

ON THE SQUARE

The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History



Sept-Oct-Nov 2022

Volume 54, Number 3

Remembering the Lost

page 3

Renewal and Rededication

page 4

New Staff

page 5

Labor Day History

page 6

The McLean County Regiment

page 8



With thanks to our magazine sponsor:



Also inside this issue:

Announcements & New Members	2
Futures in History Camp	3
Cemetery Walk.	5
The Mormon Troubles	10
New to Collections	12
Calendar of Events	14
Mystery History	16

ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

Edited by Susan Hartzold and Micaela Harris for the
McLean County Museum of History



Visitors Center

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www.mchistory.org

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Visit mchistory.org for current hours and
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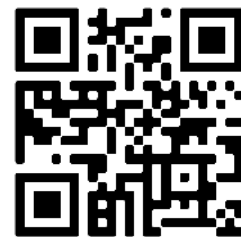
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Cover image: As its participants marched up Main Street, a crowd gathered to watch Bloomington's July 13, 1940 Veterans of Foreign Wars parade.

Announcements

Thank you to all who attended the 2022 *History Makers Gala* in honor of George & Myra Gordon, Dee Frautschi & Alan Bedell on June 15 at ISU's Brown Ballroom. In total 317 attendees gathered to celebrate and the Museum raised money to support free education programming in the community. Scan the QR code to read the Pantagraph's coverage of the event.



November is Member Appreciation Month

To show our gratitude, we are planning "Expert Insights" from our staff and opportunities to see what happens behind the scenes to preserve your local history. We will also extend a 20% discount on purchases in the Cruisin' With Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center and Gift Shop to members through November. A surprise or two will also be forthcoming! Watch our bi-weekly email updates and social media accounts for more details or visit our website at mchistory.org



Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Karla Bailey-Smith & Karl Smith
Brenda Bartholomew
Laurie Burke
Diana Cristy
Larry Cristy
John Davenport
Anthony & Karen DeAngelis
Dave Denham
Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe

Arlene Hosea & Ben Ryburn
John & Margie Hohenshell
Melissa Libert
Karen Lorack Mitchell
Donna Nickels
Thomas Nielsen
Thomas W. and Ruth Novosad
Warren Slagel
Laura Vogel

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.

Remembering the Lost



"The thing about remembering is that you don't forget," writes novelist and war veteran Tim O'Brien in *The Things They Carried*. Our mission at the McLean County Museum of History is to preserve, educate, and collaborate in sharing the stories of our community; this includes individual accounts and remembrances of our local heroes who have honorably served our country. As this Veterans Day approaches, the Museum is committed to amplifying their stories and the sacrifices they made on and off the battlefield.

Take, for example, Howard Humphreys, who was held in a Japanese POW camp from June 1942 until his death on April 15, 1945. Or Ella Lee Stokes (featured in this year's Cemetery Walk), who worked at Williams-Oil-O-Matic to clean parts of military airplanes and ships. Like many other McLean County residents, Humphreys and Stokes made sacrifices during World War II and have stories to tell because of it. These stories matter. We dedicate ourselves to preserving and sharing these stories.

The Museum has overseen two World War II Memorial dedications. The first dedication was made possible by the Pearl Harbor Chapter of the American War mothers, whose members consisted of mothers of sons or daughters who served, or were currently serving in combat. The seven-foot fountain of Georgia marble, located on the east side of the Museum Square, was dedicated on October 19, 1948.

The second World War II Memorial dedication occurred on November 8, 1997, with approximately 200 in attendance, commemorating the 336 local men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. A committee of veteran organizations, businesses, and labor and civic groups created the memorial, using the theme "Four Freedoms" to frame the structure: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

O'Brien described his fellow soldiers as those who "*carried all they could bear, and then some, including a silent awe for the terrible power of the things they carried.*" We carry their stories forward. See Norris Porter's article on page 4 to learn more about what we have planned for the third War II Memorial reveal and rededication scheduled for November 5, 2022.

—Julie Emig, executive director

Futures in History Camp a great time for all!

Another excellent *Futures in History Camp* in the books! This year 17 campers entering 4th through 6th grades learned about various careers in the field of history, including law, archaeology, art, architecture, and museum and environmental studies.

We could not have had such a fantastic experience without our community partners who helped make camp happen this year: Museum board member Mike Matejka, Renee Nestler from the Bloomington-Normal Trades and Labor Assembly, archaeologists from Fever River Research, the David Davis Mansion, Old House Society, Workbench Architects, Meltdown Creative Works, West Bloomington Revitalization Project, Illinois Art Station, Hangar Art Co., Rivian, and Sugar Grove Nature Center. Thanks also to Etology for providing nutritious and delicious lunches all week. See page 10 for a special shout out to our much appreciated program sponsors.



Renewal and Rededication

Memorials remind us of what we are grateful for; they provide a place to reckon with and be inspired by the past. They create a space to show gratitude to those they honor and connect the past, present, and future.

On October 19, 1948, the Pearl Harbor Chapter of the American War Mothers dedicated a World War II Memorial Fountain on the east side of the Museum Square to honor soldiers who gave their lives in service to our country. In 1994 the community envisioned a new memorial to surround the 1948 marker. On November 8, 1997, the new memorial was dedicated on the east side of the Museum Square with an estimated crowd of 200 in attendance. Local builders, architects, and artisans were responsible for erecting the memorial, donating 4,000 hours of work to complete it. The community contributed the funds needed to etch the 336 names of fallen military personnel in granite and accented the names with white litchichrome paint.

