


ON

THE

SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

March-April-May 2023

Volume 55, Number 1

Cultivating Spaces, Partnerships, and Collaborations
page 3

Social Justice Walking Tour
page 4

Seeds of History
page 5

Illinois Poet Laureate to Speak
page 6

Heirloom Recipes
page 7



With thanks to our magazine sponsor:



Heartland
Bank and Trust
Company
Wealth Management

Also inside this issue:	
Announcements & New Members	2
Community Partners	3
Kickapoo Relationship	4
Rotunda Sound Concerts.	8
Historic Marker Update.	9
New to Collections	10
Volunteers Make a Difference	12
Calendar of Events	14
Mystery History	16

ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

Edited by Susan Hartzold and Maria Mears for the

McLean County Museum of History

and the



Visitors Center

200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone 309-827-0428 Fax 309-827-0100
www.mchistory.org

Museum and Visitors Center Hours:

Visit mchistory.org for current hours and
Covid safety protocols

Admission:

FREE - Children and Students with ID
\$5 - Adults \$4 - Age 65+

Museum Staff

Julie Emig - Executive Director
Susan Hartzold - Curator of Collections & Exhibits
Jackie Cain - Registrar
Candace Summers - Senior Director of Education
Norris Porter - Director of Development
Brandy Maloney - Development Assistant
Bill Kemp - Librarian
Maria Mears - Director of Adult Education
Emily McCusker - Director of Youth & Family Education
George Perkins - Archivist
Rochelle Gridley - Assistant Archivist
Betty Turchiello - Volunteer Assistant
Micaela Harris - Marketing Coordinator
Jeff Woodard - Marketing & Public Relations
Toril More - Curator of Digital Humanities
Jamie Arthur - Visitors Center Manager
Kathi Davis - Visitors Center Assistant
Mary Anne Schierman - Volunteer Coordinator

Museum Board

OFFICERS

Tom Eder - President
Carolyn Perry Yockey - 1st Vice President
Michelle Pazar - 2nd Vice President
John Killian - Treasurer
Robert Porter - Secretary

DIRECTORS

Craig Alexander
Keith Cornille
Zach Dietmeier
Larry Dietz
Bob Dobski
Russell Francois
Vasudha Gadhira
Arlene Hosea
Terri Goss Kinzy
Mike Matejka
R.C. McBride
John McIntyre
Marcos Mendez
Pamela Muirhead
S. Georgia Nugent
Shellie Opsal
Allison Petty
Karen Schmidt
Ann Sullivan
Carl Teichman
Paul B. Van Ness
Robert Watkins
Bill Wetzel



Cover image: Unidentified Metcalf students
work in the 1945 school garden.

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2023 *History Makers* Gala will be held
on Wednesday, June 21 at the Brown Ballroom
on the Campus of Illinois State University.



The 2023 honorees will be revealed at an 11 am
March 30 press conference in the Museum's
Governor Fifer Courtroom.
Gala tickets will go on sale in April.

For more information contact Development Director Norris Porter
at nporter@mchistory.org or by phone at 309-827-0428 ext. 104

Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sandra Arnold
Jim Bertolet
David Coffman
Thomas Durbin
Jane Ewing

Kate Ewing
Joseph P. McDonnell
Amy Randazzo
Benjamin and Susan Rhodes
Michael D. Schermer

Judith Wills

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.

Cultivating, Spaces, Partnerships, and Collaborations



The Museum is focused on the theme of cultivation to mark the spring of 2023 in the form of partnerships in our community, such as our collaboration with University of Illinois Extension McLean County and the Westside Bloomington Revitalization Project to expand their Westside Community Garden. The garden project will provide residents with nourishment as well as education about victory gardens during the scarcities of World War II.

We are also cultivating new spaces as we prepare content for the Merwin Gallery, a visible storage space that will showcase rarely seen pieces from the Museum's object collection and is scheduled to open later this year thanks to a generous gift from the Merwin Family Foundation. We are cultivating relationships with partners who are actively engaged in advancing our mission to share the diverse stories of the people of McLean County, such as the Midwest Laborers International who is contributing financial support for our upcoming exhibit, *A Deadly Deception: The Asbestos Tragedy in McLean County*, scheduled to open in 2024.

We are cultivating opportunities for public access through an *Under Our Wing* Grant from Business Builders, an organization that has provided tremendous time and talent by taking our Social Justice Walking Tour to an online platform. We are cultivating conversations with community leaders, such as Senator Durbin who took time to visit our museum to learn about our goals and where we need support.

Personally I have been cultivating my health over these past several months. I am close to making a full recovery and am thankful for the abundant support that I have received. Tend to your gardens, friends. "...didn't the night end, wasn't the earth / safe when it was planted / didn't we plant the seeds, / weren't we necessary to the earth, / the vines, were they harvested?" (Glück 2004). We look forward to cultivating with you, McLean County, as we welcome the spring season. We are Your Museum – Your History!

— Julie Emig, Executive Director

Community Partners

The Museum is fortunate to be a partner with organizations across the community. One such treasured partnership is our relationship with the Bloomington-Normal Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (JJBN). One of 252 chapters nationwide, JJBN is a member organization of mothers with children ages 2-19 who are dedicated to nurturing future Black leaders. They do this through family-friendly programming centered on cultural awareness, educational development, health, civic engagement and advocacy, leadership skills, volunteer opportunities, and philanthropic giving. The Museum has hosted several programs for JJBN, including mock trials to teach children about the legal system, mock elections to learn about voting rights and democracy, and more.

