EVERGREEN CEMETERY WALK

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SEPTEMBER 25-26 AND OCTOBER 2-3, 2021

Presented by

McLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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Evergreen Memorial Cemetery

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

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

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

302 E. Miller St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
www.evergreenmemorialcemetery.com
McLean County Museum of History Presents
EVERGREEN CEMETERY WALK XXVII

Public Tours
September 25-26 and October 2-3, 2021

Student Tours
September 27-30, 2021

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2020 certainly was a transformative year for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. The Museum and our partners, Evergreen Memorial Cemetery and Illinois Voices Theatre—Echoes, made history by successfully taking our longest running and most attended outreach event to an online platform—thanks largely to the excellent work and support from our new partner Broadleaf Video Management. The video production of the Walk not only allowed us to continue to fulfill the primary mission of this event—to educate local students on the historic significance of cemeteries—but also to support members of our local theater community during a time when so many performing artists nation- and worldwide could not work. Additionally, our Virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk allowed us to expand this signature event to new audiences who had not been able to experience the Walk before due to barriers such as geography and mobility.

Taking those lessons we learned last year into consideration, we are pleased to offer BOTH an in-person Walk and a Virtual Walk in 2021. Embracing this hybrid model allows us to continue to offer the Walk to all of the audiences we strive to serve, regardless of geography or physical ability.

For twenty-seven years, the beautiful grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery have set the stage for costumed actors to bring McLean County’s history to life. To date, the Cemetery Walk has shared the stories of 196 different individuals from all walks of life who help illustrate the impact the people of McLean County have had locally and throughout the world. Similarly, the influence of the event itself can be observed throughout the nation as the Museum has been called upon to help shape other cemetery programs throughout Illinois, the greater United States, and even Canada.

Additionally, the Museum is pleased to announce our sponsors for the 2021 Walk. Without them we could not support the over 2,000 students and chaperones, and additional older adults living in senior care facilities, who are able to participate in this year’s Walk free of charge (whether in-person or online)! Thank you to the following: **Featured Sponsors** - Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, Pantagraph Media; **Premium Sponsors** - CEFCU, Heartland Bank & Trust, WGLT, Illinois Farm Bureau, MCK CPAs & Advisors; **Basic Sponsors** - Bloomington Public Library, McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

Special thanks to our event partners: Dave Krostal, Susan Thetard, and Illinois Voices Theatre—Echoes, and the staff and trustees of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, without whom this event would not be possible. We thank Kathe Conley and John Capasso for their research, interpretation, and creation of the guide scripts; Leisa Barbour for assistance with the teacher and student packets; Erica Mallek, Susan Hartzold, and Torri Moré for graphic design; Nancy Hoover for playbill design; ISU and IWU theatres, and Community Players Theatre for assistance with costumes and props; Chelsea Banks, Kate Bass, John Capasso, Anastasia Ervin, and Haley Youhas for additional research and writing of biographies; and the entire staff and volunteers of the McLean County Museum of History. We are also extremely grateful for our grocery and restaurant donors who keep our volunteers and actors happy and well fed. And, of course, for our fabulous and fearless Cemetery Walk volunteers and interns. This event would be impossible without you!

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

Evergreen Cemetery Walk Coordinators
Candace Summers, Hannah E. Johnson, and Rachael Masa

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Thank You!

These patrons ensure local students and older adults living in senior care centers will continue to benefit from this valuable educational experience. Gifts received as of September 7, 2021:

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The Voice of Central Illinois
George Carman (1838-1868) was a printer, writer, actor, and public speaker, who served as a Union soldier in the U.S. Civil War, writing letters back to the Pantagraph in the voice of “Boswell,” a figure he had created earlier in newspaper editorials. “Boswell” was known for his humor, wordplay, knowledge of Shakespeare, and strong opinions. Honorably discharged from the “McLean County Regiment” for a lung ailment, Carman died of tuberculosis at the age of 29. Writer: Kathleen Kirk

William J. Rodenhauser (1842-1919) worked for the Chicago & Alton Railroad Shops as a carpenter, losing the fingers on his right hand in a work accident. Born in Germany, he came to the United States in 1882, his family joining him later. They spoke German in their home. As part of the Homestead Act, he purchased land in Colorado, hoping to farm there, but had returned to Bloomington to live with his daughter when he died. Writer: Todd Wineburner

