



ON THE SQUARE



The Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

Sept-Oct-Nov-Dec 2023

Volume 55, Number 3

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www.mchistory.org

Museum and Visitors Center Hours:

Monday thru Saturday 9 am to 5 pm,
Tuesdays until 8 pm

Museum Staff

Julie Emig - Executive Director
Susan Hartzold - Curator of Exhibits
Jackie Cain - Curator of Collections
Morgan Bueza - Assistant Curator of Collections
Candace Summers - Senior Director of Education
Maria Mears - Director of Adult Education
Emily McCusker - Director of Youth & Family Education
Norris Porter - Director of Development
Brandy Maloney - Development Assistant
Bill Kemp - Librarian
George Perkins - Archivist
Micaela Harris - Director of Communications
Jeff Woodard - Marketing & Public Relations
Torii Moré - Curator of Digital Humanities
Jamie Arthur - Visitors Center Manager
Kathi Davis - Visitors Center Assistant
Eric Hanson - Director of Volunteers

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Allison Petty
Karen Schmidt
Ann Sullivan
Carl Teichman
Paul B. Van Ness
Robert Watkins
Bill Wetzel



Cover image: Two unidentified workers cut wide planks from a large log at a McLean County sawmill. The photo was taken in 1944, when sawmills had all but disappeared from the Illinois landscape.

Announcements

November is MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH!

All members receive a 20% discount on purchases in the Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center and Gift Shop during the month of November.

Watch our bi-weekly email updates and social media accounts for more details or visit mchistory.org.

History Makers Gala 2023 a Success!

In total 458 attendees gathered to celebrate, raising \$29,651.70 to support our free educational programming in the community. Mark your calendars now for the 2024 Gala, to be presented on the evening of Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2024 class of History Makers!

Visit mchistory.org/participate/history-makers-gala to nominate a History Maker before October 21, 2023.

Welcome New Members

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Tami Burroughs
Nathan Flatley
Susan Frank
Margi Hollingshead
Virgil Hovar
Gail and Doug Lamb
Charles McCullough

Steve and Teri Parker
Kat and Brad Pollack
Steve Timmerman
Jill Tingley
Beth Vincent
Brenda Wernick
David and Kay Williams

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.

History as Landscape



At the July 20 Simon Malone Marker Dedication, Robert D. Sampson, editor of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, remarked that *"History is not static. Nor carved in stone by one generation and left untouched by succeeding ones. Rather, it is a painting. A landscape revised and enhanced by artists of succeeding generations whose work widens perspective, adds missing details, and creates a more accurate representative picture of the past."*

Museums are increasingly focused on how to make history both public and visible. Here at the McLean County Museum of History, we prioritize the collective act of revising and enhancing the landscape of the past as it gets rendered, and re-rendered, over time. That certainly manifests in our Historic Marker Initiative, our annual Evergreen Cemetery Walk, and in sharing Illinois ecological history through the intentional placement of native plants in the borders of the Museum Square. See our article on page eight about how we paint with plants.

Our *Saving History* initiative similarly takes into account *"...the growing recognition, especially among public institutions, that museums had an ethical obligation to provide greater access to their collections online...[shifting focus] from thinking about the visitor in the life of the museum to the museum in the life of the visitor"* (Marty & Jones, "Making It Visible" in *Museum: The Digital Universe*, 2022). We cannot do the important and necessary work of promoting historical literacy without the material support of our community. Projected costs for preserving and sharing digital content are above \$100,000 annually. These funds make it possible for us to partner with the Illinois Digital Archives, for example, to share content from our Pantagraph Negative Collection. One such image, featured on our cover, illustrates a technology commonly used in McLean County during the 1800s. Important in the production of local lumber, sawmills had mostly disappeared from the Illinois landscape when this picture was taken in 1944. New technology has advanced dramatically from that day, and we at MCMH are eager to embrace all that it has to offer.

— Julie Emig, Executive Director



Christmas Under the Dome

Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A free, family-friendly event
featuring live music, crafts, and Santa!

learn more at mchistory.org/events



Merwin Gallery Re-Opening

Member Preview Days
October 30 through November 2
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day

Opening Reception
Friday, November 3 from 5-8 p.m.
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

Cemetery Walk 2023

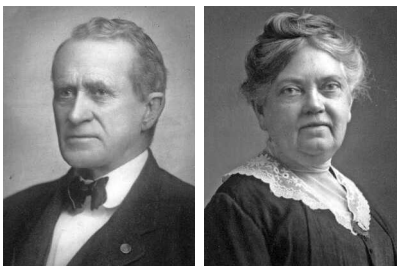
The annual *Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Walk* is an award-winning, live outdoor theater program suitable for ages ten and up that brings local history to life. This year's 29th Annual Evergreen Cemetery Walk will be on **September 30 and October 1, 7, and 8**, with performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day.

To create this immersive experience, Museum staff and volunteers, led by Senior Director of Education Candace Summers, spend months researching and resurrecting voices from our past that represent the many diverse individuals who have called McLean County home. There are seven unique characters featured on this year's Walk.



Paul Rhymer (1905-1964) joins the Walk as this year's Visiting Voice from Lexington Cemetery. Paul was considered one of the great writers of the 1930s "script" radio shows. Before his radio days, the Bloomington High School graduate worked for the railroad, drove a cab, and was a reporter for the *Pantagraph* (where he was fired due to his elaborate storytelling, sometimes making up interviews). He found a way, however, to make better use of his talents in creating "Vic and Sade". The popular show ran on NBC airwaves for 14 years, amassing over seven million viewers nationwide. The show was set in what was undeniably a fictionalized Bloomington. Paul will be "visiting" some of his Young Men's Club friends buried at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, who established "Paul Rhymer Day" in 1938.

