



On The Square

The Quarterly Newsletter for the
McLean County Museum of History

Volume 40, Number 3

September, October, November 2008

New Exhibit Features 1906 Images of Kickapoo

On August 16 a new exhibit, *The Unconquerable: Photos and History of the Kickapoo Indians*, opened in the Museum's Merwin Gallery. It runs through June 6, 2009 and features photos commissioned by early museum curator Milo Custer during his 1906 visit to the Kickapoo Reservation in Horton, Kansas. Custer's efforts to document the Kickapoo in 1906 and again in 1909 resulted in a body of work that reveals their history and culture. Artifacts uncovered during archaeological digs are also shown in the exhibit which explores the history of the Kickapoo Indians—their movements across the prairie, their lifeways, their interactions with early settlers and their forced removal to reservations west of the Mississippi River.

The Kickapoo (Kiikaapoa) were an Algonquian people who shared linguistic and cultural ties with the Sac (Sauk), Fox and Mascouten tribes. As the French and British empires worked their way into the North American continent in the 18th century, The Kickapoo saw their centuries-old patterns of existence unravel. They were forced from their ancestral lands between the Great Lakes of Michigan and



became known as Old Town Timber. Archaeological work indicates the Grand Village was a semi-permanent settlement, likely occupied in the summer months. After the war of 1812, the hunting grounds of the Kickapoo were increasingly surrounded by new American settlements. McLean County's earliest settlers often came into contact with the Kickapoo. Their accounts lead one to believe that relations were generally warm. But the Kickapoo were keenly aware of the increasing number of settlers and used threats both successfully and unsuccessfully

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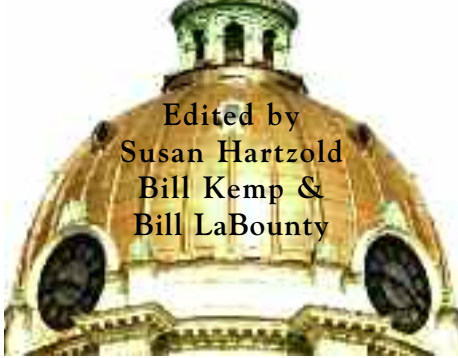
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Erie in southern Michigan and northwest Ohio. By the mid -1700s they had migrated to Central Illinois. In Illinois they eventually divided into two autonomous groups, or bands, the Vermilion Band and the Prairie Band. A large Kickapoo settlement, known as the Grand Village, was located north-east of LeRoy on the eastern edge of a wooded grove which later

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Quarterly Newsletter

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Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday (Sept.-May) 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

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Restoration Work Wrapping Up

The museum remains open to the public while interior and exterior restoration continues. Work is wrapping up on this phase of the project and is being completed on time and on budget. This is the result



of excellent cooperation by the County of McLean, the architectural firm of Wiss, Jenny & Elsnor and the contractor Otto Baum Company.

Employees with Otto Baum work on the exterior renovation of the courthouse.

Fraker to Speak on Lincoln

Lincoln historian Guy Fraker will discuss Lincoln's friends, law practice, and life as one of Bloomington's more favored sons. at 7 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom at the Museum on Tuesday, November 11. This lecture is free and open to the public.

Fraker has had a lifelong interest in Abraham Lincoln that began when a beloved aunt took him to New Salem. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois Law School and has practiced law in Bloomington since 1962. His legal practice took him into most of the counties of Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit. He has written and spoken extensively about Lincoln and the Circuit. He has also led a number of Circuit tours. Fraker is currently working on a new book to be published by Southern Illinois University Press titled *The Eighth Judicial Circuit: Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency*.

For more information on this and other educational programs, please contact the Education Department at (309) 827-0428, via email at:

education@mchistory.org

or visit the Museum's website at:

www.mchistory.org.



New Exhibit- continued from page 1

to scare off new residents. While the Kickapoo began relinquishing their Illinois land to the U.S. government in exchange for land in Missouri as early as 1819, it was not until 1835 that the last of the area's Kickapoo moved to the Horton, Kansas, Reservation.

“A Day of History” Bus Tour

The McLean County Historical Society presents “A Day of History,” a motor-coach bus tour to two of Chicago’s history and art museums on Saturday, October 25, 2008.

The first stop will be the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum. This museum’s mission is to inspire greater understanding of the impact of war by focusing on the Vietnam War. It collects, preserves and exhibits art inspired by combat and created by veterans. The “Above and Beyond Memorial,” comprised of more than 58,000 dogtags (one for each of the service men and women who died in the Vietnam War), is also featured at this site. A Wolfgang Puck catered lunch will be served at the Chicago History Museum. Following lunch you are invited to explore the Chicago History Museum on your own. See its permanent exhibit “Chicago: Crossroads of America,” which explores Chicago’s vast history; “Catholic Chicago,” the first in a series of exhibits that focuses on the contributions of Chicago’s religious communities; and “Chic Chicago: Couture Treasures from the Chicago History Museum.” We’ll head home at 4:30, making a meal stop along the way which will be on your own. The tour leaves the Museum at 7 a.m. and arrives back in Bloomington at around 8 p.m. The cost is \$90.00 per person. This includes admission to each museum, lunch and motorcoach transportation to and from Chicago. Registration forms will be available soon, so watch your mailboxes, or pick one up at the McLean County Museum of History.

