The Museum is able to provide up to 4 programs per year per organization. Please contact us with your desired dates and programs at least 3 weeks in advance.

*Our programs are FREE. However, if roundtrip travel from the Museum is greater than 50 miles, we kindly ask for reimbursement at the current standard federal mileage rate.

For reservations or for more information, contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or education@mchistory.org. Additional program options can be found on our webpage at www.mchistory.org.

Please don’t wait to schedule. Our calendar fills up quickly!

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**Praise for Our Programs**

“The photos and patient, informed facilitation brought up wonderful memories, even in residents who don’t often have coherent conversations.”

*Sugar Creek Alzheimer’s Special Care Center, Normal, IL*

“It’s really broken a few of our residents out of their shells!”

*Anglers Manor Apartments, Bloomington, IL*

“Our residents love these programs! We love seeing and reminiscing and bringing back memories of our childhood!”

*Aperion Care Center, Colfax, IL*

“The residents really enjoyed seeing the props used for that era; it helped them ... to connect and to retrieve past memories.”

*Heritage Health, Bloomington, IL*

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**What is a Senior Reminiscence Program?**

A Senior Reminiscence Program from the McLean County Museum of History brings museum educators directly to your facility at no cost to you. Using authentic objects, photographs, and inquiry-based facilitation, we encourage seniors to:

- **Recall** memories, thoughts, and feelings of past life experiences through the handling of familiar artifacts and photos.
- **Share** these experiences by telling stories, asking questions, and making connections.
- **Understand** that, by sharing their memories, they are actively contributing toward the preservation of a larger community identity.
- **Connect** with other program participants (including staff and each other) in a way that reinforces the notion that all participants possess—to some degree—a shared history.

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**How to Schedule**

From the McLean County Museum of History!
Senior Reminiscence Programs
From the McLean County Museum of History

Well-Dressed Folks About Town
Seniors share memories about fashion trends, habits, and styles that were popular in their lifetime by looking at clothing, advertisements, and other objects from 1920 to 1960.

What’s Cooking? Gadgets from Around the Kitchen
The kitchen was (and still is) the center of life in any household. This program features a wide variety of kitchen objects, from cherry pitters to milk bottles, cake pans to coffee tins, aprons to cookbooks. The list goes on and on!

Tools of the Trade
This program explores tools from the late 1800s to today. Included are devices used on the farm, in the office, or at the grocery store. Reminisce about times past with memories of the old hand drill, candlestick telephone, scythe, typewriter, and hog scraper!

Play It Again: The Toys & Games We Remember
Participants travel back in time as they remember (and play with) their favorite toys and games. Seniors can experience a variety of objects from the 1920s through the 1960s, including marbles, toy soldiers, kaleidoscopes, roller skates, wind-up toys, and much more!

Photo Reminiscence
Seniors examine enlarged historical photos from throughout the local area and are encouraged to chat about cruising on Route 66, shopping in downtown Bloomington, dining at Steak ‘n Shake, and visiting other places from their past. Over 170 photos are included in this program, which can be repeated several times. Thematic programs are available upon request.

These programs are made possible by the generosity of members of the McLean County Museum of History.

“A place ought to have a memory, and memory ought to be shared.” Greg Koos, Executive Director Emeritus, McLean County Museum of History