

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

December-January-February 2022-23

Volume 54, Number 4

New Beginnings

page 3

Digitization Project a Success

page 4

WWII Memorial Rededicated

page 5

Building Repairs & Upcoming Exhibits

page 6

Year End Appeal

page 8



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Also inside this issue:

Announcements & New Members	2
History Reads Book Club	3
Adult Programming	7
Cemetery Walk	10
New to Collections	12
Calendar of Events	14
Interns & Volunteers	15
Mystery History	16

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Quarterly Magazine

Edited by Susan Hartzold and Maria Mears for the

McLean County Museum of History

and the



Visitors Center

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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

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Cover image: Students pose in Bloomington's new high school home economics facility. The recently completed building (1917) on east Washington St. ushered in a new era as it included facilities to train both male and female students in the trades.

Announcements



Friday, December 2
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

February 25 @ Normal Public Library

May 6 @ Illinois Art Station

August 5 @ TBA

November 4 @ McLean County Museum of History

Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Benjamin Backsmeier
Laura Bailey
Chris and Madeleine Callahan
Zach Dietmeier
Halina Dillier
Dorothy Frank
Harlan Geiser
Mia Jazo-Harris
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Michael and Carla Thomas

Roland Yeast

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.

New Beginnings



Abraham Lincoln, in his well-known “house divided” speech to the Republican State Convention in Springfield, Illinois, in June 1858, began by stating “*If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.*” Studying history helps us understand how past events have shaped our current reality. Learning from the past helps us to avoid repeating mistakes and create a better future.

The Museum is in the midst of many new beginnings. As I write this article, we are awaiting the return of our executive director, Julie Emig, from an extended medical leave. Progress is being made on renovations to our third-floor galleries and we are excited about plans for new exhibits to open during 2023, 2024, and beyond. A new elevator will be installed this coming spring to provide better access for our patrons. Three new staff members have invigorated our team and new adult programming is planned for this spring with ties to WWII, as we continue to celebrate and remember lessons learned from 81 years ago. We also await results from our reaccreditation review that took place during August. Part of that process included re-envisioning our mission and embracing the past, while looking to the future. With your help we continue our mission to preserve, educate, and collaborate while sharing the diverse stories of the people of McLean County.

—Norris Porter, Development Director & Acting Executive Director

History Reads Book Club Preview 2023

The Museum and Bloomington Public Library are pleased to announce the list of titles for the 2023 season of the ever popular *History Reads* Book Club. All discussions, unless otherwise noted, will be hybrid and held at 7:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on the second floor of the Museum. Dust off your library cards and mark your calendars for the dates listed below!

February 7 - ***The Defender: How the Legendary Black Newspaper Changed America*** (2016) by Ethan Michaeli
Visit bit.ly/history207inperson or bit.ly/history207virtual to register.

May 2 - ***Sweet Greeks: First-Generation Immigrant Confectioners in the Heartland*** (2020) by Ann Flesor Beck
This meeting will be held in-person only at The Junction (303 E. Oakland Ave.) due to elevator replacement work at the Museum.

August 1 - ***Wreck of the Columbia: A Broken Boat, a Town's Story, and the End of the Steamboat Era on the Illinois River*** by Ken Zurski
This meeting will be held in-person only at The Junction (303 E. Oakland Ave.) due to elevator replacement work at the Museum.

November 8 - ***When Women Played Hardball*** (1994) by Susan Johnson
Due to Election Day, this meeting will take place on the first Wednesday of month. Location TBD.

Copies of the books will be available for checkout at Bloomington Public Library or may be requested via interlibrary loan through your local public library. For more information on this program please contact the Museum's Education Department by email at education@mchistory.org or by phone at 309-827-0428; or contact Sara Engels at Bloomington Public Library at reference@Bloomingtonlibrary.org

Digitization Project a Booming Success

The digitization of the Museum's massive Pantagraph Negatives Collection has become one of the more significant and successful projects undertaken by the Museum in the past quarter century. As of this writing, the Museum has seen to the digitization and uploading of 131,500-plus Pantagraph negatives onto the Illinois Digital Archives (IDA) website at idaillinois.org

It all began a decade ago—back in 2012, when *The Pantagraph* donated to the Museum an estimated one million (that million with an “m!”) photo negatives. The earliest of these negatives date from the 1930s, when Pantagraph staff began taking their own photos, and they continue on through December 2000, when the newspaper's photo staff began using digital cameras. The collection is a jaw-dropping treasure trove of local and regional history—a visual record of Central Illinois from the Great Depression to the early 2000s.

Storing and preserving these negatives represents only one-half of this enormous project. The other half entails digitizing these negatives in order to make them easily accessible to area residents, students, genealogists, scholars, and others.