On November 5, 2022—the 25th anniversary of the memorial—the Museum invites the public to a 1p.m. rededication ceremony. An \$80,000 investment by out-of-state donors is facilitating the refurbishment of the memorial to include — *continued on page 7*



1948 WWII Memorial Fountain Dedication



1997 dedication of the WWII Memorial

Museum Welcomes New Staff

The Museum welcomes three new staff members who joined the team in June and July. Jackie Cain filled the position of registrar, Emily McCusker joined as director of youth & family education, and Maria Mears is our new director of adult education. These three bring excellent skills and experience to the Museum as well as lots of enthusiasm.



Jackie Cain

Jackie Cain grew up in Tallapoosa, Georgia and moved to Bloomington from Indianapolis, Indiana, where she recently completed a Master's degree in Museum Studies at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. When asked what most influenced her decision to join the Museum staff she responded, *"The Museum's dedication to telling the stories of the people who lived in McLean County—not just stories of the objects in the collection—drew me in. I believe museum collections should be easily accessible to the communities they represent. I look forward to being a part of the team that preserves and shares these incredible objects, including digitizing our records and making them available to the public through an online database. I think the Museum has a fantastic collection and I am excited to help the public see more of it!"*

During her free time Jackie enjoys sewing, painting, and walking her dog, Bertie Botts.
— continued on page 9

Evergreen Cemetery Walk 2022

The past two years have challenged the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* to navigate unprecedented circumstances, including going fully remote in 2020 and pivoting to a hybrid format in 2021. These challenges forced us to reimagine the Walk and evolve it into an even better, more accessible event for all. This year we are pleased to offer the Walk entirely in person on the beautiful and historic grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, as well as online via YouTube, thanks to Broadleaf Video Production.

Without our incredible partners, none of this would be possible. Additionally, the generous support of our sponsors means that over 2,000 students, chaperones, and older adults living in senior care facilities are able to participate in the Walk free of charge.

The 2022 Evergreen Cemetery Walk will be in person on September 24-25 and October 1-2, with performances at 11 am and 2 pm each day. Individual tickets to attend the in-person event are \$20 for the general public, \$18 for Museum members, and \$8 for children or students w/ID.

This year's Walk will feature five new voices and bring back two voices to share a new story. To learn more about this year's cast of characters and for the most up-to-date information on the walk, visit mchistory.org/learn/evergreen-cemetery-walk or contact the Education department at education@mchistory.org

Cemetery Walk Tickets NOW ON SALE

Purchased your tickets by visiting the Museum's website, at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, or the Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center and Gift Shop.

Labor Day History

Labor Day began with New York City workers marching unlawfully through the city streets. This display and recognition of workers' contributions spread throughout the country, and in 1891 Illinois adopted it as an official holiday. In 1894, during the fractious Pullman strike, federal legislation was signed to make Labor Day a national holiday.

McLean County first celebrated the holiday on September 7, 1891. Seven hundred workers marched up Main Street to Franklin Park, where prominent Democrat Adlai Stevenson I addressed the crowd.

The 1892 celebration set the Labor Day standard for the next 30 years. Complete with balloon ascensions, fireworks, orators, competitions, and dancing, the holiday celebration was an all-day affair. A courthouse band concert, races, and athletic competitions filled the morning. Featuring about 1,500 participants and elaborate horse-drawn floats with workers displaying their skills, the parade formed around 1 pm and marched to Miller Park. Unorganized workers, local businesses, and elected officials joined in the procession too. At Miller Park, orations were followed by gymnastics, boxing, eating contests, dancing, fireworks, and wild west shows. In 1899 the celebrants added a baseball game to the schedule and theatrical performances in 1900.

From 1901 through 1914, workers boarded special trains as the parade rotated between Bloomington, Pontiac, Peoria, and Springfield. In 1907 and 1909, the parade and all-day celebration shifted from Miller Park to Houghton's Lake (today's State Farm Park). The parade ended in 1919, replaced by an all-day picnic from 1920-1926 and a 1927 parade. Workers again marched in 1935. The contemporary parade was revived in 1977.



Members of Bloomington's Trades and Labor Assembly marched in the 1935 Labor Day Parade

Today workers march from downtown Bloomington to Miller Park in a comparatively scaled-back affair that still attracts thousands to the parade route.

This year's Labor Day parade will begin at 10 am on Monday, September 5 and is sponsored by the Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO). It will feature local union marching units, heavy construction equipment, Illinois State University's "Big Red Marching Machine," local high school bands, local organizations, elected officials, and other community members.

Labor Day orators over the years have included:

- Locally born Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainman, P.J. Morrissey, in 1898
- AFL treasurer and local labor leader John B. Lennon in 1898 and 1919
- AFL secretary Frank Morrison spoke to an audience of 15,000 at Miller Park in 1915
- In 1917 Chicago's "Stockyard's Angel" Mary McDowell spoke on women in the workforce
- AFL organizer William Z. Foster, who later headed the US Communist Party, in 1920
- Lillian Herstein, Chicago Teachers Union organizer, in 1934



The Bloomington High School Marching Raiders performed in the 1927 Labor Day Parade

Renewal continued — memorial to include bronze tablets with raised lettering affixed over the existing soldiers' names that are fading due to weather and time. The design will allow the granite to remain visible, pulling together the theme that runs through the 1948 memorial and the vertical base of the 1997 memorial.

