

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

September-October-November 2021

Volume 53, Number 3

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ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

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



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 - Age 65+

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Cover image: The Gordon family of Normal, lights
the menorah on the last night of Hanukkah, 1983

Announcements

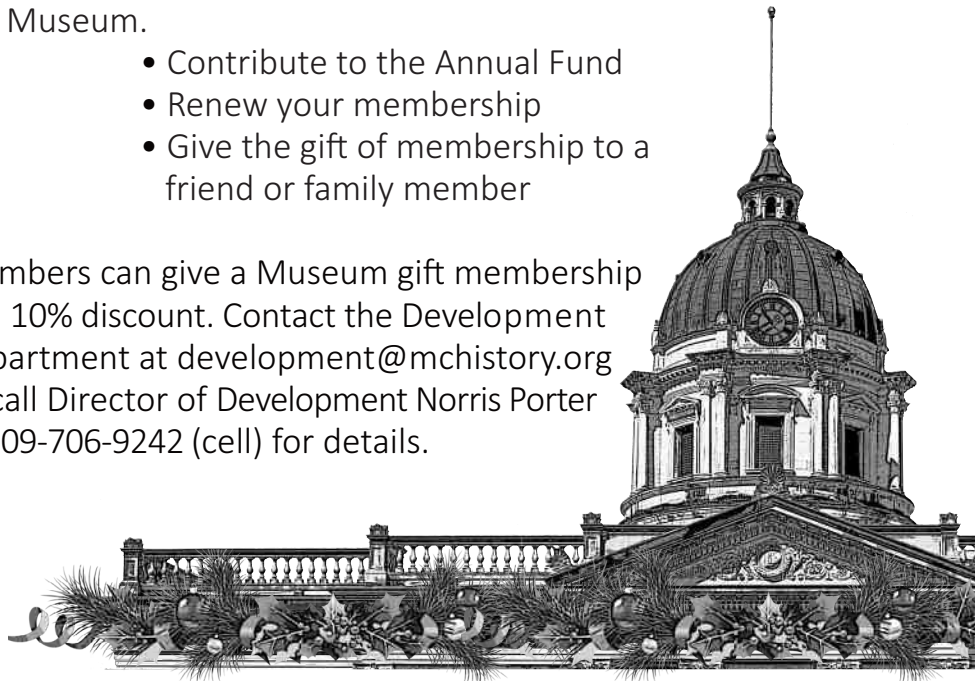
Make a Gift this Holiday Season!

Approximately 70% of our annual budget comes from private support. Your gifts help us offer safe and accessible educational programming, continue to grow and share our collections, and invest in our staff and historic building.

As the holidays approach and we give thanks for those things that are most important to us, we hope you will consider how you can help the Museum.

- Contribute to the Annual Fund
- Renew your membership
- Give the gift of membership to a friend or family member

Members can give a Museum gift membership at a 10% discount. Contact the Development Department at development@mchistory.org or call Director of Development Norris Porter at 309-706-9242 (cell) for details.



Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Jacqueline Anderson	Nancy L. Hoover
Bill Archer	Patty Hume
Gary Blakney	Kevin L. Lowery
Donna C. Bugajski	Terri Lueschen
Leta Buhrmann	Nancy J. Osterman
Jeff Crabill	Tim and Meaghan Pantaleone
Gerald Craig	Paul and Virginia Pedersen
Laura Domitrz	Karthik Ramalingam
Constance Douglass	Karen Rousey
Katherine Eder	Susan Rush and CJ Ledinsky
James Fratrack and Mark Smith	Megan and RJ Scaringe
Robert Frizzell	Melanie Shellito
William and Beverly Gale	Paul Unger
Joseph White	

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.

Season of Light



With the end of Daylight Saving Time in November, transforming our evenings to black literally overnight, these words of poet Mary Oliver in “Lines Written in the Days of Growing Darkness” resonate: “So let us go on/ though the sun be swinging east,/ and the ponds be cold and black...” Thusly inspired, in this issue the McLean County Museum of History invites you to reflect on how to “go on” during the dark days of winter, and how to gather warmth from sources of light and community. The cover photo, “Last Night of Hanukkah 1983” with the Gordons of Normal, quite beautifully exemplifies one such sacred ritual.

To do our part, the Museum is providing many sources of light this season. The lights will be bright for December’s **First Friday: Once Upon a Holiday** and **Christmas Under the Dome** on Saturday, December 4 immediately following the Bloomington-Normal Jaycee’s annual parade—with activities and engagement for audiences of all ages. We are also beaming to announce pre-order sales of *Freedom, Land & Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900* by Executive Director Emeritus Greg Koos and a series of associated talks and programs. See page 4 for a sneak peek into the words and process of the enlightened author.

In a survey conducted last year in partnership with the American Alliance of Museums, respondents overwhelmingly shared that they visit the Museum for knowledge and learning. The Museum is pleased to provide programming that illuminates our community—both in knowledge and in spirit—this season and beyond.

—Julie Emig, Executive Director

Museum Exhibits Viewable Online

We are excited to announce the debut of our online exhibits! *Challenges, Choices, and Change* (which includes four core exhibits: *Making a Home*, *Farming in the Great Corn Belt*, *Working for a Living*, and *A Community in Conflict*), as well as *Abraham Lincoln in McLean County*, are now available for viewing and exploring online. These websites will allow anyone from anywhere to learn about the incredible people, places, stories, objects, and images that are on display in our exhibits.

Virtual visitors can experience the exhibits two ways: through an immersive 360-degree tour of the physical exhibit spaces



and/or by a web-based interpretation of the exhibit text complete with object photos and additional imagery. Exploration of both interfaces will enable online audiences to feel like they are onsite walking through the Museum, while getting clear and close up access to every word and picture featured on our exhibit panels. For visitors who use screen readers, all images on the website will have alternative text descriptions to offer as full of a picture of our exhibit content as possible. The online exhibit sites will also have an integrated search, so anyone searching for historic information on the Museum’s website will be able to discover the same people, places, and other related content featured in our exhibits.* We hope and know that these virtual exhibits will allow visitors to dive deeper into exhibit content from their classroom and home, or at their desk or on their phone. Visit mchistory.org to visit us in a whole new way! Take a virtual tour today and let us know what you think by sending your comments to tmore@mchistory.org

Called a “dollhouse,” this 360-degree interior image of the Museum’s first floor galleries is one way to navigate between exhibits inside Matterport, the virtual tour platform. The platform allows online visitors to rotate the image, zoom in and out, and double click where they want to land.

