

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

Over a quarter century ago a genealogical organization was established for an area in Illinois centered by the cities of Bloomington & Normal. It was organized for men and women expressing a vital interest in doing research on their family histories. Originally, in 1966, the name was proclaimed as the BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. In April of 1988 the entitlement became THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY when plans to merge with the McLean County Historical Society and a move into the old McLean County Courthouse matured.

At the very beginning, back in 1965, Rachel Lundeen had created a real interest in genealogy with her teaching the subject in Adult Education classes. Her comprehensive course was entitled "Your Family Tree". An interest in genealogy derived from this course prompted a clamor for a genealogy club of sorts. Finally, the YWCA agreed to call for a club organizational meeting on the 7th of November 1965. Plans were firmly made at this session to create the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society. Organizers agreed to meet every third Monday at the Withers Public Library at Washington and East Streets near the city center of Bloomington. Two shelves at Withers holding the genealogy books owned by the individual organizers formed a start of the Society's library.

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The newly formed society of genealogical interest completed its "legal" organization in January of 1966 with the adoption of a set of by-laws and electing its first set of officers. Elinor Wetter became the first President of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society and her staff consisted of: Lula Paul as Vice-president, Doris Hilton as Secretary, Betty Hering as Treasurer, Betty Lovekamp as Program Chairman, Ruth Carpenter as Corresponding Secretary and Rachel Lundeen as Advisor. Twenty four Charter Members were pronounced and accepted as follows:

Ruth Carpenter	Rachel Lundeen
Bernadine Chariton	Josephine Munro
Iris Deems	William Munro
Lucille Flanagan	Louise Muxfeld
Margaret Goeway	Myrna Park
Helen Harris	Lula Paul
Betty Hering	Anna Pisell
Doris Hilton	Leroy Shutes
Muriel Hoffman	Donna Smith
Betsy Light	Alice Steinberg
Louise Love	Elinor Wetter
Betty Lovekamp	Vivian took

When the Withers Public Library ceased to be interested in shelving the books of new Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, the membership found the Normal Public Library receptive to taking in their collection. By early fall 1966 patrons of the Normal Library could view the books of the Society but only Society members could check out those particular books. At the end of 1966 the Society book collection had doubled from member contributions. And the Society membership had increased to 40 "serious Genealogists."

Life Still Challenging To This 80-Year-Old

By JUNE SIMPSON

After creative writing and genealogy, she's going to try art and political science.

That in a word sums up the attitude toward life of Mrs. Harry J. White, 80 years old.

"There's always something to look forward to, something new to learn and to do," says Mrs. White, who feels her Adult Education courses have "changed my life."

MRS. WHITE, who winters with her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy W. Clark of 1101 Crescent Lane, Normal, lost her husband in April after caring for him during a nine-year illness.

Mr. White had a heart condition, Parkinson's disease and crippling arthritis but Mrs. White says she was able to have her husband seven years longer than the doctor gave him because she gave him personal care at home.

As Mrs. White says, "when his hand reached out, I wanted mine to be there to reassure him. I never wanted him to be lonely."

But after being married 54½ years, naturally she was lonely and unhappy when her husband died.

SHE'S hoping that telling her story will help other women, who after a lifetime of marriage, have lost their mates. Iva White feels her husband would be glad she has found peace even though "I remember all the good years." Her uppermost wish is to help other widows look up and not stop living.

"You just can't sit around and say my arthritis is bad today," says Mrs. White. "You've got to help yourself."

And that's just what she's doing.

When she came down to her daughter's she felt ill and thought she was losing her sight. Her physician told her it was the accumulation of nine years' of worry and tension about her husband.

HER daughter happened to bring home an Adult Education brochure and she selected courses in genealogy, taught by Mrs. E. E. Lundeen, and creative writing, taught by Mrs. Max A. Pape.



She Writes 5, 6 Hours at a Time

Pantagraph Photo

Both have opened up new worlds for her. "I felt 80 or even 90," said Mrs. White, "before I took these classes."

One of her articles in this class has been accepted by

Modern Maturity magazine and is slated to come out after the first of the year.

It deals with her experience last summer. Mrs. White, lonely and at loose ends after her husband's death, converted her dining room into a recreation room for 26 of the neighborhood children.

OUT went her linens and china and in went toy boxes and play materials. She taught the children to make pizza and to bake cupcakes. From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. there was always a child or two playing in the dining room.

"Some women have told me that they couldn't stand the noise or confusion," she says, "but I loved it. There's only one rule in the White dining room and that is that there should be no quarreling. Adults don't give children a chance," added Mrs. White.

She asked that children giving her a birthday party in July spend no money, just make something with their own hands. They all did except one lad who brought her a kitten, Fluffy.