During the past several years, the Museum applied for and received a series of grants—both federal and state—toward digitizing the negatives and the wider goal of making these



Bent School students gather around their classroom Christmas tree to sing a carol in this December 1941 Pantagraph image.



Robert Schwoerer's neighbors came to his assistance in October of 1948, harvesting his crop after an unfortunate corn picker accident resulted in the amputation of his right arm.

With Rochelle and Jana's tireless work and that of Archivist George Perkins as well, the Museum has worked its way through all the 1930s and 1940s negatives. We are now more than halfway through the 1950s.

The fact that 131,500-plus Pantagraph photos are now searchable and downloadable on the IDA site has been a “game-changer” for the Museum. Library / Archives staff are now contacted on a regular basis by authors, researchers, students, and others who seek permission to use these digitized Pantagraph images in everything from magazine articles to specialized websites.

Despite this success, the Library / Archives staff is not content to rest on its laurels. As the Museum successfully applies for additional grants, the Pantagraph digitization project will keep moving forward through the 1950s negatives and into the 1960s. Who knows how many historically invaluable images still await rediscovery?

images available to the general public. To meet digitization goals, the Museum also reached out to our supporters to help supplement these grants with additional funding. The Museum partnered with a private vendor that specializes in the digitization of collections from cultural institutions. We started with the oldest negatives from the 1930s and worked forward in time through the collection.

Once the negatives were archivally cleaned and scanned, grant-funded Assistant Archivists Rochelle Gridley and Jana Kiefer attached metadata to the images. Metadata, in this context, is simply a fancy word for the who, what, where, and when of the image. Without the names, locations, dates, and additional context, searching hundreds or thousands of these digitized negatives online would be nearly impossible.

**To support this project financially,
email development@mchistory.org**

WWII Memorial Rededicated

Approximately 100 guests braved the cold and rainy weather on November 5th to help celebrate the rededication of the WWII Memorial on the Museum Square. The memorial was originally dedicated twenty-five years ago at a cost of \$50,000. The rededicated memorial cost \$80,000 to refurbish and features bronze plates with raised lettering to honor the 336 soldiers enshrined on the memorial.



WWII McLean
County
Memorial



Building Repairs and Upcoming Exhibits

During the months of September, October, and November, Museum staff were extremely busy as they prepped for and worked around repairs to spaces on the second and third floors of the building. These repairs were made to address damage from the leaky roof that was thankfully replaced by the County of McLean last spring.



Repair of the damage to gallery spaces on the third floor and in the library stacks has now been completed.

Boxes in textile storage, and all the books in the library stacks. During this phase of the project several staff members were displaced from their offices but continued to work onsite or remotely. The second and third phases included the repair of damaged plaster and a fresh coat of paint on the repaired walls. Paint also included a new color scheme for the third-floor galleries, which now match the colors of the Museum's first floor galleries. Unfortunately, asbestos tiles were

All third-floor exhibit galleries were damaged and, as a result, could not be used until repaired. Damage sustained in textile storage, curatorial and education offices on the third floor, as well as the reading room and the library stacks on the second floor was also repaired. In addition 13 radiators had to be temporarily removed by the county so that damage behind them could be accessed. Preparation for this daunting project resulted in a good deal of "housekeeping"—the removal of items stored in these areas that were no longer needed and moving exhibit panels, enclosures, and platforms either offsite, or into temporary storage in the south hallway of the third floor. Museum Curator Susan Hartzold spearheaded this phase of the project and, because repairs were made in textile storage, ensured no objects were damaged in that space during the project. Hartzold also worked with contractors to replace the more than 30-year-old carpet in these spaces and in offices on the second floor.

Lead abatement was the first task completed which required protecting workstations in offices, objects and



Boxes and racks holding delicate clothing items in textile storage were carefully covered with plastic to ensure they would not be damaged.



The repaired exhibit galleries got a fresh coat of paint and new carpeting

discovered beneath the existing carpeting in the classroom and library stacks during the project. Several options were discussed, and it was decided that the installation of carpet in those spaces would be delayed, giving us time to get quotes for asbestos abatement and identify and apply for grants to pay for this work. Carpet replacement in all other areas was completed by mid-November. We are hopeful that asbestos abatement work can be completed in the spring when we will also be getting a new

Many thanks to the county, especially McLean County Facilities Manager Tony Grant for ensuring that the work of the lead abatement team, the plasterers, and the painters went smoothly and stayed on schedule during this fall's needed repairs.

and much needed elevator. Our current elevator is still working and safe, but parts to replace the elevator are no longer manufactured. Currently, the museum is slated to be without an elevator as it undergoes construction from May to July 2023. This schedule

Building Repairs—continued on page 7

2023 Adult Programming Preview

The education department spent the past season reflecting on ways to bring the Museum to you. With the upcoming repairs to the Museum's elevator, we know that it may be challenging for some of our guests to engage onsite. Building on skills we acquired while adapting to the Pandemic, we continue to adjust to challenges and work to make educational opportunities accessible for all.