For more information, contact the Museum’s Education Department at 309-827-0428 or email us at education@mchistory.org. Come join the Fun!

Member Spotlight- “Why I Give”

Just why do members of the Museum choose to support the museum financially and as volunteers? The Museum asked long-time member and volunteer Judith Meyers. Here’s what she had to say:

Why do you support the Museum? I support the Museum because I believe in its mission to reach out to the McLean County community as a whole and to provide educational opportunities to learn about the history of people and communities in our past who made McLean County what it is today. My husband George and I are members at the Lincoln Club level.

How long have you been a supporter of the Museum? It’s been ten years now since I first visited the Museum and knew right away that this was where I wanted to contribute my financial and volunteer support.

Do you do other things for the Museum than just give money? Yes, for the past ten years I’ve been a volunteer at the Museum. I began by doing data entry in the collections area to help get information about the large collection of artifacts into a computer program. At the same time, I trained to be a library assistant where I could help patrons with their family genealogy research, and assist the

librarian/archivist with whatever else was needed. I’ve also been an active volunteer with the annual Discovery Walk at Evergreen Cemetery, researching characters, writing tour guide scripts, and being a tour guide at the event. Another volunteer activity I enjoy is selling deaccessioned artifacts, books, etc., to the public on ebay. These items are only sold when they are duplicates or have no connection to McLean County. It takes a lot of volunteers to help the Museum attain its goals, and I’m happy to be part of that team.

What do you find most interesting about the Museum and/or its programs? The entire Museum is an interesting place! The permanent and changing exhibits are always interesting and informative. For example, the Vietnam and the Prestele (Gifts to the Prairie) exhibits are two that are attracting a lot of interest right now. I find it interesting and fun, too, to hear first-time visitors express their happy surprise to find this jewel we have in downtown Bloomington. And the museum sees visitors not just from McLean County, but also from many states across the country. Another area I find interesting, of course, is the



Judith Meyers

library. It has an extensive collection of genealogical materials and a large archival collection of photographs, letters, journals, books, etc., from people and places in McLean County’s past. All this material is available for patrons to use in whatever type of local research they’re doing.

What other organizations/causes do you support, if any? My husband and I financially support several other organizations such as Normal Theater, Children’s Foundation, Recycling for Families and others. But all of my volunteer time is given to the Museum, and that’s not likely to change soon.

History Careers Day Camp, 2008

This year's History Careers Day Camp was a success again! All three sessions reached full capacity with a total of 90 students taking part in activities that introduced them to careers that utilize history. The camp provided these students with lessons in archaeology, architecture and art history, and environmental science. The kids had a great time—most said that they wanted to come back next year.

Monday sessions were at the David Davis Mansion, where children learned about the process of archaeology. Mansion activities included a tour of the mansion and grounds, a mock excavation, analysis of artifacts and an interview with an actual archaeologist, David Halpin, from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Most kids agreed the highlight of this day was getting to dig as they learned basic techniques of archaeology and found objects related to the history of the mansion.

Wednesdays' theme was art and architecture in Downtown Bloomington. Participants were intro-

duced to the basic concepts of architecture and design, and learned how to document historic buildings using photography. Local photographer Ken Kashian began the day's activities with a slide show of architectural elements and historic buildings. The kids used what they learned from Ken to do a photographic scavenger hunt and then create a collage of architectural features on downtown Bloomington. The kids also got to meet local architect Carson Durham, who explained basic architectural principles of design. They then used these principals to design their own buildings. The design your own building activity was the favorite of the day. Some campers were interviewed by WJBC radio. They explained what they were learning and what they liked best about Art and Architecture day.

Fridays were at Sugar Grove Nature Center, where students learned about environmental science and how these scientists use history. Students experienced a prairie hike, learned about early settlers' life on the prairie, made a 'possibles bag' and got to explore the

wonders of Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funk's Grove. The Friday highlight was the French fur trading activity. Children collected pews (differently valued animal skins) and traded them for supplies like food, tools and clothing.

Many thanks to the generous supporters of the History Careers Day Camp. Donations and funding from the Midwest Food Bank, Bob's Blue Night Limo and the District 87 Summer Food Program help to make it a huge success. Special thanks goes to David Halpin, Ken Kashian, Carson Durham and our friends at the David Davis Mansion and Sugar Grove Nature Center.

See more photos on pages 8 and 9.



Education Program Coordinator Rachael Massa helps Camp participants match the name of the animal with its fur.