Our donors connect to McLean County through Barbara Dunbar, who served as the Museum's Executive Director from 1975 to 1987. She is credited as the Museum's first "modern-day" Executive Director and transformed the Museum into a professional, nationally accredited institution. Peers and friends remember her as an organizer and self-taught museum chief who took an overcrowded, cluttered attic of community memories and brought them to light.

A bronze plaque honoring Dunbar's legacy will also be added to the interior of the Museum, near the textile collection, already named in her honor. Our donors have also pledged to match up to \$25,000 in donations from the public to refurbish other historical markers in McLean County. More details will be coming this fall as the Museum reveals potential projects, estimated repair costs, and possible implementation timelines. The fund drive will formally launch at this time and extend through the end of the calendar year. For more information or to donate, contact Norris Porter, director of development, at nporter@mchistory.org or by phone at 309-827-0428.

From McLean to Mobile: “The McLean County Regiment”

The Museum, in partnership with the McLean County Genealogical Society and Bloomington Public Library, is pleased to host author and historian William Iseminger for a presentation on his newest book, *From McLean to Mobile: A History of the 94th Illinois Infantry Regiment Volunteers, 1862-1865*. This free hybrid program, scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m., will be held in the Museum’s Governor Fifer Courtroom and live streamed through the Museum’s YouTube channel.

Iseminger’s book follows a group of soldiers known as “The McLean County Regiment” from their August 1862 commissioning in Bloomington, Illinois through three years of service in the Union Army. Beginning with training and skirmishing in Missouri, they proceeded through the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, conflicts in Louisiana, garrison duty in Brownsville, Texas, the sieges and battles of Fort Morgan and Spanish Fort in Mobile Bay, Alabama, and then on to Galveston, Texas where they mustered out of service before returning home to McLean County in August 1865.

Iseminger’s research for the book began years ago when he transcribed the letters and diaries of two of his great-grandfathers, Tubal Wile Iseminger of Heyworth and Harrison H. Clark of Randolph Station, who both served in the regiment. Over the years, Iseminger located eight more diaries, 257 letters from 22 additional soldiers, two oral histories by soldiers, and other primary resources relating to the 94th Infantry. Using these documents he penned a day-by-day account of the regiment’s journey, creating a narrative of their activities, battles and encounters, their illnesses and wounds, inclement weather, and their thoughts and observations about what they experienced. The narrative is enhanced with excerpts from letters written on corresponding days that provide additional details—a personalized account of the McLean County Regiment, written using the actual words of its members. With over 100 full-color and black-and-white illustrations, photos, and maps, the book



also includes a roster of all the soldiers in the Regiment.

William Iseminger was born in Bloomington, Illinois, and grew up in Arlington, Virginia. He majored in anthropology in college, receiving his BA from the University of Oklahoma and his MA from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He participated in excavations in South Dakota and several locations in Illinois. William began working in Illinois archaeology in 1967 when he began his career on a crew at Dickson Mounds. In 1971, he began a 48 ½ year career at Cahokia Mounds as an archaeologist and was instrumental in the research, planning, and implementation of the exhibits of both the on-site museum in the 70s and the Interpretive Center, which opened in 1989. He retired as Assistant Site Manager in December 2019. In addition to this publication, he is the author of numerous magazine articles, book chapters, and *Cahokia Mounds: America's First City* (2010) and *Identifying and Understanding Artifacts from Illinois and Neighboring States* (2014).

Copies of the book will be available for purchase for \$35 plus tax, and a book signing will immediately follow the program. For more information, please contact education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

New Staff—continued

A native of Champaign, Illinois Maria Mears recently completed her Ph.D in American Studies at Purdue University. When asked what most influenced her decision to join the Museum staff she responded, *"The Museum's strong relationships within the community was a big draw. I want my career to be rooted in providing accessible educational opportunities outside of traditional classrooms. It is important to me to approach learning history from a collaborative perspective rather than from the top-down, and the Museum has a similar philosophy of historical interpretation. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to collaborate with others to interpret and preserve the history of this region. I'm also excited to bring back and develop more in-person and hybrid programs for adults as our department becomes fully staffed and we continue to adjust to life with COVID-19."* During her free time Maria enjoys playing and watching professional tennis. She taught herself how to crochet in 2017 and is working on improving her skills. She also enjoys gardening.



Maria Mears



Emily McCusker

A native of Lake Forrest, Illinois, Emily McCusker recently graduated from Lake Forest College with a history major and double minor in sociology/anthropology and social justice. When asked what most influenced her decision to join the Museum she answered, *"I look forward to teaching history the way I wish it had been taught when I was in school. My early history education focused on memorizing names and dates. While that information is important, I think history is far more impactful when you also learn about the meaning and context of the topics. I am currently a board member for the Project XV Museum in El Paso, Illinois, which focuses on voting rights in Illinois. I am excited to act as a bridge between Project XV and the McLean County Museum of History and open the door for more programming."*

