received my BA in Anthropology with a concentration in Archaeology.

Bass—continued on page 3



Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Eileen Backman
Cynthia Diederich
Kelly and Jill Duzan
Chris and Debra Hoelscher

Richard Savage
Paul Scharnett
Dennis Vogel
Dan and Angela Yandel

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.

Celebrating Your Museum, Your History



When Museum staff were discussing potential themes for this issue, Director of Marketing Jeff Woodard exclaimed, “Color, color, everywhere! Celebrate!” It is summer, after all, and there is much to celebrate. We are excited to achieve another milestone with our first virtual *History Makers Gala*, at which we will celebrate honorees Carole & Jerry Ringer, Barbara Stuart, and Marilyn & Bob Sutherland and their contributions to our community. The Museum’s public restrooms have been completely refurbished and were open in time for the first Downtown Bloomington Farmers’ Market of the season. Our rotunda lights have been fully restored, casting a beautiful glow onto newly waxed floors—now being walked on by friends and visitors to our reopened Museum. Our *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* partner Illinois Voices Theatre is casting the characters who will convey the lived history of McLean County residents during our signature fall event. Our *Breaking Bread* series continues to celebrate the diverse stories of migrants who have journeyed to McLean County, placing their first-person accounts within a historical context.

In short, as one of the central themes that emerged from our strategic planning process this year suggests, the Museum is *investing in our people*. Namely, the Museum continues to strive to center McLean County residents at the heart of our work, offering collections and programs that teach us about who we have been, who we are, and who we have yet to become. Lynn Scarff, the Director of the National Museum of Ireland, describes what museums arguably do best: “*Tell multiple stories in powerful ways through excellent work and collections; collections that are not neutral but also are not partisan; that engage and co-curate with underrepresented communities, and that offer space for reflection by engaging wider audiences with important parts of our history*” (*Museums in Ireland in 2020: Reflections from the Coalface*). History matters. Museums matter. In this spirit, we invite members of our community to co-curate, reflect, and celebrate right along with us. We are—after all—Your Museum, Your History.

—Julie Emig, Executive Director

continued from page 2—Bass

Tell us a little bit about yourself. How did you come to the Museum? I grew up in Central Illinois and my family still resides in the area. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I found myself leaving Chicago and returning to my family home. I feel as fortunate as one can in this pandemic that I have been able to spend it with my family, especially when we faced a non-COVID related scare. These circumstances together made me realize that I want to remain close to family while pursuing my interests in history, social justice, and community education in museums. These are the same qualities that attracted me to MCMH, and I feel beyond thrilled to be able to learn and contribute to the Museum’s education department!

How will your new role as Director of Adult Education compare to your previous roles, and how will you draw upon these past experiences to move the Museum forward? My previous roles and coursework in grad school awarded me with opportunities to explore the many facets of museums and to receive guidance from cultural workers inside and outside the museum space. The biggest takeaway from my experiences and tutelage is that museums should strive towards inclusivity, equity, diversity, and should be a voice for social justice. Especially in considering the social climate of the country today, I hope to help create and carry out programming that speaks to these values and helps strengthen them not only inside but outside the Museum.

What are you most excited about in your role at the Museum? My personal philosophy is that museums exist to serve their surrounding communities. With that being said, I am excited to not only continue engagement with the communities that MCMH has previously established, but create new relationships and extend our outreach! I look forward to hearing from our community partners in order to curate programming that not only fulfills the Museum’s mission but also provides for the needs and wants of our partners.

What do you do to relax? In my free time I enjoy reading, drinking tea/coffee, drawing, and playing video games. Lately, I have also been watching various Netflix documentaries with my siblings—most have been True Crime and I cannot watch them at night, as I get too scared.

Do you have any pets? I have a family cat, Edward, who is an old, grumpy guy – but he loves treats and getting head scratches (but only when he asks). I also have a hyper and lovey-dovey lab mix, Tara. She loves playing fetch but has yet to grasp that she has to return the ball for the game to continue. I love them both immensely!

History Makers Gala 2021

Times have changed, and we must change with them. In 2011 the Museum board felt the need to energize the Annual Meeting. Committees were formed and plans progressed toward hosting a wonderful evening to honor special people—our History Makers. Since 2012 the **History Makers Gala** has recognized older adults in our community whose outstanding, lifelong contributions of time and talents have helped make McLean County a better place to live.

The evening was designed around a dinner and engaging presentations to accompany the annual business meeting. It was designed to be at no cost to the Museum, perhaps even providing some always needed additional income. These dinners over the years from 2012 to 2019 have annually earned the Museum an average net profit of \$22,500.

It goes without saying that 2020 was a year largely without sit-down dinners and live performances. But, in 2021, we are honoring Carole & Jerry Ringer, Barbara Stuart, and Marilyn & Bob Sutherland in a hybrid evening event. Despite the lingering lack of dinner served in the Brown Ballroom at Illinois State (an amenity we all enjoy), the evening will include the tradition of a short performance by actors of Illinois Voices Theatre to recognize our honorees and their contributions to our community. Presentations to the honorees will occur in-person, under the dome at the Museum. Memory books will also be gifted to each honoree. Have a memory to share? Mail your written memory to the Museum at 200 N. Main St. in Bloomington, or send via email to development@mchistory.org, or by phone at 309-827-0428 | 309-706-9242 (cell).

New Board Leadership

During the 2021 *History Makers Gala*, Museum members will honor outgoing Board President Bob Watkins, who works as Associate General Counsel at State Farm. We are indebted to Bob's leadership, time, and commitment to the Museum during this past unprecedented year. In reflecting on his service, Bob said, *"I am excited that we maintained a full range of online programs throughout the pandemic, and were able to secure two very strong leaders in Executive Director Julie Emig and Development Director Norris Porter."* We are grateful that Bob will continue to serve in his capacity as Past President.

