



# On The Square

Sponsored by Heartland Bank

## The Quarterly Newsletter for the McLean County Museum of History

Volume 43, Number 2

June, July, August 2011

### Play Ball! Corn Crib Venue for Annual Meeting

Join us for the Historical Society's 119th Annual Meeting at Heartland Community College, followed by a Cornbelters game at the Corn Crib in Normal.

On Friday, June 17, at 5:30 p.m., acclaimed author and baseball fan Ed Achorn will be on hand to talk about his book *Fifty-Nine in '84*. This book examines the colorful life of Hall of Fame pitcher and Bloomington native Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn, who holds the Major League record for wins in a single sea-

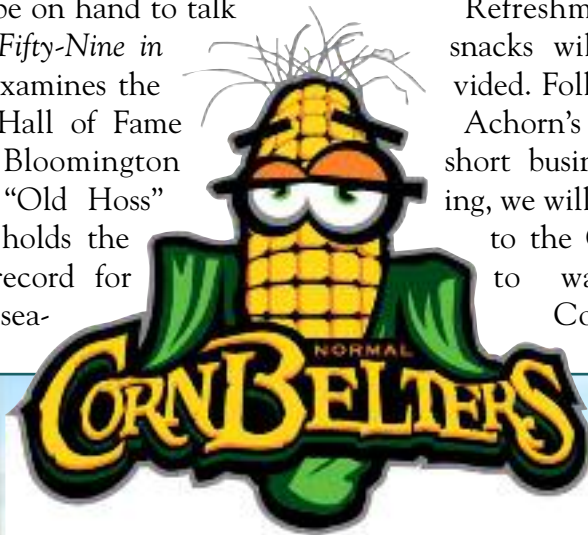
son—59 in 1884 (hence the book's title). Considering only one other pitcher in the last 40 years has even broken 30 wins in a season (Denny McLain had 31 in 1968), Radbourn's record is unlikely to ever be broken.

Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Following Mr.

Achorn's talk and a short business meeting, we will head over to the Corn Crib to watch the Cornbelters

take on the Evansville Otters.

Ed Achorn's talk at Heartland Community College is free for all Museum members. Discount tickets for the Cornbelters game are only \$8. RSVP by Thursday, June 2 with the number in your party, and indicate whether you will attend the meeting and the game, or the meeting only.



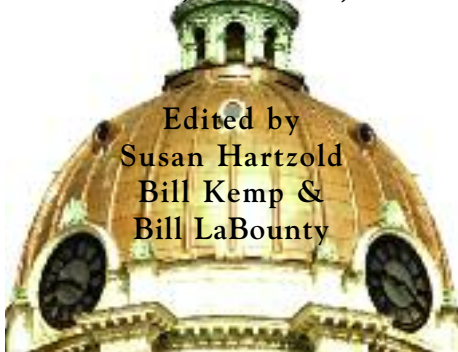
A large crowd enjoys a cornbelters game at their home field.

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# On The Square Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 43, Number 2, 2011



Edited by  
Susan Hartzold  
Bill Kemp &  
Bill LaBounty

## McLean County Museum of History

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Phone (309) 827-0428 Fax (309) 827-0100

[www.McHistory.org](http://www.McHistory.org)

### HOURS

Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

### STAFF

Greg Koos, Executive Director  
Susan Hartzold, Curator of Collections and Exhibits  
Mary Anne Schierman, Dir. of Volunteers and Interns  
Bill Kemp, Librarian/Archivist  
Jeff Woodard, Dir. of Marketing & Comm. Affairs  
Candace Summers, Director of Education  
Graham Cowger, Mgr. of Development Operations  
George Perkins, Assistant Librarian/Archivist  
Terri Clemens, Registrar  
Rachael Kramp, Education Program Coordinator  
Harlan Fuller, Bookkeeper  
Betty Turchirollo, Volunteer Assistant

### OFFICERS

Robert Watkins, President  
Rob Fazzini, First Vice President  
Russel Francois, Second Vice President  
Carolyn Yockey, Secretary  
John Killian, Treasurer  
Michael G. Matejka, Immediate Past President

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Mark Dunn	Bill Wetzel Jr.
Guy Fraker	Richard Wilson

### PAST PRESIDENTS

David Ashbrook	Steve Wannemacher
Edward B. Jelks	Chuck Wright
Benjamin J. Rhodes	Carol Struck
Don Skaggs	

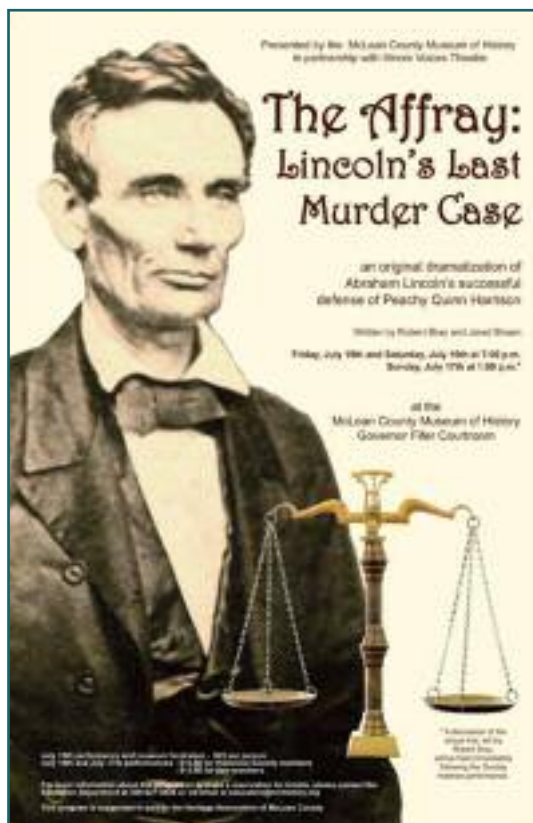
### DIRECTORS EMERITI

Barbara Allsup	James A. Stahly
David Ashbrook	Carol Struck
Maryfern Bartrum	Steve Wannemacher
Jack Bowles	Lloyd Watkins
Edward B. Jelks	Chuck Wright
Davis Merwin	

## Museum to Host Lincoln Courtroom Drama

The Museum, in partnership with Illinois Voices Theatre, will present *The Affray: Lincoln's Last Murder Case*, an original dramatization of one of the more exciting cases in Abraham Lincoln's long and productive legal career. *The Affray* details Lincoln's successful defense of Peachy Quinn Harrison, a young Springfield resident who was accused of the murder of Greek Crafton. The trial took place just months before Lincoln accepted the Republican nomination for the presidency.