*Please note that not all accessibility features and search functions may be complete at the time of this publication.

Struggles of McLean County Today Similar

The old adage “the more things change, the more they stay the same” appears to ring true in the history of McLean County. Many of the ideas and aspects that helped to define the county in the early nineteenth century are still present today.

By Luke Smucker, *The Normalite*. Full article published October 28, 2021

Greg Koos, executive director emeritus at the McLean County Museum of History, recently authored his first book, *Freedom, Land & Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900*. The book, which is being published by the McLean County Museum of History, will be available in early 2022.

Koos’s past work is mainly made up of collaborations. He served as co-author on *The Illustrated History of McLean County* with Don Munson and Martin A. Wyckoff. There was also the *Bloomington’s C&A Shops: Our Lives Remembered* that Koos wrote with Mike Matejka.

“This is the largest solo piece I’ve done in my life,” Koos said. “The book runs about 650 to 700 pages, so it’s big—the story will fill many a long winter’s night.”

The title came after Koos finished the book. He was looking for something that would clearly express the kinds of issues facing the early settlers of McLean County that he found in his research. The first word, “freedom,” represents Koos’s belief that it is a social value that is under constant contention.

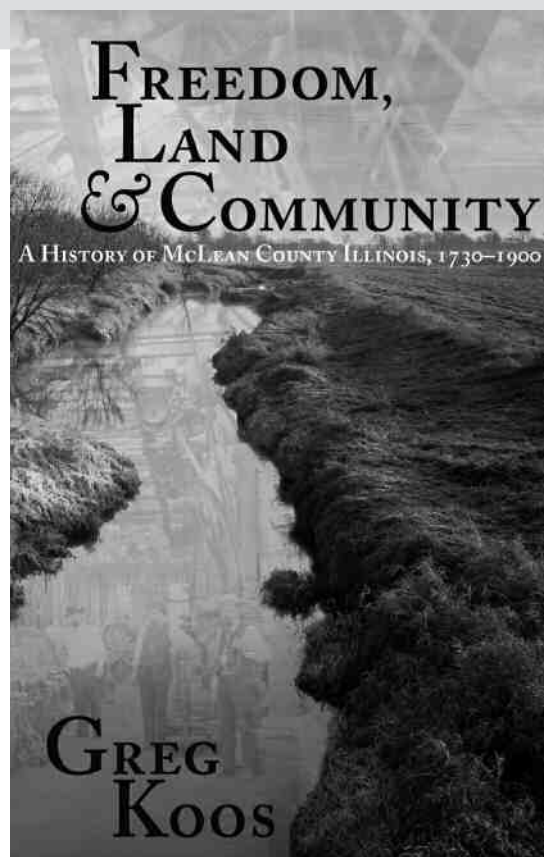
“My idea of freedom might be your idea of aggression. Likewise, your idea of freedom might be my aggression,” Koos explained. “In the early nineteenth century, local farmers faced struggles over whom had control over the production on land. This struggle was also felt by the railroads, who were charging ruinous rates for shipping the farmers’ products to market. This created land struggle, because both sides wanted to control the value of the production of land.”

In the early days of the county, there was a tenancy system in place that residents used to advance themselves in the agricultural industry. Young men often started out by working odd jobs as a hired hand, possibly on several farms per day. As they gained knowledge and experience within the industry, these teens might be given the opportunity to work as a farmhand. This meant they could focus on the day-to-day operations of a specific farm, as opposed to odd jobs on many.

“Sometime around the age of 18 to 25, if that farmhand aspired to run their own farm, they could do so, once they got married,” Koos said. “I have found that there weren’t many single tenant farmers. That’s due, in part, to the fact that farming is a family business. If the family did well, the hope was that they could one day purchase their own land. This tenancy system worked really well until about 1870 and 1880 when land prices started increasing past the point that a tenant farmer could reasonably afford.”

“Community” is the third word in the construct of the book title. Koos said communities are formed to help people in their negotiation of freedom. Even today, many activities are based on the idea of the power that groups have.

“Our ability to make change and define freedom is very closely associated with the communities we live in,” Koos said. “But it isn’t just about the



people who live in your town, community can come from a variety of interpersonal relationships.”

The book has taken Koos around five years to write. During that time, he committed himself to looking at the sources which were closely tied to the events that he wanted to focus on, with a particular emphasis on primary sources.

“I was interested in the documents that would provide me with insight into what happened to people, what they were doing, what they thought, and what they said,” Koos noted. “In order to do a book like this, it took a lot of help from a number of people. I also used the internet heavily. It allowed me access to books and articles that I would not have had access to otherwise. When I started this project five years ago, the digital world wasn’t as robust as it is today, and I was worried about having to drive to a number of different places to see these articles. Fortunately for my research, a lot of it was

to Those of the Past

digitized, so I could make use of it from my home computer.”

To gain a better understanding of how early settlers in McLean County functioned, Koos made use of a ledger kept by Thomas Fell, the older brother of Jesse Fell. Jesse Fell is notable as the founder of the Town of Normal and Illinois State University. Thomas Fell, on the other hand, was a carpenter and builder who primarily built houses and sheds from roughly 1837 to 1838, a time when there wasn’t a lot of money in circulation. Thomas Fell would receive credit for his family from stores as a way of compensating him for the different jobs he fulfilled.

“It was recorded that Jesse Fell had chopped wood for his brother, Thomas, in order to get oats for his horse,” Koos said. “Today it might be like working for gas money.”