This past January the Museum was thrilled to host JJBN for their Founder's Day Program, *History of Jack and Jill of America: Black Excellence through the Years*. The interactive program featured characters that narrated stories about the history of Jack and Jill America, Inc. and Black history in McLean County. History was brought to life through engaging storytelling and a scavenger hunt in the Museum's galleries. Participants were given time throughout the program to pause and explore Black history featured in our exhibits. Those that participated in the scavenger hunts were entered into drawings to win prizes. Children that spent time hunting through our galleries were eager to share all the stories they learned from our permanent exhibitions. Over 70 children and adults were able to experience this unique program and learned more about the history of the national organization and the local JJBN, in addition to Black history in McLean County.

The Museum will continue to host future programs for JJBN as they carry on in their mission to educate local youth on civic engagement. We are honored that they continue to choose us as a partner in this mission. Just one of many rewarding community partnerships, JJBN reminds us of the importance of placing community first in all our plans and the importance of fostering a sense of civic duty in younger generations.



Social Justice Walking Tour

As people have worked and struggled to build a more caring, just, and equitable society, stories of their experiences unfolded not only nationally, but also in our local community. Beginning in the late 1990s, the Museum began hosting a Social Justice Walking Tour to reflect how Bloomington dealt with issues of human rights in the 1800s and 1900s. Museum board member Mike Matejka and Museum Executive Director Emeritus Greg Koos—later joined by Museum Librarian Bill Kemp—have led dozens of Social Justice Walking Tours for hundreds of people. The walking tour, which often exceeds 2 miles, explores topics such as segregation, women's rights, immigration, workers' strikes, and Abraham Lincoln, to name a few.

In 2021 the Museum was thrilled to receive an *Under Our Wing* grant from the local website company Business Builders. The grant enabled us to create a website friendly version of the walking tour. The website, which we hope will be live by publication of this magazine, features 14 sites in and around downtown Bloomington. Pages are organized by topic and plotted on a map, allowing users to visit each site, read the history, and see historic and contemporary photographs. We are excited to publish this content online, creating a resource for individuals to reference from anywhere or to do a self-guided walk on their own! Through the many stories centered around these historic sites, one can learn how the local community responded to challenges in the past, and maybe use that knowledge to overcome challenges today. Watch for an announcement that the website is live, then visit mchistory.org to find a link to our Social Justice Walking Tour website.



Kickapoo Relationship Spans Over One-Hundred Years

The mission of the McLean County Museum of History is to preserve, educate, and collaborate in sharing the diverse stories of the people of McLean County. This includes those that occupied this land long before we did – the Native groups of North America.

As an institution, we acknowledge that the land we call McLean County is the ancestral land of many Native groups, beginning with the Paleo Indians 12,000 years ago and most recently Algonquin-speaking groups, including the Kickapoo, who were forced west from this area by the 1830s.

To tell the stories of the Kickapoo people effectively, the Museum collaborates with the Kickapoo in Kansas. The Museum's first relations with the Kickapoo occurred in 1906 and 1909 when the Historical Society sent Milo Custer to observe the tribe on their reservation. This excursion was funded predominantly by George Perrin Davis, son of Judge David Davis.

Today, Lester Randall, Tribal Chairman of the Kickapoo in Horton, Kansas, is a staunch advocate and loyal partner in our pursuit of amplifying, clarifying, and sharing the story of the Native peoples of McLean County. This relationship is vital to the preservation of McLean County's history. His work with Museum staff to develop an interactive for the *A Community in Conflict* exhibit is a great example of this partnership. Furthermore in the foreword of his soon-to-be-released book on the history of the Kickapoo, Randall mentions the McLean County Museum of History and our partnership's role in establishing the Kickapoo Tribal Museum on the reservation in Kansas and preserving their history to pass it on to future generations.

Currently in our *Making a Home* exhibit, there is displayed a Kickapoo necklace made of horsehair and brass and bone beads, which dates to about 1860—when the Kickapoo no longer lived in McLean County. The necklace originally belonged to Kashata, the daughter of the Kickapoo prophet Keannekeuk, who was a spiritual leader in Illinois prior to their removal to the Horton, Kansas Reservation. The necklace rightfully belongs to the Kickapoo, and our curatorial

Kickapoo Partnership — continued on page 5



Kickapoo Necklace, circa 1860

Seeds of History: A Victory Garden for 2023

It can be hard to look towards spring when the ground is frozen and there is still snow in the forecast. However, the best gardeners know that successful growing depends on planning. The staff at the McLean County Museum of History are beginning to plan our garden, located in a plot in the Westside Community Garden in partnership with the West Bloomington Revitalization Project and the University of Illinois Extension McLean County. In what we hope will become an annual project, *Seeds of History* will tell stories of McLean County through gardens. Our first iteration for 2023 is a World War II victory garden with planting scheduled for the spring when the danger of frost has subsided.

When Eleanor Roosevelt planted a victory garden on the White House lawn in 1943, victory gardens supplied 40% of the nation's produce. The First Lady's victory garden was one of millions that year, and we hope our Museum garden will be one of many in our community. In an effort to bring the museum outside, the garden will be a place to learn, build community, and get our hands dirty. In order to prepare for the activities this summer, staff began planning our garden and growing the seeds. Although the weather is still quite cold, we can give our vegetables a strong head start by starting them indoors. We are also hard at work planning programming on food preservation, taking those lessons from the past and applying them to our own food practices today.

Community gardens, like the Westside Community Garden, grew out of the victory gardens of World War I and World War II. In order to supplement rations and ease the pressure on the food supply, Americans had to grow their own. Victory gardens became a source of pride and patriotism. Our plot pays homage to the sacrifices made during the wars, but is also part of a larger community and urban development project. Community gardens work to beautify neighborhoods, foster meaningful community relationships, improve the soil, protect the watershed, and provide fresh produce to neighborhoods that would otherwise be considered food deserts. Community gardens teach both children and adults the importance of protecting our environment and empower everyone through growing, preserving, and preparing food. As grocery prices continue to rise everywhere, learning from the past and how we persevered through difficult times can help us be more sustainable and come together.