John Jackson Mayes (1851-1918), better known as J.J., was a businessman, but foremost a photographer, even teaching in the Fine Art Department at IWU for two years. He also bred, raised, trained, and sold racehorses from a barn he leased on Bloomington's west side. Canadian-born, Mayes moved to the United States in 1868. He was in Chicago during the Great Fire of 1871, and by 1877 he had moved to Bloomington and opened a photography studio with Albert Bell. While here, he and his wife had three daughters, and all were said to have immense musical talent.



Samuel Noble King (1834-1913) and **Mary (Reed) King** (1842-1928) were a force in the advancement of agriculture, and in the pursuit of educational and civic projects throughout Central Illinois. Samuel helped develop new methods of crop rotation and in the use of fertilizers. Mary co-founded the McLean County Household Science Association, which gave women educational opportunities to learn modern household management techniques. Upon his death, Samuel deeded a generous part of his estate to underwrite the Jessamine Withers Home for Elderly Women, which Mary advanced with her financial and personal involvement.

Annie Ethel Jones (1899-1991) was born and reared on her family-owned Mississippi farm. After marrying, she moved to Bloomington in 1922 and began working as a housekeeper. Her doctor encouraged her to take correspondence courses in nursing, and she became an LPN. As a Black woman, Annie dealt with racism from some patients and coworkers. Jones' career included working at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bloomington and the McLean County Poor Farm. Later, she did private nursing for local families. An active community member, Annie was heavily involved with the NAACP and her church, Wayman AME.



Frances Kessler (1887-1975) had a passion for music and education, having taught music appreciation at Bloomington Public Schools for many years. She was innovative in her teaching practice and integrated radio into her lessons, becoming one of the first to utilize remote learning. Kessler received her teaching certificate from Illinois State Normal University in 1907, a bachelor's in music education from Illinois Wesleyan, and a master's in music education from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago.



Richard Blue (1842-1921) was born in Ohio and came to McLean County with the Judge Rayburn family when he was nine years old. Richard joined the Union Army in 1865, serving as a musician in the 29th U.S. Colored Infantry. Following the Civil War, he became heavily involved in community service and local politics, including running for city alderman in Ward 3 in Bloomington. Richard had the distinction of being the first Black juror in Bloomington. He also actively advanced Black literacy, helping start the "Bloomington Literary and Protective Association."

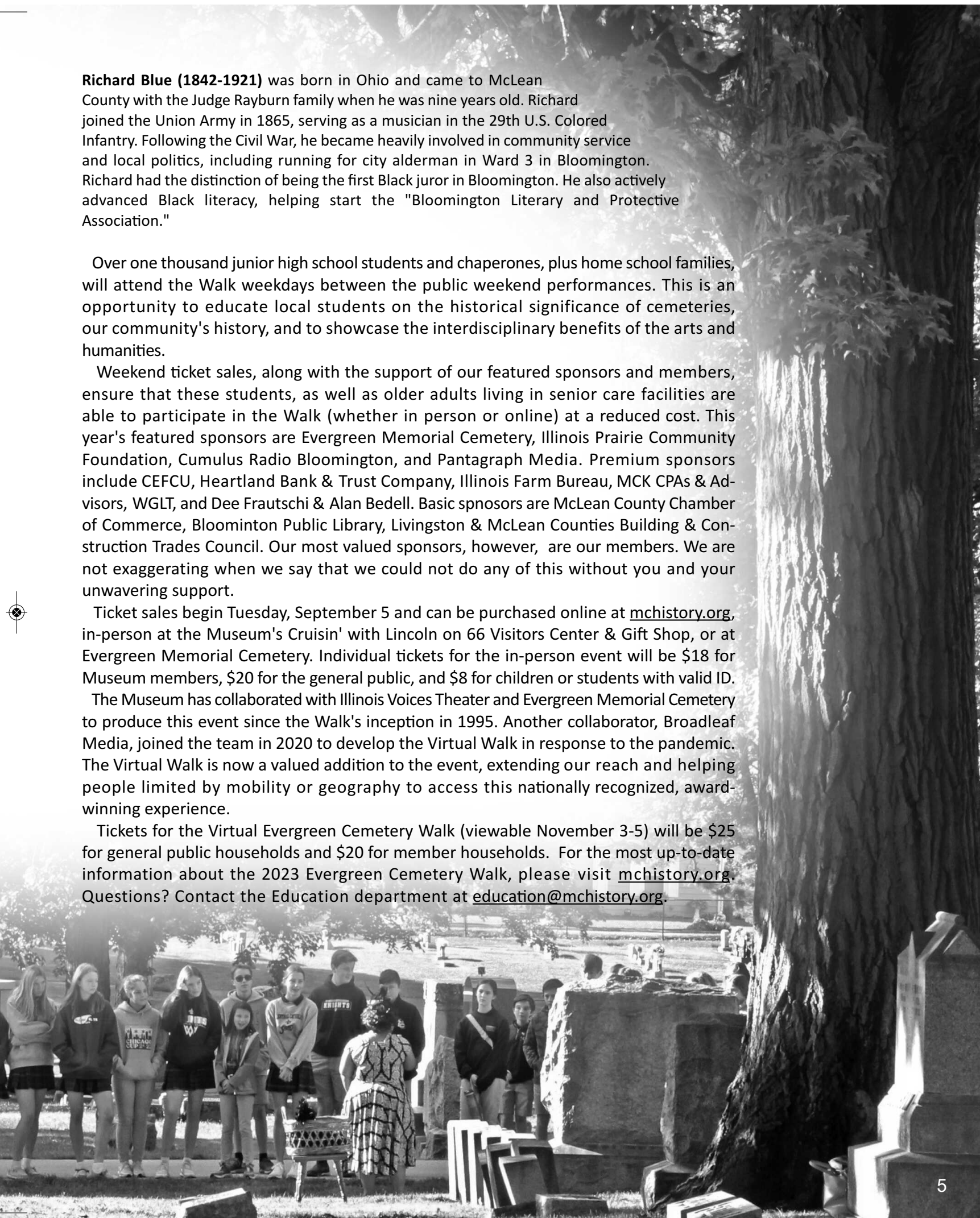
Over one thousand junior high school students and chaperones, plus home school families, will attend the Walk weekdays between the public weekend performances. This is an opportunity to educate local students on the historical significance of cemeteries, our community's history, and to showcase the interdisciplinary benefits of the arts and humanities.