Museum members will also officially elect Tom Eder as the next Board President. Before his retirement, Tom worked as a teacher, coach, and administrator for Unit 5 Schools and was valued for his commitment to collaboration and teamwork. Tom noted, *"I am looking forward to supporting the work of our outstanding staff, led by Julie Emig, in emerging from the restrictions of the pandemic in new and exciting ways. Continuing our new online presence while welcoming the community back to our upgraded historic Museum will be top priorities. Bob Watkins has provided strong and stable leadership. I will work to build on his tenure."*

Tom Eder



Attendance at this year's online event will be cost free to participants, but registration is required. Closer to the date, registrants will receive instructions as to how to connect to the virtual event. Registered Museum members will also receive directions for how to vote on the incoming class of board members and officers. Register yourself or your household online at tinyurl.com/HistoryMakersGala21

While the Museum thankfully has managed the last 12+ months quite well, we have missed the income from the 2020 Gala and will miss it again this year. We hope that members and those who attend the evening, along with our local business community, will consider making a donation or sponsoring the event. Donations and sponsorships may be made at the time of registration. You may also mail donations directly to the Museum. Sponsorship levels include: Dome \$5,000; Rotunda \$2,500; Gallery \$1,000; Exhibit \$500; and Display \$100. Contact Director of Development Norris Porter with questions at development@mchistory.org, or by phone at 309-827-0428 | 309-706-9242 (cell).

Meet our Honorees

Jerry and Carole Ringer's shared passion for the arts is well known in the community. Carole says, *"(Art) helps to define the quality of life. Even if you are well able to put food on the table, culture is needed for the soul, mind, and spirit."*

Carole was a volunteer and ultimately a professional fundraiser for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and BroMenn Foundation for the Mennonite College of Nursing. She was the first Executive Director of Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and served on over 12 boards, including the Multicultural Leadership Program, Rotary Club of Bloomington, McLean County Museum of History, and Friends of the Arts at Illinois State University, just to name a few. Her tireless efforts have won her an Alpha Omicron Pi Alumnae Women of Leadership Award, an Illinois State Board of Education Award of Excellence, the first

- A Livestream Virtual Event

McLean CountyYWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Arts, and she was chosen as a founding member of Northwestern University Council of 100—a group of women executives.

Jerry has served on the board of the MARC Foundation, United Way of McLean County, and Illinois Shakespeare Festival, as an elder and Chairman of the Building Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Normal, and as a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Bloomington. He has served in some capacity on at least four more boards throughout the community, as well as the Cornell College Board for 40 years.



Barbara Stuart served for several years as president of the Normal Public Library board and became the first president of the Friends of the Normal Public Library. She founded seven activist organizations: the Young Adult Problems Study Group, Minority Advocacy Council, Minority Complaints about Police, Peaceful Schools Committee, Rebound Committee, Alternatives to Jail Committee, and McLean County Community COMPACT. She also served on the McLean County Board for 17 years as the vice chair of the Justice Committee. She has a firm belief in fairness, as she urged the adoption of Drug Court, electronic monitoring, Mental Health Court, and Victim Offender Reconciliation programs. Barbara was the driving force of the McLean County People to People Festival, bringing 3,000 students and teachers together for a conflict resolution conference in 1999.



When hearing loss made it difficult for Barbara to be a part of committee meetings and other events, she began to write poetry and opinion pieces for the *Pantagraph* and the *Normalite* newspapers. She is currently active with McLean County League of Women Voters, the Multicultural Leadership Program, the Peaceful Schools Initiative, and the Youth LEADS program.

Her talents and tenacity earned her two awards in 1997, the YWCA Woman of Distinction's Harriett F. Rust Community Service Award and the Town of Normal's MLK Human Relations Award.

Additionally, she received the first Grabill-Homan Peace Prize awarded in 2011. However, the recognition has not changed Barbara's humble nature. Barbara said, *"I've always admired the teachings of Jesus. The compassion...the feeling that every person has value and that we are connected to each other and to God... I just hate to see people treated cruelly and unfairly and I always think something should be done about it."*



During their over five decades in Bloomington-Normal, Bob and Marilyn Sutherland have endeavored to help make this a better community for everyone—particularly for those who often struggle to make their own voices heard. Bob has been *"arrested, investigated, and vilified, but he can't imagine having lived any other way,"* opined James Keeran in a February 2000 *Pantagraph* article. Regarding Bob and Marilyn's activism, Bob said, *"We were a team."*

Bob and Marilyn were instrumental in bringing about the Community for Social Action—which supported the United Farm Workers grape and lettuce boycotts, opposed the Vietnam War, and advocated against U.S. government involvement on behalf of the Sandinistas in the El Salvadoran Civil War. They also played major roles from the very beginning in the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the McLean County Jail Review Committee, and the McLean County AIDS Task Force. Their love of the Constitution and their moral code have been the foundation of their many years serving as the voice for the voiceless—regardless of the dangers, persecution, or consequences. Bob and Marilyn generously created an endowment for The Sutherland Fellowship in 2014. Administered through ISU's Department of English, creative writing students receive financial support and Fellows learn about various aspects of publishing.

The Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association formally recognized Bob's many contributions in 1998 with the Community Service Award. Bob also received the Florence Fifer Bohrer Award in 2017 from the League of Women Voters of McLean County. However, behind every award is his equally involved, supportive, and persistent Marilyn.

We look forward to coming together in-person for next year's History Makers Gala on June 15, 2022!