Marking the 80-year anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's World War II victory garden on the White House lawn, starting this spring the Museum will have its own victory garden. Thanks to a partnership with the Westside Community Garden, participants will learn about and grow a victory garden using the same plant varieties and techniques used by local residents during World War II. Our Westside Community Garden plot will open during the spring growing season and be in full swing by summer 2023. We are looking forward to taking the museum outside and sharing new ways to implement the lessons learned on the Home Front.

The Museum will also launch a new take-and-make opportunity for adults. *Crafting History* will inspire adults to learn from the past with simple and fun do-it-yourself projects. From rag rugs to felt flowers, gone but not forgotten crafts from the past will be relearned and repurposed, providing our audience with opportunities to engage with the past in a hands-on way. The Museum will provide supplies and instructions that can be picked up from the Visitor's Center, allowing participants to craft from the comfort of their home.

Continue to look for information on these programs and more in the new year. The Museum will update launch dates and new programming on our website, Facebook, and in monthly mailers.



On August 8, 1942, The Pantagraph reported, "Plenty of Vegetables – Mrs. Brotherson and Mrs. Perry haven't bought a vegetable since the first of June. Their first gardening experience has paid big dividends."

Building Repairs—continued is tentative as the work is dependent on other county building projects. The Museum will continue to update the community on the timeline of the elevator project.

As stated earlier, a lot has happened in the last three months. But months and even years prior to that work, plans were already underway for two new exhibits for the third-floor galleries. Next fall the Museum will open a reimagined Merwin Gallery. Best described as a visible storage space, it will utilize restored bookcases, industrial shelving, and display cases to showcase a wide variety of objects from the Museum's object collection, including many that have never been seen before. Meant to be non-static, several objects from the Museum's vast collection will be rotated into and out of the gallery monthly so that return visitors will always have something new to see. Interpretive labels will reveal the stories of the owners and/or makers of the objects and provide the context of their history in McLean County. We can't wait to see this renewed gallery come together!



The Merwin Gallery will utilize a pair of restored bookcases, originally built by Bloomington carpenter Thomas Coultas in 1880 for the Judge Scott home, and repurposed industrial shelving and display cases.

We are also excited for the long-awaited *A Deadly Deception: The Asbestos Tragedy in McLean County*. Work on this exhibit began nearly ten years ago but was sidetracked when work commenced on the Museum's new permanent exhibits. This exhibit will focus on the people who worked at the Unarco asbestos factory on Bloomington's west side—individuals who along with family members were unknowingly exposed to this dangerous product. It will also explore the history of the parent company's efforts to hide their knowledge of the dangers of asbestos. A 2024 opening date is planned. Also in the works is an exhibit with a more pleasant theme—an eagerly awaited history of men's and women's baseball and softball in McLean County.

Year End Appeal Supports History

Museum members are vital to our mission of preserving, educating, and collaborating with the community to share the diverse history of the people of McLean County. On Giving Tuesday we launched our end of year appeal to help the Museum further historic preservation of McLean County memorials and markers. The Historic Marker Matching Gift Initiative has a goal of raising more than \$60,000.

Markers and memorials designate historically significant places that commemorate the stories of diverse individuals who made noteworthy contributions to our community. This historic preservation initiative is possible due to generous donors who are offering \$25,000 in matching funds to help us with refurbishment projects and install new historical markers. Following months of research and planning, the Museum has identified eleven initial projects. Gifts may be made online at mchistory.org

Scan this code or contact Norris Porter at development@mchistory.org for more information or to explore other ways to give.



Korea & Vietnam Memorial Bronze Markers (Southeast corner of Museum Square)

Local AMVETS worked with the Museum to add bronze markers to the southeast corner of the Museum Square to honor McLean County soldiers that died in service during the Korea and Vietnam Wars. If enough money is raised, an envisioned *Walk of Heroes* around the Museum Square will be incorporated. The *Walk* will link viewers of the memorials, both on the square and inside the Museum, to a digital resource that explores stories of local soldiers and their experiences of war.

Kickapoo Stockade Marker Repair (East of LeRoy)

This marker was placed by the Historical Society in 1905 on the excavated location of a stockade wall that is part of the Grand Village of the Kickapoo. Estimated to be a square mile in radius, the site is located northeast of current-day LeRoy. Recently the Museum co-deeded with the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas a 35'x35' parcel of the site, which the marker now sits on. This enables the Kickapoo to own a small portion of their ancestral land.



