EVERGREEN CEMETERY WALK

mchistory.org  EST.1995  #cemwalk

Saturdays and Sundays
September 24-25 and October 1-2, 2022

Presented By:

McLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Feature Sponsors:

Evergreen Memorial Cemetery

PANTAGRAPH MEDIA

Illinois Prairie Community Foundation
Our partnership with the McLean County Museum of History and Illinois Voices Theatre Echoes continues with our commitment to the Evergreen Cemetery Walk.

We are grateful for the many individuals and organizations that put in so much time and effort to make this historical walk a success.

We would like to say Thank You to everyone who has been out to take a walk back in time and educate themselves on our local history.

302 E. Miller St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

www.evergreenmemorialcemetery.com
McLean County Museum of History Presents

EVERGREEN
CEMETERY WALK
XXVIII

Public Tours: September 24-25 and October 1-2, 2022
Student Tours: September 26-29, 2022

Sponsored by:
Over the course of the past two years, the Evergreen Cemetery Walk was forced to navigate some major challenges, including going fully remote in 2020, and utilizing a hybrid format in 2021 to reduce capacity due to the continued COVID 19 pandemic. However, we met those challenges head on and nothing stopped the “show from going on!” In fact, these challenges forced organizers to enhance the event to continue to meet the needs of new audiences who had not been able to experience the Walk before due to barriers such as geography and mobility.

The Evergreen Cemetery Walk has now become bigger and better than ever before. We are pleased to once again offer this event fully in-person on the beautiful and historic grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, and online through a video format (thanks to our new partner Broadleaf Video Management).

For twenty-eight years, the gorgeous grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery have set the stage for costumed actors to bring McLean County’s history to life. To date, the Cemetery Walk has shared the stories of 201 different individuals from all walks of life who help illustrate the impact the people of McLean County have had locally and throughout the world. Similarly, the influence of the event itself can be observed throughout the nation as the Museum has been called upon to help shape other cemetery programs throughout Illinois, the greater United States, and even Canada.

Additionally, the Museum is pleased to announce our sponsors for the 2022 Walk. Without them we could not support the over 2,000 students and chaperones, and additional older adults living in senior care facilities, who are able to participate in this year’s Walk free of charge (whether in-person or online)! Thank you to the following: Featured Sponsors - Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, Pantagraph Media; Premium Sponsors - DeannaFrautshi & Alan Bedell, CEFCU, Heartland Bank & Trust, WGLT, Illinois Farm Bureau, MCK CPAs & Advisors, Bloomington-Normal Convention & Visitors Bureau; Basic Sponsors - McLean County Chamber of Commerce, Dunbar, Breitweiser & Company, LLP., The Painted Wraith Curiosity Shoppe, LLC.

Special thanks to our event partners: Dave Krostan, Susan Thetard, and Illinois Voices Theatre—Echoes, and the staff and trustees of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, without whom this event would not be possible. We thank Kathe Conley and John Capasso for their research, interpretation, and creation of the guide scripts; Leisa Barbour for assistance with the teacher and student packets; Sophie Randolph, Susan Hartzold, Torii Moré, and Micaela Harris for graphic design; Nancy Hoover for playbill design; Maria Mears, Isabella Lethbridge, John Capasso, and Torii Moré, for additional research and writing of biographies; and the entire staff and volunteers of the McLean County Museum of History. We are also extremely grateful for our grocery and restaurant donors who keep our volunteers and actors happy and well fed. And, of course, for our fabulous and fearless Cemetery Walk volunteers and interns. This event would be impossible without you!

Finally, we thank you—our community—for your continued support and participation (whether in-person or online)! No one expected this event would have the impact it has on our community and our shared appreciation for the historic value and creative potential of cemeteries. This event is a piece of history in its own right, and we hope that it continues for many more years to come.

Evergreen Cemetery Walk Coordinators
Candace Summers, Emily McCusker, and Rachael Masa

HONORING THE VOICES FROM OUR PAST

Thank you!