Julia Duff (1895-1984) and Alverta Duff (1885-1968) belonged to one of the earliest African American families to establish themselves in Normal. Their father, Peter Duff, purchased land from businessman, landowner, and town founder, Jesse Fell, and built their home. Education was important to the Duff family, and Julia, Alverta, and the rest of their siblings all graduated from high school. However, because of the increased hostility and discrimination towards Blacks in the community, all of the Duff children (except Alverta) were forced to leave town in search of work. Alverta did domestic work for the Stevenson family. Julia moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma to teach. Alverta and sister Janie went to Tulsa to nurse Julia during the 1918 flu pandemic. The Duff sisters later bore witness to a horror of American history; the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. Writer: Kathleen Kirk

Mary Ann Marmon (1837-1908) grew up in a log cabin and was among the earliest settlers in the area. A member of the McLean County Historical Society, she wrote about prairie fires, Delaware and Kickapoo settlements, needlecrafts, and social life. She married and outlived William Marmon, a successful druggist. They hosted a “pioneer dinner party” in 1881 that recaptured the past. She was also the sister of Owen Lee Cheney, featured in last year’s Cemetery Walk. Writer: Kathleen Malone Clesson

Len Childers (George Carman) is performing with the Cemetery Walk for the first time this year. He attended the University of Utah and University of Washington, where he received a BFA in 1995 and MFA in 2002 (acting), respectively. Childers has performed in plays in Bloomington/Normal, Salt Lake City, Washington, DC, Seattle, Germany, and New York over the past 35 years. Most recently, he co-directed, co-produced, and starred in Heartland Theatre’s Out of the Box project, and various online projects for Coalescence Theatre. However, Childers’ true calling of being a school social worker has been the most challenging and satisfying work of his life.

Todd Wineburner (William J. Rodenhauser) has been involved in the Evergreen Cemetery Walk many times, and he’s particularly thrilled to be involved this year as visitors are once again able to walk the grounds and enjoy the full cemetery experience. Wineburner is on the board of directors at Heartland Theatre and is a broadcaster at WJEZ radio in Pontiac. In his leisure time, streaming media has left him hopelessly hooked on classic movies.

Jennifer Rusk (Julia Duff) counts it as a blessing and pleasure to again appear in the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. She has also been in various theatrical productions in the community. Rusk’s favorite role to date was “Ursula” in Community Players Theatre Little Mermaid and looks forward to directing Players’ upcoming production of A Raisin in the Sun. She is an alum of ISU where she majored in acting. As always, Rusk thanks her heavenly angel and father, Roosevelt Rusk, and her earthly angel, mother Joyce Ann Rusk, who have supported all her theatrical adventures. Joshua 1:9

Elaine McCoy Hill (Alverta Duff) The idea of the written word coming to life on stage is exciting to Hill. Hill, who first appeared in the Walk in 2005, obtained her Associate in Arts degree from Heartland Community College. She has performed at numerous community festivals and theaters, and is a director and published writer. An active community volunteer, Hill received the Town of Normal Human Relations Commission’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award in 2020 for her work. As a student of the Arts, Hill says “long live creativity!”

Jennifer Maloy (Mary Ann Marmon) loves cemeteries, costumes, storytelling, and is thrilled to be able to bring to life the story of one of McLean County’s historic residents! She adores history and has volunteered at the David Davis Mansion, Duncan Manor, and was the Memorial Day trolly guide for Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Maloy is also a theatre junky, has worked on the stages of Community Players Theatre, Heartland Theatre, and Coalescence Theatre Project. She thanks her family for indulging her love of the arts.
Sigmund (1872-1946) and Hilda (1892-1962) Livingston are guests voices for this year’s Cemetery Walk. Sigmund immigrated to the United States with his family from Germany when he was ten years old. A graduate of the Illinois Wesleyan University law school, he teamed up with his law school colleague, William R. Bach (who is buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery) and formed a partnership that lasted for over 20 years. Sigmund founded the Anti-Defamation League of the B’nai B’rith to fight anti-Semitism and promote justice. A respected Bloomington lawyer and orator, Sigmund later joined a firm in Chicago. Raised in Elgin, Hilda moved to Bloomington after her marriage to Sigmund, and together they raised one son, Richard. 

Dr. William Hill (1829-1906) was a surgeon in the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War. When he came to Bloomington shortly after the war, some disliked him as a Democrat and suspected “bodysnatcher.” But he became well-liked and respected as a witty, outspoken, and tender man who played the violin to his child patients. He lost his only son to complications from a dog bite, and his youngest daughter Daisy married architect Arthur Pillsbury. 