If you are interested in getting involved with Seeds of History and would like to participate in this spring and summer's victory garden, email Director of Adult Education Maria Mears at mmears@mchistory.org. We are seeking volunteers interested in gardening that would enjoy planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting food from our plot. Continue to follow the McLean County Museum of History for more concrete dates on planting and programming as spring approaches.



Mrs. Abott, Edwards Grade school Garden Club Advisor, works in the garden with her son's Rod, and Frank.

Kickapoo Partnership — continued team is in the process of repatriating it. The necklace will be replaced by a reproduction made by Randall who is also working with Curator Susan Hartzold to draft a new label that will facilitate education on Kickapoo craftsmanship and the cultural significance of the necklace. The Museum is also working with Randall to repatriate two Kickapoo grave markers from the Kansas reservation cemetery associated with the Keannekeuk church. They were donated to the Historical Society in the 1950s with the information that the donor got them when they were replaced by granite markers. Only one has a name, Ira Cadue, on it. Thanks to Museum Registrar Jackie Cain's research, a good deal of history has been uncovered on Cadue. To learn more about Ira's story, please reference our *Pantagraph* Pieces from Our Past article on February 19. This story can also be found on the Museum's blog at mchistory.org.

The Museum has also worked closely with Randall to ensure that a memorial marker from the original site of the Grand Village of the Kickapoo, now privately owned, was moved to a new public location—West Park, adjacent to the Grand Village site. The marker was originally placed on the site by then owners Bill and Doris Emmett, who in 1998 welcomed the Kickapoo back to this land near LeRoy, Illinois, for the first time since 1832 for the purpose of celebrating its history with intertribal powwows. As recently as 2012, powwows were hosted at the site, bringing together thousands of Natives to celebrate their history and culture. When the Emmetts decided to sell their property, the Museum and the Kickapoo worked to have the Grand Village site separated for purchase by the Kickapoo. Unfortunately these efforts failed. Attempting to make the most of the situation, the McLean County Historical Society co-deeded with the Kickapoo Tribe a 1,225 square-foot plot of land within the Grand Village that is the site of a 1905 historical marker denoting where the Kickapoo Stockade was located. Sharing this is more symbolic than practical, but is yet another small way we can begin to reckon with our role as a part of a larger colonial project.

Illinois Poet Laureate Angela Jackson to Speak

In recognition of National Library Week, the Museum, in partnership with Normal Public Library and Illinois Humanities, is pleased to host Angela Jackson, Illinois' Fifth Poet Laureate, on Saturday, April 29 at 2 pm. This free public program will be held in-person in the Café at Normal Public Library.



Illinois Poet Laureate, Angela Jackson

April is also National Poetry Month, and in honor of that, Jackson will be sharing poems from her early work through her most recent book of poetry *More Than Meat and Raiment: Poems* (2022). She will also share insight on writing poetry as a process and life work.

Jackson is an award-winning poet, novelist, and playwright who has published three chapbooks and four volumes of poetry. Born in Greenville, Mississippi and raised on Chicago's Southside, she was educated at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Jackson's Poet Laureate title is an honorary position selected by a committee of experts and subsequently appointed by the Governor. She joins only four other esteemed poets who have previously held this coveted title: Howard Austin, Carl Sandburg, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Kevin Stein. As Poet Laureate Jackson hopes "to bring to Illinoisans poetry that they can relate to, be lifted by, and find their lives illuminated in. Poems bring us to ourselves and poems bring us together."

Jackson is the recipient of numerous awards such as the Shelley Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America, *Tri-Quarterly's* Daniel Curley Award, Illinois Center for the Book Heritage Award, Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent from Chicago State University, and grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council. She was a twenty-year member of the Organization of Black American Culture (OBAC) Writers Workshop, succeeding the late Hoyt W. Fuller as its Chair.

Her collections of poetry include *Voo Doo/Love Magic* (1974); *Dark Legs and Silk Kisses: The Beatitudes of the Spinners* (TriQuarterly, 1993); *And All These Roads Be Luminous: Poems Selected and New* (TriQuarterly, 1998), which was nominated for the National Book Award. Jackson's collection, *It Seems Like a Mighty Long Time* (TriQuarterly, 2015), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Open Book Award. She received a Pushcart Prize and an American Book Award for her chapbook *Solo in the Boxcar Third Floor E* (1985). Jackson has also written plays and novels, as well as a significant biography, *A Surprised Queenhood in the New Black Sun: The Life and Legacy of Gwendolyn Brooks* (2017).

Free parking will be available at Normal Public Library. Parking will also be available at the College Avenue Parking Deck, which is free for the first hour and \$1 per hour after that. For more information about this program, please contact the Museum's Education Department at education@mchistory.org or phone 309-827-0428.

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

Heirloom Recipes from the Illinois State Fair

The Museum and Bloomington Public Library are pleased to host Catherine Lambrecht, program director for the Highland Park Historical Society and Illinois Humanities Road Scholar, for a program that will explore heirloom recipes from throughout the Midwest and the stories behind them. This free, public program will be held on Saturday, March 25 at 2 pm in the Museum's second floor courtroom and live-streamed via the Museum's YouTube page.



Catherine Lambrecht

Since 2009 Lambrecht has judged Family Heirloom Recipe contests on behalf of Greater Midwest Foodways in Illinois, as well as Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Contestants enter their best scratch family heirloom recipe suitable for a family or community dinner and bring the prepared dish to the fair along with a history of who passed the recipe down to them.