You may nominate future History Makers candidates at www.mchistory.org

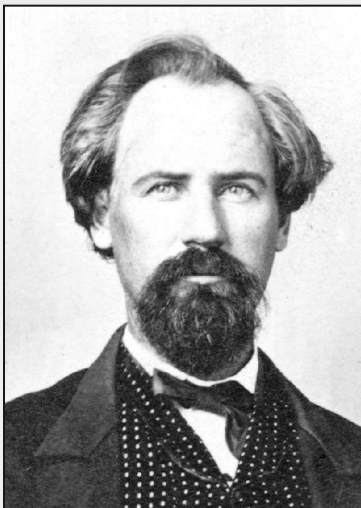
Evergreen Cemetery Walk 2021

2020 certainly was a transformative year for the ***Evergreen Cemetery Walk***. The Museum and our partners, Evergreen Memorial Cemetery and Illinois Voices Theatre Echoes, made history by successfully taking our longest running and most attended outreach event to an online platform—thanks to the excellent work by and support from our new partner Broadleaf Video Management. The video production of the Walk not only allowed us to continue to fulfill the primary mission of this event—to educate local students on the historic significance of cemeteries—but also to support members of our local theater community during a time when so many performing artists throughout the country and the world could not work. Additionally, our *Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk* allowed us to expand this signature event to new audiences who had not been able to experience the Walk before due to barriers such as geography and mobility.

Taking the lessons we learned last year into consideration as we move forward with planning for 2021, we are pleased to announce that we will be doing BOTH an in-person Walk and a Virtual Walk this fall. This hybrid model will allow us to continue to offer the Walk to all of the audiences we strive to serve, no matter where you live, where you go to school, or what your physical abilities may be.

The 2021 Evergreen Cemetery Walk will be held in-person on September 25-26 and October 2-3 with performances at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day. The Museum continues to monitor the conditions that surround the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and how these conditions will impact our ability to hold future in-person programs. As long as health and safety guidelines from the CDC and State of Illinois allow for in-person programming at that time, we plan to host small group tours on the beautiful grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery once again. No matter what, the show will go on!

Ticket sales will begin on Tuesday, August 31 and can be purchased by visiting the Museum's website mchistory.org or the Museum's *Cruisin' with Lincoln* on 66 Visitors Center and Gift Shop. Individual tickets to participate in the in-person event will be \$20 for the General Public, \$18 for Museum members, and \$5 for children or students with ID. Household tickets to view the Virtual Walk online will be \$25 for the general public and \$20 for Museum members. A household ticket means that anyone in your immediate household can view the virtual event online at any time—and as many times—between November 1 through December 31. Additionally, those who wish to attend the in-person Walk and view the Virtual Walk can purchase a ticket for both for just \$30. Tickets purchased to participate in the Walk (whether in-person or online) will help support over 2,000 students, chaperones, and older adults living in senior care facilities to be able to



Dr. William Hill



Julia Duff



Alverta Duff



Mary Ann Marmon

participate in the Walk free of charge! We are not exaggerating when we say that we could not do any of this without you—our members—and your unwavering support.

This year's Walk will feature six new voices and bring back two voices to share a new story. Feature characters are: **Dr. William Hill** (1829-1906), a surgeon in the Union Army who overcame accusations of being a "bodysnatcher" to become a well-liked and respected doctor in McLean County; **William Rodenhauer** (1842-1919), a German immigrant who worked as a carpenter for the C&A Railroad Shops for over 20 years; **Julia Duff** (1895-1984) and her sister **Alverta Duff** (1885-1968), who belonged to one of the earliest Black families to establish themselves in Normal and bore witness to the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921; **Mary Ann Marmon** (1837-1908), who wrote about life growing up on the prairie, as her family was among the earliest settlers in McLean County; **Sigmund Livingston** (1872-1946) and **Hilda Livingston** (1892-1962), members of the Jewish community and guest voices on this year's Walk, as the Livingtons are buried at the Jewish Cemetery in Bloomington. Sigmund founded the Anti-Defamation League, which still exists today. And finally, **George Carman** (1838-1868), a printer, writer, actor, and public speaker who served as a soldier in the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War.

For the most up-to-date information about plans for the 2021 Evergreen Cemetery Walk, visit mchistory.org Questions? Contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org



Sigmund and Hilda Livingston





Voices from the Brink of Slavery and Freedom

The Museum is pleased to host Dr. Caroline Kisiel, Associate Professor at DePaul University in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, who will present a performance-presentation exploring slavery's roots in Illinois and the people who fought the forces to keep Illinois a free state. This free, virtual presentation will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Did Black Lives Matter in Early Illinois?

In 1818 Illinois entered the United States with a constitution declaring itself a free state. But slavery's roots went back centuries in the region, and its hold on the young state was strong. In the first years of statehood, the Illinois legislature had a number of proslavery advocates who made a bold attempt to amend the state's constitution to permit slavery. They had already succeeded at inserting limited slavery clauses into the 1818 constitution that were scheduled to sunset in 1825, and they wished to expand this foothold. But other voices vehemently fought against them, and ultimately prevailed to preserve the free state.

Who were these voices advocating for a permanent constitutional change to permit slavery? And who stood up against them, preserving the free state of Illinois? In what ways did these opposing voices support Black lives, or not? Dr. Kisiel's performance-presentation offers a dramatic reading/adaptation of the voices of three key proslavery figures (Territorial Governor, Ninian Edwards; Secretary of the Illinois Territory, Joseph P. Phillips; and proslavery delegate, Adolphus Frederick Hubbard) and three antislavery figures (Governor Edward Coles; anti-convention legislator, Nicholas Hansen; and English emigrant and Illinois Secretary of State, Morris Birkbeck).

Dr. Caroline Kisiel is a public historian and educator who has been teaching for over 25 years. With a background in immigration law, literature, history, storytelling, and performance, she writes and presents on early Illinois history and is currently conducting research on the role of Albion, Illinois in the struggle to keep Illinois slavery-free in the early years of statehood. Her presentations showcase researched information, historical documents, dramatic readings, and facilitated audience engagement activities around critical questions of the value of history and activism through themes of early Illinois struggles to keep slavery at bay in the state and key early Illinois figures of this period.