New Members

Mr. R. L. Kaufman
Mrs. James Duguid
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tamburini
Mrs. Cecilia Caperelli
Prairie Woodworks

Mr. William G. Livingston
Ms. Mary Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kramp
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Tinney
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Kelly

Mrs. Corynne Nuckols
Mr. Jeff Schroder
Ms. Karen K. Moen
Mr. and Mrs. Adam and Karen Krall

Museum to Host Speaker from National Agriculture Library

Ms. Ellen Mann of the Special Collections Department at the National Agriculture Library in Washington, D.C. will present a program on the federal career of William Henry Prestele on Saturday, November 1, at 2:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. Prestele's art is featured in the Museum's current exhibit Gifts to the Prairie: The Work of Pioneer Nurserymen and the Art of the Prestele Family.

Mann will discuss William Henry Prestele's 1887 to 1895 career as a botanical illustrator for the United States Department of Agriculture. Prestele was the first botanical artist hired by the Pomological Division of the USDA. The pomology division was established in 1886 and was devoted to studying fruit breeding and the production of new varieties

of fruits brought to the United States from foreign expeditions. Prestele was hired to create prints of North American grape species for a book that was never published. These prints are now housed at the National Agriculture Library.

William Henry Prestele worked for F. K. Phoenix at the Bloomington Nursery from 1867 to 1872. The prints which he created for the Bloomington Nursery, combined with the work of local nursery salesmen, had a profound and lasting effect on the landscape of the Illinois prairie.

For more information on this and other programs, please visit our website www.mchistory.org or contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or via email at education@mchistory.org.



Royal Church Raspberry illustration by William Henry Prestele for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Division of Pomology.

Museum's Marketing Director Named Paul Harris Fellow

On June 19, 2008, the Bloomington Rotary Club was recognized by Past District Governor Chris Scherer, Rotary Club of Urbana, for achieving 100% Paul Harris Fellows. This means that all members of the club contributed, or had contributed in their name, \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. The Museum's Marketing Director, Jeff Woodard is a member of the club.

Jeff really enjoys the opportunity to work with the area's youth by participating in a club sponsored program that provides dictionaries to elementary school children. Jeff says of the program, "You really get moved by the eagerness of those young minds." He also looks forward to helping out with other community projects sponsored Rotary that range from holiday bell ringing for the Salvation Army, the annual Children's Christmas Party, Pork Chop Fundraiser and other projects that benefit the local area needy and international students.

To date, more than one million individuals have been recognized as Paul Harris Fellows - in apprecia-

tion of tangible and significant assistance given to the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.



Summer Interns Involved in Diverse Projects

Each semester the staff enjoys the enthusiasm and energy of university students exploring the museum field. Some approach it by wanting to know what goes on in a museum. Others already know that they want to specialize in the field of museum studies. All are anxious to learn new skills and share new ideas. This summer seven students worked at the Museum.



Julie Rotharmel

An Art History and Drawing major at ISU, **Julie Rotharmel** decided to spend her summer working with the museum's curator on exhibit design, construction and installation. She enjoyed learning how to apply her skills in this setting. The main focus of her project has been preparing for and installing, *The Unconquerable: Photos and History of the Kickapoo Indians*. Julie has learned all of the steps in the process of exhibit design and layout. The variety of skills used and experience gained will assist Julie in her pursuit of a graduate degree in Museum Studies after the completion of her undergraduate studies.

As a lifelong member of this community and a history major at IWU, **Erin Bradley** was excited to learn how to process a collection in the Library/Archives. Her first collec-



Erin Bradley

tion was relatively large and had been donated several years ago from the widow of Justice Robert C. Underwood. Underwood served as county judge of McLean County for sixteen years and in 1962 was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court, where he later served as chief justice. Erin's interest in politics made organizing this collection especially engaging. The materials were primarily related to his campaigns, but also included photographs and printing blocks. Erin also processed two smaller collections. One contained materials related to the 1948 Freedom Train and the other was Adlai E. Stevenson II memorabilia, correspondence and books. She will use the knowledge gained to pursue her goal of obtaining a secondary education teaching certificate in history.

Joe Corcoran participated in a variety of projects in the Library/Archives. He reorganized, updated and created a finding aid for the Greg Koos Collection. This collection is added to frequently and was in much need of updating. The next project was to organize the Museum's collection of loose newspapers. There are several hun-

dred of these and Joe had to determine how to categorize them and establish their relevance to McLean County. Joe learned how to make good decisions in an archival setting, and handle extremely sensitive dated materials. Learning one



Joe Corcoran

of the many ways a major in history can be used he fulfilled his goal for this summer experience.