This presentation offers an opportunity to follow the judging experience by providing the histories and recipes submitted at the Illinois State Fair (2009-2019) with pictures of the food as presented at the fair. The foods are displayed in their transport container or more elaborately on the family's china with relevant props of family pictures, kitchen paraphernalia and their loved one's handwritten recipe. Lambrecht's program will highlight the wonderful stories she has collected over the years, such as: dueling pasta salads, a boy's rite of passage as his pig may become his breakfast, a family of mushroom collectors' old country traditions, and more.

Catherine Lambrecht is a veteran of culinary competitions at the Lake County and Illinois State Fairs, a former University of Illinois Extension volunteer whose specialties were Master Food Preserver and Master Gardner, and a founder of Greater Midwest Foodways Alliance, Chicago Foodways Roundtable (sister organization to Culinary Historians of Chicago) and LTHforum.com, a Chicago culinary chat site.

Lambrecht is also program director for the Highland Park Historical Society and the Illinois Mycological Association (Mushroom Club) and editor of Heirloom Recipes from the Illinois State Fair—A Bicentennial Project. For her, a day spent well is when she learns something new.

For more information about this program, please contact the Adult Services Department at Bloomington Public Library at 309-590-6168 or email reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org



Rotunda Concerts Scheduled

The Museum is pleased to once again host a series of free, public concerts that will showcase sound art performed by musical artists from around the region. These concerts will allow audiences to experience the “old courthouse’s” rich acoustics and historic characteristics through the creative use of sound or music created by artists sponsored by pt.fwd and NON:op.

The March 4 concert is presented by NON:op and will begin at 7pm with a reading of Lincoln’s Gettysburg address. Following the reading Chicago musician, poet, and performance artist Kao Ra Zen, multidisciplinary artist A.J. McClenon, and Urbana poet, artist, and dancer Ja Nelle Davenport-Pleasure will perform Sal Martirano’s L’sGA: Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address in which they will explore themes of liberty, oppression, patriotism, racism, revolution, and police brutality using music, words, video, dance, and performance. Following the performance the artists, local politicians, Lincoln scholars, and the audience can join in a discussion of the performance.

On Sunday, March 19 at 4 pm, Jeremy Young, a maker of electroacoustic audio from Tiohtià:ke/Montréal will perform music that makes use of sine and square wave oscillator frequencies, analog tape loops, and sound treatments from amplified surfaces and objects.

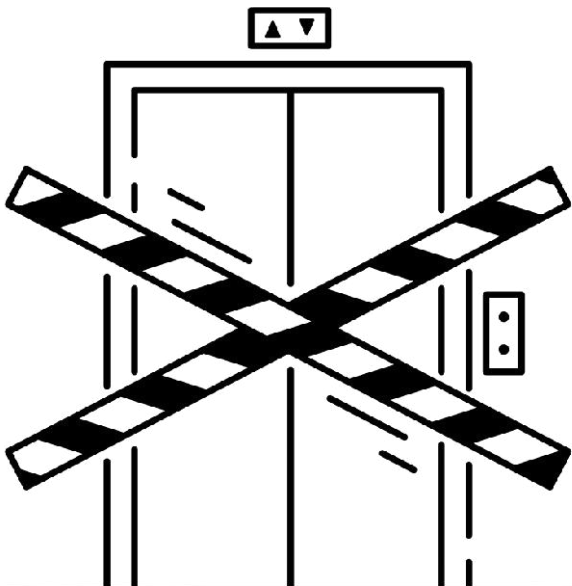
The Normal Community High School Experimental Ensemble returns on Saturday, April 15 at 7 pm to perform a variety of musical compositions. Presented by pt.fwd, the talented group of young musicians will perform arrangements of American classics and improvisations with faculty members Stefen Robinson and Zachary Sargent, and guest artists. Since 2021, the Normal Community High School Experimental Ensemble has provided students with the opportunity to learn about and perform a variety of musical and sonic traditions, including free improvisation, electro-acoustic performance, and sound installations.

For more information about these musical performances, please visit ptfwd.org, nonopera.org, or the Museum’s Education Department at education@mchistory.org



The Normal Community High School Experimental Ensemble

Museum Elevator Replacement April 17- July 4



Replacement of the Museum’s elevator will begin April 17 and is expected to be completed by July 4.

We will continue to share updates with the community as the work progresses. Our team has been proactive in finding alternate venues for programming during this time, creating virtual options and scheduling around this work.

If you have any questions, please call the Museum at 309-827-0428

Historic Marker Update

The Museum has made progress on its *Historic Marker Matching Gift Initiative*. Total dollars raised to date is just over \$74,000. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to make these preservation projects a reality. An additional \$17,547 of in-kind contributions have allowed for reduced project expenses. Special thanks to the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington, County of McLean, Normal Unit 5 School Dist., The Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Laborers' International Union of North America Local 362, Engineers Local 649, Painters District Council Nos. 30, AMVETS Dept. of Illinois, and Curt Hawk, Art Rodriguez, Kevin Keller, Nick & Vince Evans, Anthony Sipes, and Bryan & Mike Hanifin.

The Kickapoo Memorial Boulder has been relocated to West Park and the application with down payment has been submitted to the State of Illinois Historical Society for the creation of a 44"x 51" marker which will share the Kickapoo story in McLean County. Paperwork has started for a Kickapoo roadside marker as well. The McLean County Historical Society co-deeded the land for the Kickapoo Stockade Marker east of LeRoy with the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. The marker has been reset on a concrete pad. New Korea and Vietnam markers honoring the McLean County soldiers that died in service were installed on the southeast corner of the Museum Square. The *Looking for Lincoln* Jesse Fell marker has been replaced with a new marker and installed by the Town of Normal. Text for the Simon Malone and Booker T. Washington Home for Colored Children markers are completed and applications have been filed with the State Historical Society. Our work continues in moving forward the marker for the Civil War

Remnant in the Briarwood Subdivision and repairs for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Miller Park.