The play will be presented in the historic Governor Fifer Courtroom at the Museum on July 15, 16, and 17. This program is supported in part by the Heritage Association of McLean County.



Robert Bray, the R. Forrest Colwell Professor of English at Illinois Wesleyan University, and Jared Brown, former director of the School of Theatre Arts at Illinois Wesleyan University, fashioned the script in part on surviving testimony from the trial. The play poses the question: Will Lincoln introduce the testimony of a venerable preacher, which may be a lie?

The opening night performance on Friday, July 15, will be a special museum fundraiser, and tickets will be sold for \$25 per person. Buy your tickets for the opening night performance

on Friday and receive a special, limited-edition Abraham Lincoln autobiography poster for FREE. Proceeds from the opening night ticket sales will go to support our free educational programs for area schools and nursing homes, as well as our award-winning exhibits. Tickets on Saturday, July 16, and Sunday, July 17, are priced at \$10 for Museum members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Ticket reservations may be made in advance at the Museum or tickets can be purchased at the door the day of each performance. Watch your mail boxes for a member mailer with more information on purchasing tickets in advance. For more information about this program, or to make a reservation for tickets, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or via email at [education@mchistory.org](mailto:education@mchistory.org).

## Know Your Board Members



Russel Francois became a Museum board member in 2007. He participates on the Executive Committee and the Collections and Exhibits Committee.

**Q: How did you get involved in the Museum?** I first visited the Museum in November 1977, a couple of months following our family's arrival in Bloomington. I was searching for an art glass window that had formerly been a part of the Congregational Church building, today the McLean County Arts Center. The window had been described to me as a pictorial of the first log cabin built in the Bloomington area. For the old-timers amongst us, I was told that the cabin was sited northeast (and across I-74) from Dave Ashbrook's residence. I spoke with Barb Dunbar, then executive director of the McLean County Historical Society. I did not receive much information on the window but she quickly engaged me conversationally, talking a little about the services offered by the Museum, as well as McLean County's historical past and its links to nationally prominent figures. I remember leaving with the thought, "Whoever these people in McLean County are, they are indeed plenty proud of their history and take it seriously!"

**Q: What are some current challenges facing the Museum?** Like so many worthwhile institutions, the Museum is not unique when it comes to continuing economic concerns. Today, it is no longer enough to simply be excellent. It is also about convincing the public of the importance of our role in the community and seeking their support. Likewise for the Museum, excellent programming matters but we must continually create new reasons for the public to consider us a necessary part of their busy lives.

**Q: What's your favorite part of the Museum?** My favorite aspect of the Museum is not so much about a particular part as it is about the Museum in general. The Museum is in a sense our county's "living room." After all, where else could we find a "room" filled with stories, pictures and artifacts that are our very own and that are all about us and those places we frequent daily? And in that box there is something for everyone—tangible evidence for those that have need to see and feel, as well as abstract stories of people and their ideas for others. And I like it when the Museum gets out of its "box" for programs such as the annual Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk and its resurrected personalities from the past. The Museum is our place, the story of "we the people," the places we built and the lives we've made on the Midwestern prairie. It is relevant to both the young and the old. I believe that the manner with which we regard our past is a predictor of our community's future opportunities.

**Q: What does local history mean to you?** Both my father's and moth-

er's (Fruge) families migrated to the prairies of Southwest Louisiana in the 1840s. So why should McLean County's history be meaningful to me? Both Becky and I have spent the majority of our lives here, earning a living alongside the descendants of those who gifted this community with its architectural and cultural heritage.

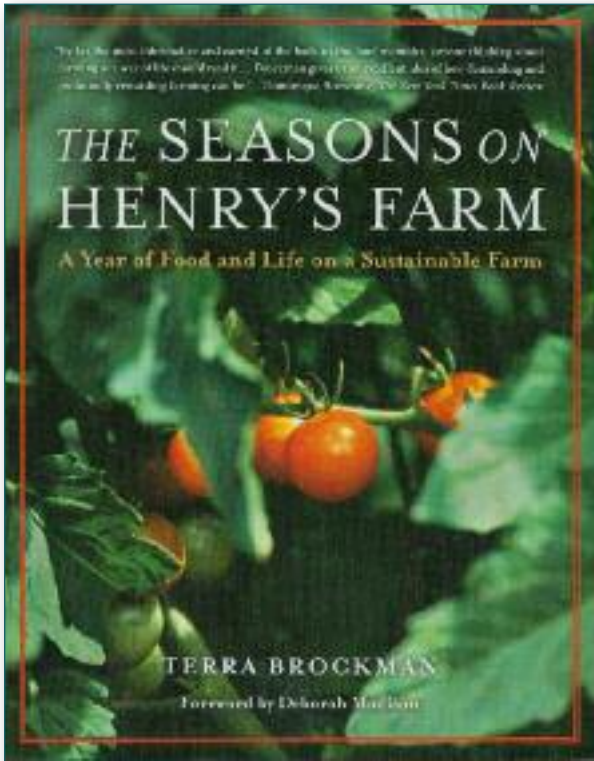
**Q: What is your day job?** I am an architect in general practice. More than one-half of the architectural projects with which I have been involved are renovation-type or additions to existing buildings. This experience in renovation has provided me with an appreciation for the work of an earlier generation of architects, and architecture often defined by uniquely-detailed buildings each developed as a response to its site, time and the client's vision. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of working on renovation-type projects is the opportunity it provides to collaborate in a way with the building's earlier and absent architect—to understand the meaning of the original work. The real challenge is proposing a design solution that you hope the original architect would acknowledge as a worthy addition to his work.

