



On The Square

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The Quarterly Newsletter for the McLean County Museum of History

Volume 42, Number 3

September, October, November 2010

New Exhibit to Highlight Work of Bloomington Architect A.L. Pillsbury

The fine design and attention to detail of A.L. Pillsbury, a prominent Bloomington architect of the early 20th century, will be explored in a new exhibit set to open November 13 in the Museum's Merwin Gallery. The exhibit will run through August 30, 2011.

Pillsbury was one of the first licensed architects in the state of Illinois, and the first to work in Bloomington with a degree in architecture. His designs offer a richly detailed architectural eclecticism that synthesized the major western styles of architecture. His methods allowed the elements to remain distinguishable, but at the same time comfortably integrated them into a beautifully balanced, aesthetically pleasing, and distinctive design.

His career began in 1895 and ended abruptly in 1925 when he was killed in a car accident. Despite this untimely death, Pillsbury's firm was prolific, designing over 435 homes, 17 banks, 22 barns, 73 businesses, 32 churches, 16 garages, 104 schools, and numerous other types of buildings.

Pillsbury's career took off after the Great Fire of 1900, which destroyed a large portion of downtown Bloomington. In the years



Bloomington's Horatio Bent School was designed by A.L. Pillsbury in 1922 and is one of a few of his schools still being used as a school.

following the fire, he designed over a dozen buildings to replace those destroyed. Pillsbury used the opportunity to bring Bloomington into the 20th century via the latest in "skyscraper" design. These buildings utilized the steel framing and neoclassical design of the "Chicago School of Architecture" developed by the Adler and Sullivan architecture firm in Chicago. This work established his reputation as a fine designer.

By 1905 he was also designing schools and his reputation in this area was growing. But the largest part of his business was designs for homes. For Bloomington-Normal clients alone, he designed over 300 homes. Many of these homes are still standing. The exhibit will feature a digital slide show of 112 of

these homes.

Pillsbury's reputation for quality design and attention to detail will also be explored by examining hand-colored renderings of some of

[Pillsbury- continued on page 9](#)

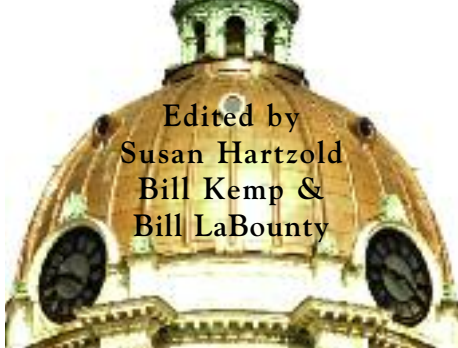
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Bill Kemp &
Bill LaBounty

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Apple Tasting Event Returns

The Museum had such a great turnout and positive feedback during its fall 2008 apple tasting, that we have decided to do it again. So, back by popular demand, the *Tart and Tasty Apple Tasting* will be held on Saturday, November 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. For \$5 per adult and \$2 per child, you will receive a sampling of a variety of fresh apples (both heirloom and modern), apple baked goods, and two kinds of apple cider. What better way to celebrate the fall harvest and the holidays than by eating apples!



Many people do not realize how many varieties of apples there truly are: Sweet, tart, crunchy, chewy, large, small, yellow, red or green. Apples are not only categorized by their taste and appearance, but how well they can be preserved and what they are used for as well. Participants will also be able to vote on their favorite apple! Registration is limited so please contact the Museum's Education Department at 309-827-0428 or via email at education@mchistory.org to register by November 8.

This event is being held in conjunction with the Museum's current exhibit *Come & Get It! The Way We Ate 1830-2008*, and is sponsored in part by a gift from State Farm.

New Board Officers and Directors Elected

At the annual meeting on June 26 members elected a slate of officers and directors. They are: President - Bob Watkins; First Vice-President - Rob Fazzini; Second Vice-President - Russel Francois; Treasurer - John Killian; Secretary - Carolyn Yockey; Immediate Past President - Mike Matejka; County Board Representative - Matt Sorensen; Class of 2012 - Bill Wetzel, Jr.; Class of 2013 - Carl Behr, Brad Briney, David Dorris, Nancy Froehlich, Guy Fraker, and Mark Dunn; Director Emeritus - Jack Bowles

New board members include Brad Briney, Guy Fraker and Bill Wetzel, Jr. Briney is Area Manager, Illinois Central Market, Chase Bank. He and his family relocated here from Waukesha WI, where he served on the board of the Waukesha Historical Society and Museum. Fraker is a Bloomington attorney who is currently finishing a book on Abraham Lincoln and the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Wetzel is an eighth-grade history teacher for Bloomington Public Schools. His students have often attended museum programs on fieldtrips. Each of these new board members bring knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for the work of the museum.