Sarah Yoo's project in the education department involved writing and editing a series of biographical synopses of characters portrayed in



Sarah Yoo

past Cemetery Walk programs. The updated information of individuals featured in the past fourteen years will give classroom teachers access to local history information that can be used in a variety of ways. Sarah's main educational goal was to improve her writing and editing skills. By researching, organizing and efficiently using skills learned in the classroom, Sarah has given more students and teachers access to this award-winning program.

Jim Sauls and **Emily Ornat** spent their time as Public Program interns in the Education Department. In this capacity, they assisted with this year's History Careers Day Camps. The Education Department partners



Emily Ornat

with the David Davis Mansion and Sugar Grove Nature Center for three sessions of this camp which focuses on the variety of careers available in the history field. Jim and Emily prepared all of the materials used for camp. They enjoyed working with the young participants and sharing their enthusiasm for history. They also worked to get materials ready for the 2008 Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk. Through their experiences in the education department, Jim and Emily learned about the inner workings of a museum and the importance of its programs for all audiences.

Bradley University senior **Elizabeth Bloodworth** brought two

years of historical collections and reporting experience to her summer internship project. Her goal was to reorganize eight boxes of the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Childrens' School Collection, as well as two boxes of ISSCS photos. She accomplished this by rearranging the folders and their contents and, putting each item in a logical order by category. Elizabeth created a finding aid which included a historical sketch, a scope and content note, and a box and folder inventory. During this internship, she gained knowledge of the history of ISSCS, learned how to work with an archive collection and discovered an interesting aspect of museum work.



Jim Sauls



Elizabeth Bloodworth

Museum Receives Good Neighbor Grants

Thanks to our wonderful State Farm volunteers, the Museum received \$7,500 from the State Farm Companies Foundation's Good Neighbor Grant™ Program. Fifteen employees and retirees gave forty or more hours of their time and talents to the Museum in a twelve month period. We thank the following volunteers for choosing the Museum as the beneficiary of these funds: **Deborah Boston, Willie Brown, Robert Denny, Michael DeVore, Jane Farmer, Donald Fox, Mary Diane Hawk, Donna Jenkins,**

Charles Lamlein, Judith Myers, Margaret (Dee) Myers, Robert Scott, Sharon Tallon, Mary Alice Wills and Robert Watkins.

The financial support we receive through this program contributes to the development of new educational programs for children and adults. We applaud State Farm® and its employees for placing great value on volunteer service and this community.





John Disco demonstrates printmaking during the youth session.

Girl Scouts construct original architectural designs



Candace Summers tells a group of youths how lithographs are made.



Jan Holder, right gives advice to a watercolor workshop participant.



Girl Scouts make architectural drawings on Badge Day.

Watercolor Workshop

Senior Reminiscences

from recycled materials.

A Busy Summer



Day Camp participants learn about careers in history at the Sugar Grove Nature Center.



Ken Kashian shows Day Camp participants images of architectural elements and historic buildings.



Susan Hartzold tells visitors at the Farmer's Market about her favorite artifact.



Farmer's Market

Kid's Printmaking Workshop

Girl Scout Badge Day

History Careers Day Camp

Lincoln Tales Tall and True

Kickapoo Photo Exhibit

McLean County Museum of History

Calendar of Events for September, October and November 2008

Through June 6, 2009

The Unconquerable: Photos and History of the Kickapoo Indians. For the better part of three centuries, the Kickapoo Indians battled European and American designs on their land and lifeways. The Kickapoo consistently opposed—through aggression, guile, and inherent cultural strength—forced removal and assimilation. In doing so, they insured their survival into the twenty-first century. *The Unconquerable* explores the history of the Kickapoo Indians—their movements across the prairie, their lifeways, their interactions with early settlers and their subsequent removal to reservations. It features photographs taken in 1906 of the descendants of McLean County's Prairie Kickapoo.



Through November 3, 2008

Gifts to the Prairie: The Art of Pioneer Nurserymen & the Prints of William Henry Prestele. This exhibit features the extraordinary lithographs of the Prestele family, hand colored to reflect the exact appearance and beauty of the most popular fruits and flowers of the day. Created for Bloomington's F. K. Phoenix Nursery, the largest in the West in 1867, the prints represent the unique art form used by pioneer nurserymen, such as Phoenix, to sell their plant stock. The exhibit explores the work of these men, the unique lithographs they used to sell their stock, and how they changed the Illinois prairie landscape.

Through August 7, 2010

A Turbulent Time: Perspectives of the Vietnam War. This exhibit explores the complex ways McLean County residents perceived and responded to this crucial twentieth century event. Questions such as, "How did the U.S. Government get involved in Vietnam? How did local citizens and those serving in Vietnam initially feel about the war? How did feelings change as the war intensified?" And, "Why did U.S. involvement continue, even after anti-war protests escalated and the general public demanded an end?" are addressed in this groundbreaking exhibit.



Saturdays through August 7, 2010

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, toothbrush, shaving cream, pre-shave lotion, after-shave, disposable razors, stationery kits, paperback puzzle books (large print is preferred), playing cards, t-shirts, and socks. Thank you for your generous support.