**Q: Do you have family?** I am the fourth of five children of French-speaking Louisiana parents. I first met my wife Becky (an Illinoisan whose family had moved to Baton Rouge) when I was twelve years old. We were married ten years later. We have two children, Danielle (who is married to John Kim) and André, as well as two granddaughters, Ani and Adelle. (continued on page 4)

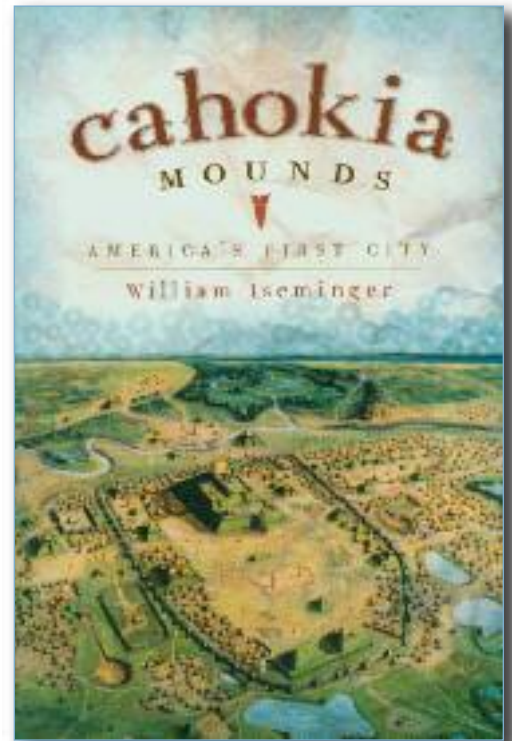
# History Reads Book Club

The popular “History Reads” book club, sponsored jointly by the Museum and Bloomington Public Library, continues into this summer and beyond!

The club meets quarterly on the first Tuesday of the month. Discussion begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts approximately one hour. This program, free and open to the public, is held in the Museum’s Governor Fifer Courtroom. Free parking is available at the Lincoln Parking Deck on Front Street one block south of the Museum. You need not attend all sessions, but rather are free to pick and choose those books that sound interesting to you.



The next two meeting dates and books are: August 2, 2011 - *The Seasons on Henry's Farm: A Year of Food and Life on an Organic Farm* by Terra Brockman; November 1, 2011 - *Cahokia Mounds* by William Iseminger.



Copies of each book are available for checkout at Bloomington Public Library, can be interlibrary loaned through your local public library, or can be purchased at the Museum’s *On The Square Gift Shop* at a discounted price.

For more information on this program, please contact the Education Department at the Museum via email at [education@mchistory.org](mailto:education@mchistory.org) or contact Karen Moen at the Bloomington Public Library at [reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org](mailto:reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org)

(Francois - Continued from page 3) Becky is director of Special Education for Bloomington Public Schools. Danielle is a physician at Medical Hills Internists, and John is an attorney with Livingston, Barger, Brandt & Schroeder. André is beginning his first year of residency at Washington University / Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

**Q: What do you like to do to relax?** Pure relaxation is difficult for me. I sleep well and I enjoy anything related to creating or maintaining landscapes. Perhaps

one of the reasons I became a committed Midwesterner is that the tagline on Louisiana vehicle license plates used to read “Sportsman’s Paradise.” I don’t hunt, fish (except crawfish) or do sports. I acknowledge that I am an embarrassment to LSU! I enjoy art galleries and the performing arts. And since Louisiana has revised its license plates to read, “The Bayou State,” I feel much more at home when visiting family. However, don’t read too much into that statement. With our purchase of Evergreen Cemetery real estate

some years ago, we added our names to the list of those eternally committed to a Mclean County residency.

**Q: Why do you give time and money to the Museum?** There were many reasons cited earlier. Perhaps the only other would be that if I didn’t do my part I could not—without a real sense of guilt—enjoy relaxing in my off time. More seriously, the Museum is a great organization providing a worthy home for the records of our local culture of which we all can be proud.



## Dan Guillory to Present Fun Facts About Illinois Frontier Life

The Museum is pleased to welcome back Dr. Dan Guillory, emeritus professor of English at Millikin University, who will present the program “Fun Facts About Illinois Frontier Life,” which is based on his newest book *People & Places in the Land of Lincoln*. This program, free

and open to the public, will be held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on Saturday, August 20, 2011, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. A book signing will follow the program.

Contrary to popular belief, most Illinois settlers did not live in primitive conditions. They ate better, read more books and newspapers, and lived in better houses than previously supposed. This presentation will address some of the following questions:

- How much did eggs, potatoes and “store-bought” clothing cost in 1835?
- Why did it cost more for the horse than the rider to stay a night at a hotel?
- Why were English china patterns like “Blue Willow” and “Wild Rose” popular?
- What were the three most popular books on the frontier?
- What wild game did Lincoln enjoy eating?
- Why did so many settlers come from Kentucky?

The program will conclude with a performance of an 1860 presidential campaign song and a “show and tell” display of typical English china of the period.

Dr. Guillory has published over 500 articles, poems and book reviews, as well as chapters of books. He has received grants or awards from the Academy of American Poets, the American Library Association, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Illinois Humanities Council and the Illinois Arts Council.

For more information on this and other educational programs, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428, via email at [education@mchistory.org](mailto:education@mchistory.org), or visit the Museum’s website at [www.mchistory.org](http://www.mchistory.org).

## History and Poetry in “Blossom”

Join the Museum for Planting Ourselves in McLean County: A Poetry Reading, hosted by local poet Kathleen Kirk. This is the latest in a series of history-related poetry readings by local authors held at the Museum. This time around the poetry you will hear will be inspired by the Farmers’ Market and the Museum’s People and Farming galleries from the *Encounter on the Prairie* permanent exhibit. This program, free and open to the public, will be held on Saturday, June 11, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Museum’s Governor Fifer Courtroom.

For more information on this program, contact the Museum’s Education Department at 309-827-0428 or via email at [education@mchistory.org](mailto:education@mchistory.org).

### Flower + Human

A solitary daffodil  
unsentimental about itself  
bends forward  
mud-splattered, unconcerned.

Why doesn’t it matter  
if what I say  
won’t make history?

—Kathleen Kirk

## The Museum Welcomes the Following New Members

Thanks so much for your support!