16th Annual Evergreen Cemetery Walk

The *Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk* is one of the Museum's most successful and longest running public programs. This year our characters come from a wide variety of backgrounds and prove to be an extraordinary bunch. *Voices from the Past XVI* combines historical research by Museum volunteers, costumed actors from Illinois Voices Theatre and the beautiful grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery into an outdoor theatrical presentation. Eight 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. Tours will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on each of the following days: Saturday, October 2; Sunday, October 3; Saturday, October 9; and Sunday, October 10. The event is sponsored in part by Busey Bank. Ticket sales begin September 7 and will be available for purchase at the Museum, the Garlic Press in Normal and Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomington. Prices are: \$14 for the general public; \$12 for museum members; and \$4 for kids and students with school ID. A \$2 pre-sale discount is available for general and museum member tickets if purchased at least 24 hours before the day of the performance (no discount on kids / student tickets). If you have any questions, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428. We hope to see you there!

2010 Featured Characters

Lucy Orme Morgan (1858-1944): A



suffragist and ardent supporter of social support systems, Morgan is able to raise funds and keep homes for needy and homeless children up and running during financially strapped times.



largest and most successful meatpacking company in town. But his neighbors strongly objected to the foul odor coming from his company. Learn how he handled the business and dealt with his neighbors.

Willis Stearles (1890-1956):

What is truth and what is myth about this World War I veteran, a member of the "Black Devils" regiment and longtime zookeeper at Miller Park? The Griotte (an African-American storyteller) will attempt to discover the truth behind the stories in this two-character scene.

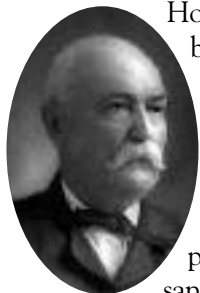


Grace Jewett Austin (1872 -1948):

This amateur playwright and poet, fashion dame and *Pantagraph* reporter, will fill you in on who was marrying whom, who showed up in town, who went to what party, and who wore what to important events. Austin, Bloomington's own red carpet reporter, would have been right at home working for *People* magazine.



Daniel T. Foster (1841-1920):



How does a man go from being a larger-than-life Civil War soldier, a prominent business owner, and mayor of Bloomington to being indicted for aiding a prisoner and malfeasance in office?

Christoph Mandler (1858-1949):

What do you make of a gregarious German cigar maker who loved to sing and dance (with Mathilda, no less) and entertain all within the sound of his voice?



William R. White (1844-1906):

How did this man who spent the first eight years of his life in near darkness, become a teacher and prize-winning inventor with 60 patents to his name?



Helen Davis Stevenson (1869-1935):

How does a socially prominent woman, in a rocky relationship with a husband who's away from home for much of the marriage, cope with raising two strong-willed children in an age when the success of her parenting was judged by the success of her children?



William Van Schoick (1829-1899):

He was one of the founders of the Bloomington Pork Packing Co., the

Support for this program
provided by:



Museum Offering New Children's Membership

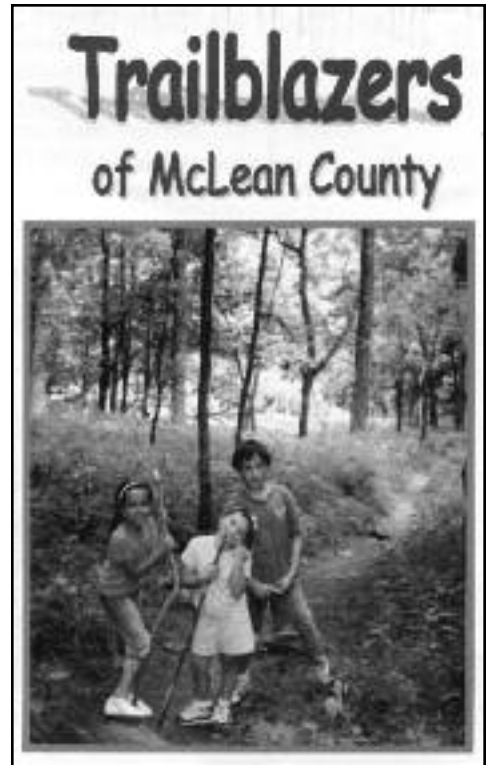
Trailblazers of McLean County is a new way for kids of all ages who love History to enjoy the Museum all the time! Members must be ages 17 and under and a parent or guardian must sign up with them. Memberships are good until the student's 18th birthday.

Trailblazers of McLean County can:

- Visit the Museum's exhibits along with one adult for FREE
- See and explore history from the pioneer era through the 21st century
- Receive invitations to programs throughout the year
- Receive a 10% discount on items purchased in the Museum's "On the Square" Gift Shop
- Explore the Museum with our History Detectives Workbook
- Receive the Museum's quarterly newsletter, which will soon include a Trailblazer's activity corner.
- Receive special invitations for "Trailblazer's Only" activities
- And More!

Recent participants in the Museum's History Careers Day Camp were the first to be offered this special membership. Almost half of those who attended Camp joined the Trailblazers. We would love to have more! To

join, simply stop by the Museum and pick up an application, or call the Museum's Education Department at (309) 827-0428, or email at education@mchistory.org. Join the Trailblazer's and make some history today!