These patrons ensure local students and older adults living in senior care centers will continue to benefit from this valuable educational experience. Gifts received as of September 1, 2022:

Bob & Marilyn Sutherland
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Paul & Trudy Vogel
Phyllis Wallace
Beth Whisman
Sherman & Ruth Wilkerson
Don & Nancy Wilkey
Kris Williams
Julie Williams
Mark Wyman
Carolyn Yockey

Boldface names denote lunch underwriters
WE ARE PROUD TO BE
LIVE AND
LOCAL
Helen Clark McCurdy (1866-1962) was the first woman to run for elected office in Bloomington municipal government. She was one of ten candidates to make it onto the ballot for commissioner in 1915. She campaigned heavily to literally clean up the city, as garbage collection had been a huge issue! The daughter of a merchant, McCurdy worked as a store clerk, but later married a prominent businessman, which increased her social standing. Intensely civic-minded, she worked with the Women’s Club, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. 

*Writer: Cristen Monson*

Alexander G. Erickson (1863-1950), of Swedish heritage, worked in coal mines on Bloomington’s west side as a child and grew up to be an alderman, mayor, and commissioner of public health and safety for the City. A Republican precinct committee man for forty years, he was on the Bloomington Board of Education for twelve. As the public health commissioner, he guided the city through such difficult events as a 1916 polio outbreak, the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919, and a garbage strike. 

*Writer: John Bowen*

Ella Lee Stokes (1912-1996) was born in Mississippi and moved to Tennessee with her mother when she was four. First educated in one-room schoolhouses in the South, she attended several local grade schools and a semester at Bloomington High School. A Black woman employed largely in the service industry, she aspired to achieve more. She worked for Williams-Oil-O-Matic, cleaning parts for ships and airplanes during World War II; and as a housekeeper in Bloomington’s “Red Light District.” 

*Writer: Kathleen Kirk*

Paul F. Beich (1864-1937) was a German immigrant who worked in the candy-making business, first as a salesman and later launching his own company in St. Louis. After purchasing a company in Bloomington, Beich convinced Milton Hershey to move his caramel-making division there from Chicago. Just as Hershey’s is known for its chocolate, Beich’s is known for its Whiz Bars, Katydids, and Laffy Taffy. A visitor to Evergreen Cemetery, where two of his children are buried, Beich is buried at Park Hill Cemetery. 

*Writer: Todd Wineburner*

Kathleen Kirk (Helen Clark McCurdy) is a frequent writer for the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* and the *History Makers Gala*, two fine collaborations between the Museum and Illinois Voices Theatre—Echoes. She has also played many characters in past *Cemetery Walks*, including Jennie Thompson, Louise Crothers, Mary Gridley, Helen Davis Stevenson, Sarah Davis, Ange Milner, and Georgina Trotter. She now serves on the board of Heartland Theatre, where she has also worked as an actor and director. 

*Writer: Cristen Monson*

Len Childers (Alexander G. Erickson) is returning to the *Walk* for a second year in a row. He has performed in plays in Bloomington/Normal, Salt Lake City, Washington D.C., Seattle, Germany, and New York over the past 37 years. Childers produced *A Raisin in the Sun* at Community Players Theatre in January, and co-directed, co-produced, and starred in Heartland Theatre’s *Out of the Box* project last summer (2021). He is excited to be directing *Sweat* for the Community Players Theatre’s upcoming season. 

*Writer: John Bowen*

Jennifer Rusk (Ella Lee Stokes) is excited to again appear in the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* again this year. Most recently Rusk enjoyed directing Community Players Theatre’s production *A Raisin in the Sun*. She is an alum of ISU where she majored in acting. Rusk thanks her heavenly angel and father, Roosevelt Rusk, and her earthly angel, mother Joyce Ann Rusk, who have supported all her theatrical adventures. She dedicates this performance to the loving memory of her brother Dearick Rice whom she lost earlier this year. 