October 16 through December 5, 2008

American Currency. In conjunction with the traveling exhibit Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America (at ISU's Milner Library from October 16 to December 5) a Museum Library exhibit case will feature American currency and banknotes dating from the Revolutionary War as well as banknotes during the antebellum "wildcat" era; and Confederate currency and Union script from the Civil War.

Saturdays, through October 25.

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!

September 1

Museum Closed for Labor Day Holiday.



September 2

Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk. Tickets go on sale today. Tickets cost \$14.00 non-members, \$12.00 Museum members, \$4.00 for students with ID and kids. Buy them in advance and save \$2.00 each! (does not apply to student tickets). Get them from the Museum, the Garlic Press in Normal, and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington. See page 12 for details.

September 11 7 p.m. in the Gov. Fifer Courtroom at the Museum

The Role of David Davis in Lincoln's Nomination. Abraham Lincoln's connection to Judge David Davis and other influential locals played a key role in his successful run for the presidency. The Museum in association with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County and the David Davis Mansion Foundation are pleased to host this special presentation by acclaimed author Gary Ecelbarger. His latest book, *The Great Comeback: How Abraham Lincoln Beat the Odds to Win the 1860 Republican Nomination*, will also be available for purchase. The author will sign books following the program. This event is open to the public free of charge. For more information about the celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial, visit the website at www.mclincn.org. To learn more about Judge David Davis and the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site in Bloomington, visit the website at <http://daviddavismansion.org>.



October 4, 5, 11 and 12

Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk. Tours are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. Tickets on sale at the Museum in Bloomington, The Garlic Press in Normal and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Call 827-0428 for more information. See page 12 for details.

October 25 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A Day of History Bus Trip. Join the McLean County Museum of History for "A Day Of History" in Chicago. The trip will begin with a self-guided tour of the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum and will follow with a self-guided tour of the Chicago History Museum, lunch included. Look for more information coming to your mailbox soon! See page 3 for details.

November 1 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Guest Speaker Ellen Mann of the National Agriculture Library. Ellen Mann discusses the career of William Henry Prestele, who worked for the United States Department of Agriculture from 1887-1895. Mann will discuss Prestele's continued contributions to botanical illustration after he created lithographic prints for F. K. Phoenix's Bloomington Nursery. See page 5 for details.

November 11 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom at the Museum

Lincoln in Bloomington-Normal with Guy Fraker. Join the Museum for an evening exploring Abraham Lincoln's life and times here in Bloomington-Normal, led by local Lincoln historian Guy Fraker. This event is free and open to the public. See page 2 for details.

November 27

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.

December 6 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Christmas at the Courthouse. Join the staff of the McLean County Museum of History for a holiday tradition. Enjoy holiday music, Christmas carols, homemade cookies, children's crafts, and a multicultural St. Nicholas for the kids!

Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk XIV

The Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk is the Museum's most successful, longest running-public program, and you're invited! This year our characters come from a variety of backgrounds and they are an interesting group.

Generously sponsored again by Busey Bank, *Voices from the Past XIV* combines historical research by Museum volunteers, costumed actors from Illinois Voices Theatre and the beautiful grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery into a week-long outdoor theatrical presentation. Ten characters will share their rich and diverse life stories in eight presentations over a one mile walk through the hallowed grounds of the city's oldest cemetery. Themes explored will include the arts, abolition, law, coal mining, agriculture, music and more.

Tours will be at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 4; Sunday, October 5; Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, October 12, 2008. Ticket sales begin September 2, and will be available for purchase at the Museum, the Garlic Press in Normal and Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomington. Price categories are \$14.00 for the general public, \$12.00 for museum members, \$4.00 for kids and students with/ID. A \$2.00 pre-sale discount is available for general and museum member tickets if purchased before October 4 (no discount on kids/student tickets). Call 309 827-0428 or visit www.mchistory.org for details.

2008 Featured Characters

John Edward McClun (1812-1877) Judge McClun "pulled himself up by his bootstraps" to become successful in business and public life, but questioned his achievements in the light of multiple family tragedies.



Ellis (1816-1899) and **Martha Dillon** (1827-1910) Both husband and wife were ardent abolitionists and were committed to making life better for the sick, poor and dispossessed. The family also became renowned for the world-class Percheron draft horses they raised on their farms.



Carl Gustav Hanner (1840-1921) An orphan from Stockholm, Sweden, Hanner bounced from orphanages to

foster homes before he found a home and stability in Bloomington's Swedish community. His job with the McLean County Coal Company was very dangerous.

Absalom Hawkins (1855-1903) In spite of the reputation men in his occupation had of being thieves and crooks, Ab, the only African-American "hack" driver (cabman) in Bloomington, was known as a man of honesty and was respected by all his customers.