Watch for updates and upcoming dedication ceremonies for the various marker projects. The envisioned *Walk of Heroes* concept is still under consideration if additional monies are raised. Gifts may be made online at mchistory.org

For more information or to explore other ways to give, scan this code or contact Norris Porter at development@mchistory.org



The new Korean War Memorial marker on the Museum Square

Light Up the Museum Square

For

Autism Awareness Month

March 31 - April 2



New to Collections

Objects

- General Electric Beacon Club embossing stamp, c. 1960; donated by Angel Shoemaker.
- Desk made and used by John H. Livings, c. 1920; donated by Greg Koos
- Paintings "Country Road" by Jim Winn, "Reflection Pond" by Jeffery Little, and "Seed Travel" by Deborah Dancy; two scrap metal sculptures created by Robert Cumpston; lithographs "Sun Baked Roll" by Jeffery Little and "Warner Still Life" by James Butler; donated by Alan Spear
- Drawing of the Thompson-Stewart home by Doug Hartley, c. 1971; donated by Amy Miller
- Bloomington Public Library time capsule objects, including an 1887 cigar, penny, and nickel, a 1961 dime, an Adlai Stevenson I campaign button, circa 1895, a Withers Public Library button and tote bag, reading prizes, and a pack of Virginia Slims cigarettes, c. 1976; donated by Bloomington Public Library
- Handmade men's suit jacket made by Carol Deal, c. 1970 and a crochet throw made by Hazel Mae Twenty Deal, c. 1950; donated by Carol Deal
- Gavel and block made from log taken from the "Isaac Funk" cabin, c. 1989; donated by the Bloomington History Club
- Handmade quilt made by Cora Couch in 1929 using the Colonial Quilt Pattern printed in the Pantagraph in 1927; donated by Barbara Phillips
- Headbands and patches from the YMCA Indian Guides program, c. 1990; donated by Bloomington-Normal YMCA
- Hoagland's oil of Gladness coin, c. 1940; donated by David Parker

Archives

- Fleck's Money Making Reminders promotional giveaway stamped "Ulbrich's Harness & Luggage, Bloomington, Ill.;" donated by Terri Clemens
- Bloomington-Normal NAACP 2022 Freedom Fund Gala ticket; collection of donor's recent research reports for the Illinois Labor History Society and the Peoria Labor Paper; donated by Mike Matejka
- Various items relating to the Craig family, including First Night 1996 materials; Warren Craig's "meal/menus" notebook, 2014; Normal's First Baptist Church bulletins/programs from 1995 and 1996, and other items; donated by Shirley Ann Craig
- Garrett Scott remembrance, by donor, delivered at October 2, 2022 memorial service; includes notes from several interviews; donated by Mark Wyman
- Three Bloomington Gold / Corvettes USA posters: "Silver Salute," 1990, 1992, and "Vette Road Tour," 1997; donated by Carol Kletz
- Collection of items relating to the 2022 centennial celebration of the Alexander Building in Uptown Normal, including list of attendees to Uptown

Marriott event, notes from donor's presentation on building's history, prints of images shown during the event, and other items; donated by Ben Rhodes

- Two Chicago & Alton / Alton Railroad promotional posters—"Gypsy Girl" 1904, and "Century of Progress" World's Fair 1933-34; donated by Andrew Sisk
- Various items, including Bloomington High School senior week program June 1-6, 1947; 1952 promotional giveaway for Fried's Book Store, Bloomington; undated Christmas / New Year greeting card from Raymond P. Mecherle, and other goodies; donated by Denis and Janet Faulk
- Wedding gown receipt from Carson Pirie Scott, billing statement from Novak Flowers, both April 1969, related to donor's wedding; donated by Patricia Pence
- Large addition to the existing Beich Company / Beich Family collections, including several poster-size genealogy charts; letters between David F. and son Otto G. Beich, 1920s; Paul F. Beich's handwritten production journal of 1921, and many other items; donated by David Beich
- Collection of 2022 campaign literature from a wide range of candidates—races for local, state, and federal offices; map of canvassing work by Kelby Cumpston, 2022; donated by Torii More
- Bloomington High School Class of 1962, twenty-year reunion booklet, and other items; donated by Alan Spear
- Alton Railroad seasonal poster, "Yes, there's a Santa Claus," undated; donated by Mike Matejka
- Sales query postcard from Jack Sheean of Steel Equipment, Bloomington, to Denison University in Ohio, regarding herbarium cases, postmarked 1953; two bills (1896 and 1897) from the Superintendent of Bloomington's Water Works to Major W. Packard, 815 W. Washington St.; donated by Alvin Schaut
- Various, including promotional item, "What Shall I Wear," W.H. Roland; eleven amateur radio QSL cards, including one from Charley and Ella May McLaughlin of Gridley; Prairieland Shuttle tri-fold brochure, undated, and other items; donated by David Parker
- Issues of "Neighbors of Southwestern Bloomington" magazine—October 2020, February and July 2021, and August 2022; two issues of "McLean County Times," the controversial campaign "newspaper" mass mailed to area residents in 2022; donated by Rochelle Gridley
- State publications and miscellany, including undated fold-out brochure, "Land of Lincoln ... ten completely different ideas in travel fun;" donated by Gerald and Ruth Poppe
- Copy of large-format plat, E.M. Evans development, Briarwood subdivision; donated by Laurie Burke
- McLean County Historical Society newsletter,

Objects Needed for Future Exhibit



The Museum is excited to announce that we are in the planning stages of an exhibit that will explore the history of baseball and softball in McLean County. We need your help to identify for exhibit use uniforms and equipment associated with McLean County high schools, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, and local leagues. We are especially interested in McLean County softball and baseball uniforms and equipment associated with county, state, and regional championship teams as well as standout players. Volunteers are also needed to help conduct oral history interviews for this project.