To register for this free Zoom webinar, go to [bitly.3sddrO1](https://bit.ly/3sddrO1)

For more information, contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org

This program is sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, which is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly [through the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA)], as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by speakers, program participants, or audiences do not necessarily reflect those of the NEH, Illinois Humanities, IACA, our partnering organizations, or our funders.

Juneteenth 2021 Week of Celebration

In the past year, the world experienced an awakening unprecedented in recent times. The Museum took on many new challenges, finding ways to engage with our public by new and innovative means. The Bloomington-Normal Black History Project (BNBHP), an affiliate organization of the McLean County Historical Society, also embraced new ways to celebrate **Juneteenth** in the midst of a global health crisis through virtual programming with the help of Museum staff.

Juneteenth—also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day—is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.

Over the years there have been three major iterations of annual Juneteenth celebrations conducted in Bloomington-Normal. Beginning in 1993 through 1999, the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project hosted a celebration on the quad of Illinois Wesleyan University each year. Initiated by local organizers and project members Dr. Mildred Prat and Mrs. Caribel Washington, the event was developed as a continuation of other BNBHP events with the goal of bringing people together. Then from 2003 until 2015, the African American Forum hosted a celebration held annually at Forrest Park in Bloomington.

For a complete schedule of
Juneteenth 2021 events
visit bnbhp.com

To learn how you can
volunteer, participate in sponsorship,
or support the youth showcase, email
BNBlackHistoryProject@gmail.com

JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATE FREEDOM

Juneteenth Week -June 14 thru June 19

VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR DETAILS
WWW.BNBHP.COM



**THE BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
BLACK HISTORY PROJECT**
An affiliate organization of the McLean County Historical Society



Following another multi-year hiatus, the BNBHP relaunched its Juneteenth celebration in 2019. At the time, the event was scheduled to take place outside, but rain in the forecast relocated the event indoors at the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal. During the past year of social and racial unrest, the BNBHP Juneteenth committee felt it was imperative that the celebration continue despite the logistical challenges presented by the pandemic. Thus Juneteenth 2020, “Still We Rise” with keynote speakers Dr. Charles and Jeanne Morris, was held virtually for a live audience of over 100 people. The recording of that event can be viewed at bit.ly/3tmYvO7

This year, the BNBHP in partnership with the City of Bloomington will present an entire week of online programming beginning Monday, June 14. In conjunction with the traditional annual celebration on June 19 (which will feature performances by area youth), the program series will explore the theme “Justice Delayed”—offering an opportunity to examine and engage in meaningful public discussion about where we are today and ask ourselves the question, “Where do we go from here?”

The Bloomington-Normal Black History Project was founded in 1982. Its collections span the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and includes photographs, portraits, booklets, oral histories, articles, and photocopies related to club organizations and churches of the local Black community. In 1989, the Black History Project became affiliated with the McLean County Historical Society, which now serves as a repository for the project's collections.

New to Collections

Objects

- Signed jersey from 'Pink in the Rink' breast cancer awareness event with the Bloomington PrairieThunder hockey team, 2009; donated by Tim Leighton
- Miniature calendar from the Last Chance Newsstand, December 2000; keychains advertising Elmer's Garage and R & S Plumbing; keychain from the 1988 Men's Major Fastpitch National Championship held in Bloomington; softball signed by the 1981 Bloomington Budweiser softball team; Junior Olympic Girls National Softball Champion-

- ship t-shirt, 1994; Amateur Softball Association Midwest Regional Championship sweatshirt, 1989; Bloomington BEER NUTS softball uniform worn by Larry Carius, c. 1980s; Bloomington Pabst softball uniform worn by Larry Carius, c. 1970s; donated by Larry Carius
- Civilian Conservation Corps pennant belonging to Archie Harry Lewis, c. 1935; donated by Judith Wills
- Black-and-white ink painting, "Winter On the Square," created by Eileen Backman, 2020; donated by Eileen Backman

Featured Artifact

Crazy Quilt – donated by Marsha Feeney

The Museum recently received this beautifully embroidered crazy quilt made by Eliza Hobart Marsh (1830-1912) sometime around the 1890s. Originally from Ohio, Marsh first came to McLean County in the 1850s, traveling with her husband, John Marsh, in a covered wagon. They ultimately settled on a farm two miles west of what would become the village of Arrowsmith, where they raised a large family of eight children. There Eliza Marsh worked as a seamstress, crafting quilts as well as men's and women's clothing. Marsh hired a woman to do her housework so that she could have more time for sewing. Meanwhile, John Marsh continued to expand their holdings, acquiring additional farmland in McLean County, Kansas, and Nebraska. A supporter of local development, he sold six acres of land to the local Lafayette, Bloomington and Mississippi Railroad Company in 1870 for the nominal sum of one dollar. Eventually, Eliza and her husband retired from farm life and moved to Saybrook to live out their final years.

They are buried in Arrowsmith Township Cemetery.



This handmade quilt is made of 16 roughly square panels, each decorated with colorful hand-embroidered designs depicting flowers, birds, and insects, and pieced together with elaborate feather stitching. It appears to have been made for Eliza Marsh's husband John. His portrait and initials have been embroidered on the quilt's lower left and right corners, respectively.