Later on, when Thomas Fells’s wife became pregnant with her second child, she was already raising an infant. So, another woman in the community was tasked with coming into the household to assist with childcare. In return, that woman received bolts of cloth. The cloth that the family provided to the woman may have come from a separate trade that Thomas Fell had with another merchant.

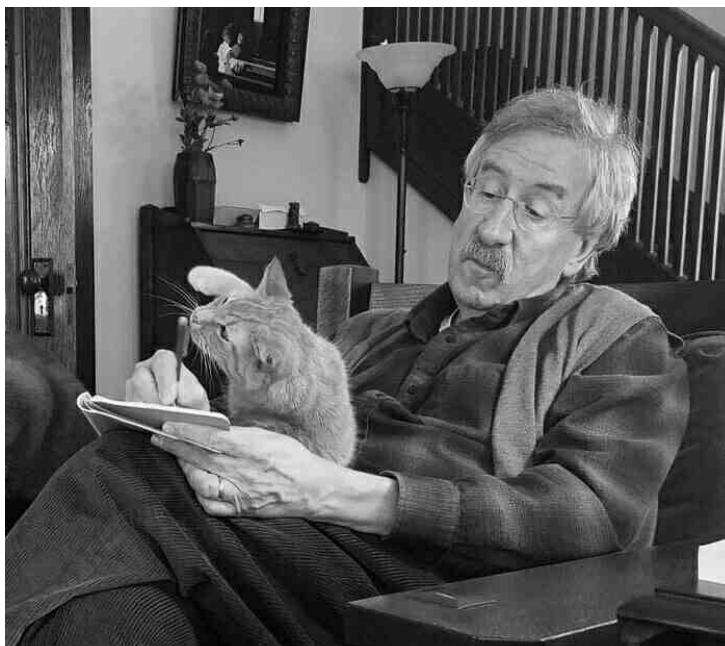
“There was a lot of barter and exchange activity taking place at the time and it all centered around the one guy in the family who actually has a little cash in his life, the builder,” Koos said.

The last section of the book is an epilogue called, “The 19th Century in McLean County’s 21st Century.” Koos said many ideas that started around the turn of the century are still adhered to in our communities today. As an example, he noted that the City of Bloomington has about 450 to 500 square blocks of pre-1950s buildings on a grid of streets that run North, South, East, and West.

“If you shrink that back to the early 1900s, you’re probably looking at about 350 square blocks filled with housing,” Koos said. “Today, we still have a whole chunk of the center of the City of Bloomington that was built by carpenters, painters, roofers, masons, and tinsmiths.”

The educational institutions of Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University have also both adhered, in essence, to what their founders envisioned. Wesleyan was founded in 1850, and Illinois State was founded in 1857 as the state’s first public university.

“Today, it is estimated that there are about 60,000 ISU graduates working as teachers in the United States and other countries. So, this nineteenth century idea still has a huge impact today,” Koos said.



Freedom, Land & Community author Greg Koos jots down notes with one of his research assistants.

The biggest employer in the area is still State Farm Mutual Insurance Company. Koos said State Farm was founded in 1922, but the notion of mutual insurance is rooted in nineteenth century insurance ideas.

“McLean County had many, many mutual aid insurance companies and societies where people would gather together and agree on a certain thing that they were going to do and insurance was a very common way of doing that,” Koos said. “The small farmer insurance companies might have 100 policyholders who decided to put their money together and everybody knew each other, so if a barn burnt down, they had a pretty good idea whether the farmer burned the barn himself or whether it was an accident.”

Koos hopes that people who read the book will take away an understanding that the struggles facing the county and its inhabitants today are very similar to issues it faced in the past.

“This is not a ‘McLean County is the greatest place in the world to live’ kind of book,” Koos said. “This is a pretty clear-eyed view of who we are and who we were and upon what it stands. There were hundreds of people who left McLean County because they couldn’t make it. So, it’s important for us to understand that McLean County is a place of heartbreak and a place of success—we have to recognize both.”

Pre-order your copy of *Freedom, Land & Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900* today at bit.ly/KoosBookFLC or call the Visitors Center at 309-827-0428.

Exclusive Preview

In seven chapters, bookended by a preface and epilogue that are not to be overlooked, author Greg Koos leads his reader through the harrowing defenses of freedom and fights for sovereignty of local Native peoples, the infusion and invasion of White settlers into the future McLean County landscape, the unmatched boom of the arrival of the railroad in Bloomington, the foundation and formation of nineteenth century republicanism, the North/South divide in Central Illinois at a time of civil war, the redefinition of life, land, and labor that followed, and the amenities that make McLean County, or any place, home—like education, aid, and infrastructure.

In this excerpt of Chapter 6, “Free Labor, Free Soil Redux,” Koos introduces the societal shock-waves experienced and manifested by the people of McLean County following the conclusion of the U.S. Civil War.

Chapter 6 - FREE LABOR, FREE SOIL REDUX

The slogan “Free Labor, Free Soil” summed up the promise of the Civil War for the North. This call for freedom took the lives of 780,000 freedom-fighters. That fight produced hundreds of thousands of men from whom vital years were taken, many of them left crippled and maimed. After their sacrifice, these veterans and their families expected that the meaning of the slogan would be realized. They sought the right to rise and thrive. However, steam-powered technology and multi-state business corporations utterly changed the way work and business were conducted. Many of the new work places were absentee-owned and were managed by business organizers, not by craft-workers enlarging their own shops. Steam-powered technology cheapened production and improved transportation, providing manufacturers the means to serve larger markets, extending well beyond their counties to state and regional customers. The railroads became central to the success or failure of nearly all who wielded the hammer or sped the plow. The challenges of these changes were profound. The people of McLean County were left to wonder how they could build homes for their families when the environment they left in 1861 was utterly changed by these forces 10 years later.