If you have an item to donate or loan for this exhibit, or are interested in helping conduct oral history interviews, please reach out to Curator of Exhibits Susan Hartzold at shartzold@mchistory.org

June 1987, featuring retirement farewell of Director Barbara Dunbar; donated by Laura Dunbar

- Large additions to existing Tom Ewing and Ewing Family collections, including Ewing farm records, 1882-1888; and materials relating to U.S. Rep. Tom Ewing's post-congressional career; donated by Tom Ewing
- Outdoor Illinois magazine, May 1976, featuring lengthy article by donor and William D. Walkers Jr., both Illinois State University geography professors; donated by Michael D. Sublett
- Several sheets of State Farm Insurance agent stationery, likely late 1950s (donor's parents both worked for State Farm at the time); donated by Terri Joyce
- Chenoa vs. Dwight, high school football program,

c. 1946-48 (donor's husband, James Elson, played for Chenoa), and James Elson's 1946 Illinois State Fair tag—Elson was the milking derby champion that year; donated by Nancy Elson

- As You Like It Club materials, including 1998 and 1989 invitations, 2013-2014 program booklet, and more (donor's mother, Myra Secoy, was a member); donated by Eric Secoy

- Music CD, "Some Favorites," Central Illinois Banjo Club, 2009; donated by Laura Baue

- Collection relating to Mildred Raymond and her career at State Farm Insurance; assortment of items relating to singer-songwriter Joe Dowell (high school classmate of donor), including 2004 letter from Pat Boone to Dowell; family genealogy, including Civil War pension certificate for Henry Wellmerling; donated by Jim Raymond

- Large collection of Barack Obama presidential campaign material and mailings, 2008 and 2012 (donor was an Obama campaign volunteer in 2008); donated by Robert Mullins

- Program, 2018 State Farm Holiday Classic high school basketball tournament; donated by Jimmy Leszczynski

- Papers relating to the local chapter of the ACLU, including agendas and minutes, 2017-22; donated by Carol Koos

- Collection of campaign speeches given by presidential candidate Adlai E. Stevenson II, October 1952; includes itineraries, car assignments, and other supporting material; donated by Terry Irvin

- Illinois Traction System (interurban railroad) schedule, 1924, with advertisement for Heyworth Shoe Hospital; donated by Richard Savage

- Photogravure portrait of Abraham Lincoln, 1911, published by Otto Wiecker, Boston; poster, "The Autobiography of Abraham Lincoln," 1872, published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston; donated by Guy Fraker

- Adlai E. Stevenson III correspondence relating to the local Stevenson Lecture Series, 1982-1995; donated by Nancy A. Stevenson

- Two Colfax Community High School diplomas, Maxine Steele (1933) and Dudley Bridges (1934)—the donor's parents; donated by Dennie Bridges

- Papers relating to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County, including interim report, mostly 2006-2009; donated by John Krueger

- Program booklet for fifth annual State Amateur Basketball Tournament, 1948, held in Bloomington-Normal; donated by John and Jan Gundy

- Land documents relating to Lyle Snively, including abstract of title for farmland now part of Central Illinois Regional Airport; donated by Edgar Lundeen

- Bloomington-Normal Symphony Orchestra program for October 8, 1961, featuring comedian Jack

Benny on violin; signed by Benny to Mario Mancinelli, concertmaster and longtime Illinois Wesleyan University music professor; donated by son Chris Mancinelli

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- Booklet, Communication and the University, Marion DeYoung Lecture Series, February 1963, lectures by future Illinois State University President David K. Berlo; donated by Terri Clemens

- Survival Uncertain, 2018, account by U.S. Navy pilot Lee B. Cargill of what happened to eight friends from the U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1963; donated by Capt. (Ret.) Lee B. Cargill

- Three collections of poetry and art / photography by Bryon Warsaw—Transmigration; The Raven, the Blizzard, and the Drinking Flask; and Visions Visceral (all 2021); donated by Bryan Warsaw

- Booklet, history of Hawthorne Book Club, presented during the club's twentieth anniversary luncheon, September 13, 2022 (includes list of books read by club); donated by Elaine Cousins

- Eating Up Route 66: Foodways On America's Mother Road (University of Oklahoma Press, 2022) by T. Lindsay Baker; donated by T. Lindsay Baker

- Abraham Lincoln and the Strevell Family of Pontiac, Illinois (2022) by Dale C. Maley; donated by Dale C. Maley

- Illinois DeLorme Atlas and Gazetteer, 2010; donated by Michael D. Sublett

- Two local cookbooks—Bloomington-Normal City Panhellenic, 1974; InterKitchen Loan, Milner Library, Illinois State University, 1976; donated by Eric Secoy

- Novel, When Butterflies Laugh (2008), by Marsha Warsaw; donated by Marsha Warsaw

- Kaleidoscope, Collected Poems, by donor, 2022; donated by Barbara Findley Scott

- The Genre of Modern Motherhood: A Visual Diary (2022), a book of woodcuts, numbered 15 of 50, signed by artist Nicci Arnold; donated by Rochelle Gridley

- Imaginary Relations: Aesthetics and Ideology in the Theory of Historical Materialism (1987) by Michael Sprinker (who grew up in the Twin Cities); donated by Greg Koos

- World War I (56th Engineers) and Great Depression Letters of Ralph W. Green (2022), letters transcribed by donor; donated by John Stibravy

Photographs

- More than a dozen family-related photos, including Chiddix Junior High School's Drama Club, 1975-76; Scottish Rite 148th reunion, 1980; and Camping Club, Christmas party 1985, with Linda and Joy Craig; donated by Shirley Ann Craig

- Two picture postcards of Frog Pond School,

Downs Township, undated; and "Souvenir of Normal, Illinois," a set of eleven views, no publisher or date; donated by David Parker