Kickapoo Memorial Boulder Relocation (West Park near LeRoy)

This memorial boulder was placed at the site of the Grand Village in 1998 when two acres of Native Land were made available as a private Pow Wow Park in honor of the Kickapoo. Working with the McLean County Board, the boulder was recently moved to West Park when new landowners expressed their intent to turn the park into farmland. West Park is a mile from the former Pow Wow Park and was part of the original 22-mile timber track adjacent to the Grand Village area. The boulder now needs to be reset on a concrete pad with a descriptive marker added for clarification.

Bryan Hanifin of Engineers local # 649 and his uncle Mike Hanifin volunteered to provide the equipment and the labor to move the Kickapoo Memorial Boulder.

Kickapoo Roadside Marker (East of LeRoy)

We are seeking approval for a road sign marker to be placed at the crossroad of 3100E and 750N. A marker at this location would share the story of the stockade/Grand Village, and why the Historical Society placed the stockade marker in 1905.

Historic Preservation Initiative

Civil War Remnant Descriptive Marker (Briarwood Subdivision)

A remnant of the original Civil War Monument for McLean County was moved to Briarwood subdivision in December of 1914. The original monument was built and placed in Franklin Park but had to be torn down due to deterioration and safety concerns. The remnant has no signage indicating what it is and why it is now in Briarwood. The proposed marker will include a picture of the original monument.

Simon Malone Marker (Normal)

Simon Malone lived in the first house purchased by an African American in Normal. The house was built in 1865 and destroyed by fire in 1982. The site for this marker has been identified and approved.

Looking for Lincoln Jesse Fell Marker (Normal)

The original sign was vandalized, and parts stolen. Partnering with the Town of Normal the replacement sign is in production. Jesse Fell was a friend of Lincoln and played a significant role in his nomination for President.

Booker T. Washington Home for Colored Children Marker (Bloomington)

The location identified and approved by the city sits on a portion of the original site of the home. Dating to 1918, the home was for underprivileged, impoverished, neglected, and unwanted children of color until the 1960s. It's most famous resident was Sister Antona Ebo, who as an adult joined the Franciscan Sister of Mary order. Ebo and five other nuns from their St. Louis order traveled to Alabama to support the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic Selma to Montgomery March.



The site of the Booker T. Washington Home, post 1935, when this two-story building was constructed to house its residents.

McLean County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Improvements (Miller Park)

Dedicated on Memorial Day in 1913, the monument has been a landmark in the northeast corner of Miller Park for over a century. The 78-foot tall, 52-ton structure lists on eight bronze tablets the names of 6,053 local residents who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Mexican War, Civil War, and Spanish-American War. It replaced the original Civil War monument in Franklin Park. Age and weather have caused the mosaic tile floor to crack. This project would include floor repair, cleaning of the bronze tablets, and graffiti removal.

Help us refurbish historic markers!



Contribute to our Historic Marker Matching Gift Initiative

2022 Evergreen Cemetery Walk “Best Ever”

The 2022 *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* cast and crew hope you enjoyed this year’s in-person event. We received many comments from attendees stating this was hands down the best Walk ever! We also received positive comments from teachers who brought their students. Museum board member and eighth grade teacher at Bloomington Junior High School, Bill Wetzel, noted how important this experience was for his (and other) students in our area, stating *“The quality of the research, scripts, costumes, staging, and acting is outstanding. . . Students walk away with an experience that takes them to another place and time where they discover adventures, challenges, and events of the past that have relevance today.”*



Students listen to Helen Clark McCurdy, played by veteran actor and script writer, Kathleen Kirk.

This year 2,921 people attended the in-person tours of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. Of that number 1,599 students and chaperones attended free of charge thanks to our amazing sponsors:

Featured - Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, and Pantagraph Media
Premium - Deanna Frautshi & Alan Bedell, CEFCU, Heartland Bank & Trust, WGLT, Illinois Farm Bureau, MCK CPAs & Advisors, Bloomington-Normal Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Enjoy Illinois
Basic - McLean County Chamber of Commerce, Dunbar, Breitweiser & Company, LLP., The Painted Wraith Curiosity Shoppe, LLC, and Museum members.



Left to right: John Capasso, Jana Kiefer, Scott Myers, Kathe Conley, Diane Hawk, and Stan Geison, were just a few of our fabulous and intrepid tour guides.



This year staff, crew, and actors were (left to right), back: Susan Thetard, Grace Irvin, Len Childers, David Flanders, Dave Krostal, center: Jennifer Rusk, Kathleen Kirk, Kevin Wickart, Jeff Ready, Sara Flanders, front: Candace Summers, Emily McCusker, Rachael Masa

Without our hardworking volunteers, the annual Evergreen Cemetery Walk would not happen! This year 39 volunteers worked over 1,100 hours to research, serve as box office volunteers, guide tours, write guide scripts and character biographies, and bake cookies! Thank you to each and every one of them! Their contributions made this another successful year and next year’s Walk a tough act to follow.