The Museum Welcomes the Following New Members

Dr. William Allen

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory M. Shepard

Mr. David Bradbury

Mr. Dwain McKee

Mr. and Mrs. Russell and Nancy Schwartz

Ms. Judith A. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Briney

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Seventh Annual History Career Day Camp Features New Activities On Two Additional Days

Another fun and educational summer of History Careers Day Camp has come and gone and what a bright and creative group of students we had this summer! All three sessions of day camp were filled within the first week of registration. Due to overwhelming interest, this year we gave first priority to students who had never attended camp. We were also able to give one-third of our students a scholarship to attend camp for free.



Education Program Manager Rachael Masa and volunteer Paul Rayburn guide campers over a “lava river” during a history career activity.

A new incentive program was added called History Bucks. Students earned this reward throughout the course of camp for good behavior. They then used the Bucks to buy cool prizes. Our intention was to provide fun and positive ways to keep kids focused and behaving well. It worked out perfectly and we will continue this practice next year.

Some of the campers’ favorite activities included doing a mock excavation at the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site on Archaeology Day, constructing box buildings on Architecture Day and playing a French fur trading game at Sugar Grove Nature Center on Environmental Science Day.

Thank you to our Day Camp partners, David Davis Mansion State Historic Site and Sugar Grove Nature Center, for continuing to provide educational opportunities for students in McLean County. Also, thanks to the following interns and volunteers who assisted with Day Camp this year: Katie Bayles, Stephanie Owens, Paul Rayburn, Katie Wright, Beth Harroun, Marcy Parsons, Mary Sellmyer, Kay Henrichs, Judie Bey, Ashley Breen and Sarah Rapp. Thanks also to our professional speakers: David Halpin, Ken Kashain and Susan Hartzold. And of course, we’d like to thank our Museum members who, through their support, help us continue to provide quality programs like this.

This year the Museum added some new components to camp including two entirely new days. This included an Introduction to Careers Day in which students participated in activities and games that helped them think about what they want to be when they grow up. A scavenger hunt through the Museum exhibits provided information about past occupations and how they relate to today’s jobs. Museum Studies Day was also added with an excellent talk from the Museum’s curator Susan Hartzold, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum and a “make your own exhibit” activity.



Camper Zach Green tries on some antlers during his day at Sugar Grove Nature Center.

Summer Intern Projects Spark Community Interest

Illinois State University Geography major **Mike Johnson** spent his summer studying one-room schoolhouses in McLean County. In an effort to continue reaching people through the Museum website, Mike's job was to create an interactive map of every schoolhouse that existed in the county in 1895, and then make it available via the Museum's website.

The first step in this project was the completion of research in the Archives and scrapbook material from former school superintendent, William Brigham. An 1895 township map was used to plot the exact location of the 236 schools that existed, and digital copies were made of the schoolhouse pictures in the Brigham scrapbook. Once the pictures were edited, they were imported onto the map along with captions for each school. Twice, Mike and Museum Archivist George Perkins took trips out into



rural McLean County to photograph the old school sites. One of these trips sparked the interest of *The Pantagraph*, and the story of Mike's project landed on the

paper's front page. Mike's completed project can be seen on the website.



Xixi Tian is a history major at the University of Illinois. She worked with Director of Volunteers and Interns Mary Anne Schierman on a book project for Alta Mira Press. During this internship she was "buried" in cemetery history and funeral practices from the ancients to present-day. Her job was to track the changing nature of cemeteries and how these changes related to changes in society as a whole. Along with the research, she collected reference materials into a bibliography, studied the processes of cemetery walks, and interviewed the organizers of various walks held throughout the country. These background materials were forwarded to Alta Mira and another author working on the project.

Hoping to utilize the career skills of planning, organization and administration, **Katie Bayles** was a public programs intern in the Museum's Education department. As a double major in anthropology and education at Illinois Wesleyan



University, she gained hands-on experience as an educator during History Careers Day Camp, Girl Scout programs, and special programming. In addition to planning activities, purchasing supplies, and implementing the program, she learned the value of working with volunteers in a museum setting and the importance of thorough training before an event. Her input into these Education department projects was valuable and provided additional improvement to these ongoing programs.

The creation of a major new exhibit takes two to three years of research, oral history interviews, planning and designing. This summer marked the beginning of that process during the internship of **Caiti Kopp**. As an anthropology major and member of the Division I women's softball team at ISU, this project was a perfect fit. She looked through every yearbook in the Museum Library and listed teams that won regional, sectional or state championships. The advent of girl's and women's sports is important to the history of local sports, so Caiti documented this trend year-

by-year, school-by-school. In addition to the research, she called county libraries and schools so additional information could be collected and pictures taken of artifacts. Caiti's research is adding to the foundation for this upcoming exhibit.



George Kutsunis is pursuing a master's degree in History at ISU. In addition to his studies, he edits and maintains a sports blog and community for SB Nation, an online company which covers most major sports and teams. His focus is managing and writing significant content for the site www.hailtotheorange.com, a site

dedicated to University of Illinois athletics. These two interests and skills contributed to his success in researching and organizing information on local sports from the IHSA database and *Pantagraph* archives. The information from this research provided a baseline understanding for the significant events in athletics in McLean County. This data has contributed



to the exhibit's development and will be expanded upon as the project continues to grow.