- Two cloth face masks made by Candace Summers, April 2020; donated by Candace Summers
- Crazy quilt with embroidered portrait of John Marsh, sewn by Eliza Hobart Marsh, c. 1890s; donated by Marsha Feeney
- Whetstone used by John Aspel and Joseph Vogel on their family farm between Gridley and El Paso; donated by Dennis Vogel
- St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing graduation pin given to Shannon Perry in 1959; nurse's uniform worn by Linda Vogel and Joan Vogel at St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing, c. 1960-1962; donated by Shannon Perry
- Music rack used for the bass drum in the Heyworth Band, c. 1930; donated by Bill Iseminger
- Recorder played by Susan Guess-Hanson, c. 1962; fourteen pen drawings used as illustrations in the 1985 and 1987 calendars for the Unitarian Church of Bloomington; donated by Susan Guess-Hanson
- Print of pencil drawing, "The Five Stages of the Aster," and pair of bisque ceramic figurines created by Carolyn Loeb; ceramic casting mold used by Carolyn Loeb at her ceramic studio, Carolyn's Corner, c. 1980s; donated by Cyndi Martin

Archives

- Booklet, "Your Normal LGBT Film Festival," 2010; and schedule, festival pass, and mini-poster for 2014 LGBT Film Festival; donated by Gary Gletty
- Collection of family papers, including scrapbooks, school certificates, photo albums, correspondence, recipes, greeting cards, and other items from Dave and Norma Deems Ashbrook; donated by Cynthia Ashbrook
- Eighth annual Eastern McLean County Horse Show program, Colfax, June 19, 1971; "Elect Harry (Tony) Winterland" poster, Republican candidate for McLean County Sheriff, 1974; and other items; donated by Brady Mann
- Fourteen Game Designers' Workshop (GDW) rule booklets and guides, including those relating to the role-playing game Traveller (GDW was a prominent game company based in Normal); donated by Jamie Mathy
- Various items, including three thank you cards featuring original artwork by Harold Gregor relating to dinners hosted by Greg and Carol Koos; donated by Greg Koos
- Invitation to party reception for publication of Lincoln's Lost Speech by Elwell Crissey, Illinois House, Bloomington, November 18, 1967; donated by Guy Fraker
- Collection of items relating to the Stern family of Bloomington, including complimentary passes to

the Amateur Musical Club, 1930s; donated by Sybil Mervis

- The Daily Pantagraph, November 10, 1983, pages A1 to A14 (initial coverage of the Hendricks' murders); donated by Linda Thomas

- Several items, including St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1959 booklet; registration of birth for Shannon Elizabeth Vogel, Bloomington, 1938; and other items; donated by Shannon Perry

- Emails and papers relating to registering for the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine through the McLean County Health Department, February 2021; donated by JoAnna Mink

- Various items relating to Pantagraph Printing & Stationery Co., Bloomington, including two account books/ledgers, 1942-1944 and 1948-1951; International Typographical Union charter certificate, 1884; and other items; donated by Mike Dolan, Pantagraph Printing & Stationery Co.

- Assortment of local ephemera and other materials, including Oscar Cohn cigar band collection; 45 RPM record, "Two Hearts" by Joe Dowell, Journey Records, 1974; Young Men's Club directories, 1988 and 2003-2004; and other items; donated by Steve and Carol Struck

- Additions to the Iseminger Family Collection and the Floyd Iseminger Ford Dealership Collection, as well as other items, including Scenic and Historic Illinois, pictorial map, 1949; donated by William R. Iseminger

- Large collection relating to Baroque'n Consort (a local chamber ensemble), including programs, correspondence, cassette tapes, CDs, and photographs; Unitarian Church, Bloomington, calendars, 1985, 1987, and 1989, featuring the artwork of donor; donated by Suan Guess-Hanson

- Collection of articles authored by donor from The Labor Paper, November 19, 2020 to March 18, 2021; donated by Mike Matejka

- Various items, including collection of local amateur radio QSL cards; two letters from Stout's Grove, 1847 and 1852; Cheney's Grove Coal Co. stock certificate; and others; donated by David Parker

- Funeral card for Mollie Jane Romp (1876-1904); donated by John Ulman

- Promotional items relating to the Bloomington Prairie Thunder hockey franchise, including a team photo, 2010-2011 season; "Read" poster featuring mascot "Chip;" and poster-sized team photos; donated by G. Timothy Leighton

- Notifications relating to registering and receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine through the McLean County Health Department; donated by Carol Lehman

- Four bound volumes of Portable Elevator Co. employee newsletters, volumes 1-4, 1943-1946; donated by Glen L. Plotner

- Booklets, "Welcome to the Voodoo Zoodoo," Miller Park Zoological Society, September 14, 2019; and others; donated by John Elterich

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Capitol of the United States (1986) with an inscription to Williams and Lewis Davis from Adlai E. Stevenson I, dated October 24, 1899; donated by Laura Walden

- Booklet, "A New Upper Abdominal Incision," by G.A. Sloan, M.D. (donor's paternal grandfather), Sloan Clinic, Bloomington; donated by David M. Deneen

- The Agrarian Crusade: A Chronicle of the Farmer in Politics, 1920; Bourbon Leader: Grover Cleveland and the Democratic Party, 1957; and others; donated by Greg Koos

- Two phonebooks—Frontier, Bloomington-Normal and McLean County, July 2017; and Verizon, Bloomington-Normal and McLean County, 2009-2010; donated by David A. Hall

- Centennial Elementary School, Centennial School, and Sheridan School (all District 87) year-books, 1981-82 to 2001-02; donated by Ellen and Michael Lorber

- In Their Own Words: Diaries and Letters of the Soldiers of the 94th Illinois Infantry Regiment Volunteers, "The McLean Regiment," 1862-1865, compiled and edited by William R. Iseminger, 2021; donated by William R. Iseminger

- Lincoln and His World: The Early Years, Birth to Illinois Legislature, by Richard Lawrence Miller, 2006; donated by Guy Fraker

- Collection of published / self-published poetry books and booklets, authored by the donor; donated by Suan Guess-Hanson

- School of Theatre Arts—History and Directory, Illinois Wesleyan University, 1992; written in part by donor; donated by Kenneth Johnson