A Difficult Year for RMDs

Those who are 72 and older this year must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their qualified retirement plan accounts (IRAs, 401(k)s, SEP-IRAs, Simple IRAs, and similar retirement plans but *not* Roth IRAs). (Different rules apply to inherited IRAs and inherited Roth IRAs.). The amount of the RMD is based upon the value of the account at the start of the year and an actuarial factor from IRS tables.

When the financial markets are moving in a positive direction, it may make sense to defer receipt of the RMD until close to the end of the tax year, so as to maximize account growth. For many taxpayers, especially those who are in their 70s—early in the RMD cycle—it is not uncommon for the total return in the retirement account to be larger than the RMD, so the account keeps on growing for the early years of retirement.

However, in a bear market such as we've experienced to date in 2022, the risks of such a strategy become apparent.

Example: Taxpayer is 81 years old in 2022, and her IRA was worth \$1 million at the beginning of the year. Her RMD distribution period from the IRS table is 19.4 years, which is equal to 5.15%. Thus, her RMD for this year is \$51,500.

Unfortunately, Taxpayer's IRA has shrunk by 20% so far this year, to \$800,000. After taking the RMD and paying ordinary income tax on it, she will be left with \$748,500. Had she taken the RMD in January, she would have been better off now by \$10,300.

After the sharp market declines in 2009 and 2020, the Congress enacted one-year waivers of the RMD rules, to allow taxpayers to avoid locking in market losses in their retirement accounts. No such reprieve is expected this year.

One approach to reducing the impact of market volatility on the retirement account is to take the RMD on a monthly basis, 1/12 each month. This has the virtue of averaging the ups and downs, and it replicates the function of a pension in retirement income management.

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. 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. October 2022 © 2022 M.A. Co. All rights reserved.



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New to Collections

Objects

- Miniature model of U.S. Cellular Coliseum, c. 2007; donated by Karen Schmidt
- ISU redbird hat with attached wings that actually move and worn by Redbird superfan Warren Craig, c. 2006; donated by Shirley Ann Craig
- Eastlake rocking chair owned by Minnie Hartman Blount, c. 1880; donated by Jerry Detloff
- Man's tuxedo worn by Frederick Charles Builta c. 1900; boy's formal suit, c. 1940; donated by Sharon Builta
- Temple of the Beastman board game created by the Bloomington business Game Designers Workshop (GDW), c.1989, donated by Red Raccoon Games
- 2022 PRIDE Fest bracelet, c. 2022, donated by Jeff Woodard
- U.S. Army Military uniforms (2) worn by Steve Vogel while serving in the Vietnam war, c. 1970, donated by Steve Vogel
- Military wristwatch worn by Chris Koos while serving in the Vietnam war, c. 1970, donated by Chris Koos
- 1892 Grover Cleveland campaign plate, and Blue Badgers Hockey Team patch, c. 1970, donated by

the Estate of Adrienne and Tim Ives

- Jungle fatigues, khaki fatigues, jacket; 2 hats, and a parachute fragment used by Terry Garbe while serving in the Vietnam War, c.1967; military backpack purchased in the U.S. and used by Terry Garbe after his service; donated by Terry Garbe

Archives

- Dozen Ellsworth High School "Eagle Hi-Lite" student newspapers, 1951; donated by Tammy Carlson
- Various items, including 19th century business receipts from Parker Bros.; Castle Theatre booklet, 1909-1910 season; program, 49th Inter-Society Contest, Wrigtonia versus Philadelphia, December 22, 1909; postcard, 1903, featuring illustration of the McLean County Courthouse in green ink; and other items; donated by David Parker
- Bylaws, May 2021; annual report, 2021-2022; program calendar, 2022; donated by the Bloomington-Normal Garden Club
- Nine postcards, Barn Quilt Heritage Trail, 2012; donated by Kay Henrichs
- License to sell horses and mules to the Union Army during the Civil War; Joliet Area Historical Museum
- Large collection relating to the Young Men's

Club, 1916 to 2020s, including minutes, anniversary programs, DVDs and VHS tapes of club meetings and activities, cassette tapes with interviews of members, newsletters, scrapbooks, and more; donated by the Young Men's Club

- Illinois State Journal newspaper supplement, February 11, 1959, "Souvenir Album of Abraham Lincoln Portraits," 40 pages; donated by Norris Porter

• Additions to the Craig Family Collection, including a Warren F. Craig journal, 2001-2010, and other items; donated by Shirley Craig

- Two LPs (1967 and 1968), and one 45 ("Making Every Minute Count" / "If You Could Only Be Mine") from the sunshine pop band, Spanky and Our Gang; The Globe Circular, International Dx'ers Alliance, September 1936, edited by Charles A. Morrison of Bloomington; and other items; donated by Greg Koos