After receiving her bachelor of arts in December 2009, **Emily Swartz** knew she wanted experience in her field of writing. Writing



Character biographies of individuals featured in the 16th annual *Voices from the Past: Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk* gave her the experience she was seeking. After reading archival information, along with other source material, she accumulated the biographical information of each person's life. The completed biographies are distributed to teachers as resource material for this year's walk. They are also stored in the Museum Archives and posted on the Museum's website. This project has utilized and expanded Emily's research and writing skills.

Help the Museum Become More Eco Friendly — Ask to Receive Our Newsletter Via Email

The Museum's newsletter is now available as a full-color PDF sent directly to your email inbox. You can help the Museum cut printing and postage costs, all while using less paper. For those of you living outside the Bloomington-Normal postal service area, you will receive your newsletter much more quickly. To opt-out of a printed version of the newsletter, simply send an email to development@mchistory.org saying that you wish to receive our newsletter by email. We have no intention of replacing the paper copy of the newsletter, but a digital version is simply one more option we want to make available.

If you are on our email list, you may have already received this newsletter in your inbox. We did this so you can see what it looks like. Being on our existing email list does not automatically mean you will only receive the newsletter by email; you will still need to opt-out of the printed version.



Focus on Volunteers

The Museum's volunteer quilting group was started in the mid-1970s by Florence English and Margaret Bennington. Only one group of quilters had volunteered each week until recently. Now every week on Wednesday and Thursday, two groups of women take a step back in time as they preserve an art form from the past.

Donating their hand-quilting skills, they turn quilt tops into complete quilts. **Margaret (Dee) Myers** has been quilting at the Museum since 1996. On Thursdays she is joined by **Eve Zook, Joyce Jones, Shirley Boward and Pat Kohoutek**. Prior to their arrival as volunteers, Dee had been quilting for 10 years, and Eve for 30. Joyce only likes to hand-quilt and has never pieced a top. She learned the skill after being left tops made by her aunt. Shirley quilted with the group for awhile, got a job at State Farm, recently retired and has returned. She likes the experience of sitting around the quilt frame, like an old-fashioned quilting bee. Pat learned to quilt in 1994 and joined the group in 2002. The women did not know each other prior to their work in the Museum, but have become good friends through more than the 2,000 hours they have spent

cried; shared the good and the bad; supported each other through the many challenges life brings. In addition to volunteering at the Museum, Eve sometimes does commission work and has hand-quilted approximately 45 quilts for the Mennonite Relief Sale. Pat quilted for Advocate BroMenn and annually makes something for the Festival of Trees.

The Wednesday group of **Arlene Mitchell, Zoe Iutzi, Verena Knapp, Pat Bolda and Annajean Winn** moved to the Museum's third floor Quilter's Room, having hand-quilted together for another organization for many years. Collectively, this group has 130 years of experience. Zoe spent most of her 35 years as



Left to right: Arlene Mitchell, Zoe Iutzi, Verena Knapp, Pat Bolda and Annajean Winn



Left to right: Shirley Boward, Eve Zook, Pat Kohoutek, and Joyce Jones. Margaret (Dee) Myers not shown

together over the years. They enjoy the camaraderie and the sharing.

"These are amazing women. Everyone has a story to tell," said Pat Kohoutek. They have laughed and

a quilter, volunteering for Mennonite. The group moved into the quilt room in November 2009. Their experience of sharing and camaraderie is the same as the Thursday group. While perfecting their craft and donating their time, they learn so much from one another. The two groups combined are finishing five to six quilts a year, working through the two-year waiting list that continues to grow. Once they finish a quilt, the owner pays the Museum for their work. The money that is made – about \$12,000 over the past 11 years – helps fund education programs, including the History Careers Day Camp, the Seniors Reminiscence Program at nursing homes, and the development of history loan kits.

We are thrilled to have two groups of women filling the third floor Quilter's Room, and thank them for their service.

Vietnam Exhibit Honored with National Award



The Museum is proud to announce the exhibit *A Turbulent Time: Perspectives of the Vietnam War* has received the prestigious Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). This national award is presented as part of the organization's Leadership in History Awards which encourages standards of excellence in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history, publically recognizing superior and innovative achievements in the field. The Museum's executive director Greg Koos noted, "It's the

highest award that a history exhibit can get."

The formal award presentation will take place at the AASLH annual meeting in September in Oklahoma. Because of the exhibit's popularity, it has been extended another year through August 6, 2011. Support for this exhibit comes from radio station WJBC, the Central Illinois Builders of the Associated General Contractors of America Association, and Local 197 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Pillsbury - continued from page 1 the schools and other civic buildings he designed. Thirty of these beautiful hand-colored renderings are in the Museum's collection. Nationally recognized Bloomington painter and art historian Harold Gregor worked closely with staff curator Susan Hartzold to develop special labels that explain the stylistic origins of the elements Pillsbury combined in these designs.