Fluffy eventually strayed from her home but she located him... living with a lad who loved him dearly. She left him there.

DURING the winter she receives letters from the children, laboriously written, but filled with "spring is so far away... when are you coming home?" and "you're the best friend I ever had."

Mrs. White has also sent articles to two other magazines, Guidepost and Jack and Jill.

She really took up creative writing because she wants to write, creditably, about her life and experiences and have it printed for her children and grandchildren as keepsakes.

"I've got 50 pages done and 200 more to go," she says.

AND after she's completed that she wants to do a book on her family's genealogy. She's traced part of her family back before the Revolutionary War. She knows that seven brothers Hawkins left the Isle of Man in the 17th century and she also knows that she's distantly related to President Zachary Taylor some way but can't find the connecting link.

Next semester Mrs. White is going to take an Adult Education art course. "I've always loved trees and I want to be able to paint them when I return home in the spring," she says.

Because she's so avidly interested in politics she would also like to take a political science course.

Looking toward tomorrow and new accomplishments keeps Mrs. White young.

MRS. WHITE'S daughter is in the speech department at Illinois State University and her granddaughter, Carol Clark, is a special education student at ISU. Her son, Roy C. White Sr.

of Barrington, is vice president of McDonald Engineering in Chicago. She and her husband also reared a nephew, now deceased. She has four grandchildren.

She was born in Indiana, where her father owned several coal mines and in 1919 she and her husband went to Michigan where they lived until World War II. He was an electrical contractor.

After the war he built them a home in Aurora which she still maintains.

"I won't let myself be lonely," she commented, "because, after all, life is passing so peaceably."

Geneological Society Records at Normal Public Library

by Rita T. Kohn

The Local History Section of the Normal Public Library is growing by volumes and collections! The largest acquisition is from the year-old Geneological Society of Bloomington-Normal, which will retain ownership of the collection but is placing the books on open shelf so that all patrons of the Library can use them. Circulation will be limited to Geneological Society members only.

The NEW HARLEM REGISTER, a classic in family documentation, traces the very first settlers from Holland. "There is at least one known Normal resident who is listed," relates Mrs. Charles Wetter, Society president. There could well be others!

In addition, there are resource books on the technique of tracing family trees, several family geneological charts and a bibliography of all county histories of the fifty states.

The Geneological Society organized in October, 1965, with five members is now a hard working group of forty history oriented Normalites and Bloomingtonians. Mrs. Wetter describes the activities of the society as centering around the where, the how and the what to look for when tracing family trees.

An Adult Education class just

Local History Books, Pictures Gifts of Residents

completing its six week session provides research techniques under the direction of Mrs. Edward Lundeen. All class members are invited to join the Geneological Society. Also invited are all amateur family-tree hunters who have had some experience in the hobby.

"The five generation chart is the required beginning for each member," states Mrs. Wetter, "but the real fun is in filling-in the history that surrounds the basic skelton. You just can't hunt pedigree without loving history," she quipped. "This is why the Geneological Society is so pleased to have its books in the local history of the Normal Public Library. We want everyone to enjoy the story of people, especially the people who live in their own home town."

Normal residents have donated much local memorabilia since the Library's request a few weeks ago.

The 1891 Bloomington-Normal City Directory, the gift of Roy Dodge, is an invaluable source of research as well as just plain reading enjoyment.

Both Miss Grace Fairfield and Mr. Richard Mays have enriched

the pictorial section with outstanding collections of early postcards of Normal and Bloomington. Miss Fairfield also presented a 1901 "Superintendent's Report and Course of Study with Rules and Regulations of the Public Schools, Normal, Illinois." Anyone complaining of modern restrictions should be encouraged to take an afternoon for this tract!

And while not purely of local origin, Miss Fairfield's intriguing collection of the magazine called "Character Sketches", vintage nineteenth century, is well worth the time for a comparative study of Normal and the world beyond.

To supplement the standard Histories by Hashbrook and Prince and Burnham, the Library, through leads on available sales from book-dealers has purchased such standards as the 1879 Merriman HISTORY, The 1887 edition of PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM OF McLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS and the 1899 BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF McLEAN COUNTY. These volumes are remarkable for their narrative style and the fine quality of portrait reproduction.

Volumes two and three of the Transactions of the McLean County Historical Society features THE SCHOOL RECORD OF McLEAN COUNTY and "The Convention of

(Continued On Page Six)

May 29, 1830 that Organized the Republican Party in the State of Illinois."

McLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE WORLD WAR 1917-1918 is a history of local events and participants.

Wm. K. Ackerman's 1884 presentation, EARLY ILLINOIS RAILROADS is simply wonderful for its scholarship.