• Collection of papers, mostly 1980s, related to the John Wesley Powell chapter of the Audubon Society, including newsletters, program information, and newspaper clippings; donated by Margaret Hollowell

- Moratz family postcards, 30-plus, likely given to donor's grandmother, Sybilla Yarger, who lived next door to the Moratz family on W. Wood St., Bloomington, from the 1910s into the 1930s; donated by Cathy Johnson

• Large collection of papers, including 1855 founding documents, membership lists, scrapbooks, and more; as well as materials relating to the Indian Guides program and the Singing Y'ers boys' choir; donated by the Bloomington-Normal YMCA

• Unit 5 School District "Your School" publications, 1950 through 1960s; and other items; donated by Charles Easton

- One-page review of debate between "Copeland and Dixon," by Mercer Davis, January 25, 1989

• Barbershop programs, including the Sound of Illinois Chorus 2020 (March 13-14) concert, cancelled in the earliest weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, and three other programs, including Song Fest in Fairbury, likely 1958.

- Additions to the Beich Company and Beich Family collections, including candy company financial statements, retirement programs, inventories, price lists, meeting minutes, correspondence, and much more; donated by David Beich

• Three postcards, early 1910s, sent to Alverta Duff in Normal; donated by Alan MaLauchlan

- Various items from University Christian Church, Normal, including directories (1973, 1998, and 2008), histories of the church; American Passion Play programs, 1950 and 1951; and more; donated by Cindy Venker

• Steak 'n Shake items, including April 1955 company newsletter, and menu, mid-1990s; donated

Featured Artifact

U.S. Army Jungle Fatigues, c. 1970 – Donated by Steve Vogel



Steven Vogel served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and wore this fatigue uniform in 1969 when he worked for the American Forces Radio in Europe. Known as the Bloomington Baron, he hosted a radio show called the Bolivarian Band Stand. Vogel also wore this uniform many years after the war when in 1987 he honored his fellow servicemen by acting as Chairman to the Central Illinois Welcome Home Veterans Parade. This parade took place 12 years after the end of the Vietnam War and was organized to honor veterans who were not recognized for their sacrifices due to their involvement in an unpopular war. Vogel noted that being the Chairman of this parade was "one of the proudest moments of my life, and it (the parade) was a milestone event in this community."

After the war, Vogel worked at WJBC Radio for 22 years as a Director of News and Operations, and 19 years at State Farm Insurance as the Senior Director of Public Affairs. He is also the author of the NY Times best-seller, *Reasonable Doubt*.

by Dixie Lewis

- Collection of items relating to the Stevenson and Ives families, including five Betamax tapes featuring interviews with Adlai E. Stevenson II; President Cleveland and Vice President Stevenson inaugural ball lithograph, 1893; "We Need Ives, State Senator" poster, 11 by 14 inches; and other items; donated by the estate of Adrienne and Tim Ives
- Bloomington Parks and Recreation brochure on walking and walking routes, late 1980s, and other items; donated by Kevin and Judy Jones
- Radio Guide magazine, June 11, 1938, featuring Paul Rhymer's "Vic and Sade" radio program, and Rhymer's celebratory return to Bloomington-Normal, and other items; donated by Steve Vogel
- Poetry East, spring 2022, featuring donor's chapter book, Postcards to the World, described as a pandemic diary; donated by Kathleen Kirk
- Spaulding School, Dale Township, teacher's record book, 1918-1924; donated by Angel Shoemaker
- Sixty plus issues of Steak 'n Shake News (employee newsletter), from volume 1, number 1 (January 1945) to December 1956 (with gaps), as well as newspaper clippings relating to Steak 'n Shake employee Marie Miller Meadows (donor's aunt); donated by Amy Miller

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- Three books held by donor's father, Damon Garst Outlaw (1912-1975), including Mother Goose, gifted to Damon for Christmas 1914; donated by Jan Outlaw
- Elementary school yearbooks—Oakdale School, Normal, 1950-1960s, and 1992-2020; Towanda, 1986-1988; and Glenn School in Normal, 1990-1991; donated by Charles Easton
- Selection of Bloomington-born Broadway playwright Rachel Crothers' published works, with inscriptions by Crothers to Roy and Barbara Bryant Menconi—the Menconis worked for Crothers at her home in Connecticut from 1951 until the playwright's death in 1958; donated by Barbara Menconi
- Booklet, The Last Will and Testament of Thaddeus Stubblefield, 36 pages; donated by Becky Leach O'Donnell
- Collection of Arthur Wilson "Bob" Tucker's mystery and science fiction novels, hardcover and paper, with eight signed to one or more members of the donor's family—Karl and Rosie Blakney and their son Gary; donated by Gary Blakney
- Eight books from the Stevenson / Ives families, including Whitman's Leaves of Grass, illustrated by Margaret C. Cook (1913), with a Christmas Day 1922 inscription from Julia Scott Vrooman to Elizabeth Ives; donated by James White
- Several Lincoln books collected by donor's father,