- Mr. and Mrs. Greg and Barbara Foster
- Mr. Anthony Crubaugh
- Mr. Denny Steele
- Mr. Roger Holmes
- Mrs. Darlene Weber
- Mrs. Lil Elkin
- Ms. Gina Hunter

## Budding Historians Needed For Summer Day Camp



Last summer's August campers pose for a group photo.

It's that time of year again for History Careers Day Camp! This summer students will try their hands at four different careers that rely on history: Archaeology, architecture, museum studies, and environmental science.

Like last year, each of the three sessions will last five days (Monday-Friday). To prepare students for camp, the first day will serve as an introduction to history-related careers. The second day will feature archaeology at the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site, where students will visit with a professional archaeologist and experience a mock excavation. The third day will focus on architecture as students explore the built landscape of historic downtown Bloomington. They will also meet a professional photographer who will show them how he uses history in his career. They will also design and build a model building made from recycled material. The fourth day will focus on the museum studies field. Students will spend time with our very own Susan Hartzold, Curator of Collections, to get a closer

look at how a history museum functions. They will also get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum. The final day will focus on environmental science at the Sugar Grove Nature Center, where students will explore the prairie and learn land surveying and more.

Registration is open to McLean County students entering grades four, five and six. There will be three sessions of Day Camp again this year. Session I, June 20-24; Session II, July 18-22; and Session III, Aug 1-5. Registration is limited to 20 students per session. Participants will receive a packet of information after registering.

Registration is \$125 per child, and includes lunch, snack, water, t-shirts, transportation to partner sites and all supplies for activities. For those students whose families earn \$30,000 or less per year, registration is free. Registration runs April 18 to May 27, so hurry because the slots fill up fast!

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or via email at [education@mchistory.org](mailto:education@mchistory.org). Support for the History Career Day Camp is provided by the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation.



June campers play a career game.

### Don Owen Tire Sponsoring History Careers Day Camp

The Museum would like to thank Don Owen Tire Service and Don and Carole Owen for their sponsorship support of the Museum's History Careers Day Camp. Registration fees only cover a portion of the camp expenses, considering that typically one-half of all students who participate come from limited-income households and receive scholarships to attend at no cost.

Their support helps us defray costs and focus more resources on ensuring another high-quality program this year, and we thank them for their support of our mission.

**DON OWEN TIRE**  
(309) 828-8473 | (309) 662-7987  
620 West Olive Street | 1502 East Empire St.

## Shirley Clemens Named Honorary Lincoln Club Member

Every year, an anonymous donor makes a Lincoln Club donation in the name of one of our dedicated volunteers. Considering there are so many deserving volunteers who give so much each year, it is always a challenge to pick just one person. After many worthy suggestions, it was decided that Shirley Clemens would be this year's recipient.

Shirley has been processing receipts and invoices for the Museum since 2008. Among other things, she has the all-important job of making sure that all the money that comes into the Museum goes into the bank and is attributed to the correct accounts. For her time and dedication, we sincerely thank Shirley for her service, and we thank our donor who made this possible.



## Moré Awarded William Whit Prize



Torii Moré

This last summer Torii Moré was hired to work part-time in the Museum's Library / Archives in a position funded through a generous donation by former Board member Sarah Butler. Moré had just completed an internship with Museum Curator Susan Hartzold and graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in anthropology.

Since graduating Moré has participated in several conferences, presenting the results of her undergraduate thesis *Dumpster Dinners: Freeganism at Illinois State University*. She was recently awarded the William Whit undergraduate prize from the Association for the Study of Food and Society for her paper on this topic. Her thesis will be published in *The Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography* this year.

Moré is an active freegan. She spearheaded the showing at the Museum of the movie *Dive!*, which examines why large quantities of food are wasted by grocery stores. She led the lively follow-up discussion along with fellow freegans Renee Costanzo and Amanda Patenaude. You may have seen the follow-up article about her by Bill Flick in *The Pantagraph*.

This summer and fall, in addition to her work in the Library, Moré is helping in the Education Department. She is assisting with pioneer programs, the History Careers Day Camp, and Cemetery Walk.

When asked about her work at the Museum she responded, "I feel lucky to have the opportunity to work in so many departments, and have developed a great appreciation of local history."

## \$125,000 Bequest Received From Laura Sullivan Estate

The Museum learned early this year that Laura Sullivan, who passed away in December 2010, had planned a significant donation to the Museum in her will. Laura had been a long-time member of the Museum. Her bequest of \$125,000 was made through her State Farm 401 (k) holdings. The gift has been placed in the Museum's endowment fund, a permanent fund managed for the purpose of underwriting the Museum's ongoing operations. The Museum is developing an appropriate commemoration of this gift.

Laura was a member of the Chairman's Council at State Farm, as well as serving as corporate secretary. Through her work at State Farm, she had seen the museum develop its orientation toward community service.