- Three color slides—one of the Hamilton Hotel, Bloomington, September 1967, and two views of residences along the 400 block of E. Front St., April 1965; donated by Marie Ann Hill

- Portrait of Frank and Fred Cruikshank, 1879, J.R. Tankersley studio, Bloomington; donated by Kelly Cantrall

- Large number of photographs relating to Beich family and Beich candy manufacturing company; donated by David Beich

- Several photos, including one of donor's father, Gene Kelly, at 1212 Croxton Ave.; donated by Patricia Pence

- Interior view, "New Holy Trinity Church," Bloomington, Curt Teich & Co. postcard, no date; donated by Elaine Knight

- Three photos of State Farm Insurance employee anniversary groups featuring Mildred Raymond, 1949, 1954, and 1959; donated by Jim Raymond

- Picture postcard of Willow Street, Normal, view east of Illinois Central Railroad, c. 1912; donated by John Stibravy

- Normal Community High School, class of 1940; and wedding of Mary Jane Ward and Dr. Hoover Lyman, 1944; donated by the Schad family of Normal

- Major's Hall, March 1924, International Newsreel Photo; donated by Guy Fraker

- East side of Courthouse Square, Bloomington, undated, C.U. Williams, Bloomington, "photoette" postcard; donated by John and Jan Gundy

- Snedaker's tourist camp, 306 Pine St., Normal, along Route 66, featuring William and Anna Snedaker (donor's great-grandparents); donated by Merridee Bruens and Debbie Wesselhoff

- Twelve construction photos of Circle Lanes bowling center, Bloomington, June-July 1959; donated by Edgar Lundeen

**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?**

Volunteers Make a Difference!

No words can adequately describe the contributions volunteers provide to the Museum. Their skill sets, dedication, hours of work, and professionalism are givens across the board. In addition, from time to time there are unique talents that are shared.



Bill LaBounty

When William P. “Bill” LaBounty submitted his volunteer application in March of 1994, listing his former job as Director of Illinois State University Printing Services, his skills and interests were printing, bookbinding, and genealogical research. Bill’s love of printing started at the age of 13 when he began setting type in the family’s bookbinding business. He continued his work in the bindery while a student at Bloomington High School and Illinois Wesleyan University, graduating from IWU in 1952.

After serving in the Air Force and working in the family business, Bill began his career at ISU. He started in 1970 as a bookbinder and retired in 1993 as the Director of Printing Services. His volunteer career began in 1994 in the Museum’s Library, working at the reference desk and on several cataloging, research, and paper conservation projects. He constructed hundreds of “phases boxes,” which are used to enclose fragile books and better ensure their long-term preservation. A technical leaflet on phase boxes authored by Bill was published by the Illinois Association of Museums in 1996. At one time, he was constructing 50 to 60 boxes for the library per year.

Bill served as the Museum’s production manager for a wide-range of publication projects—including hardbound

and paperbound books, brochures, newsletters, posters, and any and all printing needs of both the Museum and the McLean County Genealogical Society. One of his most impressive publications was the “McLean County Combined Indexed Atlases, 1856-1914.” Published by the genealogical society, the proceeds from the book, some \$19,000, were given to the Museum to help house the Pantagraph Negative Collection. Over his many years here at the Museum, Bill worked with countless staff members and volunteers, and mentored many college students during their internships.

In 2002, Bill was named Volunteer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Museums and in 2004 he was recognized as the Distinguished Alumnus by the Department of Technology at Illinois State University.

After nearly 11,000 hours of volunteer service given to the Museum, Bill retired from this second career of excellence in which he gave back to his community and shared his time and talents. We salute and thank him!

Stitchers Needed!

The collections department is in need of skilled sewers to stitch covers for clothing pieces in our textile collection. We will provide the supplies and instructions needed for this at home work. If you are interested in helping the Museum achieve its mission to preserve, educate, and share the diverse history of the people of McLean County, call us at 309-827-0428 and ask for our Volunteer Coordinator or email volunteers@mchistory.org



Scan this QR code
to sign up online!

RMDs in 2023

Some retirees received an unexpected present from Congress just before Christmas. The age at which Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from qualified retirement plans must begin was lifted from 72 to 73, effective in 2023. In 2033 the age requirement jumps again, to 75. Of course, those who will turn 73 in 2023 already turned 72 in 2022, and so have already had their first RMD in most cases.

Still, the change is welcome for those who do not need to draw from their tax-deferred retirement accounts for routine living expenses. They will get another year of growth. They should have a large pot of money to withdraw over a fewer number of years, which means still bigger RMDs. The only downside is that the increase might push them into a higher tax bracket.

To offset that potential problem, retirees should look into the "charitable IRA rollover." Up to \$100,000 may be directly transferred from an IRA to a qualified charity. Such a transfer will not be added to taxable income, but it will count as an RMD. Some taxpayers have been simply directing their RMDs to their favorite charities each year, which simplified their finances. Note: This option is limited to those who are age 70½ and up (that age requirement was not changed when the RMD start age was lifted). A husband and wife may each make transfers of up to \$100,000, but only if each has an IRA.

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. January 2023 © 2023 M.A. Co. All rights reserved.

**Let us help
you plan.**

When your focus
shifts to transferring
your wealth,

a secure financial
future takes on
new meaning.



Wealth Management

hbtbank.com | 855-244-1217

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

 **Heartland
Bank** and Trust
Company
Wealth Management

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Every Tuesday

5-7 pm

The Old Time music group is a laid back and diverse group of musicians that try to get together once a week. They play music from the Appalachia region of the U.S. that dates back before radios and phonographs. All are welcome to come and play or just enjoy and listen!

Saturdays

May 6 - October 28

The Museum opens at 8:30 am to all visitors, with free admission until noon! Tour the Museum's latest exhibits and shop at the surrounding Farmer's Market.