Weekend ticket sales, along with the support of our featured sponsors and members, ensure that these students, as well as older adults living in senior care facilities are able to participate in the Walk (whether in person or online) at a reduced cost. This year's featured sponsors are Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, and Pantagraph Media. Premium sponsors include CEFCU, Heartland Bank & Trust Company, Illinois Farm Bureau, MCK CPAs & Advisors, WGLT, and Dee Frautschi & Alan Bedell. Basic sponsors are McLean County Chamber of Commerce, Bloomington Public Library, Livingston & McLean Counties Building & Construction Trades Council. Our most valued sponsors, however, are our members. We are not exaggerating when we say that we could not do any of this without you and your unwavering support.

Ticket sales begin Tuesday, September 5 and can be purchased online at mchistory.org, in-person at the Museum's Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center & Gift Shop, or at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Individual tickets for the in-person event will be \$18 for Museum members, \$20 for the general public, and \$8 for children or students with valid ID.

The Museum has collaborated with Illinois Voices Theater and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery to produce this event since the Walk's inception in 1995. Another collaborator, Broadleaf Media, joined the team in 2020 to develop the Virtual Walk in response to the pandemic. The Virtual Walk is now a valued addition to the event, extending our reach and helping people limited by mobility or geography to access this nationally recognized, award-winning experience.

Tickets for the Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk (viewable November 3-5) will be \$25 for general public households and \$20 for member households. For the most up-to-date information about the 2023 Evergreen Cemetery Walk, please visit mchistory.org. Questions? Contact the Education department at education@mchistory.org.



Museum Partners with ISU Latino Studies Program

Last fall Museum staff met with Dr. Maura Toro-Morn, Director of Illinois State University's Latin American and Latina/o program to discuss a potential collaboration. Dr. Toro-Morn proposed to develop a civic engagement project in collaboration with the Museum that would involve researching and conducting oral history interviews to document Latinx experiences in McLean County. The class, Soc. 300, requires senior sociology students to complete a research project of their own.

The project concept aligned perfectly with the Museum's mission and goals, particularly our Latino History Project, which serves to document and preserve stories centering the Latino/a experience in McLean County. In addition the Museum would become the repository for the oral histories and student projects. The Museum was excited to partner with Dr. Toro-Morn who took on the challenge of turning the concept into a senior capstone class for 13 Illinois State University sociology students.

At the beginning of the semester, the students met staff at the Museum to learn how oral histories are utilized in our exhibits. The students also spent time examining the interviews already completed through the Museum's Latino History Project. In the classroom, Dr. Toro-Morn organized a series of virtual lectures with scholars did similar projects at other institutions to learn about the innovative ways that oral history accounts can be used. Northern Illinois University's oral history lab was one such collaborator.

Students were required to read books and articles that utilized oral histories to tell stories of the Latinx experience, including Dr. Ricia Chansky's *Mi Maria: Surviving the Storm, Voices from Puerto Rico* (2021). Dr. Chansky earned a Ph.D from Illinois State University and is now the director of the Oral History lab at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. Chansky collected and transcribed

oral histories of Hurricane Maria survivors.

With guidance from Dr. Toro-Morn and Museum staff, the students worked together to develop a robust questionnaire to draw from during their interviews. Conducting oral histories requires a great deal of training. Interviewers must understand that listening and giving space for the interviewee to tell their story is of the utmost importance. Additionally, preliminary research is needed prior to going into the interview. In order to prepare themselves, students did the academic work grounding them in theoretical understandings of oral histories, and also spent time practicing their interview skills.

"Incredible things happened during the semester with the project itself and the way it was carried out. It opened my eyes to the fact that the combined efforts of a group of people working toward a single objective can produce some very interesting results."

— Casper Trainor, SOC 300 senior (ISU class of 2024)

Students selected the person they wanted to interview from a list of individuals Dr. Toro-Morn had already curated for the class. Students then did background research on their interviewee to develop more individualized questionnaires. After all of the preparation, they conducted and transcribed

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Front row left to right: Dr. Maura Toro-Morn, Brytni Gillespie, Emily Monroe, Kacy Perfors, Jayla Fosters, Savannah Middleton, McKenzie Kibler, Sara Sexton, and Olivia Davis. Back row: Caroline Gilmore, Lexi Juergens, Bailey Page, Connor Grande, Casper Trainor, Dr. Ricia Chansky, and graduate assistant Vivian Yawson

Merwin Gallery to Reopen as Visible Storage Space

We are thrilled to announce the November 4 reopening of the Merwin Gallery as a non-static visible storage space, featuring nearly 300 objects from the Museum's object collection.

Like other museums across the U.S., we typically exhibit about 3% of our object collection. As a visible storage space, the Merwin Gallery makes it possible to showcase more of the 18,000+ objects we preserve in our material culture* collection. Objects from the collection will be moved into and out of the gallery on a regular basis, so visitors can return again and again, and always see something new.

Ongoing support from the Merwin Foundation enabled us to increase access to this vast collection of objects and the stories they hold—which is paramount to the Museum's mission.