# The Museum's Valued Volunteers for 2010 - 2011

Craig Alexander	Tod Eagleton *	John Kibler	Delores Perry *	Noah Smith
Barbara Allsup	Aiesha Echols	Jana Kiefer	Ann Peterson	Matt Sorenson
Jim Anderson	Susan Emmerson	John Killian	Jack Porter	<b>Peg Sours (222)</b>
Mary Anderson	Diane Eytalis	Samuel King **	Nadine Prall	Patty Stahly
Jerry Armstrong	Jane Farmer	<b>Peg Kirk (240)</b>	Barbara Price	Harry Stern
Jim Armstrong	Rob Fazzini	Verena Knapp *	Jeff Raines	<b>Carol Straka (793)</b>
Jacqueline Arroyo **	Karen Fleming *	<b>Carole Knipp (164)</b>	Kay Ramseyer	Amy Stringwell
Marilyn Aucutt	Flora Foltz	John Kohoutek	Sarah Rapp	Joseph Summers
Alexis Baldacci **	Carol Fox	<b>Pat Kohoutek (161)</b>	Paul Rayburn	Emily Swartz **
Catherine Bayles **	Don Fox	Carol Koos	Nadine Reining	Sharon Tallon
Carl Behr	Guy Fraker	Caiti Kopp **	Joanne Ressler	Lisa Texiera
Judie Bey	Russel Francois	Lauren Koszyk	Ben Rhodes	Rachel Thompson **
Maureen Blair	Marilyn Freese	George Kutsunis **	Alexander Roehm **	Yuki Tian **
Shelby Blanchard	Gina Fritz	<b>Bill LaBounty (385)</b>	<b>Denise Fries-Romack (188)</b>	Tony Turchirollo
Barbara Blunk	Sharon Frizzell *	Charles Lamlein	Amy Rudnick	Tina Turner
Patricia Bolda	Nancy Froelich	Mark Langenfeld	Betty Salch	Sal Valadez
Andrew Border **	Mary Gastelum	Michael Lester *	Dorothy Sallee	Phylis VerSteegh
Pete Borowski	Chuck Geigner	Daniel Locke	Neil Sallee	Sandra Voyles
Deb Boston	Judy Geigner	Patricia Luthe	Loretta Santejka	Robert Watkins
Sean Boston *	Mark Gibson	Ruth Mangina	<b>Elsie Schalk (204)</b>	James Weirman
Shirley Boward	Janet Giegerich	<b>Nola Marquardt (282)</b>	Jewel Schalk	Bill Wetzel
John Bowles III	Carrie Hardt	Daniel Marten	<b>Joyce Schneider (173)</b>	Pete Whitmer
Al Bowman	Sandra Harmon	Mike Matejka	Jeff Schroder	Nancy Willkey
Anthony Bowman	Doris Harney	Janet McBeath	Steve Schroeder	Doug Williamson
Megan Cowell-Boyle	Elizabeth Harroun	Mary McClintock	Jacqueline	Myron Willke
Ashley Breen	<b>Joann Hart (200)</b>	Kathy McNiff	Schwarzentraub	Bob Wills
Roger Bridges	Diane Hawk	John Meek	Marissa Scott	Mary Alice Wills
Brad Briney	Karen Heinrich	Emily Mihalcean **	Mary Scott	Patrick Wilson
Alison Brown**	<b>Kay Henrichs (182)</b>	Amy Miller	<b>Robert Scott (237)</b>	Richard Wilson
Judy Brown *	Carol Herdien	William Miller	Mary Sellmyer	<b>Annajean Winn (177)</b>
Willie Brown	Tim Higgerson	<b>Arlene Mitchell (159)</b>	<b>Ardys Serpette (153)</b>	Angela Woodard
Sarah Butler	Frank Hill	Gretchen Monti	Curt Shaffer *	Arielle Woodard
Jason Carlock	Mary Rose Hill	Victoria More **	Claron Sharrieff *	Katie Wright
Don Clemens	Judy Hines	Charlene Morger	Vern Shepherd	Taylor Yager **
<b>Shirley Clemens (157)*</b>	Jessica Hinterlong **	Pamela Muirhead	Nancy Shevokas	Carolyn Yockey
Ruthie Cobb	Gary Hoover	Gene Murray	Phyllis Short	Kerry Young
James Coe	<b>Zoe Iutzi (190) *</b>	<b>Judith Myers (431)</b>	<b>John Sicks (166)</b>	Ethlyn Yount
Kathleen Conley	<b>Milan Jackson (304)</b>	Margaret (Dee) Myers	Soemer Simmons	Mary Kay Zeter
Elaine Cousins	Michael Johnson **	Dick Nagy		Eve Zook
Dani Creasey	Scott Johnson *	Marcia Nagy		
Jessica Creasey	Alexandra Jones	Alisa Nash		
<b>Sara Cushing (183)</b>	Joyce Jones	Robert Neuleib *		
Amy Davis	Gus Jumonville	Gary Nichols		
Nancy Davis	Renee Jumonville	Marie O'Brokta		
Dianne DeLong	Arti Kamatar	Vicki Olsen		
Doug DeLong	Eileen Kanzler	Stephanie Owens **		
Eva DeVore	James Keeran	Amanda Packman **		
Mike DeVore	Ceil Kemp	Jerry Parsons *		
David Dorris	Mike Kerber	<b>Marcy Parsons (173)</b>		
Mark Dunn	Chris Kibler	Pat Perkins		

\* Completed 50 hours of service to earn a name badge.

\*\* Student Intern

**Bold:** 150 + volunteer hours, 2010-2011

The Museum apologizes if your name was inadvertently left off this list. Please call the Director of Volunteers and Interns Mary Anne Schierman (827-0428) with any corrections.

# All-time Volunteer Stars

Every year the Museum tallies up the accumulated hours of its volunteers. This year's top ten volunteers of all time are:

William LaBounty	8,928	Carol Fox	2,725
Judith Myers	4,528	William Miller	2,274
Nola Marquardt	3,487	Carol Straka	2,231
Elsie Schalk	3,290	Ardys Serpette	2,158
John Sicks	3,047	Mary Anderson	1,996



Don and Carol Fox were among the many volunteers singled out for their outstanding volunteer efforts.



The Museum's top volunteers for 2010 were (left to right): Nola Marquardt, Peg Kirk, Judith Meyers, Bill LaBounty, Robert Scott, Elsie Schalk, Milan Jackson, Stephanie Owens, and Joann Hart



## Lincoln Festival and Cemetery Walk to Commemorate 150th Anniversary of Civil War

This year's **Lincoln Festival** will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, and will be held Saturday, July 16, at the Museum and surrounding sites. Museum activities will include a Lincoln scavenger hunt for kids and music with the Bluegrass Jammers and Old Men Boys. For more information contact Jeff Woodard via email at [marketing@mchistory.org](mailto:marketing@mchistory.org) or 309-827-0428.

This year's **Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk** will feature McLean County citizens whose lives were impacted by the war. Whether they served as soldiers fighting to preserve the Union, supported the war from the home front, or faced persecution for sympathizing with the Southern cause, the stories will illustrate how the Civil War affected McLean County citizens.

This wildly popular annual event will also include performances by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band. Mark your calendar now with the following dates: Saturday, October 1; Sunday, October 2; Saturday October 8; and Sunday, October 9. Look for more information about this year's Walk by visiting the Museum's website at [www.mchistory.org](http://www.mchistory.org) or in our September newsletter!