Tens of thousands of African Americans fled the South and settled in northern towns and cities where they experienced challenges and limitations of their freedom in a White society. Skilled tradesmen joined with small shop owners to try to maintain control of workplace conditions and claim the liberties they had held for a half-century or more. When these workers organized to ensure the rights they believed they were entitled to have, they found allies in the Republican press, but their efforts were blocked by police action and more. Farmers seeking relief from oppressive railroad shipping rates found common cause with one another and formed powerful lobbying groups. Immigrants continued to come to central Illinois in search of opportunity and work. They hoped for full stomachs and a chance to be more than serfs tied to land they did not own. Women used the organizing skills they developed during the war and took up the work of protecting their families through political action. These stories played out together in a short, dynamic, and eventful “Gilded Age” from 1870 to 1890.

Book Club 2022 Schedule

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON
History Reads
BOOK CLUB
7pm; Club meets virtually via or in-person in the Community Room

Join the discussion
Meets quarterly in the Library's Community Room and focuses on books about Illinois history.

FEB 1
Stealing Lincoln's Body
by Thomas Craughwell

MAY 3
High-Risers
by Ben Auster

AUG 2
The Seasons on Henry's Farm
by Terra Brockman

NOV 1
Trapped
by Karen Tintori

Bloomington Public Library

Museum Volunteers Engage in DEAI Training

In November, Museum volunteers across departments were invited to participate in the Museum's first Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) volunteer training. Through continued partnership with YWCA McLean County, Museum volunteers will have opportunities to engage in biannual trainings and enrichment around topics of DEAI and other themes as part of their service to the Museum and as a benefit of volunteering at a place of lifelong learning.

In this first training, facilitated by Hannah Mesouani, YWCA Director of Mission and Equity Consulting, volunteers explored concepts including implicit bias, microaggressions, and inclusive language. Through these personal development opportunities for volunteers, board, and staff alike, the Museum is living its stated commitments to learning with our community and investing in our people.

Born and raised in Tangier, Morocco, Hannah Mesouani came to the United States in 2006 to pursue her education. With a dual BA from Muhlenberg College in Media & Communications and Film Studies and a Master's degree from ISU in Communications, Hannah is passionate about the ways we communicate our values. Hannah has served on several nonprofit boards including Pennsylvania's largest LGBTQIA+ organization and the YWCA McLean County, where she now works as the Director of Mission and Equity Consulting. Hannah has worked with Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, and the Immigration Project, and has offered trainings for faculty, students, and key community members. Hannah is working towards her PhD in Education for Social Justice through the University of San Diego.

DIVERSITY



of people and perspectives

EQUITY



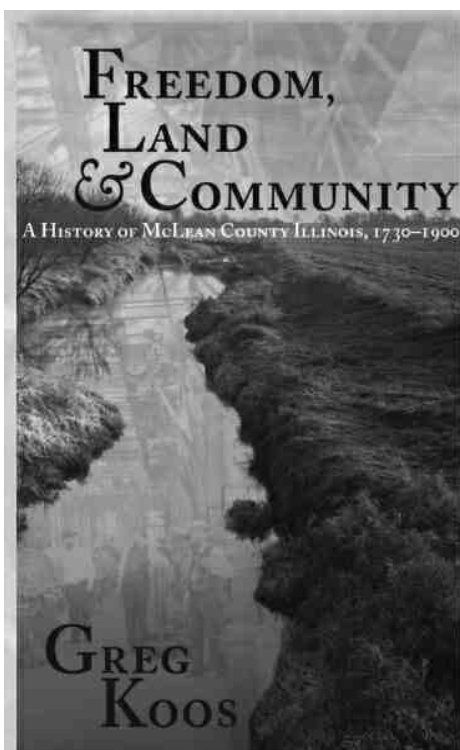
in policy and practice

INCLUSION



of all voices and visions

Thank you to our volunteers and members for your daily dedication to Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion at the Museum and throughout our communities! Questions? Email Rachael Masa, Director of Volunteers, at rmasa@mchistory.org



Writing the 19th Century in the 21st Century

Saturday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m. ZOOM



w/ Greg Koos

Author of

Freedom, Land & Community:
A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900

Register at
bit.ly/FLCMCMH21



Virtual Cemetery Walk 2021 Available for

If you missed the in-person performances of the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*, we have some good news for you. The 2021 *Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk* is still viewable through the online platform Teachable! Ticket holders will have the option to view the Walk in its entirety as a full-length video, or watch each performance individually as many times as you want now through December 31. Tickets can be purchased by going to buff.ly/3GOCX54. Household tickets are \$25 for General Public and \$20 for Museum Members (use code CWMEMBER21). Virtual tickets are per household, so anyone in your immediate household can view this event at any time, on any device, and as many times as you want!

This year's Evergreen Cemetery Walk was filled with homerun performances. But without our hardworking volunteers, it could never have happened! Almost 40 volunteers gave 700 hours to research, write, lead tours, staff the box office, and even bake cookies! Thank you to each and every one of you who made this another history-making year! A total of 1,153 students and chaperones attended free of charge thanks to the support of our Feature Sponsors—Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, and Pantagraph Media; our Premium Sponsors—CEFCU, Heartland Bank & Trust, WGLT, Illinois Farm Bureau, and MCK CPAs & Advisors; and Basic Sponsors—Bloomington Public Library, the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, and Museum members.



Residents of McLean County have witnessed many salient moments in history, including tragedies. One truly horrific blemish on our nation's history—the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, which marked its centennial in 2021—was experienced by two sisters, Julia and Alverta Duff, both born and raised in Normal, Illinois. Julia was living in Tulsa working as a teacher at Booker T. Washington High School, and Alverta was visiting Julia at the time as of the massacre. The Museum is fortunate to have their eyewitness account, which was published 10 days after the Massacre in the *Chicago Defender* (a Black newspaper), in our archival collection. Actors Elaine Hill (Alverta Duff) and Jennifer Rusk (Julia Duff) portrayed the sisters in the Walk this year. Their performance was a favorite by those who attended.

Viewing Through December 31



The 2021 Evergreen Cemetery Walk cast and crew hope you enjoyed the in-person event. But if you missed the amazing in-person performances, you can still view the Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk online through December 31. You can purchase your household ticket by visiting mchistory.org/learn/evergreen-cemetery-walk



Dean and Cyndee Brown portrayed visiting voices, Sigmund and Hilda Livingston. The Livingstons are buried in Bloomington's Jewish cemetery.