During the research phase of the exhibit a database of all the buildings designed by Pillsbury was created. This difficult task is still ongoing, as data is missing. For example, Pillsbury's business records did not include the locations of homes he designed for smaller communities or for rural buildings, such barns or corn cribs. To make it more difficult, Pillsbury's designs were built all over the state of Illinois, and beyond. In some instances we have been unable to verify whether a design was actually built or if it still exists. Exhibit visitors can look at the data to see if there are or were Pillsbury buildings in their community and possibly help us fill in some of the blanks.

McLean County is host to a large number of surviving Pillsbury designs. The exhibit seeks to create a greater awareness of his surviving work in our community. To accomplish this, special signs will be placed in the yards of homes and the windows of business designed by Pillsbury. Look for these signs during the exhibit.

A special opening program will be presented on opening day, November 13, at 1 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. Bloomington Architect Russell Francois will chair a panel discussion by local architects. These architects will assess Pillsbury's projects in terms of design, challenges of construction and how they stand over time. Please join us for what will undoubtedly be a lively discussion! Please join us as we celebrate the architectural legacy of A.L. Pillsbury. Support for this exhibit was provided by Roehm Renovations and Laurie Wallace Design services.

Sponsor Spotlight



The Museum is pleased to announce that Roehm Renovations, LLC, and Laurie Wallace Design Services have agreed to sponsor the upcoming exhibit *A Passion for Detail*, which explores the work of local architect Arthur L. Pillsbury. Both companies are ideal sponsors of this exhibit, considering their line of work entails the preservation and restoration of older homes in the area, including homes designed by Pillsbury. We appreciate their work to preserve the architectural heritage of our neighborhoods, and we sincerely appreciate their support of this upcoming exhibit.

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New to the Collections

OBJECTS

- ❑ 1920 Rabbit Breeders' trophy and Ike Livingston's Oak Hall pouch; donated by Amy Miller.
- ❑ Four tobacco pipes, Palm Pilot, reproduction Mississippian bowl; donated by Greg Koos.
- ❑ Dale McMackin's TKE ring and charm, Bloomington High School class ring, Illinois Wesleyan University football charm, spelling board and state fair trophy, Henry McMackin's shaving mug, baby pants and photo pinback button, Emma Lewis McMackin's baby dresses, children's books; donated by the estate of Dale McMackin.
- ❑ Team Clemens golf ball; donated by Jim Keeran.
- ❑ Faux fur coat worn by Charles and Burt Mercier; donated by Mary Lou Mercier.
- ❑ Oganna Nnamani's Olympic volleyball jersey; donated by Oganna Nnamani.
- ❑ Pinback buttons, Normal Mayor money clip, printing blocks "Carol Reitan for Mayor"; donated by Carol Reitan.
- ❑ Duane Weber's Muni Baseball jacket 1952; donated by Duane Weber.
- ❑ 1960s maternity suits, Moberly and Klenner lighter; donated by Elsie and Jewel Schalk.
- ❑ Baseball signed by team members and coaches of Cornbelters from opening game; donated by Town of Normal.
- ❑ Continental Cleaners and Dyers hanger; donated by Bill Miller.
- ❑ Carol Gresham's University

High School letter jacket 1984; donated by Carman Gresham.

- ❑ Sterling silver dresser set, cosmetic jar and perfume bottle of Susan Margaret Evans, 1895; donated by Daniel and Susan Grant.
- ❑ Work coveralls; donated by David Corrington.

- ❑ Clamp-on ice skates, c. 1940; donated by Franklin Lewis.

ARCHIVES

- ❑ Multiple Listing Service (MLS) book, ca. 1973 (realtor guide); by Dale C. Kersten.
- ❑ Diaries of Damon G. Outlaw, 1932-1973, Stanford resident; by daughter Jan Outlaw.

Susan Grant and her son Daniel Grant recently donated a sterling silver dresser set that belonged to Susan's great-aunt Susan Margaret Evans. Evans was born in Bloomington in 1873, and was one of John W. and Martha Evans six children. John W. Evans was a highly successful Bloomington builder and his four sons continued the business until it closed about 1914. She never married, but together with her sister Cora raised her brother Frederick's two sons, Richard Frederick and John Harwood, after their mother died. When Susan Evans died in 1953, her great niece—the daughter of John Harwood Evans, Susan Grant, was given the treasured family heirloom.



Susan Margaret Evans



Susan Evan's dresser set was made by Gorham in 1895. Decorated in floral repoussé, the hand mirror, hairbrush and clothing brush are each monogrammed with her initials "SME" in a central cartouche.

- ❑ Business papers of Arthur E. Bienemann, mostly correspondence, receipts, trade publications and stationery of the Bienemann Bros. Coal (delivery) Co., Bloomington; by daughter Margaret Bienemann.
- ❑ Various relating to life and career of J. Harwood Evans, including newspaper clippings; family letters, 1860-1950; invoices and receipts from family business; and other material; by Richard V. Evans, Jr.
- ❑ Programs and other material relating to Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 1980-2010; Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan items, including 1966 advertisement and payroll stub; Mary Alice Wills.
- ❑ Blueprints of Oaks Apartments, 301 E. Grove St., Bloomington, ca. 1936, Fred Hitch owner; by Rosalie Thornton.
- ❑ Various relating to Herman C. Schultz, World War II U.S. Army infantryman, wounded in action in France, August 1944, including newspaper clippings, maps, and other material; by Stephen P. Thomas.
- ❑ Letter (photocopy) to Benjamin Ogden, Bloomington, June 1844 ? (or 1866); by Mike Tuttle.
- ❑ Three DVDs, 1982, of Singing Y'ers performances; by Ted Nichelson.
- ❑ Sound of Illinois Barbershop Chorus show programs and other barbershop material; by James A. Stahly.
- ❑ Limited edition prints (6) by Richard "Dick" Hoover, Chenoa artist, 1987; by Janeene Raymond.
- ❑ Various relating to Lyle and