# New to the Collections

## OBJECTS

- ❑ Dorothy Washburn's WWII WAC uniforms and accessories, foot locker, BHS bear; donated by Barbara Washburn
- ❑ Ida Mae Partridge's alligator purse, Sig Tau Triathlon shirt, warm up suit, ca. 1988, Folger's can, 1963, portable cassette player, crate from Lexington's Lindsey and Smith Store; donated by Terri Clemens
- ❑ Lincoln Tour CD, autographed; donated by Jim Keeran
- ❑ Box of pen nibs from M.O. Thompson, Bloomington; donated by Beth Schobernd
- ❑ Thompson's Cafe fork; donated by Peg Sours
- ❑ Baby crib, c. 1947; donated by Pearl Anderson
- ❑ Paper roller from E. Smith Grocery; donated by Tim Herrell
- ❑ Aladdin lamp from Burtis farm; donated by Carmen Gresham
- ❑ Mixing bowls and a bread pan used by Elizabeth Wyckoff; donated by Greg and Carol Koos
- ❑ Roycroft style bookcase and model car made by Martin Wyckoff; coat tree; smoking stand; wooden lamp; Martin's suit and tie, 1970 jeans, sun

Heldman's bow tie and clothing brush, straw hat band, Chaming's billiards screwdriver, Moberly brush, Lucca ashtray, Liberty Bank bank, Clinton bumper sticker, Sinorak treasure box, Wishing Well toothpick case, two 1930s Wards catalogs, Miller-Davis building print by Fred Brian; cartoon and painting of Delmar Wyckoff by his candy truck, both by Martin Wyckoff; all donated by Estate of Martin Wyckoff

## ARCHIVES

- ❑ Additions to the Damon Outlaw (1912-1975) Collection, including family tree and additional diaries; by Jan Outlaw
- ❑ *A Chronology of St. Patrick's Parish, Merna*, published in 1916; by Emily Swartz
- ❑ Three Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS) items: Two dance programs/cards (1954, 1956) and dance card (1955); by Jacqueline D. Erikson
- ❑ Illinois Central (IC) Railroad map (ca. 1922) and American Legion / IC convention (New Orleans) program, October 1922; by Julia Derden
- ❑ Various, including lists of Knollcrest Court (Normal) residents (2003 and 2008), Illinois State University College of Education, Hall of Fame induction ceremony invitation, and other items; by Robert Neuleib
- ❑ Assorted documents, most relating to area farmer Frank Cavender, including 1945 sales contract, 1947 farm lease, etc.; by Tod Larke
- ❑ Thirty-four Alton Road time books covering section gang workers, 1937-1948; by Sal Valadez

The Museum rarely buys artifacts for the collections, but recently purchased a mill scene hand carved in wood by noted folk artist W.D. Neher (1868-1961). Neher established a photo studio in Chenoa in 1902. It provided him with a living for the next forty years. But his true avocations, carving, sculpting, and painting, were also pursued. Using only a pocket knife, screwdriver, and sandpaper, he carved elaborate, decorative scenes and objects. He also established the Neher Stone Works, where using his special concrete mixture he fashioned sculptures. A local legend during his lifetime, his work was rediscovered years later and came to the attention of folk art enthusiasts.



*The Mill* was purchased from Merle Glick, a Pekin resident who collects Illinois folk art.

- ❑ Photographic pinback buttons of Mary Bodell's children, jewelry of Mary Bodell Culbertson, Ruth Bodell Ramseyer, and Dorothy Ramseyer Duguid, penknife and pins of Roy Ramseyer; donated by Dorothy Duguid
- ❑ Viola LaBounty's Red Cross vest; donated by Bill LaBounty
- ❑ Carolyn Koch's baby carriage; helmet, wool cap, mustache cup, raccoon cap, baby cup, NCHS class ring, eyeglasses, Camel cigarettes, disposable collars; Delmar Wyckoff's cuff links, topaz ring, rubber stamps and Bazooka Gum clip; Elizabeth Wyckoff's pen/pencil; Casella's restaurant and Don Stone Ford key rings,

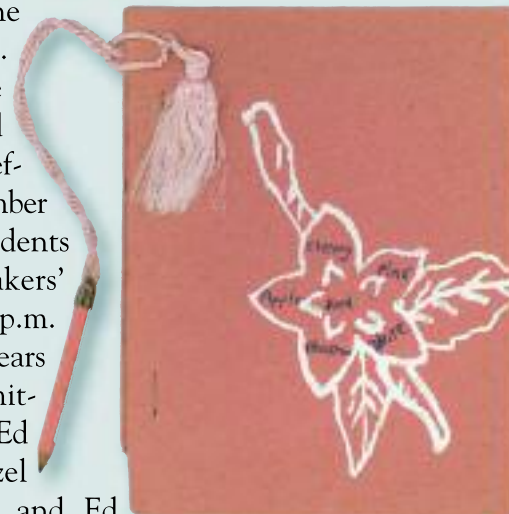
- ❑ Large number of postcards addressed to the McKinneys of Carlock (collected by Ruth Hatfield, daughter of the McKinneys), various decades, 20th century; by Kendra Hatfield
- ❑ DVD, "Memories of E.J. Sweeney;" by David and Ann Kraft
- ❑ Various items relating to career of Bloomington High School art instructor Elizabeth Stein, and 45-speed record of a local band The Defilers, undated; by Judi Spear
- ❑ Various calendars, including 1951 promotional calendar for Burroughs Fuel & Heating Co. (Normal); by Ruth Cobb

## BOOKS

- ❑ *Christmas in Illinois* (2010) by James Ballowe (includes section on David Davis Mansion); by Sara Cushing
- ❑ Family histories, including the Martin Hodel genealogy; by Susan Hodel
- ❑ Lexington High School alumni book (1879-2010); by Marian Roy Elson
- ❑ Kelley family history / genealogy, updated (1942-2010), and other family histories; by Patricia Kelley
- ❑ *Hazle Buck Ewing: Promoter of Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men* (2011); donated by the author, Karen Griep Heilbrun
- ❑ Trinity Lutheran Church & School, 150th anniversary (1858-2008) book; by Lois Wood
- ❑ Bloomington Junior High School (BJHS) yearbooks, 1963-1991; by Hazel Yoder (Hazel's husband was a BJHS teacher from 1962 to 1992)
- ❑ Three books: *Colonial Families of Maryland*, *Sketches of North Carolina*, and *History of Holy Trinity Parish* (Bloomington); by Nancy J. Miller

Jacqueline D. Erikson donated three dance programs / cards from the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS) in Normal, including this June 3, 1956 spring dance card.