The Merwin Gallery's digital labels create a gateway into our collection and the objects' stories. The labels also include historical context and biographical information about the people who used the object and any associated businesses or organizations.

The Museum's object collection documents all facets of life in McLean County. From the indigenous peoples who lived here thousands of years ago to today, our collection strives to represent diverse individuals from every social, economic, religious, and ethnic background who have made McLean County their home.

This collection also often reflects the broader history of the United States, as the struggles and triumphs of our community are a microcosm of a larger national narrative.

Museum members are invited to a sneak peek from 10 a.m.



The Merwin Gallery is in the works to open as a visible storage space November 4.

to 4 p.m. during member preview days, October 30 through November 2, and an opening reception and celebration (our first since 2019) on Friday, November 3, from 5-8 p.m. To learn more, please visit mchistory.org.

*Material culture is an anthropological term used to describe human-made objects. Examples of material culture include money, tools, weapons, utensils, machines, clothing, ornaments, art, buildings, and monuments.

Museum Partners - continued from page 6 —

their interview. The final requirement included writing a research paper of their findings in preparation to share their work with the local community.

The class culminated with a two-day conference, entitled *Sembrando Raices: Oral Histories of Latinos in Central Illinois*. It featured a presentation by Dr. Chansky, "Listening as Memorial: Storytelling as a Strategy for the Worst of Times." Dr. Chansky discussed her work, which the students studied throughout the semester and reminded them that oral histories are important to the preservation of history, but can also play a role in making sense of confusing and traumatic events. The oral histories she collected in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria helped piece together a timeline of what happened and provided valuable insight to the conditions on the ground.

The students presented their oral history papers at the McLean County Arts Center—a discussion of their interviews and findings—to a full house of community members, families, informants, university faculty, and Museum staff.

The Museum was thrilled with the presentations and final projects. We wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Toro-Morn for inviting us to partner with her on this labor-intensive project. It is an excellent example of how the Museum and community partners can work together to document the history of McLean County while also providing educational opportunities for students. The project provided a hands-on experience for the students, which helped them to see how their work can impact the community and be used as a tool for education and change.

Back to our Roots: Native Plants on the Square!

Being in the heart of downtown Bloomington, we strive to keep the Museum Square looking clean and cared for. The county keeps our grass mowed, and the city helps us with mulch, but many other aspects of our landscaping are up to Museum staff to coordinate. Planting, watering, and weeding are a struggle for staff to keep up with, so the Museum decided to try a new, lower-maintenance approach for the corner flower beds that will also serve as an education tool.

The Museum considered many factors when deciding how to landscape the corners. Conditions on the Museum Square can be rough -- surrounded by a lot of concrete in an urban environment, it tends to be very hot and very dry in the summer. We also have Museum signage on the corners, so plants not only need to thrive in full sun and be drought tolerant, but also be shorter than 30" full-grown. All these requirements narrowed our options significantly. Additionally, one corner on Museum Square is shaded, but still dry. This has turned out to be a tricky combination. The Museum is embracing a "right plant, right place" attitude which means every corner will not be identical, but will instead have plants that fit the conditions. We hope that once established, the drought-tolerant plants will thrive.

Native plants support native wildlife. Last fall we were lucky to find five monarch eggs on the Museum Square. A female monarch found some Honeyvine milkweed (*Cynanchum leave*) growing between the bushes. Honeyvine milkweed is a very aggressive (but native!) vine that many don't realize is a host for monarchs. To support monarchs more intentionally, we have planted butterfly weed, which is a lovely plant that stays around two feet

high, with bright orange flowers.

In addition to the butterfly weed, this year in the full sun areas (three of the four corners) visitors will find Canadian anemone (*Anemone canadensis*) and Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) which are interspersed among some existing perennials such as Dianthus (not native), Spiked Speedwell (not native), and lance-leaved coreopsis (native, *Coreopsis lanceolata*). In the shady corner visitors can see wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), a few types of hostas (not native), and creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*). On the northwest corner we experimented with planting some taller plants, Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), behind the Museum signs, to provide some bigger, vibrant color and draw the eye upwards.

Museum Staff are thrilled to bring more native plants and pollinators to downtown Bloomington. The native plants on the Square are part of our larger Seeds of History initiative. Staff hopes to continue to build on this initiative and host more planting activities next year.

The Museum cannot take on this ongoing project without help from the community. For more on the ways the Museum is working to interpret the history of our land and environment, visit mchistory.org. —Continued on page 7



Saving History

The Museum is committed to preserving, educating, and collaborating in sharing the diverse stories of the people of McLean County. As we look to the future, we envision creating more accessible opportunities for people to engage with our collection information, objects, archival materials, and subsequent stories from anywhere, at any time. One of the most impactful ways we can do so is through digital preservation.

To ensure the Museum is adhering to best practices, Executive Director Julie Emig called on the Northeast Document Conservation Center to do an evaluation of our digital preservation procedures and plans. We look forward to welcoming these consultants in December and are excited to hear their recommendations as we work to make our collections as accessible as possible.

The Museum spends over \$100,000 annually on various digital initiatives, such as the ongoing preservation of the Pantagraph Negatives Collection and new initiatives such as PastPerfect Online—a digital platform launching in October, allowing anyone to search a curated selection of our object collection. We continuously search for large-scale funding opportunities, like grants and federal dollars to support these initiatives. In July, the Museum applied for a \$350,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to accelerate the digitization of our object collection, specifically focusing on textiles. We are hopeful but won't know if we will receive funding until April 2024.

As we wait to hear about the NEH grant, we are also waiting for the 2024 Senate Appropriations Committee spending bill to be approved. Senator Dick Durbin included \$550,000 for the Pantagraph Negatives Collection in the bill. If approved, this funding will enable the Museum to finish the digitization of the 1950s Pantagraph negatives, taking the project through 1963 and helping with increasing storage and server costs. Alas, over a million negatives documenting the history of our community through the 2000s lay waiting in the Museum's industrial freezer.