Museum Receives Legion Baseball Items

In July, Mary Green of Bloomington donated a wealth of material, mostly relating to her parents George W. and Alice M. Johnston. Included in her donation was a well-organized scrapbook from George Johnston's time as commander of the American Legion Louis E. Davis Post No. 56, July 1949 to May 1950.

This scrapbook includes a wealth of material, including newspaper articles, programs, correspondence and photographs. Of immediate interest to the Museum are the items pertaining to Legion baseball. The Museum is looking for artifacts associated with sports and sport activities in McLean County. If you are interested in donating local memorabilia, including programs and tickets, as well as uniforms, equipment and other items, please give the Museum a call.



Program for the 1949 7th Regional Tournament held August 15-18 at McCormick Field on the campus of Illinois State Normal University. The four teams competing for the right to play for the national championship were from Belleville, IL; East Chicago, IN; Columbus, OH; and Flint, MI.

- Lois Kistner family, Normal, mostly on "Jersie Hill" Kennels business; by Lily Johnson.
- ❑ Illinois Traction (later Terminal) System employment application forms, 1910-1920; by Richard Workman.
- ❑ Material, including contemporary union coverage, relating to February 6, 1946, labor unrest in Gridley resulting in the deaths of two striking Toledo, Peoria and Western (TP&W) Railway workers; by Laurel Tracy Kutash, whose father Thomas Skiles Tracy was a fellow striker and eyewitness.
- ❑ Various, including Campbell Holton and Co. promotional "want book," and "Ben Hur" (1959 version) lobby card displayed at the Castle Theatre; by Jewel and Elsie Schalk.
- ❑ Biddle advertising company (Bloomington) material, including newspaper clippings, brochure and portfolio; by Bruce and Ethlyn Yount.
- ❑ Various, mostly relating to televised presidential debate

- between Kennedy and Nixon, 1960; by Robert Neuleib
- ❑ Large collection of theater, church and lecture programs, including those from Illinois State University, First United Methodist Church, Normal, and Heartland Theatre Company; by Douglas A. and Dianne DeLong.
- ❑ Ledger books (10), 1970-81, Merna grain elevator; by George Womack.
- ❑ Bound collection of material relating to Funk Seeds International, Inc., public offering of stock, 1972; by Mark Dunn.
- ❑ Various, including material relating to George W. Johnston's service in the Illinois Reserve Militia, World War II, and as commander of American Legion Louis E. Davis Post 56, 1950; Alice C. Johnston's American Legion Auxiliary Post 56 scrapbook, 1944-45; Sons of the Legion items, 1936-43; and miscellany, including Corn Bowl (college football) programs; by Mary Green.
- ❑ Addition to 2007 donation of Phoenix Nursery material, including correspondence from Allan Pinkerton, Booker T. Washington and others; by John F. Phoenix.

Books

- ❑ Various cookbooks, including those from Washington School (Bloomington) PTA, 1989-99 and Vale Baptist Church, 1987; by Jewel and Elsie Schalk.

- ❑ *A Goodly Heritage II: Our Journey Continues* (second part of history of North Danvers Mennonite Church), written by Steven R. Estes; donated by Rich Bucher.
- ❑ Two local poetry anthologies from the 1970s, including volume 1, spring 1975, of *McLean County Poetry Review*; by Amy Miller.
- ❑ *Into the 21st Century: The Continued History of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington* (2009), written by Edward Hines; donated by Chad Kahl.
- ❑ McLean County rural resident directories, 1978 and 1979; by Bruce and Ethlyn Yount.
- ❑ Brief memoir, *The Way It Was* (1999), written by Duane Weber; donated by Duane Weber.
- ❑ *Must Men Hate?* (1944) written by Sigmund Livingston; donated by Judith Myers.

PHOTOS

- ❑ Several photographs of 1951 Miss Bloomington (beauty) Pageant held at the Bloomington High School auditorium; by William R. Miller.
- ❑ Photograph (copy) of Lyle E. Augstin, World War II Marine; by Lyle E. Augstin.
- ❑ Several photographs relating to Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan; by Mary Alice Wills.
- ❑ Various relating to military service of World War II infantryman Herman C. Schultz; by Stephen P. Thomas.