The theme of this dance was "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White," a reference a popular musical number of the mid-1950s. ISSCS students were regaled by Reid Bakers' Band from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. that Sunday evening 55 years ago. The decorations committee included June Brown, Ed Green, Jo Ann Frisbee, Hazel Rogers, Harold Stoneking and Ed Witte. Refreshments were organized by Helen Hanley, Judy Harvey and Yvonne Willan. Clean up was the responsibility of Joan Hammond and Louie Martin.



Dance cards were held by girls, and the pencil was used by boys to sign their name on a page numbered 1 through 10. By doing so, they reserved a dance with the card's holder.

- ❑ *The Farringford Cadenza* (2007) authored by Robert D. Sutherland, Illinois State University English professor; by Greg Koos
- ❑ *Our Savior Lutheran* (Normal) cookbook, 1980; by Robert Neuleib
- ❑ Hoopston (Vermilion County) history, 1925, two Mclean County rural directories; by Kendra Hatfield
- ❑ Arcadia Publishing book of Hudson photos, authored by Judith A. Lampert and Sue Keeran; by Hudson Area Public Library
- ❑ Normal Community West High School yearbooks, 1995 (school's first year) to 2010; by Tom Eder, NCWHS principal
- ❑ *Laws of the State of Illinois*, 1840; by Kevin Hoff

## Photographs

- ❑ Mt. Prospect School (Old Town

Township) students and teacher, 1898 (photo print); and postcard, aerial view of Illinois State University campus, no date; by Peggy Fuller

- ❑ Various photos found at 502 W. Wood St., including one likely showing the residence at that address; by Thom Scott
- ❑ Three group photos of BJHS students in Washington, D.C.; by Hazel Yoder
- ❑ Various photographs relating to the O'Neil and Rodgers families of Bloomington, including O'Neil Bros. grocery store, ca. 1880, Robert C. Rodgers, ca. 1894, tintype of Dan "Stick" O'Neil with peg leg, and many others; by Greg Koos
- ❑ Large collection of photographs detailing restoration of Sigma Alpha Iota (Illinois Wesleyan University sorority) house, 307 E. Chestnut St., 1991; by Ruth

To make donations of photographs, books or archival materials call the Museum's Librarian/Archivist, Bill Kemp. If you have objects you wish to donate to the collection call the Museum's Curator of Collections, Susan Hartzold. Both can be reached at the McLean County Museum of History, 827-0428.

# The new tax law and your IRAs

The tax compromise reached by Congress and the President in December had explicit and implicit effects on planning for your IRA.

## Charitable Gifts from IRAs

To encourage philanthropy, Congress has for several years permitted the direct, tax-free transfer of funds from an IRA to a charity. From a tax and financial planning perspective, direct transfers are more advantageous than the alternative, which would be a taxable IRA distribution followed by a charitable gift and an income tax deduction. The strategy is limited to account owners older than 70 ½ and to \$100,000 per year. Such charitable gifts also satisfy the required minimum distribution rules for older IRA owners. However, the enabling provisions expired at the end of 2009. The new tax law breathed temporary life into this strategy for tax years 2010 and 2011. Why not allow charitable gifts from IRAs permanently? Apparently, the theoretical loss of tax revenue is too high in 2012 and later years.

## Roth IRA conversions

The rules for converting an IRA to a Roth IRA are unchanged. There are no income or filing status limitations on who may do this. Also, anyone who converted to a Roth IRA in 2010 has the option of paying the income tax on the conversion in full for 2010 or splitting the income over two years, 2011 and 2012, deferring the income tax and having the use of that money.

Before the tax law change, some taxpayers were favoring locking in the relatively lower 2010 tax rates by paying for the conversion with their 2010 returns. Now that the scheduled tax increase has been delayed to 2012, the math may work out differently. Deferral of the income tax may prove more valuable in some cases.

These are fairly sophisticated, complicated tax strategies. Before making any final decisions about your IRA, we recommend that you first seek the counsel of an experienced tax professional.

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If you are considering a change of advisors, and you are not already working with us, please consider putting us on your short list. We will be pleased to meet with you and present our qualifications. Give us a call today.

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## Schierman Presents at AAM



Director of Volunteers and Interns Mary Anne Schierman made the Museum proud at the annual American Association of Museums (AAM) conference this May in Houston. Mary Anne participated in the session “Talking Shop: A Roundtable Discussion with Volunteer and Docent Managers.” She was also one of four presenters during a session titled, “Volunteer Interns in Museums: Perils, Pitfalls and Pearls.” Other presenters on this panel were Dr. Glenn Willumson, director of the Graduate Program in Museum Studies at the

University of Florida; Debbie Young, director of Volunteer Services at The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis; and Jen Hernandez, Education and Outreach intern at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in Eugene, Oregon.

Mary Anne focused on how an organization prepares for interns through project development, orientation, supervision and feedback. This is the seventh conference session she has presented as a representative of the Museum. Mary Anne has been at the Museum for twelve years, coordinating approximately 225 individuals per year. She is also the Midwest regional director on the board of the American Association of Museum Volunteers, and treasurer / immediate past president of the Central Illinois Volunteer Association (CIVA).

## Museum to Host Indian Music Series

A new music series has been developed in partnership with the McLean County India Association and the Indian Music Society of Central Illinois. *The Ever-Changing Constant of Indian Music: Origin, History and Evolution* will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month—May 31, June 28, and July 26. All three programs begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum’s Governor Fifer Courtroom. The programs are free and open to the public.



Please join us for what we think will be an enjoyable and informative program on the history, origins, and styles of Indian music, including vocal traditions. Each program will include a discussion, as well as demonstrations on a number of instruments from both northern and southern India by professional musicians from the area.