Saturdays

May 6 - October 28

Museum at the Market from 9 am to 12 pm!

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!

March 4

7 pm

NON:Op presents *L's GA: Lincoln's Gettysburg Address* featuring original compositions by regional artists that offer a new perspective on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. For more information about this free, public concert see page 8.

March 9

12:10 pm

Lunch and Learn: *"Whiskey vs Lager Beer-Bejabbers:" The Irish, the bete noir of Lincoln's Republican Party* with Greg Koos, Emeritus Executive Director of the McLean County Museum of History.

March 18

2-4 pm

Pins and Needles: A Fiber Arts Celebration with Normal and Bloomington Public Libraries

Explore the world of fiber arts with demonstrations of spinning, knitting, crocheting, quilting, cross stitching, embroidery, and more! Get your questions answered by representatives from local craft shops, fiber guilds, and other experienced artisans and see new tools and materials in person. This event will be held in the first floor café area at Normal Public Library.

March 19

4 pm

pt.fwd presents *Jeremy Young*, a maker of electro-acoustic audio from Tiohtià:ke/Montréal. See page 8 for

more information.

March 25

1:30 pm

Family Heirloom Recipes from the Illinois State Fair

The Museum and Bloomington Public Library partner to host Catherine Lambrecht, program director for the Highland Park Historical Society and Illinois Mycological Association. Lambrecht will present stories of heirloom recipes she has collected over the years judging state fairs across the Midwest. For more information about this hybrid program, see page 7.

March 31-April 2

Dusk to Dawn

Light up the Museum Square for Autism Awareness

The Museum and partner Autism McLean will light up the Museum Square for Autism Awareness Month. Autism McLean, established in 2002, strives to reach families and the community in all aspects of autism. In 2016 they started the Autism Friendly Community (AFC) initiative. For more information about Autism Awareness and Autism McLean visit autismmclean.org

April 1 through April 30

YWCA Sexual Assault Awareness Month Clothesline Project

The Museum once again partners with YWCA to display their Clothesline Project—a vehicle for survivors of sexual assault to express their unique story by drawing, writing, or painting on a T-shirt. The shirts will be displayed in the Museum rotunda as testament to their survival. This project is seen as a healing and educational tool, giving survivors an outlet for expression and charging the community with confronting the prevalence of sexual assault.

April 13

12:10 pm

Lunch & Learn: *Quirky Sites in Illinois* with Robert and Reenie Bradley. Join us as they explore strange and unusual buildings, monuments, objects, and statues in Illinois, including the world's largest functioning rocking chair, a fire-breathing dragon, a fifty-foot cement mermaid, and more!

April 15

7 pm

Pt. fwd presents the Normal Community High School Experimental Ensemble

The Normal Community High School Experimental

All programs will be presented in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom on the second floor unless otherwise noted.

Ensemble will perform arrangements of American classics and improvisations with faculty members Stefen Robinson and Zachary Sargent and guest artists. This free public performance will be held in the Museum's first floor rotunda. See page 8 for more information.

April 20
Museum Closed for Staff Development Day

April 29 **2 pm**
Angela Jackson Illinois Poet Laureate
The Museum, in partnership with Normal Public Library, hosts Illinois Poet Laureate Angela Jackson in honor of National Poetry Month and National Library Week. For more information on this free, public program, see page 6.

May 2 **7 pm**
History Reads Book Club: *Sweet Greeks: First-Generation Immigrant Confectioners in the Heartland* by Ann Flesor Beck. Please note that due to elevator replacement work at the Museum this meeting will be held in-person only at The Junction , located at 303 E. Oakland Ave. To resister for this in-person discussion go

to bloomingtonlibrary.org

May 6 **10 am until 1 pm**
Knit In at Illinois Art Station
Grab your needles, hooks, and yarn and head over to the Illinois Art Station for the next Knit In where we will be making fidget cuffs that will be donated to Carle BroMenn hospital. For more information or questions, contact the education department at education@mchistory.org

May 11 **12:10 pm**
Lunch & Learn: *Combating High Energy Costs with Energy Efficiency and Solar* with Larissa Armstrong, Assistant Director of the Ecology Action Center. Concerned about high energy costs? Join Armstrong via ZOOM to learn about how you can reduce your home's energy costs with energy efficiency improvements, solar, and community solar. Get details on income-qualifying energy saving programs too! To join by Zoom, go to bit.ly/MayLL23

May 29
Museum Closed for Memorial Day



2
SESSIONS
15 Campers each
June 12-16
July 10-14
.....
Any area student
entering 4th - 6th grades
Fall 2023

Explore civics, archaeology, architecture,
museum studies, environmental science, and more!
WWW.MCHISTORY.ORG



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701

309-827-0428 or mchistory.org

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
BLOOMINGTON IL
PERMIT NO. 118

Mystery History Quiz

We did it again—another mystery photo that proved too obscure for all but a handful of history sleuths. The handsome brick building in question was home to the Portable Elevator Mfg. Co., and was located on Grove Street in Bloomington, just east of present-day AB Hatchery & Garden Center. Portable Elevator designed and manufactured farm equipment. Production halted in 1985 and in April 1989, the plant went down in flames.

Those who identified Portable Elevator were Thomas Gregg, Robert E. Handley, Jack Keefe, and Kevin Lowery. "I used to walk past there on my way to and from Bloomington High School on East Washington Street," Thomas tells us. Kevin remembers his uncle, Harley Rathbun, working there.



We're confident this issue's mystery photo will be easier than the last one. Can you identify this impressive abode? Do you know where it was located? Do you know anything about its history? If you think you can answer some of these questions, ring up Librarian Bill Kemp at 309-827-0428, or email him at bkemp@mchistory.org. As always, best of luck!