*Writer: Todd Wineburner*

Jeff Ready (Paul F. Beich) is excited to be returning to the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* this year. When he’s not acting or walking in cemeteries, he can be found working at State Farm, taking care of his 3 dogs, or working with the local Masonic Lodge. A special thanks to the historians, authors, and organizers who help bring our history to life. 

*Writer: Todd Wineburner*
Sarah (1814-1879) and David Davis (1815-1886) were married in October of 1838 and lived at Clover Lawn, then a farm at the edge of town, now an elegant mansion and grounds celebrating its 150th anniversary. As David often worked away from home as a lawyer, judge, and statesman, the couple spent much of their marriage apart. They wrote to each other faithfully during the Judge's absences (necessitated by his responsibilities) and Sarah's visits out East to families and friends. Their letters reveal affection, intimacy, and a level of comfort as they wrote of politics, family, health and sickness, construction of their new home in Bloomington (which Sarah managed), common acquaintances, society, and gossip. Writer: Susan Thetard

Sara Flanders’ (Sarah Davis) previous credits include roles at IWU, IWU Summer Theater, Heartland Theater, and Community Players Theatre. She has also directed shows for many Central Illinois venues. Flanders was a member of the resident company at Conklin’s Barn II Dinner Theater for over ten years. Additionally, she portrayed Nannie Orme Dyson in the 2006 Cemetery Walk, and in 2019 she performed at the David Davis Mansion in both The Lincoln's Festival on Route 66 and A Bountiful Feast at Clover Lawn.

David Flanders (David Davis) has made a semi-career of portraying Judge David Davis. In 2009 he played the role at the Evergreen Cemetery Walk and the production Lincoln's in Town at the BCPA. He also appeared as Adlai Stevenson II a few years ago. Flanders has performed or directed locally at Heartland Theater, Community Players Theatre, IWU Summer Theater, and Conklin’s Barn II Dinner Theater. Most recently, he has been involved with productions at the Museum and the David Davis Mansion.

James Preston Butler (1838-1918) was a tinsmith, butcher, grocer, policeman, tax collector, alderman, constable, deputy sheriff, and hotel owner, perhaps best known for his work as a detective on high-profile murder cases. He tracked down Patsey Devine, who was later hung for the crime of murder in Clinton, Illinois, and helped convict the murderer of Zura Burns in Lincoln, Illinois. A small but powerful man, Butler could defend himself against attackers—both physically and verbally—and did. Writer: Todd Wineburner

Kevin Paul Wickart’s (James Preston Butler) face is disturbingly familiar to theatre goers all across Central Illinois. Recent roles include “J.D.” in Escape to Margaritaville (Eastlight Theatre); “Antonio” in The Tempest (Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company); “Callahan” in Legally Blonde (Nitsch Theatre Arts); and “John Barrymore’s ghost” in I Hate Hamlet (The Station Theater). He is directing She Kills Monsters at Peoria’s Corn Stock Theatre in March 2023. Wickart lives in Normal with his family. This is his seventh Cemetery Walk appearance.

Dave Krostal (Director) This is Krostal’s third year directing the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. He has performed in over 75 local productions including “Bardolph” in Henry V (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); “Norman” in Table Manners (Heartland Theater); and “George” in Of Mice and Men (Community Players Theatre). He also acted and directed for the newly formed Nomad Theatre. Krostal is a graduate of Illinois State University’s Theater Education program and retired from teaching in 2016.

Susan Thetard (Echoes Artistic Director) For the past six years, Thetard has overseen and directed shows for the Museum including the Evergreen Cemetery Walk, The History Makers Gala, and a Christmas play of 1940s children’s letters to The Pantagraph. Thetard has also designed costumes for Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Community Players Theatre, and theatres in Chicago, St. Louis, and Nashville. She was privileged to teach English and direct theatre at University High School for 19 years before “retiring” in 2016.