## Volunteer Help Wanted

**Girl Scout Badge Program Volunteer** – In this position, the volunteers assist Museum Educators in providing quality Girl Scout history related badge programs for first through sixth graders. Programs are taught after school and on Saturdays. Each program lasts approximately three hours. A complete training is provided by Museum Educators. These programs are craft related and a lot of fun!

**Reception Desk Volunteers** – Weekend shifts needed. In this position, the volunteer is the official greeter and Museum representative. The Reception Desk assistant greets visitors and gives them a brief introduction to the Museum. They also answer the phone, take brief messages for staff and answer general questions. Reception desk assistants are asked to serve two four-hour shifts per month.

**Education Outreach Volunteers** – These volunteers are trained to assist the Director of Education and the Education Program Coordinator with school tours. This is a very flexible volunteer opportunity. You are called to assist as the need arises. The average time commitment is usually two hours. Education volunteers work with children of all ages, but primarily preschool through junior high.

Are you interested in meeting people in an exciting atmosphere and contributing to your community? If so, please contact Mary Anne Schierman, Director of Volunteers and Interns, 309-827-0428, or email [volunteers@mchistory.org](mailto:volunteers@mchistory.org) to receive information on the volunteer program.



# McLean County Museum of History

## Calendar of Events for June, July, August 2011

Through August 6

***A Turbulent Time: Perspectives of the Vietnam War*** explores the complex ways McLean County residents perceived and responded to this crucial 20th century event.



Saturdays until August 6

**Support our Veterans.** Every Saturday during the Vietnam exhibit, visitors may donate items listed below in exchange for the admission fee. These items will be given to patients and residents of the Department of Veterans Affairs Danville Medical Center. New and unused items: (no hotel items please) spray deodorant, mouthwash, hairbrushes, combs, hand liquid soap, body powder, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, pre-shave lotion, aftershave, disposable razors, stationary kits, paperback puzzle books (large print is preferred), playing cards, t-shirts, and socks.



Through January 29, 2012

***Come and Get It! The Way We Ate 1830-2008.*** This fascinating exhibit explores the eating habits, cooking equipment and methods and diverse food traditions of McLean County residents since the early 1800s.

Through January 19, 2012

***A Passion For Detail: The Architectural Legacy of A.L. Pillsbury.*** This exhibit showcases the productive career and interesting life of an early 20th century Bloomington architect.



Saturdays through October 29

**Museum Opens at 8:30 a.m. to All Visitors.** Tour the Museum's latest exhibits and shop at Farmer's Market – how convenient is that! Also, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, admission to the Museum is free!

Saturday, June 11                      10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Planting Ourselves in McLean County: A Poetry Reading.** Join the Museum in welcoming back Kathleen Kirk and her writers' workshop for a poetry reading inspired by the Farmer's Market and the Museum's permanent exhibit *Encounter on the Prairie*. This program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. For more information on this program, see page 5.



Tuesday, June 28                      6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Exploring the Music of India.** The third in a series of four programs designed to help educate the public about the history, origins and styles that make up the rich heritage of Indian music. This program is free and open to the public and held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. For more information, see page 13.

Monday, July 4

**Museum Closed for Fourth of July Holiday**



Friday, July 15 through Sunday, July 17

**The Affray: Lincoln's Last Murder Case.** An original staging of one of Lincoln's more dramatic court cases comes to the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. For more information, see page 5.

Saturday, July 16 and Sunday July 17

Events begin at 9:00 a.m.

**Lincoln's Festival in Bloomington: Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Civil War**

Join the Museum, as well as the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site, the Burr House on Franklin Park, the Bloomington Center of the Performing Arts, Bloomington Public Library, and other sites for this one-time commemoration. Throughout the day, various sites will host Civil War reenactors, traditional craft demonstrations, children's activities, period musical performances, carriage and wagon rides and a variety of other historical programs. The Museum will feature *The Affray: Lincoln's Last Murder Case*. See page 2 for more details.



Tuesday, July 26

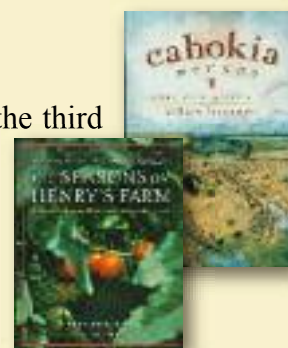
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Exploring the Music of India.** The fourth and final in a series of four programs on the rich heritage of Indian music. There will be discussion as well as performances on various traditional instruments. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, see page 13.

Tuesday, August 2

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**History Reads Book Club.** Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library for the third installment of the History Reads book club. The club meets quarterly the first Tuesday of the month—August and November. The discussion will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom at 7:00 p.m. See page 4 for more information about this and upcoming club meetings. This program is free and open to the public.



Saturday, August 20

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Fun Facts About Illinois Frontier Life.** The Museum is pleased to welcome back Dr. Dan Guillory, emeritus professor of English at Millikin University, who will present the program "Fun Facts About Illinois Frontier Life," which is based on his newest book, *People & Places in the Land of Lincoln*. This program is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom, with a book signing following the program. For more information, see page 5.



## Mystery History

We had no winners with last issue's mystery photograph. No one correctly identified the location of the scene showing German picnickers watching a band play in the shade of a wooded grove. The correct answer was Stein's Grove (today called Forrest Park) located just south of the larger and better-known Miller Park. We were surprised that there were no history sleuths out there who recognized this photo since it's prominently featured in the People Gallery of the Museum's permanent *Encounter on the Prairie* exhibit.

Some of the excellent (though incorrect) guesses included Lake Park (now State Farm's G.J. Mecherle Memorial Park); the Meyer & Wochner brewery (today Highland Park Golf Course); and the end of Calhoun Street in the "40 Acres" section of northwest Bloomington. Stein's Grove gets its name from Louis Stein, who operated a brewery at the site. Bloomington's large German community often made use of the lovely little grove for picnics. The City of Bloomington purchased the tract in 1909.

## MYSTERY HISTORY QUIZ

For this issue, we've featured an area business some the older folk may remember first hand. Do you know the name of this business and where it was located? We'd also love to hear any stories you may have patronizing this establishment. If you have a guess, contact Library / Archivist Bill Kemp via [library@mchistory.org](mailto:library@mchistory.org) or phone (309-827-0428).



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