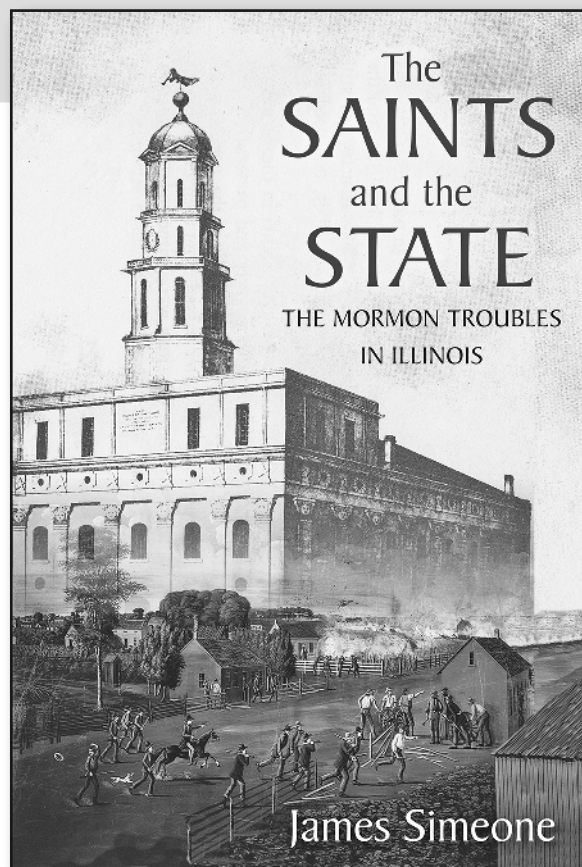
During her free time, Emily enjoys reading, watching documentaries, going to concerts, and taking road trips.

The Mormon Troubles in Illinois

Join us Saturday, September 10 at 1:30 pm in the Governor Fifer Courtroom for an illustrated presentation. Dr. James Simeone, professor of political science at Illinois Wesleyan University, will explore the 1846 expulsion of Mormons from the State of Illinois. This program is a hybrid program, free and open to the public.

When members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (known as Mormons) settled in Illinois in 1839, they had been persecuted for their beliefs from Ohio to Missouri. Illinoisans viewed themselves as religiously tolerant egalitarians and initially welcomed the Mormons to their state. However, the old settlers of Hancock County, who valued competitive individualism, perceived the saints' western Illinois settlement, Nauvoo, as a theocracy with too much political power. Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet, had used the writ of habeas corpus multiple times to evade arrest; it was said the law could never take him. Amid escalating tensions in 1844, anti-Mormon vigilantes assassinated Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum. Two years later the state expelled the saints. Illinois rejected the Mormons not for their religion but for their effort to create a self-governing state in Nauvoo.

Mormons put the essential aspirations of American liberal democracy to the test in Illinois. The saints' inward group focus and their decision to live together in Nauvoo highlight the challenges of strong group consciousness and attachment to democratic governance. *The Saints and the State* narrates this tragic story as an epic failure of governance and shows how the conflicting demands of fairness to the Mormons and accountability to Illinois's majority became incompatible.



PLEASE NOTE: The capacity for this event is limited to 80 people. Face masks are recommended but not required. We will live stream this program via the Museum's YouTube channel. For more information, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or call 309-827-0428.

James Simeone received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago. In 2022 he was named the Ben and Susan Rhodes Professor of Peace and Social Justice in political science at IWU. He is the faculty adviser to the campus Peace Garden and has been with the university since 1992. Simeone is the recipient of several awards, including most recently the Gardner Faculty Scholar from IWU in 2021. He has authored several articles appearing in academic publications such as *Journal of Political*

Science Education, *American Political Thought*, and *Journal of Illinois History*. Simeone is also the author of *Democracy and Slavery in Frontier Illinois: The Bottomland Republic* (2000).

**A special shout out to our *Futures in History Camp* sponsors Bridgestone, Heartland Bank and Trust Co., Illinois Farm Bureau, MCK CPAs & Advisors, Pantagraph Media, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, WGLT, and the Young Men's Club.
THANK YOU!**

Fear of Missing Out

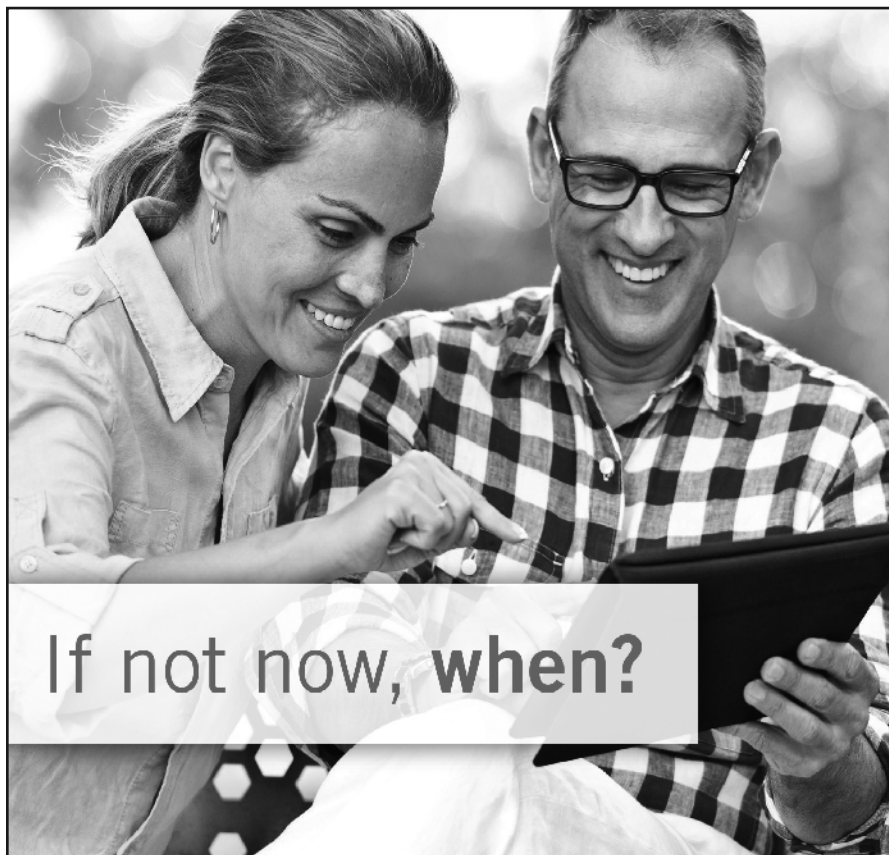
The Securities and Exchange Commission has created Investor.gov, a useful resource for the investing public prepared in ordinary, nonlegal and nontechnical language. The website includes financial tools and calculators, as well as articles of general interest for investors.