Judge Louis Fitzhenry (1870-1935)



An accomplished writer and speaker, Fitzhenry firmly believed in upholding the law. He was an advocate for limiting the power of the railroad and coal industries, and supported Prohibition.

Elizabeth Irons Folsom (1862-1935)

Folsom developed her clear-eyed writing ability as a court reporter for *The Daily Pantagraph* and moved to New York City to be a writer after she realized she was going blind. She sold the first story she ever wrote and won an O. Henry prize for another of her short stories.



Grace B. Wagner (1890-1964) When World War I forced Wagner to abandon an international operatic career, she distinguished herself by returning to the United States and building a career with a unique opera company.



Carl Schurz Vrooman (1872-1966) and **Julia Scott Vrooman** (1876-1981) This powerful couple took Washington, D.C., by storm—he as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture (1914-1919); she as a vivacious socialite, writer, and organizer of entertainment for WWI soldiers fighting in Europe.



Focus on Volunteers

How could standing in line to buy a Rotary Club pork chop influence an individual's desire to volunteer at the museum? In July of 2001 it had a dramatic influence on **Nancy Shevokas**. With Director of Volunteers and Interns, Mary Ann Schierman standing next to her, the conversation quickly turned to Nancy's interest in history and experiences as a school librarian. Within a matter of weeks, she was taking the library training classes and on the Museum's volunteer schedule.



Nancy Shevokas

Nancy has a master's degree in business education and also studied library science. She taught classes and was a school librarian for 39 years in Flanagan, Prairie Central and Chenoa. This background made her a perfect library volunteer. Nancy volunteers on weekends, often a hard time slot to fill, and has provided the museum with **845 hours** of volunteer service.

As a volunteer she helps patrons find the materials they seek and works on special projects with archivists, Bill Kemp and George Perkins. Nancy works on collections donated to the Museum from families, individuals, businesses and community organizations. This involves sorting by category, indexing, cataloging and preservation. While working, Nancy enjoys taking extra time to read, review and take a closer look at the interesting materials she helps to preserve thus expanding her historical knowledge. She also takes great pleasure in helping to train new library volunteers. It brings her satisfaction to know that others are willing to contribute their time to helping people complete their research and preserve this county's history.

In addition to volunteering at the Museum, Nancy contributes hours to RSVP and Epiphany Grade School. In her spare time, she works on her own family's genealogical research and has taken up quilting. She said, "When I retired, I said I wanted to continue to keep active as long as health permitted. I have done just that. My volunteer jobs permit me to sit back and enjoy what I am doing." We salute Nancy and thank her for the many gifts she shares with us.

Museum Staff Q&A

How long have you been at the Museum and how did you end up working here? I started volunteering for the Genealogical Society Library and Historical Museum in 1973 and continued for 32 years. My education and occupation was as an archivist for GTE. After retiring from GTE/Verizon the opportunity to be archivist at the Museum came available and I eagerly accepted the position. To do what I have been doing for 32 years as a volunteer and now be a staff member is a dream retirement job.

What do you do here? My primary responsibilities include helping Bill Kemp and assisting our volunteers, interns and patrons in the library and archives. I also maintain our photographic collections, map collections, box collections, video collection, and serve as the main staff member on Tuesday nights and Saturdays.

What's the best part of your job? This is an easy question. I love working with the staff, volunteers, interns and patrons. It is a pleasure to come in each day. We are a family of 14 staff members, about 8 interns each semester and over 300 volunteers.

Tell us a little about your family. My wife Pat and I just celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary. I guess she will keep me. I have a wonderful daughter Sarah who is married to Matt Brown and they have blessed us with two adorable grandchildren: Ava (13 months) and Logan (1 month).

What do you do to relax? As new grandparents we are exploring the excitement and joy of watching a new generation grow and mature. So, of course our interests are spending time with our two grandchildren. I enjoy traveling to unique out of the way places. Genealogy and photography have always been a passion.