Candace Summers (Senior Director of Education), Rachael Masa (Director of Volunteers and Interns), and Emily McCusker (Director of Youth & Family Education) are the lead Museum staff members responsible for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. Together, they bring a combined 25+ years of Museum experience with them to their planning of this signature event. With degrees in History, Archaeology, and Geography, all three of these women have a passion for our local history—one that they hope to instill in others through Museum programs like the Evergreen Cemetery Walk.
November is Member Appreciation Month!

Just one of the ways we’re saying THANK YOU is with 20% off your entire purchase at our Cruisin’ with Lincoln on Route 66 Gift Shop.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity and purchase the paperback edition of Greg Koos’ Freedom, Land, and Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900 for the lowest price of the year.

Not a member? Join today at mchistory.org
Our guest voice for this year’s Walk, Paul F. Beich, is visiting from Park Hill Cemetery, located at 1105 South Morris Avenue in Bloomington.

Beich Family Crypt, Park Hill Mausoleum, Park Hill Cemetery.

The Mausoleum formally opened in early 1926. The exterior is made of Bedford limestone and the interior is made of light vein marble from Vermont. Additions have been made to the structure over the years, including the addition of a separate chapel. There are special crypts “styled delux” for families. Brass gates and other special designs (such as stained-glass windows) are included in these family crypts (like the one belonging to Paul and Catherine Beich). The mausoleum was erected by Heister and Neff at a cost of $150,000.

Ownership of the cemetery has changed hands several times over the years. In 2005 Dutchman Cemetery Management of Easton, Pennsylvania took over ownership and management of these grounds.

The Mausoleum opened in early 1926 and has been expanded multiple times over the years.

Prominent New York landscape architect Herbert W. Blaney was hired to design the cemetery. During his residency in Bloomington, he created the plans to design the cemetery. Blaney considered Park Hill his first major piece of work in landscape architecture. Upon his death in 1924, his cremains were brought back to Park Hill and scattered near the boulder upon which Blaney had his name inscribed some years earlier.

Boulder dedicated to Herbert Blaney, architect who designed Park Hill Cemetery.

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Scan the QR Code or visit us online at bloomingtonlibrary.org/building-project for project updates or to make a donation.

Bloomington Public Library
Expansion & Renovation
Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the library expanding?

We need more space!

In 1976, a 46,000-square-foot building was constructed to house Bloomington Public Library and meet the needs of the City’s population of 41,000 people.

Since 1976, Bloomington’s population has grown by 92 percent while the library has had one expansion, increasing its space by only 24 percent.

The project will improve library services to the community and allow the library to meet the community’s current and emerging needs by incorporating flexible, forward-thinking designs which address population growth, update the aging facility, increase accessibility for individuals of all abilities, and implement unique solutions to facility needs.

How much space is being added?

Plans include adding 21,339 square feet to the library’s current footprint, renovating 57,394 square feet of existing space, and increasing parking by 90 spaces via the addition of an elevated level of parking on the far south edge of the library’s property.

How much will the project cost, and how is it being funded?

This $25.2 million project will be funded as follows:

- $5.68 million grant from the State of Illinois;
- $4.1 million in library reserve funds;
- $14.2 million bond;
- $1.25 million in donations from the community.

How long will the library be under construction?

PHASE 1: April 2022-May 2023

- Renovate the West half of the building
- Add 20,000+ square feet to the West side of the building

PHASE 2: June-September 2023

- Renovate the East half of the building.
Establishing a stage for VOICES of the community that have GONE UNHEARD, been unspoken or are forgotten.

Echoes is proud to produce the 26th Evergreen Cemetery Walk Live and Virtual presentation for the McLean County Museum of History. Thank you to everyone who has made it possible.