- ❑ Photograph (copy) of Deborah Ogden Tipton (1803-1875); by Mike Tuttle.
- ❑ Various relating to immediate and extended family of Normal residents Lyle and Lois Kistner; by Lily Johnson.
- ❑ Two large, framed aerial photographs, one of the City of Bloomington, the other of Lake Bloomington, both 1951; by Amy Miller.
- ❑ Bloomington High School football player (unidentified), 1920, and "Goiter Clinic" photo, no date; by Jerel Braun.
- ❑ Photos relating to Pleasant Ridge School, Danvers Township, including first reunion, 1937; by Leta Alsene.
- ❑ Photograph (copy), Gregory School, Gridley Township, students, 1947-48; by Roy Duncan.
- ❑ Two photos (both copies) of Cottonwood School, Yates Township, one ca. mid-1890s, the other showing an end-of-the-year picnic, 1949; by Carol Koehl.
- ❑ Large collection of photographs relating to George W. Johnston and the Illinois Reserve Militia, World War II; by Mary Green.
- ❑ Collection of photographs relating to J.W. Lake, a nineteenth century Bloomington and itinerant photographer, as well as Builta family photos, also nineteenth century; by Dwain Berggren.

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.

Where Are They Now?

Staff from the Past: Scott Callan

Scott Callan came to the McLean County Museum of History in 2004 because he wanted to, “work in the beautiful old courthouse in downtown, and when I learned that there was a Hoss Radbourne baseball in there, I knew it was where I needed to be.” He served as the Manager of Development Operations for three years, and among the things he’s most proud of during his tenure was being part of the Museum’s New Communities initiative and seeing the new faces that came through the door as a result of it, as well as having the opportunity to work closely with then-Board President Mike Matejka. Since moving from Bloomington to Ithaca, NY in 2007, Scott’s been busy as the associate director for Institutional Advancement at the Paleontological Research Institution (PRI), which operates the Museum of the Earth and houses one of the ten largest fossil collections in North America. Although his current museum is dedicated to natural history and geology, Scott likes to remind him-

self that it’s still a history museum—just reaching back in time a lot more than most history museums do.

As much as Scott’s enjoyed his time at PRI, he’s very excited to be taking the helm as director of the History Center of Tompkins County (NY) in August. Being able to return to his roots in history education was an important consideration for Scott when taking the position, and he believes that his three years at the McLean County Museum of History were invaluable in helping him think of ways for taking the History Center forward.

Scott says that he often thinks back on his time in Bloomington, and is, “grateful for the opportunity to learn as much as he did from working alongside Greg and a great staff, not the least thing being that a museum is only as strong as the people behind it—which explains why the McLean County Museum of History is one of the very best of its kind.”



Volunteer Help Wanted

“On the Square” Gift Shop seeking motivated manager

– In this position, the volunteer would be in charge of ordering appropriate history resources, pricing, maintaining inventory and other general duties. A complete training is provided by the Director of Education, the staff supervisor for this position. The Museum’s gift shop is an extension of our education mission. From its sales, the organization receives \$5,000 to \$7,500 per year in revenue.

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. A complete training is provided. In this interesting position, you meet visitors from all over the world. Reception desk assistants are asked to serve two four-hour shifts per month. The Director of Volunteers and Interns works with your schedule and availability.

Education Outreach Volunteers (EOV) – 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. A complete training and all materials are provided.

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 to receive information on the volunteer program.



McLean County Museum of History

Calendar of Events for September, October, November 2010



Through August 6, 2011

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

Saturdays until August 6, 2011

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 explores the eating habits, cooking equipment and methods and diverse food traditions of McLean County residents since the early 1800s.



Through November 1

Lincoln in Illinois. Photographic exhibit featuring pictures by Ron Schramm, Chicago photographer, of Lincoln sculptures in Illinois. Exhibit is located at the Museum in the First Floor hallway.

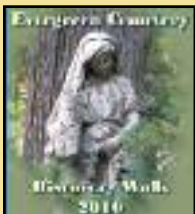
Saturdays through October 23, 8:30 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Tour the Museum's latest exhibits AND shop at Farmer's Market – how convenient is that! Greg Koos will lead a downtown architectural tour on September 18 at 10:00 a.m. See the influence of 2,000 years of architectural history in 4 blocks!

September 6,
Museum Closed for Labor Day Holiday

September 7

Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk. Tickets on sale today. Tickets cost \$14 for non-members, \$12 for Museum members, and \$4 for students with ID and kids. Buy them in advance and save \$2 each (does not apply to student tickets). Get them from the Museum, the Garlic Press in Normal, and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington. Sponsored by Busey Bank



October 2,3,9, and 10

Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk. Tours are at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day. Call 827-0428 for more information. See article on page 3.

Opening November 13 through August 30, 2011

A Passion For Detail: The Architectural Legacy of A.L. Pillsbury. This exhibit showcases the hand-drawn and colored renderings of noted Bloomington architect A.L. Pillsbury.

Saturday, November 13

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Opening program for *A Passion for Detail: The Architecture of A.L. Pillsbury*. Bloomington architect Russell Francois will present images representative of Pillsbury's work, including houses, businesses and schools. He will also lead a panel discussion with several other architects who will critique Pillsbury designs. The program will be held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom at the Museum. For more information, please contact the Education Department.