The costs of digitization are real. For perspective, we estimate over \$8 million will be needed over the next few years to add the necessary metadata, and complete the digitization process to make the Pantagraph Negatives collection fully accessible online. Annual cloud storage costs alone will be well over \$50,000 for just this one collection.

Even with federal and grant funding, we need your help and our community's support to continue *Saving History*! To learn more about our current initiatives and to contribute support, visit mchistory.org/participate/saving-history, or mail a check to the Museum.



Back to our Roots - continued from page 6 —

Thanks to Master Gardener Beverly Branning, our new plants are regularly watered and given a solid chance to become established and thrive. We are also appreciative of Jack Muirhead and Jan Turner for offering their advice and expertise in native plants this spring to help us launch this effort. Finally, none of the plants on Museum Square would exist without the persistence and hard work from Curator of Digital Humanities Torii Moré and Director of Marketing Jeff Woodard. If you are interested in helping us with landscaping on Museum Square, please reach out to volunteers@mchistory.org.

Future plans include removing the landscaping fabric, weeding, deadheading flowers to encourage more blooms, and planting more native plants in the fall and spring. Keep an eye on the Museum's native plant updates as there might be one with an Abraham Lincoln connection! We also plan to use the native plants as educational opportunities, to illustrate how some of these plants dominated the landscape for millenia. At the Museum, we focus on the stories of the people of this community. However, those stories would be nothing without this land. Ecology plays a role in our history and the Museum is excited to bring our preservation mission outside into the landscape.



Butterfly weed and Native grasses are among the plants that have been added to the Museum's landscaping.

New to Collections

Objects

- Architectural sketch of McKnight Building; donated by Michael Dolan
- World War II Honorable Discharge Wallet owned by Howard E. Botsfield; c. 1946, donated by Sharon Builta
- Model 19 ASR Teletype Machine, used by The Pantagraph, c. 1930; donated by Prairie Aviation Museum
- Watercolor painting of Turner Hall, c. 1966; donated by William Wagner
- Sacagawea composition statue, c. 1910, oil portrait of Ms. Nellie Parham, c. 1930s; donated by Bloomington Public Library
- Portraits of James Crumbaugh, Amanda McLena Buck, and Mercy Karr (Buck); c. 1860, donated by Anne Albin
- GTE windbreaker, c. 1980s, Verizon jacket, c. 1990 and boy scout tie clip used by Steve Peterson, c. 1950; donated by Mary Peterson
- Wooden sewer line found on Front Street, c. 1900, donated by the City of Bloomington
- As You Like It Club tea tray, c. 1927; donated by Carol Ruggeri

Featured Artifact

Wooden Sewer Pipe, c. 1900s – Donated by the City of Bloomington



During construction work on Front Street this spring, this wooden sewer pipe was uncovered. Wood pipes were used around the world as early as the 13th century and began being used in America in the late 1800s. Because of the biodegradable nature of wood, it is not often that these pipes survive long

enough to make their way into museum collections. The largest U.S. example of a wooden pipeline was found in Philadelphia and is over 12 ft long and 200 years old. This pipe is nowhere close to that size measuring only 2 ft long and is a small section of a sewer line that dates to around 1900. Most wooden sewer pipes around the country were replaced with terracotta or iron pipes in the 1910s. Bloomington underwent a large sewer renovation in 1902 which installed over 1,532 feet of brick sewer and over 714 feet of 18-inch pipes.

Do you have an object(s) to donate to the Museum's collection?

Scan this QR code to complete our online donation form!



A member of our collection staff will then reach out to you!

Archives

- Various items, including BroMenn Chapel Palm Sunday service text, 2021; donated by Kathryn Kerr
- Boy Scouts of America materials, including Camp Heffernan 1973 plan, and two scrapbooks with newspaper clippings, photographs, and publicity materials; donated by Randy Mattoon
- Papers of the Clio Club, a local women's group that dates to the late nineteenth century, including club histories, constitution and bylaws, correspondence, member lists, treasurer reports, minutes, and annual programs, 1895 to 2022; donated by the Clio Club
- Additions to the Young Men's Club Collection, in-

cluding annual treasurer reports, 1990-2023, a binder on the 1993 Follies, and other items; donated by the Young Men's Club

- Papers from Vision 2020 Bloomington/Normal: A Transition Initiative project, compiled by Carolyn Treadway and donor, 2009-2016, including minutes, brochures, member lists, and supporting material; donated by Barbara Heyl

- Papers relating to the lives and careers of Garrett H. and Sandra L. Scott, including those on Bloomington-Normal youth chess, Normal Town Council and McLean County Board business, Constitution Trail, and other subjects; donated by the estate of Garrett H. Scott

- Twenty-nine Major League and minor league baseball cards featuring ballplayers with McLean County connections, including a 1955 Bowman #105 Johnny Schmitz, pitcher, Washington Senators (Schmitz played for the minor league Bloomington Bloomers in 1939); donated by Frank Kemp
- Brief history of "The Book Group," a local book club, and list of books read, 2005-2023; donated by The Book Group

- Information on local book club, "Bookettes," including historical sketch and list of books read, 2001-2023; donated by Bookettes book club

- The Marine Handbook, seventh edition, U.S. Naval Institute, 1940, signed by Edward B. Rust, and a collection of farm publications collected by the Rust family; donated by Edward B. Rust Jr.