The “Director’s Take” is a collection of such articles by Lori Schock, Director of the SEC’s Office of Investor Education and Advocacy. One recent rumination is “Say No Go to FOMO.” FOMO is the Fear of Missing Out, which has been the driver of certain crazes. We’ve witnessed an increase in investing fads recently. These include cryptocurrencies, meme stocks (propelled by social media), and non-fungible tokens. The SEC isn’t about to forbid investing in these sorts of things, but they are warning against getting caught up in the emotions of investing in them, in surrendering to the fear of missing out on the next big thing. “You may see your favorite athlete, entertainer or social media influencer promoting these kinds of investment opportunities. Although it’s tempting, never make a decision to invest based solely on their recommendation.”

But there are three things that everyone should *not* miss out on, according to Ms. Schock.

- *Paying off credit cards*, because the interest rate on credit card debt is typically much higher than the return on most investments.
- *Saving as much as possible as early as possible* to take full advantage of the miracle of compound interest.
- *Grabbing free money* by deferring enough in a company retirement plan, such as a 401(k) plan, to qualify for the maximum company match. If the employer has a 50% match, for example, that’s a guaranteed 50% return on investment in the first year—no ordinary investment is going to beat that.

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New to Collections

Objects

- Girl Scout T-shirt and Centrillio Girl Scout patches earned by Elaine Knight, c. 1971; donated by Elaine Knight
- Moving Vietnam Wall event T-shirt and patch worn by Jess Ray, 2016; donated by Jess Ray
- Normal Sanitary Dairy Milk Bottle, c. 1955; donated by Gary Hall
- Rotary International pennant used during the International Convention held in Bloomington in 1920; Rotary International banner used during Bloomington club meetings, c. 1980; Rotary International name badge used by Bill Bach, c. 1988; donated by Jane Chamberlain for the Bloomington Rotary Club
- Livingston's name tag used by Ed LaBounty, c. 1966; Roland's, J.C. Penny's, Carson Pirie Scott, and Livingston's credit cards used by Loretta LaBounty, c. 1966; donated by Bill LaBounty
- Highchair used by the children of Luella and Milan Sabick—Cindy, Rodney, and Gary, c. 1950s; donated by the Sabick children
- Telephone desk used by the family of Warren and Joy Craig, c. 1950; Autodex directory used by Warren Craig, c. 1950; donated by Shirley Craig
- Bloomington Baking Co. sheet pan, circa 1940; donated by Duane Lindeman
- Intaglio print of Downtown Bloomington by Selron Kendrick, date unknown; donated by the estate of Reginald Whittaker.
- Original cartoon featuring Bloomington ham radio operator James Umstattd, c. 1930; Original J. Zumwalt drawing "Bring on the Bacon" given to

Marie Frawley, 1960; donated by the Estate of Eugene Umstattd

- Drink coaster from "Pub II—Playboy's top 100 college bars" and saved by Norris Porter as a souvenir of his ISU retirement party held there in 2016; donated by Norris Porter
- Leah Marlene yard sign, button, t-shirt and mask made and used by her supporters while participating in the 2022 American Idol Contest; donated by Dayna Brown on behalf of Normal Community West High School
- Hamilton Hotel towels (2), pillowcase, and two butter pats, used at Bloomington's Hamilton Hotel c. 1950; donated by Marie Ann Schlemmer Hill

Archives

- Environmental Studies Collection held at Illinois Wesleyan University's Ames Library, Tate Archives and Special Collections—approximately 20 linear feet of organizational papers, correspondence, newsletters, promotional materials, etc. relating to Parklands Foundation, the Ecology Action Center, and the John Wesley Powell chapter of the Audubon Society; donated by Illinois Wesleyan University in cooperation with the organizations
- Promotional card, Watkins Jewelry, Normal, 1957; donated by Dennis Vogel
- Papers relating to the State Farm career of Manuel Mendoza, late 1950s to retirement; "Corn On the Curb" community project papers, circa 2000; Prairie Pride Coalition materials, 2017-2021; and other items; donated by Margot Mendoza