Seen here are some of our fabulous and intrepid tour guides along with Rachael Masa, Director of Volunteers and Interns. Pictured left to right: Rachael Masa, Susan Rush, Diane Hawk, Stan Geison, Jana Kiefer, John Capasso, and Scott Myers

End of Year Giving Opportunities

As the holidays approach and we give thanks for the important things, we hope you will consider how you can help the Museum. Museum members are vital to our mission of preserving and sharing the rich history of McLean County residents. **THANK YOU** for your trust and investment in keeping history alive for all to access and enjoy.

Technology continues to be a challenge for small museums as access to virtual materials and programming has become the expected norm. The pandemic has also reinforced the need for and importance of access to online information. In 2020 through 2021, the Museum moved most of its programming online and increased the digitization of its *Pantagraph Negatives Collection*. MCMH continues to make library and archival print materials available online when resources allow. Additional items made available online include several Historical Society publications and the five-volume *Home Town in the Corn Belt*, an incredible resource for the study of local history.

On Giving Tuesday (November 30), we launched our end-of-year appeal to help the Museum address its current digitization and virtual programming priorities.

The demand for digital and virtual content continues as schools, senior-care facilities, and others are telling us that this model is appealing and more readily accessible for them.

Current digitization and technology priorities total \$36,200 and include:

- 1) \$15,000 to professionally photograph and make our exhibits available online;
- 2) \$2,500 for 166 hours of digitization services for our archival print collection;
- 3) \$2,500 to digitize Phase I of our Object Collection;
- 4) \$8,500 to increase our server capacity by 28.8 terabytes;
- 5) \$2,500 for improved technology and streaming enhancements for our Classroom;
- 6) \$5,200 to upgrade streaming technology for the Governor Fifer Courtroom.

Gifts of all sizes will help us make progress in our efforts to improve online access to McLean County history. Whether you make a year-end gift, or a gift in the New Year, your support is truly an act of philanthropy that preserves local history for the entire community. Those itemizing on their 2021 taxes can once again deduct up to 100 percent of their adjusted gross income. Individuals not itemizing may deduct up to \$300 for cash contributions to charities in 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns. Check with your tax advisor to determine how a contribution to the Museum in 2021 may benefit you.

Stock Transfers can Benefit You and the McLean County Museum of History

Did you know that the Museum accepts the transfer of securities to benefit the McLean County Historical Society and Museum? One of the most tax efficient methods for making a charitable contribution is to gift long-term appreciated securities. Donating stock that has appreciated for more than a year allows donors to give 20 percent more by avoiding capital gains taxes. Stock markets are at all-time highs after rebounding from the pandemic lows. Take advantage of the current market highs by benefitting the Museum and sheltering your taxable income. Contact the Development Department for delivery instructions for your banker/broker, development@mchistory.org, or call Director of Development Norris Porter at 309-706-9242 (cell).



Photographs in the Museum's print collection are waiting to be scanned so the digital files can be made available online.



This is one of hundreds of digital images created and used to build an immersive 360-degree tour of the Museum's new permanent exhibits to be viewed online.



Images of artifacts in the Museum's object collection are needed as part of Phase 1 of the Museum's plan to provide online access to its object collection.

Tax-efficient Ways to Make Charitable Contributions

Looking for tax-efficient ways to make charitable contributions? Here are two effective strategies under our current tax laws:

Give Appreciated Long-Term Securities

The recent rise in the stock market may provide taxpayers with opportunities to gift appreciated securities (stocks, mutual funds, ETFs) to your favorite qualified charities. If the security has been held for more than 12 months, a taxpayer that makes a charitable contribution using appreciated securities receives a tax deduction for the full market value of the security and does not incur income tax on the inherent gains within the security. When you compare this to selling the security and making a cash contribution, the net impact can be greater than 20% of the gift (assumes all realized gains are subject to the maximum federal long-term capital gains tax rate of 20% and the Medicare surtax of 3.8%, and that the donor originally planned to sell the stock and contribute the net proceeds (less the capital gains tax and Medicare surtax) to charity.)

There are some IRS rules that come into play – the deduction for contributions of appreciated securities is limited to 30% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) (donations of appreciated securities to a private foundation are limited to 20% of AGI). Donations exceeding the AGI limits may be carried forward for up to five years. The increased standard deduction may make it advantageous to group multiple years of charitable giving into one year so that the itemized deductions in that year exceed the standard deduction.

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA is another great way to make philanthropic gifts. Taxpayers over 70 ½ can make QCDs of up to \$100,000 per tax year and the QCD can satisfy the Required Minimum Distribution from the IRA. This strategy eliminates the ordinary income tax payable on the QCD amount. In these cases, the taxpayer identifies the charitable recipient and makes the gift directly from the IRA to the charity. It should be noted that QCDs cannot be used for contributions to Donor Advised Funds.

For further discussion, please contact one of our Heartland Bank Wealth Management advisors or your tax and legal professionals.

The information contained within this article is provided for informational purposes only and is current as of the date published. Please consult with your tax and legal advisors before implementing any strategies. 11/1/21 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.

Let us help you plan.

When your focus
shifts to **transferring
your wealth**,
a secure financial
future takes on new
meaning.