- Foldout map, "Welcome to: Bloomington-Normal," 1991; Farm Progress Show 1994 program; University of Illinois Extension and 4-H materials; and other items; donated by Ruth Cobb

- Information on local book club, the "4Bs," comprised of current and retired COUNTRY employees, including club history, list of members, and books read, 2003-2023; donated by Cathy Oloffson for the 4Bs

- Various, including St. Mary's School, Bloomington, dedication program, Aug. 28, 1955; NCAA 1969 College Division Baseball Championship program, bracket, photographs, and other material detailing ISU's only national title team; donated by Dennis Fox

- Typed reminiscence on donor's service in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II; donated by Carl E. Behr

- Normal Women's Improvement League minutes, 1972-1982 and 1995-2002, and a set of league yearbooks and promotional materials, compiled by Jean Wilcox; donated by Barbara Wilcox Wicklund

- "Campus Towers," Illinois State Normal University publication for parents, 1947, and "Who's Who," a November 1986 publication by Bloomington Junior High School students, featuring profiles on school faculty; donated by Catharine Knight

- First aid assistance reference wheel, BroMenn Health Care, and other items; donated by Shirley Ann Craig

- Brief history of Mystery Book Lovers' Book Club of Founders' Grove, with list of books read, 2014-2023; donated by the Mystery Book Lovers' Club

- Sketch of the Washington Street Book Club, with partial list of books read, 2015-2023; donated by the Washington Street Book Club

- Background information on the School Friends Book Club, with list of books read, 1998-2023; do-

nated by Margaret Bratcher

- Information on the "Book Group," organized in 1992; donated by Sandra Harmon
- History on unnamed book club formed 30-plus years ago, originally by ISU faculty, and list of books read, 1999-2020; donated by members
- Two issues of "McLean County Times," a faux newspaper mass mailed to Twin City residents during the 2022 campaign season; donated by Gretchen Monti
- Information on the Not Too Snobby Book Club, and list of books read, 2017-2023; donated by Emma Meyer
- Items collected by Nancy J. Baumgart, including notes on antique irons; H.L. Chambers & Son, Bloomington's "House of a Million Items" catalog; Town of Normal Parks and Recreation guide, fall and winter 1978-79; donated by Katie Keller
- Music CD, Fraters, "The Fraternity Sound," recorded in Bloomington 1921; donated by Terri Ryburn
- Scrapbooks, programs, promotional materials, newspaper clippings, histories, and other items related to the Bloomington-Normal chapter of the American Business Women's Association, 1963 to the present; donated by the local chapter
- Brief history of the local Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) book group, and list of books read, 2009-2023; donated by the P.E.O. Chapter JV Book Group.
- Collection of Sidney Smith's "The Gumps" cartoon strips, used as a promotional piece by the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, c. 1918; donated by Don Dodd
- Frances Pillsbury Christmas card, 1954, sent to Bernard Ryder and family, including a parlor / dining room photo of the Pillsbury residence; donated by Mary Ryder
- Collection of University High School class reunion booklets and related materials (1944-1990); collection of U-High programs, booklets, brochures,

and publications; collection of Illinois State Normal University materials, including booklet, "Our Presidents," 1857-1933, published in 1935; and other collections; donated by the University High School Alumni Association

- Bloomington-Normal Jaycees papers, 1969-70, including minutes and correspondence, compiled by Kent Deffenbaugh (donor's late husband) when he was the local Jaycees president; donated by Nancy Deffenbaugh
- Bloomington-Normal Junior Women's Club papers, 1972-1981, including newsletters titled "Junior Journal," and other items; donated by Alan and Kathie Chapman
- State Farm Insurance Company's 1953 and 1954 reports to "members of the family;" donated by Betty Moudy
- Sutherland family materials, including unpublished family genealogy, "Your Heritage," and photo album (items from the estate sale of David and Norma Hazelrigg); donated by the Moroa-Forsyth School Archive
- McLean County Medical Society Auxiliary / Alliance papers, including booklets, mostly 2000s, and a Twenty-First Committee report, 1992, to the McLean County Board; donated by Carole Ringer

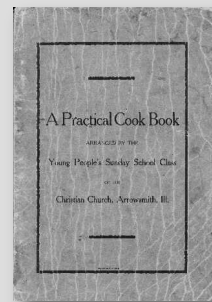
Books

- The History of Street Railways in Bloomington-Normal (1999) by Fred and Mary Rozum, and other items; donated by Dr. William Wagner
- Historic McLean (1944) by Wayne C. Townley, signed by author to "Louise" (Louise B. Muxfeld); donated by Dan Muxfeld
- A Historical Dictionary of American Industrial Language (Greenwood Press, 1988), edited by William H. Mulligan Jr.; donated by Greg Koos
- University High School Clarion yearbook, 1961, 2009, and 2019-2022; donated by the University High School Alumni Association
- A Corridor of Time, 20th anniversary edition, Illinois

- Humanities Council, 2008; donated by Ruth Cobb
- Iker Family History, including the Fitter, Iker, Kranzberg, and Stern families, 2023, by Sybil Mervis and others; donated by Sybil Mervis
- Lexington High School Sentinel yearbook, 1952; donated by Randy Dodson

The archives is looking to grow its collection of locally published cookbooks.