Photographs

- Six picture postcards, Saybrook Centennial, 1925, parade and other views; two picture postcards, "Sand Bank, Saybrook Ill.," and unidentified group of hunters; donated by Paul Grethey

- Portrait of World War II servicemen O.H. Ball and Dr. Wilbur Ball; donated by David M. Deneen

- Two framed portraits, of Helmut and Augusta Mau; Horatio G. Bent School graduating class, 1927; and other photos; donated by Mary Helen Haskell

- Aerial view of Joe Vogel farm; donated by the children of Joe Vogel

- Heyworth Community High School Class of 1923, portrait collage; 94th Illinois Regiment

Volunteers reunion, 1907; and other photos; donated by William R. Iseminger

- Photo negative and two photographs of Daniel Sinks (donor's great grandfather) with violin / fiddle, c. 1920; photo of Daniel Sinks with two children, c. 1905; donated by Donna J. Sinks

Archive Feature



Featuring:

Companies with

50

or More Years of Service

to McLean County



Books to Benefit member Mary Ryder is always on the lookout for McLean County items that come through their doors. Recently, the Museum acquired, among other gems, this collection of recipes from the office of the late State Representative Gordon L. Ropp. Distributed in the late 1980s, it features recipes from Biasi's, Ensenberger's, Moberly & Klenner, Westside Lumber, and many other gone-but-not-forgotten local businesses.

The RMD Vacation is Over

Last year seniors were given a reprieve from the requirement to take minimum distributions from their IRAs and qualified retirement plans. The suspension of the rules, included in the CARES Act, was enacted at a time when the stock market had moved sharply lower, and so it was intended to prevent a forced emptying of retirement funds when values were low. Prices have since risen and the market indices have been setting records. There is no sign of Congress renewing a suspension of the rules.

Accordingly, taxpayers who turn 72 this year must begin taking their RMDs (required minimum distributions), and older taxpayers must resume their program of drawing down tax-favored retirement funds. The amount of the RMD is calculated based upon the age of the account owner and the total retirement account values at the close of the prior taxable year.

Normally the RMD must be received during each tax year, with failure to distribute the full amount subject to a 50% tax penalty. However, there is a grace period for the first year of RMDs, as the senior gets used to the new distribution program. For those who turn 72 in 2021, the first RMD is not due until April 1, 2022. That gives them an extra year of tax-deferred growth.

Caveat: The grace period is not a panacea. Someone who delays a first RMD to 2022 will have to take two such distributions for the 2022 tax year, which could lead to higher taxes on the distributions as well as higher taxes on Social Security benefits and perhaps higher Medicare premiums.