Wealth Management

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

 **Heartland
Bank** and Trust
Company

New to Collections

Objects

- Normal Community High School band patches, c. 1962; Central School patch, c. 1958; Hopalong Cassidy pencil case, c. 1950; Brownie Scouts flashlight, c. 1952; Library of Games card game set, c. 1950s; Halloween noisemakers, c. 1950; donated by Patricia M. Barth
- Magnet and prescription label from Chenoa Pharmacy, c. 2012; knife sharpener advertising Chenoa Pharmacy, c. 1960s; bottle of Wakefield's Golden Ointment, c. 1910; donated by Beverly Beauford
- Childhood portrait of John A. Taylor, Jr., 1893; child's velvet suit, fez, and leather shoes worn by John A. Taylor, Jr., 1893; stuffed rabbit used by John A. Taylor, Jr., 1890; Dominoes tile set used by Duane and Kathryn Haas, c. 1960s; baptismal gown worn by John Allen Haas, Sr., 1938; hair

receiver and nail buffer used by Anna E. Taylor, c. 1928; necklace worn by Anna E. Taylor, c. 1940s; Masonic pin worn by John A. Taylor, Sr., 1890s; Modern Woodmen pins worn by John A. Taylor, Jr., 1920s; Royal Neighbors of America pin, c. 1960s; donated by Janet Fopay

- Boy Scout whistle owned by Stanley Lantz, c. 1940s; Friend of Scouting award given to Stanley Lantz, 1950; name badge and pins worn by Stanley Lantz for 1972 trade delegation to the USSR; press badge from 1963 Illinois State Fair; Illinois Bicentennial Commission pinback; Junior Pantagraph Club pin, 1930s; 1955 New Hampshire fishing license used by Stanley Lantz; 1979 Illinois FFA state convention guest badge; IAA Travel Program name badge, c. 1960s; War Price & Rationing Board Meritorious Service pin given to Stanley

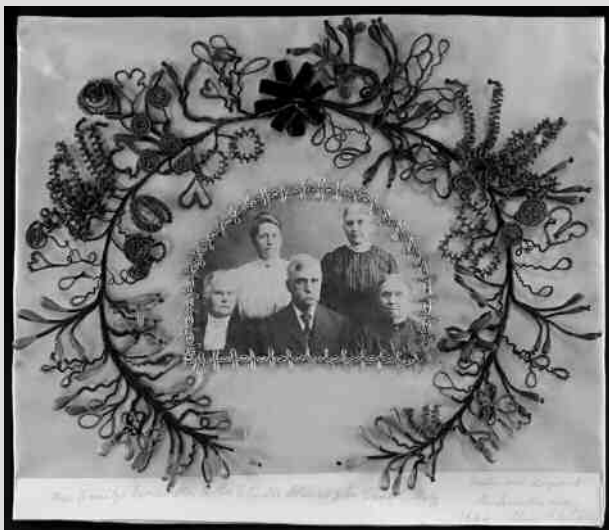
Lantz, c. 1945; FFA pin, Farm Bureau pin, 4-H pins and McLean County Fair judge badges worn by Stanley Lantz; sorority pins belonging to Evelyn Lantz, 1930s; donated by Rebekah Strack

- Swim tag from Normal Pool Swim Club, 1966; donated by Ron Adcock
- Milk bottle carrier, milk can mixer, and cottage cheese jar used by Laesch Dairy; donated by Ellen Laesch Dalrymple
- Parkside Junior High patch, c. 1976; Parkside Pythons pinback button, c. 1970s; Steak'n'Shake bean crock, c. 1950s; donated by Amy Miller
- Trade token from Floyd's Store in Covell, Illinois; donated by Peggy Lewis
- Evening gown worn by Jacqueline Halsey Landes to Bloomington High School's prom in 1948; donated by Jaye Stielow
- Pocket knife from Stappenbeck Bindery, c. 1950s; Vladimir sister city pinback, 1992; donated by Linda Lacy
- iPhone 4 smartphone, c. 2012; donated by Candace Summers
- Samsung Gusto flip phone, c. 2010s; HTC smartphone and charger, c. 2016; Little Women VHS tape, c. 1988; donated by Nola Marquardt
- Type case cabinet, c. 1903, and assorted letterpress printing blocks; donated by Pantagraph Printing & Stationery
- Milk bottle from H. C. Steege Dairy, c. 1910s; donated by Donald Wood
- Stoneware mineral water bottle from site of Trinity Lutheran Church, c. 1870s; donated by Karen Leesman
- Name badge for WJBC/WBNQ radio stations, c. 1980s; donated by Steve Vogel
- Halloween decoration made by Mary Price in 1969; name badge for BroMenn Healthcare worn by Mary Price, c. 1990s; from the estate of Mary Price
- Pirates of the Caribbean VHS tape, 2003; Sweatin' to the Oldies 2 exercise VHS tape, c. 1993; Sony Video Head Cleaner tape; donated by Pat Luber
- Portrait of Captain Henry M. Kellogg painted by Elisha Hunt, c. 1860s; donated by Steve Osman
- Memorial hairwork wreath from the Buchwalter family, c. 1868; donated by Maureen Best
- Wicker baby carriage used by Frederick C. Muhl and his descendants, c. 1872; donated by Diane Cook Conklin
- Monkey wrench used by Albert Green Jones at the Illinois Central and Chicago & Alton railroad shops, c. 1910s-1940s; Spanish War Veteran watch fobs worn by Jesse Dennison Douglas; matchbook from Barney's Caboose, c. 1970s; donated by Peggy Hutson
- Sony Tam-100 answering machine, c. 2002; Handspring Visor Deluxe personal digital assistant,

Featured Artifact

Hair Wreath – donated by Maureen Best

The Museum recently received this beautiful handmade memorial wreath created by members of the Buchwalter family in the late nineteenth century. Although it appears to be made of flowers, the wreath is actually constructed of human hair, collected from Buchwalter family members and worked into floral shapes. Originally from Pennsylvania, the Buchwalters came to McLean County in 1868, settling in Cropsey where they farmed and attended the local Methodist church. The family consisted of parents Martin and Margaret with their five children, Elizabeth, Clara, John, Daniel, and Mary—each of whom contributed hair for the making of the wreath. Although bizarre by today's standards, the making of objects from human hair, also known as hairwork, was a popular pastime and was seen as a way to remember and feel connected to absent or dead family members. It is unknown which Buchwalter family member made this wreath, but it was likely one of the daughters.