Dave Lemmon (Dr. William Hill) is performing with the Cemetery Walk for the first time and is very excited to be a part of it. He has been very active over the last 20+ years in Bloomington/Normal theater, having performed in many shows for Community Players and Heartland theatres. His latest roles were pre-Covid at Heartland where he portrayed “Lucky” in Waiting for Godot and “Tony” in Outside Mullingar. Lemmon is a retiree from State Farm. As always, he sends his love to his wife/life partner Barb for her infinite patience and support.

Susan Thetard (Echoes Artistic Director) took over as Artistic Director of Illinois Voices Theatre—Echoes five years ago. Prior to this, she was the theatre director at University High School for 18 years, as well as taught English and Theatre. Thetard has a BFA in Performance from Illinois Wesleyan University, and an MFA in Theatre Costume Design from Illinois State University. She has designed costumes over the years for theaters in numerous cities, and locally for the IWU, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Community Players. Thetard is grateful for her supportive husband Jon, who has made it possible to do what she loves.

Dean Brown (Sigmund Livingston) has been a regular on the Heartland Theatre Company stage for 20 years, and has appeared in 13 productions including Morning’s at Seven, Bus Stop, Nathan the Wise, Woman in Mind, Proof, and Red. Brown is a retired Unit 5 school psychologist who holds degrees in theatre and psychology from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. He is glad to be back performing in the Evergreen Cemetery Walk, and especially loves another opportunity to play opposite his lovely and talented wife Cyndee.

Cyndee Brown (Hilda Livingston) has been involved in all aspects of theater for over 50 years. She has directed at ISU, Heartland, and Prairie Fire theatres, and acted in various venues in the Bloomington-Normal area. After 17 years at ISU, Brown retired, bringing a conclusion to an educational career spanning 44 years. Working with husband Dean in the Evergreen Cemetery Walk is a special treat!

Dave Krostal (Director) has performed in over 75 local productions including It’s a Wonderful Life at the Station Theatre, Henry V at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Table Manners at Heartland Theatre, Of Mice and Men at Community Players Theatre, and The Curious Savage at Corn Stock Theatre. Krostal has also acted and directed in the newly formed Nomad Theatre Company. He and his wife Cristen played circus performers Clyde and Emily Noble in the 2018 Cemetery Walk, and Krostal has also been a guide for the Walk. Krostal is a graduate of Illinois State University’s theatre education program and retired from teaching in 2016.

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Candace Summers (Director of Community Education), Rachael Masa (Director of Volunteers and Interns), and Hannah E. Johnson (Director of Youth & Family Education) are the lead Museum staff members responsible for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. Together, they bring a combined 30+ years of Museum experience with them to their planning of this signature event. With degrees in History, Archaeology, and Geography, all three of these women have a passion for our local history—one that they hope to instill in others through Museum programs like the Evergreen Cemetery Walk.
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Freedom, Land, and Community: A History of McLean County Illinois, 1730-1900 tells the story of the diverse peoples and events of this county. Using sources contemporary with the events described, it relates the struggle to shape the land, build community, and secure freedom as these communities knew and defined it. Native peoples, women and men, African Americans, Irish, and German immigrants all sought and contested for their freedom. People whose voices have not been heard in previous works about Central Illinois are included here.

Author talk December 11 at 1 p.m.
Format TBD

Greg Koos served and led the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, Illinois from 1977 to 2016. His work there was recognized with numerous state and national awards. His historical research has been published in the United States and Ireland. Koos lives with his wife, Carol, in his hometown of Bloomington, IL.

Proud to support McLean County Museum of History’s Evergreen Cemetery Walk!
According to a 1992 geographical survey done by the McLean County Genealogical Society, there were 116 known cemeteries in the county. Our guest voices for this year’s Walk, Sigmund and Hilda Livingston, are visiting from the Jewish Cemetery in Bloomington.

Located in Bloomington, the Jewish Cemetery was founded on February 13, 1875. Prior to this, the Jewish population of Bloomington had “no place which to lay to rest the remains of their deceased loved ones.” At the time, the closest Jewish burial ground was in Lincoln, Illinois—nearly 30 miles away.

A charter was obtained from the State Legislature to form the Hebrew Burial Ground Association in 1874. The following year, one acre of ground was purchased for $250 (which would be approximately $6,300 today) from Charles Fisher to create the cemetery. Improvements were made to the ground in order to make it “worth of the sacred use to which it is to be dedicated,” and the first burial occurred in 1876. An additional acre of land to the east was purchased to expand the cemetery in 2005.