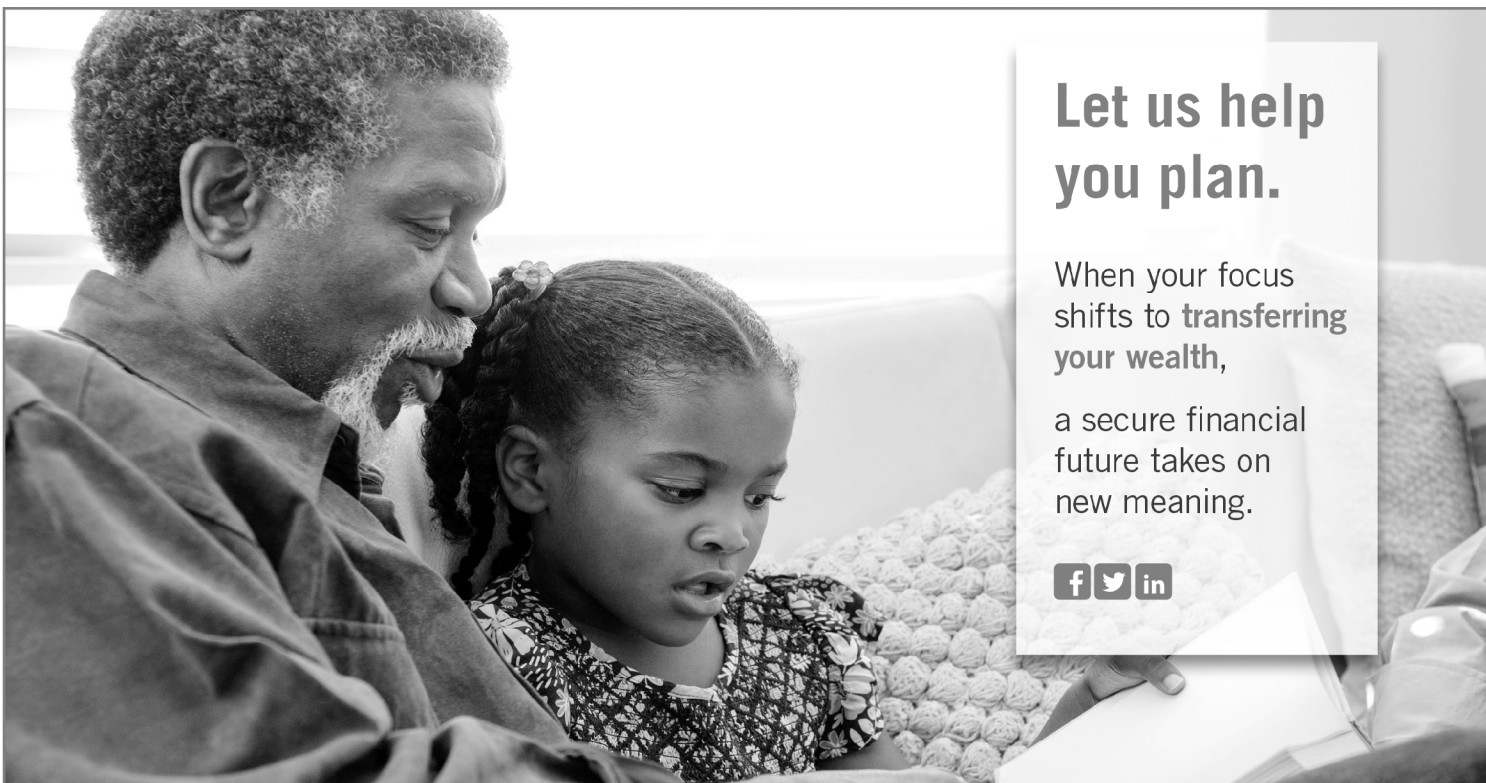
Timing distributions

An RMD may be taken at any time during the tax year. In a rising market, maximum tax deferral may be obtained by delaying the distribution for as long as practical. Someone who will be using the distributed funds for ordinary expenses may want to withdraw 1/12 of the RMD on the first of each month. This “averaging out” approach may be preferred when stock prices are especially volatile.

If you have several IRAs, the RMD is determined by adding all the accounts together. However, you do not need to take an RMD from each account. You could take the entire distribution from the smallest account for consolidation, or you could choose to liquidate the investments with the poorest prospects to rebalance your portfolio as you take the distribution.

RMDs can be tricky, so getting professional advice is likely to be money well spent.

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Home Town in the Corn Belt Now Searchable Online

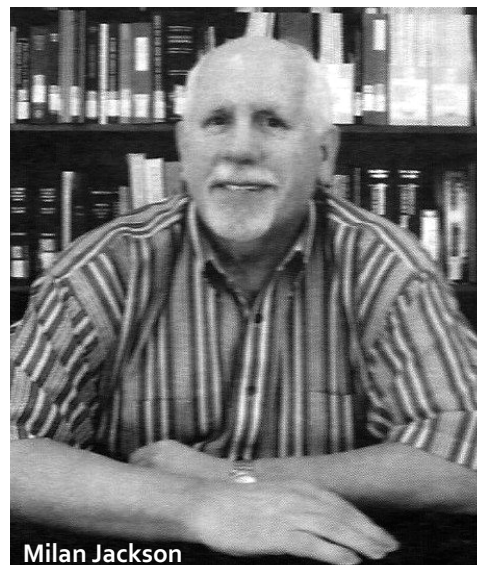
The Museum and Bloomington Public Library (BPL) are proud to announce the digitization of the five-volume, 1,740-page ***Home Town in the Corn Belt***, an incredible resource for the study of local history compiled by librarian Clara Louise Kessler of Withers (now Bloomington) Public Library back in 1950.

Digitizing this set was on the Museum's "wish list" for several years running. Why? Not only does *Home Town in the Corn Belt* offer a wealth of primary and secondary source material to support local historical research—the compilation contains 171 articles, including 39 biographical sketches and 52 poems relating to McLean County history. One hundred and thirty-two authors (mostly regular local folk) contributed articles. But since its release 71 years ago, there have been only two sets of this work—one at BPL, and the other at the McLean County Museum of History.

Now, with this digitization project, anyone and everyone can dive into the past via the friendly "flip-book" format of Internet Archive. You can keyword search each volume, and even download a copy as a PDF! See below for the direct links to each volume of this treasure trove of local history.

This digitization project was made possible through a memorial gift in the name of late Museum Library /Archives volunteer Milan Jackson, who passed away in 2019. Part of this gift was used to remunerate Vincent "Vinny" Carta, who conducted the laborious page-by-page scanning. Carta, an Illinois State University undergraduate history major, served as a Museum Library/Archives intern and volunteer prior to taking on this project. In addition to the digitization of the invaluable *Home Town in the Corn Belt*, Carta has digitized other Museum Library titles, including early Bloomington city directories. Milan Jackson took great pleasure in conducting research at the request of Museum staff and Library/Archive patrons. Upon receiving a memorial gift in his name, we could think of no better way to honor his legacy than digitizing some of the sources he made use of during his years as a volunteer.

The Museum has also purchased several dozen clamshell-like boxes to protect fragile / rare monographs and serials in the Library Stacks.



Milan Jackson

To access each of the five volumes of *Home Town in the Corn Belt*, visit these links:

"Home Town Childhood" archive.org/details/home-town-corn-belt-vol-1

"Home Town Entertainments and Pastimes" archive.org/details/home-town-corn-belt-vol-2

"Home Town Personalities" archive.org/details/home-town-corn-belt-vol-3

"For the People—Public Institutions" archive.org/details/home-town-corn-belt-vol-4

"Home Town Clubs and Organizations" archive.org/details/home-town-corn-belt-vol-5

Museum Volunteer Ventures Out

You can hardly travel south from Illinois along the Mississippi River and not come across a U.S. Civil War site. This was how volunteer, Jana Kiefer, planned her spring trip—follow the river and visit the sites.

Knowing that Jana would be visiting the Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi, Museum Librarian Bill Kemp asked her to take photos of several names inside the 1906 Illinois Monument. This Roman Pantheon replica contains—on 60 bronze plaques—the names of more than 36,000 Illinoisans who fought in the monstrous Vicksburg campaign. Jana reported this monument being by far the largest and most beautiful of all the monuments.

Some notable local names listed in bronze include Lt. George Fifer and Pvt. Joseph Fifer (later Governor of Illinois), Pvt. Albert Cashier, and Capt. John Wesley Powell. During the long siege to starve out the city, Powell, who had lost part of his right arm at Shiloh a year earlier, suffered from fever and dysentery, dropped to about 100 pounds, and was in almost constant pain from the re-exposed nerve endings at his residual limb. "I shall never forget the cannonade in mid-May [1863] when a shell cut off the head of the captain of our company—Captain Kellogg, who had come into the war from the superintendency of a seminary for girls," Joseph Fifer recalled late in his long life.