Email
bkemp@mchistory.org
if you have a
locally published
cookbook
to add to this
collection



Photographs

- Additions to the Goelzer-Karr Collection and relating to Rae Goelzer Karr and Phillip Karr; donated by Deb Spencer
- Illinois State Class A Slow Pitch Tournament, 1978, Read's Inc. team photo, General Telephone fourth annual bowling tournament 1980 team photo; donated by Mary Peterson
- Undated Lindsey Chapel (Methodist) choir, including five Ward brothers from Bellflower Township; donated by Margaret Dillon and family
- Various subjects and events, including the Goforth residence and grocery, 1002 S. Main St., Bloomington; a passenger flying with the local Big Tree squadron of Stearman biplanes prior to the 1997 Prairie Air Show, and more; donated by Ruth Cobb
- Dinner/cocktail party at the Carl Sr. and Ethel Behr residence, 1403 E. Grove St., c. 1947; donated by Carl E. Behr
- President Gerald Ford's 1976 west side depot campaign stop in Bloomington and Normal Community High School 1976 homecoming parade; donated by Catharine Knight
- Portrait of Bernice Lown Blunk, Class of 1928, Atlanta (IL) High School; donated by Carolyn Yockey



Members of the Methodist Lindsey Chapel choir, whose members included five brothers from the African American Ward family, pose for a group picture. The Wards farmed in nearby Bellflower Township. Lindsey Chapel was located outside of Mansfield in Piatt County, not far from the McLean County line. As a not-for-profit, the Museum relies on the generosity of folks like Margaret Dillon, who donated this photo, to help us keep alive the stories of McLean County's past.

Volunteer Spotlight

From the beginning of May 2022 to the end of May 2023, one volunteer worked tirelessly to catalog, combine, edit, and organize the vertical files in the Museum's archives. Creating a newly designed virtual catalog, Carol Straka has gifted the museum her time, research, and knowledge to create a new user-friendly tool that will be invaluable to those looking for more information on a myriad of local history topics.

The vertical files contain materials such as newspaper and magazine articles, photos, brochures, and other printed ephemera that pertains to McLean County history. Topics in the vertical files do not necessarily have enough material to warrant a larger box file but are still vitally important to local history research. Prior to Carol's involvement, there were roughly 5,000 files with many contents improperly identified or labeled, and organized by a card catalog that patrons could only access by coming into the Museum.

After 1,675 volunteer hours during the course of a little over a year (averaging about 30 hours a week), Carol was able to slim down and reorganize to 3,500 files. She estimated that one out of every three files needed a new home.

Context and perspective were key for this project. To be successful in this endeavor, Carol needed to be able to comb through information with fine detail, but also understand how a document may end up fitting into a larger historical context. She then needed to contextualize the information and isolate key words or terms relevant to those researching the topic.

Carol did such fantastic historical sleuthing, that we're convinced Sherlock Holmes would be impressed! Carol, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to this project.

If you would like to examine the new catalog, go to mchistory.org and click on Vertical File Catalog under the Featured Collections section.



Museum volunteer, Carol Straka, pulls boxes in the archives for a research project.

Volunteers Needed!

Interested in helping the Museum achieve its mission to preserve, educate, and share the diverse history of the people of McLean County? We are currently seeking volunteers to staff the library desk and visitors center, exhibit research volunteers, and volunteers to help with Christmas Under the Dome. If interested, apply using the QR code, or contact Director of Volunteers Eric Hansen at 309-827-0428 or by email at volunteers@mchistory.org



Target Elder Financial Abuse

The U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI announced a major sweep of elder fraud cases in 2021. The cases involved more than 260 defendants from around the world, with total alleged losses of over \$750 million. The action follows a similar fraud sweep in 2022. Last year's action involved twice as many fraud victims, 28% more criminal defendants, and 28% more in losses than in 2021.

As welcome as this development is, it may only be the tip of the iceberg. Many seniors are reluctant to report when they have been victimized, for fear that family members may conclude that their competence has been impaired.

Don't do these things

Some commonsense tips on how to avoid becoming a victim:

- Don't share personal information with anyone you don't know.
- Don't pay a fee for a prize or lottery winning.
- Don't click on pop-up ads or messages.
- Delete phishing emails and ignore harassing phone calls.
- Don't send gift cards, checks, money orders; or wire money; or give your bank account information to a stranger.
- Don't fall for a high-pressure sales pitch or a supposedly lucrative business deal.
- If a scammer approaches you, take the time to talk to a friend or family member.
- Keep in mind that if you send money once, you'll be a target for life.
- Remember, it's not rude to say, "NO."
- A good rule of thumb is, if it's too good to be true, it's likely a scam.

A cornucopia of scams

Fraudsters are very resourceful in trying to separate seniors from their money. Examples of actual financial frauds:

- **Lottery phone scams.** Callers convince seniors that a large fee or taxes must be paid before they can receive lottery winnings.
- **Grandparent scams.** Seniors are told that their grandchildren are in trouble and need money to make rent, repair a car, or even pay bail.
- **Broken computers.** Caller claims that a problem has been detected on the victim's computer, but that repair is possible over the internet upon payment of a fee.
- **Romance scams.** Victims are lulled into believing that their online paramour needs funds for a U.S. visit or some other purpose.
- **IRS imposter scams.** Fraudsters pose as IRS agents and claim that victims owe back taxes—in some cases demanding to be paid in gift cards!
- **Sham business opportunities.** Victims are persuaded to invest in business opportunities or investments that turn out to be bogus or Ponzi schemes.

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Intern Spotlight



Museum Intern Estefani Lopez

This summer, the Museum had four incredible interns working in the education, collection, and exhibit departments.

Ethan Garard, a Junior at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, worked with Curator of Exhibits Susan Hartzold on oral histories for our upcoming baseball exhibit. He researched background information, created detailed questionnaires, conducted oral history interviews, and transcribed them. The information gained from his work is invaluable to creating future exhibits and ensures that the Museum has first-hand accounts of the stories we tell.

Hunter Watts, a high school history teacher, and ISU History graduate student, worked with the Education Department to revamp the Museum's classroom loan kits. The loan kits contain objects, primary source materials, and activities for teachers to use in their classrooms. Using his teaching expertise, Hunter was able to tie the materials in the loan kits to state social studies standards, allowing students and teachers to connect larger national narratives to local history and stories. Hunter also made the kits more adaptable for online use, making it much easier for teachers across McLean County to access Museum resources. Thanks to Hunter, the Museum has an updated World War II and a new Vietnam War loan kit.