George Perkins

New to the Collections

OBJECTS

- ❑ Hall's Tog Shop tray; Country Companies pencil; by Amy Miller.
- ❑ WW I fob, ISSCS seal; by Orval Springer.
- ❑ Arrowhead; by Wendell Learned.
- ❑ Electric rollers, electric razor; by Eileen Wagner
- ❑ 3 baseball caps: Mayor Judy, Extreme and Prairie Thunder; by Judy Markowitz.
- ❑ WWII periscope; by Jim Meizelis.
- ❑ Prairie style table; by Prairie Woodworks.
- ❑ Civil war crayon portrait, discharge papers and auction bill of George Cooney; by Phillis Schumaker.
- ❑ "Black is Beautiful" pinback button; donated by Pam Muirhead.
- ❑ "Stag" sweater c. 1945; by Carolyn Winterroth.
- ❑ Mary Shank Crumbaugh's opera cape, c. 1880; by Nina Moss.
- ❑ Bloomington Knockers practice jersey and shorts, Extreme first game t-shirt; by Kathy Rave.
- ❑ Stoneware water cooler used in one room-school; by Sylvia Banks.
- ❑ Humphrey's bottles, Guy Carlton ruler, Coke pencil, Elsie Mandel's Paris Expo 1900 hankie, letter opener from Asahigawa, Anderson for Coroner key ring; by Carol Struck.
- ❑ 1971 Miss Illinois Paint Horse Association hat, suit and sash, and American Heritage Dancers dress; all worn by Martha Tyner; by Frances Tyner.
- ❑ WWII Purple Heart, military ribbon bars and wings, Purple Heart papers and letter written five days before his death by Lyle Lanz; by Kristin Bane.
- ❑ Anthony Koos' camping knife, Felmley Dickerson hard hat from library construction, and "Play in the Dirt" tin from Uptown Normal ground breaking; by Greg and Carol Koos.
- ❑ Vietnam era mosquito net, boots and fatigues of Jim Meizelis; by Jim Meizelis.
- ❑ Eastlake bed from Soper-Burr house; by Donna Rae Alsene.
- ❑ Pampers c. 1970; by Patty Stahly.
- ❑ GM&O conductor's uniform worn c. 1956 by John D. Wieting; by Sal and Rebecca Valadez.
- ❑ NuScope oscilloscope and instructions; by Graham Cowger.
- ❑ "Bush again?" screamer pinback button; by Mary Ann Schierman.
- ❑ Lapel stud from UAW 2488 10th anniversary; by Jeff Woodard.
- ❑ Kaleidoscope, c. 1980; by Modena Grover.
- ❑ Toy cannon, lead soldiers and telegraph key used as a toy by Wayne Townley; by Marilyn Townley.
- ❑ Golf shoes, eight-track player, canning jar, Swish-o-dish scrubber; by William and Alice McKnight estate.

ARCHIVES

- ❑ Original Arthur L. Pillsbury architectural drawings of Minier High School, Lyman Graham house, and others; by Richard D. Mills.
- ❑ Grand Hotel carryout menu, undated, and other material; by Margie and Paul Vertin.
- ❑ Illinois Terminal (interurban) Railroad timetable, effective May 16, 1939; by Mark Dunn.
- ❑ American Passion Play material, including 1928 and 1933 programs; by Marsha Crom.
- ❑ Last will and testament of Simon Alexander, and miscellaneous papers; by Julius and Sue Alexander.
- ❑ Park Methodist Church seventy-fifth anniversary, 1892-1967, booklet; and material relating to Billy Shelper and Home Sweet Home Mission; by Norman and Patricia Hiser.
- ❑ Four-page Pantagraph advertisement, opening of West Side Coal and Lumber Co., March 25, 1929, and transcription of Civil War diary of George Washington Kent; by Carolyn Winterroth.
- ❑ Two sheets of paper snowflakes made by attorney W.K. Bracken, and Civil War letter, from Harkis Stubblefield to "Miss Wilson," December 14, 1864; by Frances B. Tyner.

Bernice Corrington lived in Normal and taught school in the 1930s. She used this stoneware cooler to provide water for her students. According to the cooler's donor, Sylvia Banks, who was also Corrington's neighbor, Bernice taught in a one-room schoolhouse. City directories confirm that she was a teacher, but we haven't been able to determine which school. We do know that when Bernice retired from



teaching she purchased and ran Novak Flowers on Main Street in Bloomington. We'd love to learn where Corrington taught. If you knew Corrington and where she taught, please contact the museum at 827-0428 and let us know!

This 16 inch tall, five-gallon water cooler, made by Western Stoneware Company in Monmouth, Ill., about 1925, was possibly used in one of McLean County's one-room schoolhouses.

- ❑ Scrapbook on visit of "Freedom Train" to Bloomington, 1948; plat of East Lawn cemetery; World War II ration books; newspaper clippings relating to local history; and other material; by Marilyn Townley.
- ❑ Material relating to architectural firms Schaeffer, Wilson & Evans and Evans Associates, including plans for proposed (but never built) Illinois State University student center; concept plans for development near Clearwater and Hershey; and other items; by Barbara M. Evans.
- ❑ Various, including appraisal book for estate and property of Oscar Mandel, 1920; tenancy map of downtown Bloomington, 1953, by Oscar Cohn; My Store postcards; Bloomington Public School directories; Springer and Stubbs family materials; and more; by Carol and Steve Struck.
- ❑ Newspaper clippings on Hays and Carnahan families, ca. 1940; by Patricia B. Smith.
- ❑ Organizational papers, including newsletter "Lake Breezes," maps, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and miscellany; by Lake Bloomington Association.
- ❑ Letter from Harry S. Truman to Bloomington resident Joseph J. Berry, February 10, 1953; by Carol Bansch.
- ❑ Six bound diaries, 1954 to 1973 and 1979 to 1988 of Lena Gentes and son DeLoss Gentes from the Meadows area; by Jane Osborn.
- ❑ Miscellaneous legal papers relating to George Washington Funk, including abstracts of title; by Betty Peacock.
- ❑ Postcards (many with local scenes) featuring Larkin family correspondence; by Ray Larkin.
- ❑ Julia Vrooman's whole wheat bread recipe; by Elizabeth Glidden.
- ❑ Bloomington Knife and Fork Club program, 1970-1971; Bloomington Public Library

Past Museum Board President Carol Struck and her husband Steve recently donated a large number of items they had collected over the years.