Saturday, November 20, 2010

Tart 'N' Tasty! Apple Tasting Event



For \$5 per adult and \$2 per child, you will receive admission to the Museum and a sampling of a variety of fresh apples (both heirloom and modern), apple baked goods, and two kinds of apple cider. What better way to celebrate the fall harvest and the holidays than by eating apples!

November 25

Museum Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



December 4

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

December 24 and 25

Museum Closed for Christmas Holiday

Giving to Save Estate Taxes

This year, the federal gift tax applies at the historically low rate of 35%, when lifetime taxable gifts exceed \$1 million. Next year, the rate is scheduled to zoom up to 55%, in tandem with the return of the estate tax.

This situation creates an opportunity to "prepay the estate tax," by making substantial taxable gifts this year, locking in the low rates.

In fact, the potential for transfer tax savings this year is even larger than it first appears. When the estate tax is calculated, it applies to the payment of the estate tax itself. Not so for the gift tax. An example helps make this clear: Imagine an individual who is already in the top transfer tax brackets as a result of prior taxable gifts. He or she has \$10 million to transfer. A taxable gift of \$7,407,407 will trigger a gift tax of \$2,592,592 at the 35% tax rate, consuming a total of \$9,999,999. In contrast, at the same individual's death next year or later, the estate tax on the \$10 million would come to \$5.5 million, leaving just \$4.5 million for heirs. The gifting approach undertaken this year delivers nearly 65% more financial assets to the heirs.

What's more, a gift in 2010 fixes the value of the transfer, and many asset values currently are depressed.

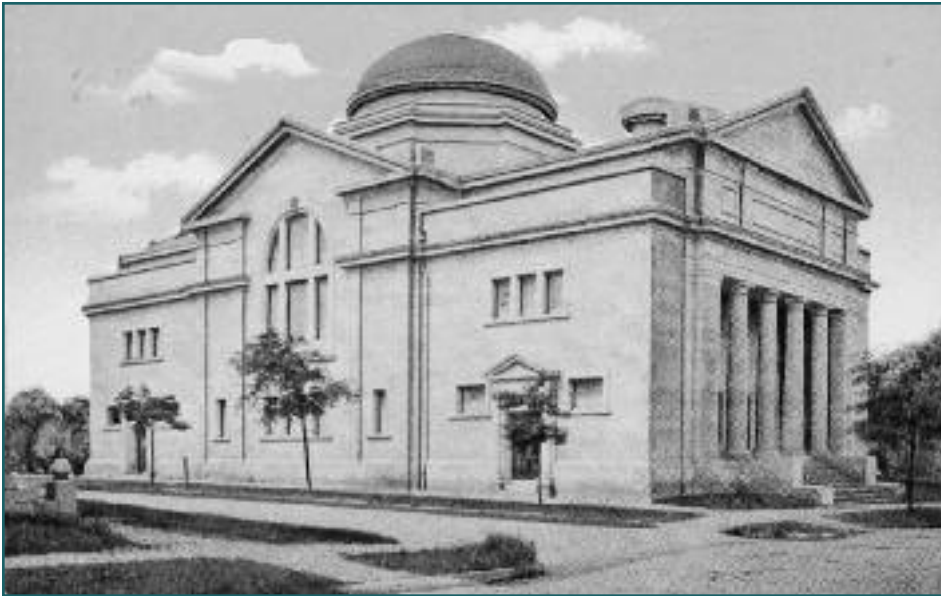
Future appreciation will accrue to the heirs untaxed.

However, for the strategy to work, the donor must survive for three years. Gift taxes paid within three years of death are brought back into the estate, and the estate tax applies in full.

The possibility of a retroactive change to the estate and gift tax later this year cannot be entirely ruled out. Accordingly, for those who are considering major gifts to take advantage of this year's low tax rates, a delay in the completion of the gift until late in the year may be advisable. However, one downside to keep in mind is that it also delays the start of the three-year rule for estate taxation of gift taxes paid.

Will people take advantage of this opportunity to prepay their estate taxes? Only time will tell, but the Congressional Budget Office is optimistic. It projected a record \$14 billion in gift tax revenue for 2010, which suggests that taxable gifts could total nearly \$50 billion this year.





MYSTERY HISTORY QUIZ

For this issue, who can guess the name and location of this building, a spectacular example of the work of Bloomington architect Arthur L. Pillsbury? The Museum's exhibit about Pillsbury, *A Passion for Detail: The Architectural Legacy of A.L. Pillsbury*, opens Saturday, November 13. If you think you know the answer, call Museum Librarian Bill Kemp at 827-0428, or email him at library@mchistory.org

Mystery History

Not one single history sleuth correctly guessed last issue's mystery picture—a bird's eye view of the small unincorporated town of Shirley in Dale Township. Incorrect guess included Merna; Clarksville, a ghost town in Money Creek Township; and Holder on the border of Old Town and Dawson townships. The image was on a C.U. Williams postcard, Bloomington's postcard printer extraordinaire who later established Williams Oil-O-Matic, a successful manufacturer of furnace oil burners. This postcard was dated August 1908 and was sent by an Orville (no surname given) to an Edith Glassie (we're unsure of the spelling) who lived in Galatea, Colorado.



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