Madeline DeCoste, a junior at the University of Iowa, worked with Senior Director of Education Candace Summers on writing a Cemetery Walk biography. The biographies are crucial to the success of the Cemetery Walk as they provide detailed information to assist tour guides and shape materials for teacher resources. These extensive biographies require great attention to detail and research skills. Madeline crafted the biography for Richard Blue, a character on the 2023 Walk. Her work will publish on our website.

Estefani Lopez, a junior at ISU, worked with the Curator of Collections, Jackie Cain, on general object processing and collections care. This is Estefani's second semester with the Museum. Last semester she worked with Librarian Bill Kemp

and Archivist George Perkins. The Museum was thrilled to have her back this summer. With supervision from Curator of Collections Jackie Cain, Estefani worked on several projects, including setting up the textile display case on the third floor, writing object descriptions, and building mounts and boxes to store objects safely. Estefani also performed inventories of collections spaces, and with her assistance, the Collections Department hit its annual inventory goal six months ahead of schedule.

When asked about her time interning, Estefani said the best part of the Museum was *"...the community and the welcoming environment. They make you feel like you can accomplish what you want and what interests you."* After her two semesters working with archival materials and objects, Estefani says she is now interested in a career in museum collections management and is looking to pursue a graduate degree in Museum Studies.

The Museum is grateful for the work of our interns, and the staff takes the educational goals of all students that come to us seriously. We work hard to align our internship experiences with learning goals and course objectives while providing hands-on education. The Museum also feels strongly about compensating interns for their hard work. Thanks to generous donations from the public, we can give interns stipends that help cover the cost of course credit. If you are interested in donating to support qualified students in Museum internships, contact development@mchistory.org.

MUSEUM at the Market

Join us on the Museum's Plaza
9 am to noon

during the September 2, 23, & 30 and October
28 Farmers Markets

to purchase all your local history
needs and favorite treats!

The Museum opens at 8:30 a.m. to all visitors,
with free admission until noon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

September 4

Museum Closed for Labor Day

September 5

Evergreen Cemetery Walk ticket sales begin

September 12 through October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month Display

September 12 at 7 p.m.

Latinx Panel Discussion

September 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Ballists, Dead Beats, and Muffins: Inside Early Baseball in Illinois with Dr. Robert Sampson

September 30, October 1, 7, & 8, performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day

Evergreen Cemetery Walk

October 13-15 from Dusk to Dawn

Light up the Museum Square for Hispanic Heritage Month

October 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The Lincoln Miracle: An Evening with Ed Achorn

October 27 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Downtown Trick or Treat

October 28 at 1:30 p.m.

Untold African American Stories—Springfield's Lincoln Colored Home

October 30 through November 10

Día de los Muertos Ofrenda

October 30 through November 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Member only sneak peak of new Merwin Gallery

November 1 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Día de los Muertos Celebration

November 3 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Merwin Gallery Opening Reception & Celebration

November 4 at 9 a.m.

Merwin Gallery opens to the public

November 9 at 7 p.m.

pt.fwd featuring Claire Rousay

November 14 at 6:30 p.m.

No Crybabies Allowed: The Past as Told by Me with Terri Ryburn

November 23

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving

December 1 from 5 to 8 p.m.

First Friday: Once Upon a Holiday

December 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Christmas Under the Dome

December 22 through December 25

Museum Closed for the Holidays

December 29, 2023 through January 1, 2024

Museum Closed for New Years

LUNCH & LEARN

Co-sponsored by the Museum and Illinois Wesleyan University

September 14 at 12:10 p.m.

Introducing the 2023 Evergreen Cemetery Walk

Senior Director of Education Candace Summers will take you behind the scenes of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk and introduce you to this year's feature characters.

October 12 at 12:10 p.m.

Lincoln in 1859: Testing the Waters and Advancing the Cause Local historian and author, Guy Fraker, will present a program on how Lincoln, who had a record of a political failure, successfully built momentum to become the Republican candidate for President of the United States.

November 9 at 12:10 p.m.

The Art of the Rug Hossein Nateghpour, owner of Pars Rug Gallery in Bloomington, will discuss the origins of fine rug-making, preserving your rugs, and his deep appreciation for this ancient art form.

December 14 at 12:10 p.m.

TBA

Pack a lunch and feast on some food for thought every second Thursday of the month, September through May.

**VISIT [MCHISTORY.ORG/EVENTS](https://mchistory.org/events)
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
ALL UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

November 8 at 7 pm

**When Women Played
Hardball
By Susan E. Johnson**

Visit bit.ly/history1108 to register to participate
in this in-person discussion or
it.ly/history1108virtual to register
to participate virtually.

**History Reads
Book Club**



Bloomington Public Library
History Reads Book Club

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



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Mystery History Quiz

Last issue's mystery photo featured the Matthew T. Scott House in Chenoa, as it underwent historical renovation in the early 1980s. In the nineteenth century, Scott held extensive landholdings and played a leading role in the development of Chenoa and the surrounding countryside. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Today, it is maintained by the Scott House Foundation. For tours, call 815-945-4555.

Museum friends who identified the Scott home included Jeffrey Deaver, Carol and Roger Elliott, Gary Fillingham (who grew up in Chenoa), John Killian, and Jim Raymond. Jim even sent us a photo of him posing next to the Illinois State Historical Society marker on the site.



Okay, for those stumped last time around, hope springs eternal. If you want to make a guess—educated or otherwise—as to the name and location of this house of worship, contact Museum Librarian Bill Kemp at 309-827-0428 or bkemp@mchistory.org. Good luck!