With the river as her guide and dog, Quincy, at her side, Jana's travels also took her to Arkansas Post along the Arkansas River and Grand Gulf Military Park, near Port Gibson in Mississippi.

Thank you to Jana for sharing her story with us. In the words of Executive Director Emeritus Greg Koos, how will you "do history" this summer? Plan your own history hunt this season, and don't forget to reach out to your favorite Museum to let us know what you find!



UPCOMING EVENTS*

Saturdays through October 30

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

Every Saturday thru October 30 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Museum at the 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!

June 4-5

Cogs and Corsets: A Central Illinois Steampunk Happening is back after a year of separation. The Museum is once again pleased to be a partner in this signature Downtown event! For a schedule of activities and information about participating partners, visit CogsAndCorsetsIL.com

June 5 at 10:00 a.m.

The Skinny on the Scanties: A History of Women's Underwear with Susan Hartzold, Curator of Collections and Exhibits. Join us for this free webinar, part of the 2021 *Cogs and Corsets* festival. To register, go to bit.ly/Cogs21



June 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Urban Transit: Moving in the City with Mike Matejka, vice president of the Illinois Labor History Society and Museum board member. Join us for this free webinar, part of the 2021 *Cogs and Corsets* festival. To register, go to bit.ly/UrbanTransCogs

June 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County – Kickapoo Food and Remedies with Lester Randall, Tribal Chairman of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread5

June 12 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Meet the Author! Images of Rail: Central Illinois Train Depots by Thomas Dyrek. The Museum is thrilled to host local author Thomas Dyrek, who will be signing

copies of his first book—featuring images of train depots found around Central Illinois. The event will be held outdoors on the Museum's plaza, located on Washington Street, during the Farmers' Market. Copies of Dyrek's book will be available for purchase.

June 14-19

Juneteenth Week The Bloomington-Normal Black History Project in partnership with the City of Bloomington will present a week of online programming exploring the theme "Justice Delayed." See page 9 for more information.

June 16 at 6:30 p.m.

History Makers Gala a virtual celebration under the dome! See page 4 for more information. To purchase a ticket, visit mcmh.networkforgood.com/events/28941-history-makers-gala

June 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Did Black Lives Matter in Early Illinois: Voices from the Brink of Slavery and Freedom with Dr. Caroline Kisiel, Associate Professor at DePaul University in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. For more information, see page 8. To register, go to bit.ly/3sddr0I

June 26 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Knit In at the David Davis Mansion Join us for a physically distant, outdoor Knit In on the grounds of the Davis Mansion! Free and open to all knitters and crocheters. Limited to 50 people and registration is required. To register, go to bit.ly/KnitInJune

July 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County – Soul, Greens, and Savory Things: Local African American Food Traditions with Willie Holton Halbert, author of *Cooking with Love* and second vice president of the BN NAACP, and Jeff Woodard, Director of Marketing and Community Relations. Go to bit.ly/breakbread6 to register.

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

July 12-16

Futures in History Camp 2.1 (Registration FULL)

This unique 5-day camp experience will include facilitation by Museum staff and other experts, all materials needed for hands-on learning, meals and snacks, friendship, fun, and more! FiHC 2.1 is presented in partnership with the David Davis Mansion, Sugar Grove Nature Center, and other community collaborators.

July 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln and the Heritage of Illinois State University with authors Thomas Emery and Carl Kasten. To register for this free webinar, part of *Lincoln's Festival on Route 66*, go to bit.ly/LincolnFest21

July 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Civil War Fathers: Sons of the Civil War in World War II with author Tim Pletkovich. To register for this free webinar, go to bit.ly/3dz3jvg

August 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Breaking Bread in McLean County – Hot Dog! It Could Be Wurst: German Cookery with Greg Koos, Executive Director Emeritus. To register, go to bit.ly/breakbread7

August 3 at 7:00 p.m.

***UGLY PREY:
AN INNOCENT WOMAN
AND THE DEATH SENTENCE THAT
SCANDALIZED JAZZ AGE CHICAGO***

By Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi

To register, go to bit.ly/historyreads08321

**History Reads
Book Club**



History Museum
Bloomington Public Library
Part of a series of programs

August 31 at 6:30 p.m.

Vibrant, Resilient, Still Here: Contemporary Native Americans in Illinois with Pam Silas, Associate Director of Outreach and Engagement for Northwestern University, Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. Visit mchistory.org for updates on the format and location of this program.

August 31

Ticket sales begin for the 2021 *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* Visit mchistory.org for more information.

September 6

Museum Closed for *Labor Day*

STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL JUNE 4

DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON
4PM-9PM

Activities for all ages!

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CogsAndCorsetsIL.com



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Mystery History Quiz

Wow! Last issue's 1933 aerial of Angler's Lake proved anything but a mystery to a near-record number of you. Librarian Bill Kemp was swamped with eager history sleuths recounting stories of the old clay pit on the southeast edge of Bloomington, which served for many years as a private swimming and recreation club. Today, the tiny lake (located behind Double Tree by Hilton Hotel) is a city nature preserve and birding hotspot. Those who identified Angler's Lake included Jim Armstrong, Paula Aschim, Bobby Nash Castillo, Avery Heinonen, David Hiltabrand, Margaret Hollowell, Terry Irvin, David Jones, Jack Keefe, Mike Kerber, David Kraft, Milt Livingston, Ed Lundeen, Nola and Tom Marquardt, Don Meyer, Wally Morse, and William Rolley. Apologies if we left anyone out.



Let's hope this historical image proves a might more mysterious than its predecessor! Do you recognize this grouping of buildings? If so, send Bill an email at bkemp@mchistory.org or give him a ring at 309-827-0428. Thanks as always. We do not take your support for granted.