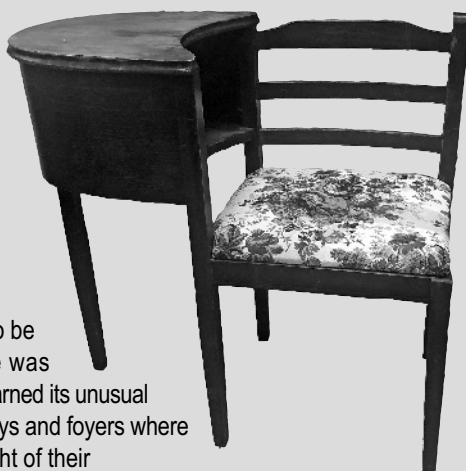
- Four O' Clock History Club materials, including ledgers, 2000-2007 and 2008-2015, with attendance records and meeting minutes, and other items; donated by the Four O' Clock History Club
- Materials relating to the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Memorial Wall, 2016 and the McLean County World War I Centennial activities planning committee, 2016-2017; donated by Jess Ray
- Various items relating to Harry Stern and the Stern family, including Lakeside Country Club fee card, 1939; Stern's furniture business daybook, records of sales, and other items; donated by Sybil Mervis
- Bloomington Chicago & Alton Railroad Shops, 1915 layout, donated by the Paducah Railroad Museum
- Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals of McLean County, 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 member booklets; donated by the Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals of McLean County
- Bulletins and other materials from Christ the King Episcopal Church, Normal, and St. Matthew's Episcopal, Bloomington; donated by Kathryn Kerr
- Various items, including an emergency evacuation plan, "Operation Ice Storm," issued by the City of Bloomington, 1972; McLean County Disaster Agency radio equipment list, 1983; donated by the McLean County Emergency Management Agency
- Letter from Hazel Claggett of Lexington to son George W. Claggett, then serving in the U.S. Navy, December 30, 1945; donated by Bea Olson
- Lincoln School, Bloomington, PTA booklets, 1941-42 and 1942-43; donated by Sherri Kae
- University High School, Pioneer alumni newsletter, spring 2022, and contemporary ephemera relating to Illinois State University; donated by Robert Neuleib
- Several items, including poster of local band, Stumpwhoot, at the Copper Top Lounge, 2005; donated by Richard Norman
- Restoration journals / repair logs, newspaper clippings, and other items—relating to the restoration of 112 W. Park St., Danvers, a Paul O. Moratz-designed residence; donated by Sharon Wolfe
- Large collection of material relating to the Paul F. Beich Co., including WWII-era scrapbook containing advertisements and clippings from confectionary trade journals; scrapbook, 1964-70, relating to planning, construction, opening, and operation of new Beich plant at I 55 / I 74; Paul F. Beich's German-language Catholic prayer book; hand-lettered appreciation to William Beich for 30 years service, 1946-1976; and much more; donated by Dave Beich

Featured Artifact

Gossip Chair— donated by Shirley Ann Craig

This combination telephone table and chair with its convenient cubby for a phone-book, pencil, and note pad was used in the Normal, Illinois home of Warren and Joy Craig. When their daughter Shirley was attending college, they converted their attic into an apartment for her and moved the piece of furniture to the top of the stairs. Shirley recalled that by then her mother had replaced the worn seat cover with new upholstery. When Joy and Warren sold the home, Shirley kept the piece for sentimental reasons.

Gossip benches became popular and began to be installed in homes soon after the telephone was invented in 1876. The handy piece of furniture earned its unusual name because it was frequently placed in hallways and foyers where phone conversation could be private. The height of their popularity was the 1930s through 1950s.



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

We are looking for uniforms from any branch of the U.S. Military Service, from any major military operation by the U.S. since 1967, and worn by McLean County servicemen and servicewomen.

If you have a uniform you would like to donate, email jcain@mchistory.org or phone 309-827-0428 and ask for Jackie.

- Letter, April 5, 2004, announcing the publication end of the *Post Amerikan*, Bloomington's long-running alternative newspaper; a half-dozen issues of same, 1990s and 2000, helping to fill gaps in the Museum's run of paper copies; donated by Deborah Wilson
- Additions—including "The Very Unofficial Rotary Christmas Song Book"—to the existing Bloomington Rotary Collection; donated by the Bloomington Rotary
- Items pertaining to Warren Craig and Craig family, including address book; donated by Shirley Ann Craig
- Collection of genealogical research compiled by Reginald Whittaker of Normal; donated by the Reginald Whittaker estate
- Official Illinois State Song four-page booklet, distributed by Secretary of State Paul Powell, who served in that office 1965-70; donated by Cathy Diefenbach for the Paul Larkin family
- Hand-drawn card, 1911, from Frog Pond (Downs Township) schoolteacher Joyce Givens and classmates to Eldon Williams Fogler, age 11; donated by Earl E. Fogler
- Various items relating to or collected by Robert Blunk (1932-2021) and Barbara Lichty Blunk (1935-2021), including Eugene Field School PTA booklet, 1938-39; sixth annual Rotary football banquet program, 1952; souvenir paper placemat of Old Main for ISNU's centennial, 1957; and other items; donated by Cindy Venker
- Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, bulletin for 75th anniversary, June 5, 2022 (2 copies); donated by Vanette Schwartz
- Collection of 14 video shorts featuring A Touch of Glass studio and selected stained glass projects undertaken by donor, including for Bloomington