Nelson Smith, including Abraham Lincoln Centennial, published in 1908 for elementary school students; donated by Dixie Lewis

- McLean County Fair and 4-H Show Book, 2022; donated by Ruth Stewart
- Architectural Economy (house and garage plans), 1920, published by the Lumber Dealers' Service Bureau, 105 pages, and other titles; donated by Greg Koos
- The Golden Book of Favorite Songs, revised and enlarged, 1923, and stamped "Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School;" donated by Jon Ropp
- Illinois State University yearbook, The Index, 1935; donated by David A. Hall
- Booklet, You and Your School Bus, by the Illinois Superintendent of Instruction, 1961-1962; donated by Steve Vogel
- Spiritual Midwifery, chapter book of donor's poems, published in 2019; donated by Kathleen Kirk
- McLean County Combined Indexed Atlases, edited by William P. LaBounty, published by the Museum in 2006; donated by Karen Walters 1968) and other titles; donated by Bruce Johnson

Photographs

- Miller Park Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, and Illinois Wesleyan University's west side entrance gates, 1954; donated by Amy Miller
- Christian Church, Bloomington, interior, Funk and Kerr photographers; stereopticon of third McLean County Courthouse (1868-1900); two Illinois Terminal Railroad passenger cars passing through Bloomington, September 23, 1944; donated by David Parker
- Collection of large-format matted color prints from Vladimir / Canterbury Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal project, "A Tripod of Beauty and Friendship: A Photo Exhibit of Three Sister Cities;" at Illinois Wesleyan University in 2017 (Vladimir and Canterbury also hosted exhibit); donated by Vladimir / Canterbury Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal
- Collection of photographs relating to Young Men's Club meetings and activities, various years; donated by the Young Men's Club
- Thirty-two color photographs taken by Pamela Cather of the Green Gables fire, May 9, 2022; donated by Pamela Cather
- Two postcards—the McLean County Courthouse and the Illinois Hotel—both published by Read & White, Bloomington, and both featuring glitter trim; donated by Andrea K. Carlson
- Wedding portrait of Raymond Timothy "Pat" Haley and Hollis Long, May 23, 1923, and University of Illinois Law, Class of 1936 (featuring Shelton Leach); donated by Becky Leach O'Donnell
- Seven picture postcards of local scenes, including

west view of Illinois Wesleyan University campus, the residence of Rev. M. Weldon, and others (undated); donated by Norris Porter

- Panoramic of 5th Company, 161st Division, Depot Brigade, Camp Grant, IL, taken during World War I; donated by Joyce Gilfillan
- Two photos of Eugene Field School, Normal, and students, late 1930s; photo of University Christian Church, Normal, board, early 1940s; donated by Cindy Venker
- Two color photos of Bloomington-Normal Garden Club charter members and officers, 2020-2022; donated by Bloomington-Normal Garden Club
- Picture postcard of the Francis Cheese House, Morrissey Dr., Bloomington, undated; donated by Eldon and Janet Daniels
- Postcard, "Illinois Soldiers' Orphan's Home, Normal, Ill.," printed in Germany, no date or postmark; donated by Christine Hazen
- Interior and exterior photos of Downs St. Mary's Catholic Church; photos relating to William Frawley, brother-in-law to James Umstattd, including three views of Western Gas Construction Co. employees at work, location unknown; donated by Rhonda Umstattd
- Five color prints, August 19-21, 2022, of donor's work with the Polish Red Cross, as well as a Polish Daily News (Chicago) article on donor's volunteer work assisting Ukrainians; and other items relating to ongoing war; donated by Jeff Walsh
- Three color photos of the Miller-Davis Law Buildings, Bloomington, and others; donated by Kevin and Judy Jones
- Two postcards of WJBC's "Uncle Al and Charlie," and a photo of an early radio at the home of H. Wilson, Bloomington; donated by Steve Vogel
- Set of picture postcards of local scenes, published by MARC Distributing, 1999; donated by Mary Craig
- McLean County Home Bureau delegation in Washington, D.C., September 1941; donated by Angel Shoemaker

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Every Tuesday

5:00-7:00 p.m.

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

December 2

5:00-8:00 p.m.

First Friday: Once Upon a Holiday

Join the Museum for a variety of free, family-friendly activities including our Santa on the Square photo op, tree lighting on the lawn with the City of Bloomington, live music, adult eggnog, hot apple cider, and Christmas cookies in the Museum’s rotunda.

December 3

11:00-2:00 p.m.