Follow ILVT/Echoes on Facebook or www.ilvoicesstheatre.org

Our 2022 Writers

Kathleen Kirk (head writer) is a frequent writer for the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Walk and the History Makers Gala. An actor and writer in Chicago before returning to her hometown, Kirk now works part time at the Normal Public Library and is the poetry editor for the online journal, Escape Into Life. (writer for Elia Lee Stokes)

Todd Wineburner (writer) has been writing for the Cemetery Walk since former Artistic Director Judy Brown persuaded him to take on Herman Schroeder in 1996. Wineburner is an Illinois State University graduate who studied theater and English. He’s very involved with Heartland Theatre Company in Normal and works as a broadcaster at WJBC in Bloomington. (writer Paul F. Beich & J Preston Butler)

Cristen Monson (writer) worked as a singer and actress in New York City, as well as in local theatre. She has directed for Prairie Fire Theatre, Community Players, and Heartland Theatre’s Ten Minute Play Festival. Monson appeared in the 2018 Evergreen Cemetery Walk as Emily Vecchi Noble and in 2020 as Susan B. Anthony. She is the co-founder of Nomad Theatre Company. (writer Helen Clark McCurdy)

John Bowen (writer) is a writer, actor, husband, and father. Bowen is a regular in the local theatre scene and co-host of the Next to Normal Story Slam. He has acted in the Cemetery Walk several times, including most recently as Oliver Munsell in 2019. This is his first time writing for the Cemetery Walk. (writer Alexander G. Erickson)

The script for David and Sarah Davis was compiled and dramatized by Susan Thetard, with input from Marcia Young and Patricia Schley (David Davis Mansion), Candace Summers (MCMH), and Kathleen Kirk. It was truly a team effort to bring 30 years of letters into a 7 minute presentation.

Our 2022 Creative Team

L. Jane Thomley (co-costume/props head) is creating costumes and props for the Walk for her fourth year along with Susan Thetard. She has enjoyed designing for the seven actors. Thomley retired from Thomas Metcalf School in 2014 after over 35 years directing and designing shows often featuring 80 actors, so seven is a breeze.

Grace Irvin (production assistant) returns for her third Cemetery Walk. Irvin is now also the Artistic Director for the Pantagraph Holiday Spectacular. Irvin is involved in many theatres in town, especially ILVT Seedling Theatre as their Technical Director. You can also find her as a wedding coordinator for Palma Entertainment.

ILVT Seedling Theatre presents: Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer

Nov. 17 (Pay What you Can), Nov. 18, Nov. 19 @ 7:00 p.m., Nov. 20 @ 3:00 p.m. First Christian Church, 401 W. Jefferson, Bloomington, IL 61701

Adults $10 College Age and Under $5

Contact seedling@illinoisvoicesstheatre.org for information on joining the program or tickets details.

The Seedling program is supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and Royal Neighbors

Thank you ISU Theatre—John Stark & Neighborhood Thrift Store for your willingness to share resources!
We would like to extend an extra special **THANK YOU** to our diligent and hard working volunteers without whom we could not do this event!

**Research and Writing Volunteers—2022**
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- John Capasso
- Kathe Conley
- Mike DeVore
- Mark Dunn
- Denise Fries-Romack
- Rochelle Gridley
- Greg Koos
- Isabella Lethbridge
- Pat Schley
- Carol Straka
- Marcia Young

**Volunteer Tour Guides—2022**
- Leisa Barbour
- John Capasso
- Kathe Conley
- Mike DeVore
- Denise Fries-Romack
- Stan Geison
- Rochelle Gridley
- Neil Gridley
- Diane Hawk
- Elaine McCoy Hill
- Jana Kiefer
- Amy Miller
- Scott Myers
- John D. Poling
- Susan Rush
- Vickie Smith
- Gregg Watson
- Carolyn Yockey

**Box Office, Stage Hands, Kitchen Managers, etc.—2022**
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- Dean Fries-Romack
- Joann Hart
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Evergreen Memorial Cemetery

Section 3
Old City Section

1. Helen Clark McCurdy
2. Alexander G. Erickson
3. Ella Lee Stokes
4. Paul F. Beich
5. David and Sarah Davis
6. James Preston Butler
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