Public Library panel, and the "Sorrowful Mary" panel at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Bloomington; donated by Terry Garbe

- Material relating to Leah Marlene's American Idol run and May 17, 2022 visit to Bloomington-Normal, including a poster, tickets to Idol viewing/ watch party at Normal West High School, and other items; donated by Dayna Brown on behalf of Normal Community West High School
- U.S. postage stamp "mint sets" from the 1970s collected by donor's grandmother, Lucy Huston Cumpston Eisenberger; donated by Annette Lobdell

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- The Christian Home in Victorian America, 1840-1900 (Indiana University, 1986) by Colleen McDonnell; donated by Greg Koos
- A Great Depression Courtship, 1932-1933 (published in 2011), and In the Middle: Growing Up in the Middle of America, in the Middle Class, in the Middle of the 20th Century (2015), both authored by the donor; donated by Sybil Mervis
- Bloomington-Normal, Clinton, Dwight, Pontiac "Yellowbook" phone directory, 2017-18; donated by Kathryn Kerr
- Three editions of The Octavian, yearbook of Octavia High School, Colfax—1950, 1953, and 1954; donated by June Forbes
- A Link to the Past: The Saga of LaSalle County (1968) and other titles; donated by Bruce Johnson

Photographs

- Fourteen color slides—all labeled—featuring artwork from Bloomington's "Corn On the Curb" event, from 2001; donated by George Churukian
- International Girl Scouts event at East Bay Camp,

Lake Bloomington, 8x10 group photo; photos of Girl Scout event at the Illinois State Capitol, undated; donated by Elaine Knight

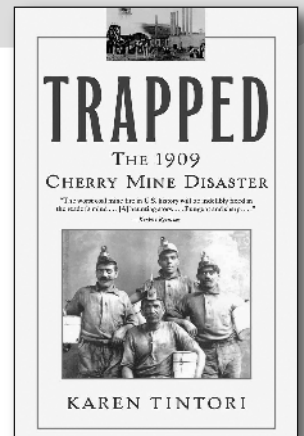
- Four large-format photographs taken by donor for Heartland Community College photography class, fall 2011—three of Woodlawn Cemetery, Bloomington Township, and one of the David Davis Mansion; donated by Georgia Dehart
- Collection of photos, including an undated dinner meeting at Phil Hooton's Bloomington residence and John and Ruth Van Bergen; and a tintype of Paul and Catherine Beich; donated by Dave Beich
- Large collection of color prints of exterior and interior views of 112 W. Park St. in Danvers; donated by Sharon Wolfe
- Two large-format panoramas of El Paso dirt track and early auto races, both undated—one credited to Hawkins and the other Star Studio (both Bloomington-Normal photographers); donated by Richard Norman
- Set of 4 photographs taken by Warren Craig, September 25, 2000, of the razing of First American Baptist Church, Normal; donated by Shirley Craig
- Seven Bloomington-Normal area postcards, including an aerial view of Illinois State Normal University postmarked 1933; donated by the Paul Larkin family
- Photo of the Fogler family, 1915-1916; three photos featuring Kenneth and Eldon Fogler; donated by Earl E. Fogler
- Collection of Enlow family photographs, including one of Bloomington postal carrier Frank Enlow delivering mail; two of Bloomington postal employees; photo of Fred Enlow, tinsmith, undated; donated by the Estate of Frank Enlow

History Reads Book Club

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library on Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. for a hybrid discussion in the Governor Fifer Courtroom at the McLean County Museum of History and online via Zoom. *Trapped! The 1909 Cherry Mine Disaster* by Karen Tintori will be discussed.

Inspired by a refrain of her girlhood—"Your grandfather survived the Cherry Mine disaster"—Karen Tintori began a search for her family's role in the harrowing tragedy of 1909. She uncovered the stories of victims, survivors, widows, orphans, townspeople, firefighters, reporters, and mine owners, and wove them together to pen *Trapped*, a riveting account of the tragic day that would inspire America's first worker's compensation laws and hasten much-needed child labor reform.

Visit bit.ly/bplhistoryvirtual1122 to register for the online discussion or bit.ly/bplhistoryinperson1122 to participate in person. To request a copy of the book, email reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org or contact the reference desk at Bloomington Public library at 309-828-6093.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Every Tuesday

5:00 - 7:00 pm

The Old Time music group is a laid back and diverse group of musicians that try to get together once a week. The genre of music they play is called Old Time, which is the music from the Appalachia region of the U.S. from before the time of radio and phonograph. People would play these “fiddle tunes” at house parties and square dances. Some of the tunes originally come from Scotland and Ireland. There are pockets of Old Time players all over the U.S. and Canada. The music is mostly unwritten and learned and played by ear. They welcome any instrument to come and play, but the group is primarily composed of fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and banjo. All are welcome to come and play with them or just come and listen!

Museum at the Market!

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Every Saturday through October 29

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

August 30

Evergreen Cemetery Walk ticket sales begin

September 5

Museum closed for Labor Day holiday

September 8

12:10 pm

Lunch and Learn: Ecosystem Services From Trees: the EAC's Tree Corps Initiative as a Public Health and Economic Development Strategy

EAC Executive Director Michael Brown will give an overview of the rapid growth of the Tree Corps, the EAC's effort to plant at least 10,000 trees annually for at least 10 years in a row.