The Buchwalter hair wreath was made using 'gimp work,' a technique where hair is wrapped and looped around thin wire to form different shapes, usually flowers. The inclusion of black jet beads and ribbon suggest this example was intended as a memorial wreath, meant to remember family members after their deaths. A photograph, presumably of Margaret Buchwalter with her daughters and one of her sons, has been added to its center.

c. 2000; donated by Gretchen Monti

Archives

- Taylor / Hass family genealogical research and papers, including pedigree charts and 556-page typed manuscript of unpublished adventure story, written by Dr. John Taylor; donated by Janet Fopay
- Various items relating to the Soule family, including genealogical information and miscellany, such as birth announcements; donated by Paul Radefeld
- Several items, including booklet, "Historical Walking Tour of Hudson, IL" (2021); donated by Amy Miller
- Akai Electric Co. four-track stereophonic reel-to-reel tape player, c. early 1970s (for playing tapes held in the Archives); donated by Kev Varney
- Genealogical research and materials relating to Lentz and Gaddis families; donated by the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society
- McLean County Highway Department map of McLean County, effective January 1, 1983, indicating adaption of a Rural Reference System for numbering roads; includes letter from Highway Department explaining same; donated by Ron Grizzle
- Three-ring binder of history of Chenoa Pharmacy, including Route 66 Hall of Fame application and research; John A. Taylor, Board of Pharmacy certification, 1894; and other items; donated by Beverly Beauford
- Certificates, including marriage for William Runge and Clara Gellert, 1921, and baptismal for Wilma Runge, 1923; donated by Janice Metz
- Large donation of papers, including correspondence relating to the Rev. Frank Breen and his involvement in East Bay Camp, the School of Living project, and other topics, 1940s and 1950s; material gathered by Elizabeth Weir and doated by Brian, Susan, and Ruth Trower
- Stanley Lantz (longtime Pantagraph farm editor) correspondence, including letters and postcards from 1964 trade mission; and other items; donated by Rebekah Strack
- Unit Five Schools newsletter, 1962; and other items; donated by Patricia Barth
- Lay-Z-J Saloon, 1401 W. Market St., Bloomington, schedule for December 1970 acts and promotions; donated by Becky Bell
- One-page typed manuscript by donor detailing First United Methodist Church in Normal and the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown, with church bulletins from June-July 2021; donated by Carolyn Yockey
- Letter from Meda Puett of Bloomington to cousins relating the death of her husband John, January 26, 1917; donated by Nancy Stevens
- Various items, including an Illinois State Normal University student handbook, 1920-21; National Bank of Bloomington ledger, 1913; and Boundy family items; donated by David Wilson

- Graduation programs and items relating to class reunions of Lexington Community High School; donated by Ruth and Don Cavallini
- Several items, including 11-page history of BroLeen Cleaners; donated by Susann Warden
- J-Shees 1952-53 booklet, including list of programs and members; donated by Linda L. Lacy
- "Firestone Welcomes You" packet for new Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. employees, includes personnel folder; and Firestone price lists, 1960; donated by Michael Washer and family
- Original newspaper clipping with John Alexander Latimer's recollection of Lincoln's "Lost Speech" in Bloomington, New York Herald, September 20, 1903; donated by Norris Porter
- Countering Domestic Violence minutes, bylaws, and other materials from the organization, 1978-80; donated by Judy Poultney (group's cofounder and secretary)
- Binder of blank forms printed by Pantagraph Printing & Stationery Co. for use by county election officials and county clerks, from property tax assessments to dog licenses; donated by Mike Dolan
- Ensenberger furniture store daily statement ledger, 1940; donated by Bruce Johnson
- Transcribed letters, typed on onionskin, from William Brown to cousin Jeremiah Brown, Jr., 1829-1843; and other items; donated by Martin and Patsy Oman
- Lois Wood collection of more than 250 local postcards (Wood was the longtime history librarian at Bloomington Public Library); donated by Donald Wood
- Tickets for George Winston at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington fundraiser, 2004; and other items; donated by Steve Vogel
- Washington School, Bloomington, items relating to donor's school years, 1966-1973; donated by Gail Boysen-Preset
- Letter from Julia Scott Vrooman to Frank and Nelle McCorkle on the death of their son, David McCorkle, killed in the Philippines during World War II; donated by Leta Buhrmann
- Collection of research materials relating to local Black history; donated by Jack Muirhead
- Research related to forthcoming publication of the donor's book, *Freedom, Land & Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900*; donated by Greg Koos
- John A. Beck Co. ambulance service, ink blotter, undated; donated by Tom and Mary Bready

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- Bible belonging to William Frederick Lantz (Lentz), early 19th century, in German; donated by the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society
- Wesleyana (IWU yearbook), 1945-46 (50th

edition); donated by Amy Miller

- Large collection of Lexington Community High School yearbooks, 1967 to 2007-08; donated by Ruth and Don Cavallini
- Directory of Industries, Illinois Terminal Railroad Co., 1947 (Morning Sun Books reprint, 2008); donated by Eamon Rago
- *Gems by a Real Ruby: My Autobiography* by Ruby Vogel, 2002; donated by Shannon Perry
- Various publications from local authors, including Bill Linneman's *A Curmudgeon's Delight*, 1999; and the donor's *Age on Stage: 10-Minute Plays*; and others; donated by Terri Ryburn
- Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*, volumes I and II (1926); donated by Dale and Carol Strassheim
- *The Defender: How the Legendary Black Newspaper Changed America* by Ethan Michaeli (2016); donated by Jack Muirhead
- *Fractured Tales from the Heartland* (University Galleries of ISU, 1993); donated by Greg Koos

Photographs

- Four photos of Gaddis / Lentz family members; donated by the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society
- Three Steak 'n Shake photographs; donated by Amy Miller
- Several photographs related to the Soule family; donated by Paula Radefeld
- Wedding photograph of Pauline and August Gellert, 1894; oval portrait of Clara Gellert Runge; donated by Janice Metz
- Two Taylor / Hass family photo albums and other photos; donated by Janet Fopay
- Small collection of photos, including a Miller Park snow scene, undated; National Youth Symphony Orchestra, Capen Auditorium, ISNU, 1941; and others; donated by Rebekah Strack
- Central and Eugene Field (Normal) schools, photos of students; donated by Patricia Barth
- Nine black-and-white photos of local scenes, including Miller Park and Majestic Theatre; General Electric plant office, with William Miller (donor's father) at a desk; donated by Linda L. Lacy
- Black-and-white, painters painting Bloomington City Hall, April 1949; black-and-white of union painters donating labor to paint Miller Park benches, May 1950; donated by Jaye Stielow
- Four color slides, undated, of the Hamilton Hotel and other local subjects; donated by Steve Vogel
- Pocket portrait of U.S. Army Pvt. David McCorkle, WWII; and large format landscape photo of his unit, likely during stateside training; donated by Leta Buhrmann