Included was this October 1912 issue of "The Fra," a monthly publication of Elbert Hubbard and his Roycroft Press.

Born in Bloomington in 1856, Hubbard grew up in Hudson, where his father Silas practiced medicine. Hubbard established the Roycroft Press in East Aurora, New York, which spurned cheap, mass-produced publishing techniques in favor of hand-set type and handmade paper. Eventually, the expanding Roycroft "campus" evolved into something resembling an Arts and Crafts artist colony shepherded by "Fra Elbertus," as Hubbard liked to call himself.

The Museum holds a large collection of Roycroft books, but this is our first issue of "The Fra."



calendar, 1987; Roland's Christmas card, no date; and other items; by Murray M. Short.

BOOKS

- ❑ 1908 McLean County history (2 volumes); by Bob Neiryneck.
- ❑ Illinois Farmers' Institute, Department of Household Science, yearbooks, 1917 and 1919; by Marsha Crom.
- ❑ Illinois State University, 150th anniversary alumni edition, 2007; by Betty J. Keough.
- ❑ Various, including *Illustrated Bloomington and Normal* (1896), *Standard Atlas of Woodford County* (1912), *Pioneer Portraits of Central Illinois* (1923); and others; by Marilyn Townley.
- ❑ Family pictorial, "The David Stern Family of Bloomington;" by Harry M. Stern.
- ❑ Two bound volumes of periodical *Farmers Voice*, 1909-1913, published by Arthur J. Bill; by Linda Reavill.

PHOTOS

- ❑ Costello & O'Malley clothing store baseball team (print), ca. 1913; by Reed O'Malley.

- ❑ Members of the McLean County Bar Association, 1962; by Mark Dunn.
- ❑ Everett Kent, World War I aviator; by Carolyn Winterroth.
- ❑ Various, including Modern Woodmen, ca. 1917, and McLellan's Store employees, 1936; by Frances B. Tryner.
- ❑ Various, including 1900 downtown Bloomington fire scenes; by Marilyn Townley.
- ❑ Portraits of Judge Lawrence Weldon and wife Louise; by Barbara M. Evans.
- ❑ Illinois State University football team, undated; Daughters of the American Revolution colonial tea, 1926; Kappa Kappa Gamma formal, 1935; and many others; by Steve and Dr. Carol, Struck.
- ❑ Boys basketball team, "Juniors," 1914-1915; by Albert L. Van Ness.
- ❑ Various, including June 2008 tour of Duncan Manor / Towanda Meadows; Uptown Normal construction; and other topics; by Amy Miller.
- ❑ Model Laundry and Model-Paris Laundry, three 8x10s, ca. 1920s, 1930s, and 1950s; by Mary Jane Lyman.

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.



MYSTERY HISTORY QUIZ

This issue's mystery photo shows a group of women gathered at a cemetery. Can you tell us the name and purpose of this group? Can you identify anyone pictured here? If you have an idea, please contact Museum Librarian / Archivist Bill Kemp at library@mchistory.org or 827-0428.

Mystery History Quiz Responses

Last issue's mystery photo was a contemporary view of the stone bridge at Bloomington's Forrest Park. Those who knew the bridge's correct location include Ed Cronin, Jim Hoppe, Dick Keeran, Ed McGrew, Peg Sours, and Gene Swick. In fact, Swick, who grew up on Mason Street, remembers playing under the bridge as a child.

Back in the 1800s, Forrest Park was known as Frey's or Stein's Grove. Louis Stein operated a brewery at the site until the 1870s, when he was bought out by brewers Meyer & Wochner. It was Stein who constructed the "cave" (actually a brick-lined tunnel) at the park to keep his beer cool. Meyer & Wochner used the cave until Prohibition and the end of the brewery trade in Bloomington. Stein's Grove became Forrest Park in 1923, and through the years the wooded tract served various purposes, including a rifle range for the Bloomington Police Department, and motor campsite for Route 66 traffic. During the Great Depression the cave was used for a commercial mushroom-growing venture. Many longtime residents remember poking around the "cave," though today the entryway is sealed off from curiosity seekers.

The current bridge was built in 1945, replacing one dating back to 1910. The older bridge was built by Henry Berenz, Sr., and the replacement by his son, contractor Henry Berenz, Jr.



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