September 10

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Pop-Up Lego Construction

Join Bloomington Public Library for a Pop-Up Lego Construction build at 10:00 a.m. This program is free and open to the public. Registration can be completed in person at the Library's Children's Services Desk, or by calling 309-590-6155.

September 10

1:30 p.m.

The Saints and the State: The Mormon Troubles in Illinois

The Museum is pleased to host Dr. James Simeone, professor of political science at Illinois Wesleyan University,

for an illustrated program exploring the 1846 expulsion of Mormons from the State of Illinois. See page 10 for more information about this free, hybrid program.

September 24-25 & October 1-2

11:00 am and

2:00 pm each day

Evergreen Cemetery Walk. For more information, see page 5.

October 13

12:10 pm

Lunch and Learn: November 2022 Elections

The Fall 2022 election season is shaping up to be one of the more interesting and complex campaigns in recent history. With just over 3 weeks before election, local political commentator and retired professor, Robert Bradley, will offer his insights into how the local and national races are unfolding and what we might observe on Election Day.

November 1

7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club: Trapped- The 1909 Cherry Mine Disaster by Karen Tintori. Visit bit.ly/bplhistory-virtual1122 to register for the online discussion or bit.ly/bplhistoryinperson1122 to participate in person.

November 5

1:00 p.m.

World War II Memorial Re-Dedication Ceremony

Please join the Museum for the public ceremony to re-dedicate the World War II Memorial on the east side of the Museum Square. See page 4 for more information.

November 10

12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Wastewater Today

Wastewater treatment is a process to reduce pollutants from sewage and transform the sewage into an effluent that can be returned to the water cycle. The program will discuss the origination of wastewater treatment in Bloomington Normal and its evolution to the modern wastewater treatment facilities operated today. The presentation will provide a glimpse of the current and future challenges faced in the wastewater industry and the local actions currently underway to address these issues.

November 24

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

November 29

6:30 pm

From McLean to Mobile: A History of the 94th Illinois Infantry Regiment Volunteers, 1862-1865

***All Zoom programs noted.**

Please join the Museum in welcoming author and historian, William Iseminger, who will be presenting a free, hybrid program on his latest self-published book. See page 8 for more information.

December 2

5:00-8:00 pm

First Friday- Once Upon a Holiday

Join the Museum staff for a free, fun and festive evening for the whole family around the Christmas tree. There will

be holiday music, homemade cookies, hot apple cider, adult egg nog, and more!

December 3

11:00 am-4:00 pm

Christmas Under the Dome

Join the Museum staff for this annual holiday tradition. Enjoy holiday music, Christmas carols, homemade cookies, children's crafts and activities, and St. Nicholas for the kids!

Summer Interns

Without our dedicated volunteers and interns, the Museum wouldn't be what it is today. This summer's interns provided outstanding services to the Museum in the library, archives, and collections departments and did fantastic work.

Alex Silverman is an Illinois State University history graduate student from South Carolina. Working under the supervision of Susan Hartzold, he has used a wide variety of primary resources to gather and record data about individuals, businesses, and organizations associated with objects in our collections to properly interpret them. He has also used this data in combination with his writing skills to develop interpretive labels to go with each of the associated objects. Alex's work will provide key information to be used for future exhibits, educational programs, and online resources. We are pleased that he will be doing a second internship this fall, diving deeper into the inner workings of collections, under the supervision of our new registrar, Jackie Cain.

A graduate student at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Samantha "Sam" Liska has served as our archives intern under the supervision of Bill Kemp and George Perkins. Sam's project focused on writing, editing, and organizing finding aids for the Brokaw and Mennonite School of Nursing collection. She has also learned how to encapsulate documents, a process that preserves historical documents by protecting them during handling and storage. Sam's work will make these resources accessible to researchers, educators, and members of the community.

Morgan Bueza is an ISU history major from Southern Illinois doing the important research needed to complete an application nominating Miller Park to the National Register of Historic Places. Her work included providing a detailed current and historical description of the park and how it has maintained its historical integrity. Under the supervision of Greg Koos, Morgan will continue this project into a second internship this fall with the goal of submitting the application to the federal level. Her work will contribute to increased community awareness about local history as well as the value of cultural resources.



George Perkins provides a behind the scenes tour of the archives annex to new interns and volunteers



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701

309-827-0428 or mchistory.org

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Mystery History Quiz

For this issue we give you a tantalizing aerial. Where is this? More importantly, what is going on here? If you know the answers or want to take an educated guess, reach out to Bill Kemp at 309-827-0428 or bkemp@mchistory.org. Thanks as always. We don't take your support for granted!



We were hoping the previous mystery photo proved a tad easier compared to some of the tough ones of recent past. And for once we were right! Ha. Quite a few of you spotted developer Sam Holder's model solar home, once located at the corner of Hershey Road and Rainbow Way in Bloomington. The home was finished in late 1979 and put up for public auction in the spring of 1980. The prototype home was later razed, and today a more traditional residence occupies the lot.

Those who knew something of this story—and some who knew a whole lot more!—include Roger and Carol Elliott, Gary Fillingham, Kathy Gossard, David A. Hall, David Hiltabrand, Margaret and Chuck Hollowell, David Kraft, Susie Sears, and Michael Sublett. If we forgot anyone, it's Librarian Bill Kemp's fault!