CALENDAR OF EVENTS* – JOIN US FOR THE SITES, SOUNDS, & A

Now through December 31, 2021

Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk

The 2021 *Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk* is viewable through the paid online platform Teachable. Ticket holders have the option to view the *Walk* in its entirety as a full-length video, or watch each performance individually as many times as you want through December 31. Household tickets are \$25 for the General Public and \$20 for Museum Members (Household Ticket Member Coupon Code CW21MEMBER). To purchase tickets, go to mchistory.org/learn/evergreen-cemetery-walk

December 3 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

First Friday: Once Upon a Holiday

Join the Museum onsite for a variety of family-friendly activities including our *Santa on the Square* photo op, holiday tree lighting on the lawn with the City of Bloomington, eggnog and hot apple cider from 5:00-6:00 p.m., live music, and a make-n-take hot cocoa mix bar in the Museum's rotunda.

December 4 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Under the Dome

For more information, see page 15.

December 6 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Museum Closed for Professional Development

December 9 12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: McLean County Economic Update

Patrick Hoban, CEO of the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council, will provide an overview of the recent economic growth in McLean County and outline its future prospects. To register for this free Zoom program, go to bit.ly/MCMHDecLL

December 11 1:00 p.m.

Writing the 19th Century in the 21st Century with Greg Koos. For more information about this program, see page 7. To register for this free Zoom program, go to bit.ly/FLCMCMH21

December 13 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Museum Closed for Professional Development

December 24 through December 27
Museum Closed for Christmas Holiday

December 31, 2021 through January 3, 2022

Museum Closed for New Year's Holiday

January 13, 2022 12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Release of Freedom, Land & Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900 by Greg Koos. Order your copy today at bit.ly/KoosBookFLC

February 1 7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club: Stealing Lincoln's Body by Thomas Craughwell. Go to bit.ly/bplhistory222 to register for this free, online discussion.

February 10 12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: The NAACP was relevant then, now and forever more!

Local leaders of the Adult Branch and the Youth Council President will discuss the rich history and lasting legacy associated with the NAACP. To register for this free Zoom program go to bit.ly/MCMHFebLL

February 18 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

History and Social Sciences Teacher Symposium – Conflict/Resolution: Civics & Culture in the Social Studies Classroom

An annual collaboration between ISU's Department of History, the Regional Office of Education 17, and the Museum, the symposium is open to all Illinois PreK-12 History/Social Science Educators, Community Educators, and Pre-Service/Student Teachers. Keynote speaker Jonathan Zimmerman, Judy and Howard Berkowitz Professor in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, will speak on the culture wars in American schools. To register for this free symposium, go to bit.ly/22TeachSymRegister

February 24 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Presence, Pride, and Passion: Black History in McLean County with Jeff Woodard and Hannah Johnson. From the arrival of the Duff family to the protests against segregation of Miller Park Lake and the Pilgrim Café, to the genesis of the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project, and beyond, join Museum staff for an exploration of the local African American experience in recognition of Black History Month. To register for this paid program, go to heartland.edu/continuingEd/classesRegistration/index.html

***All Zoom programs noted.**

Holiday Happenings

First Friday: Once Upon a Holiday

Friday, December 3 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Under the Dome & the B-N Jaycee's Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 4 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Join the Museum and our friends as we welcome in the holiday season as the Grand Marshall of the *Bloomington-Normal Jaycee's Christmas Parade*! The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. at Kingsley Junior High School in Normal and ends in Downtown Bloomington at the steps of the McLean County Museum of History. Follow the parade Downtown to see the parade floats up close and see Santa disembark for an afternoon of meeting-and-greeting with kids of all ages and the young at heart on the Museum Square.

From the time the parade reaches the Museum Square until 2:00 p.m., join us for

Christmas Under the Dome

festivities including:

- * Crafts & Games from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- * Holiday Book Pop-Up with Bloomington Public Library from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Story Times at 11:45 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. All BPL / NPL cardholders can check out books.
- * Selfies with Santa from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- * Live Music:
Loving Missionary Baptist Choir (12:15 to 1:00 p.m.)
Sound of Illinois Chorus (1:15 to 2:00 p.m.)
- * Holiday Artifact Displays All Season



Make new memories inspired by the history of the iconic Livingston Santas! Find Santa on the Museum Square all season long for some fresh air and festive photos!

Mystery History Quiz

Quite a few of you successfully identified the previous mystery photo showing the construction of the East Washington Street underpass under the Illinois Central RR tracks, sometime in the early 1920s. The sight of the American Foundry and Furnace Co. in the background helped some identify the location (the old industrial site is now The Foundry development, which includes Green Top Grocery). Today, the IC right-of-way is now Constitution Trail, and the underpass and bridge are long gone. Constitution Trail now runs under Washington Street as a tunnel.

"I walked this way, twice a day, from 1954-57, on my way to and from our home on Kreitzer and BHS on Washington St.," Museum friend Tom Gregg told us. Others who correctly identified the location included Michael Andresen, Donna Bugajski, Roger and Carol Elliott, Gary Faulk, Sherry Graehling, Susan Harsha, Jack Keefe, Milt Livingston, Kevin Lowery, Ed Lundeen, Carol Nyweide, Denny Steele, and Bob Wills.



We think this mystery photo is a mite tougher than the last one. Where in tarnation is this rooftop? And why the heck are these kids up there? Bill Kemp will be waiting patiently at his desk to hear from you! You can reach Bill at bkemp@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