Members of the Moses Montefiore Temple congregation manage and care for the cemetery, and the cemetery acts in accordance with Jewish laws. Past maintenance projects have included re-erecting monuments, fixing broken monuments, clearing vegetation, and repairing the gate and walls.

In 2015, Harry Stern (a member of the Jewish Cemetery committee for over 50 years) created a video tour of the cemetery. Stern shared stories about friends and family, along with information about the history of the cemetery itself.

Stern also shared how it is customary in the Jewish faith to leave a small stone on a grave. Visitors position the stone on the grave using their left hand. This serves as a sign to others that someone has visited the grave and that someone was thinking about the deceased.

Harry Stern (1940-2019) was a member of Moses Montefiore Temple’s cemetery committee for over 50 years. He also volunteered as a stagehand for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk from 2005-2013. We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication Harry gave to supporting cemetery preservation and local history in our community. He is dearly missed.
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### Our 2021 Writers

**Kathleen Kirk** (W) (Head Writer) is a frequent writer for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk and the History Makers Gala, two fine collaborations between Illinois Voices Theatre—Echoes and the McLean County Museum of History. Kirk is also a poet and poetry editor, and works part time at the Normal Public Library. An actor and director, as well, she currently serves as Vice President of the Heartland Theatre Board.

**Kathleen Malone Clesson** (W) returns for her second year as a writer for Echoes. She is a local playwright and educator, enjoys reading the boards for Young at Heartland and the David Davis Mansion’s Historic Acting Troupe (H.A.T.). Clesson’s plays tend to the comedic and favor contemporary themes. They have been produced by area acting groups and performed as staged readings in out-of-state venues.

**Todd Wineburner** (W) has written for past walks, including Owen Cheney last year, and created two scripts this year. Wineburner has also appeared as Jesse Fell and David Davis, among others. Each experience has been a unique collaboration involving historians, writers, producers, directors, and actors. Wineburner is a graduate of Illinois State University and works as a broadcaster in Pontiac.

### Our 2021 Creative Team:

**L. Jane Thornley** (Costume/Props Head) is creating costume and props for the Walk for the fourth year. She has enjoyed designing for the eight actors each and every year. Thornley retired from Thomas Metcalfe School in 2014 after over 35 years directing and designing shows, which often featured 80 actors, so eight is a breeze. Thanks to Susan Thetard for her support and patience.

**Judy Stroh** (Production Assistant) has been stage managing shows in the community for 20 years. She has also produced, propped, assistant directed, and acted in local productions. Most recently, she played “Mrs. Banks” in Barefoot in the Park and “Grandma Rosie” in The Wedding Singer. When she’s not working at theater, Stroh works in the Business Office of the Optique at Vision Point.

**Emma Bottomley** (Costume Intern) is currently a junior at University High School hoping to pursue a career in costume design. She has done previous work both on and off stage with Community Players, Normal Parks and Rec, and now she’s delighted to be working with Illinois Voices Theatre. Bottomley gives a big thank you to Susan Thetard and Jane Thornley for helping her learn new things and continue to grow as a costumer.

### Upcoming Event

**Seedling Theatre presents: All Together Now!** Nov. 12, 13, and 14, 2021

For more information on joining the cast or for tickets, email seedlings@illinoisvoicestheatre.org

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

Thank you IWU School of Theatre Arts—Curtis Trout; U-High Theatre program—Ben Webb; for your willingness to share resources!
We would like to extend an extra special **THANK YOU** to our diligent and hardworking volunteers without whom we could not do this event!

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Oct. 16 - GRIMMZ
Oct. 22 - m-pact
Nov. 12 - The Brubeck Brothers Quartet
Nov. 17 - Shake & Holla
Nov. 21 - Rent
Dec. 8 - Masters of Soul
Jan. 14 - The Neverly Brothers
Jan. 21 - Russian National Ballet
Jan. 25 - Paddington Gets in a Jam (Student Spotlight)*
Jan. 29 - The Daily Show Writers Comedy Tour
Feb. 4 - The Drifters
Feb. 8 - That Golden Girls Show - A Puppet Parody
Feb. 10 - The Adventures of the Tortoise & The Hare: The Next Gen (Student Spotlight)*
Feb. 19 - Hot Club of San Francisco
Feb. 23 - Bessie, Billie & Nina-Pioneering Women in Jazz
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