Christmas Under the Dome

The Museum is excited to once again host this community event, which begins immediately following the Jaycees’ Parade and the arrival of Santa. Join us for activities at two locations on the Museum Square. Stop by the Museum for musical performances on the first floor rotunda, Christmas cookies, and hot apple cider. Greg Koos will also be on hand to sign copies of his book. Then, walk over to The Hangar Art Co. on Jefferson Street to visit Santa, make a beaded snowflake craft, and grab a bag of cookies to take home! Don’t miss this free family friendly event!

December 8

12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Seasonal Choral Music with the Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir

Led by Professor of Music Scott Ferguson, the IWU Collegiate Choir will present a brief live program of seasonal choral music.

December 23 - 26

Museum Closed for Christmas Holiday

December 30 - January 2

Museum Closed for New Years Holiday

January 12

12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Ecosystem Services from Trees: the Ecology Action Center’s (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 and the EAC’s effort to plant at least 10,000 trees annually for at least 10 ears in a row.

February 3

5:00-8:00 p.m.

First Friday: Tour de Chocolat

The Museum is pleased to once again participate in this annual tradition by offering a sweet local chocolate treat.

February 7

7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club: The Defender: How the Legendary Black Newspaper Changed America by Ethan Michaeli.

To register for this free, hybrid discussion, visit bit.ly/history207inperson or bit.ly/history207virtual. See page three for a list of all the dates and book titles that will be discussed in 2023.

February 9

12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: TBA

February 11

2:00 p.m.

Echoes of Purple and Gold: A Conversation with Jack Keefe.

Join us for a presentation and discussion with local author and historian Jack Keefe on his new book, *Echoes of Purple and Gold*. Books will be available for purchase. The program will also be live streamed on the Museum’s YouTube page.

February 25

10 a.m.- p.m.

Knit In at Normal Public Library

We are please to announce that we will be hosting fully in-person, indoor Knit Ins for 2023! See page two for dates and locations for the 2023 Knit Ins. More information on feature knitting/crocheting charities will be coming soon!

Fall Intern and Volunteer needs.



Tahsina Nasir

The Museum welcomed Bangladesh native Tahsina Nasir as a Library/Archives Intern this fall semester. Tahsina completed her bachelors and first master's degrees in Islamic History and Culture at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh and is currently earning her second master's degree in public history at Illinois State University, where she is also serving as a graduate assistant. With a strong understanding of her regional history and politics, she has used her degrees to prepare herself to analyze historical events and bring new developments in the field to her work. After working for a regional university museum, Tahsina became interested in learning how historical events are preserved through proper archiving. She thought what better place to learn these skills than at an award-winning Museum in the United States. Tahsina's project at the Museum focused on the organization of newsletters from Mennonite

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Museum is currently in need of volunteers to work the reception and library desks. If you have two mornings or afternoons a month available and are interested in working in a beautiful historic building, meeting people from around the world, and helping the Museum achieve its mission to preserve, educate, and share the diverse history of the people of McLean County, give us a call! Phone the Museum at 309-827-0428 and ask for our Volunteer Coordinator Mary Anne Schierman or email volunteers@mchistory.org



Scan this QR code to
sign up online!

Hospital, Brokaw Hospital, and after their merger, BroMenn Hospital. She has enjoyed diving in to learn archive processes and procedures, including how to encapsulate documents to help preserve them, organize materials in a collection, and write a finding aid, which details the contents and organization of a collection. Tahsina has been a pleasure to work with. On behalf of the Museum staff, thank you, Tahsina, for your outstanding work.

Christmas Under the Dome

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

11 AM TO 2 PM

learn more at mchistory.org/events





McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701

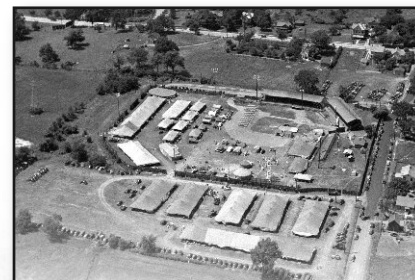
309-827-0428 or mchistory.org

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Mystery History Quiz

Last issue's mystery photograph featured an aerial of the 4-H County Fairgrounds when it was located at old Fans Field ballpark on Bloomington's south side—just off the corner of Main and Lafayette streets. From 1934 to 1955 (with one exception), this cozy little corner of the city served as the county fairgrounds.

History sleuths who got this one right included Arlin Ehrlich, Robert E. Handley, Sharon Jaeger, Dave Jones, Dorothy Jones, Jack Keefe, and Michael Sublett. Dorothy Jones told us she attended the Fair in the 1940s when she was in 4-H. If we missed anyone, it's Librarian Bill Kemp's fault!



Can you identify our latest mystery photo? Do you know where this handsome brick building was located, and what it was used for?
Not sure? There's no shame in making a wild guess. Give Bill a call at 309-827-0428, or email him at bkemp@mchistory.org