Mrs. Bradford Barber has added an exciting piece of historical lore, "The Official Souvenir Program of the 1930 McLean County Centennial." Kept in the pamphlet file, this is a fine predecessor to the Normal Pageant already on the shelf.

The 1914 STANDARD ATLAS OF McLEAN COUNTY is every bit as interesting as the 1873 Plat Book which has been part of the Library Collection since 1905.

The Library Board is delighted

with the interest Normalites have displayed in building up specific collections in our Library, and the members join Mrs. Austin in welcoming any and all volumes, pictures, scrapbooks and bits of memorabilia that tell the story of our community.

The Withers Public Library, the McLean County Historical and the special collections of the Milner Library contain many of the basic volumes Normal Public does not yet have, and while there is limited access to these other sources, it is nice to have material available at all centers of research.

Nov 25, 1966

YWCA To Form Genealogy Club

The first organizational meeting for a genealogy club for those interested in building their family trees will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at the YWCA. Mrs. Charles Wetter will give a brief introduction on the coat of arms.

Anyone interested in forming such a club may attend the meeting and help make plans for the future. The group will accept both men and women with some experience in the genealogy field. Those interested but unable to attend the first meeting may call the YW adult director. *ADU 7-1965*



Spool Cabinet One of Mrs. Wetter's Antique Treasures

Pantagraph Photo

HEADS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jan 30, 1966

Ancestor Ran Hospital During Revolutionary War

Story on next page

By JUNE SIMPSON

Search back far enough in your family and you'll find some good...and some bad, says Mrs. Charles R. Wetter of 56 White Place, new president of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

Studying genealogy makes history live for her, finds Mrs. Wetter, who's only been at it a year and hopes through the coming years to discover lots more.

SO FAR she's been able to trace, through her mother's family, back to a Revolutionary War ancestor, Christopher Perkins, who turned his cabin into a hospital for soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

What she has found qualifies her for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution, which requires that its members be directly descended from a Revolutionary War soldier. She has also discovered a Revolutionary War soldier on her husband's side.

Perkins was a member of the New York militia under Col. Cornelius Van Vughten and the soldiers' hospital he operated was during the engagement between Gen. John Burgoyne and Gen. Horatio Gates in a campaign around Ft. Ticonderoga and Saratoga.

Perkins' ancestor, Newman Perkins, came to the United States in 1631 but through him she's traced the family back to 1568.

THE War of 1812 also has special meaning to her since a descendant of Daniel Chandler, Braddock Chandler, fought in this and later served as overseer for Henry Clay. His son, Uriah, was the father of John Chandler, great-grandfather of Mrs. Wetter.

On her husband's side of the family Mrs. Wetter was able to discover Lorentz Holben, who served with Gen. George Washington. The Holben family is supposed to be related to famed artist Hans Holbein.

Mrs. Wetter says she's not ancestor proud, because an uncle, far removed, served a three-month jail sentence, for using brass knuckles, but she's currently working on an angle of a relative, Campbell Vance, supposed to be a cousin of Andrew Jackson.

This has led her to read several books on Jackson. The Wetters, both interested in genealogy, find that their five children are also. They have a map hung on a wall and when they find the birthplace of an ancestor the boys place a pin on the spot. The youngsters have read books on George Washington, Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson. They are Stephen, 11, Scott, 10, Bobby, 7, Danny, 5, and Mike, 1½. Mr. Wetter is an engineer for General Electric.

STUDYING main migrations is included in genealogy, says Mrs. Wetter and mentioned two of special importance, the 1010 migration from France and the one from Europe in the early 1700's. Included in this last migration were many Mennonites from Germany.

Information may be obtained from church and cemetery records, courthouse archives, birth records, abstracts, plats, old quilts and samplers, family

and friends. Historical libraries are a good source, such as Newberry Library in Chicago as well as state public historical libraries. County history books are also an aid, as is the federal War Records Department.

Just Wednesday Mrs. Wetter discovered in the Springfield archives a new Revolutionary War ancestor, David Davis Eby, who is buried in Canton, Ohio.

THE Eby family goes back to Italy in the 1300s. The family left Italy in 1560 for Switzerland because of religious persecution and then left Switzerland in 1715 for Pennsylvania. Through the Perkins, Eby and Holben families Mrs. Wetter has documented back a full 10 generations or more. Ten generations would mean checking 1,022 grandparents.

"It's quite a thrill to discover a fact you've long searched for," says Mrs. Wetter and she also finds it rewarding to help others in their search.

The aim of the Society she heads is to help anyone in his genealogical search. The Society welcomes any old county history books from any state or any old genealogy books.

THE CLUB is open to anyone who has taken the genealogy class offered by Adult Education or anyone interested in family history and research with a general knowledge of research methods.

Anyone joining between now and when the by-laws are accepted will be considered a charter member.

Mrs. Wetter was a member of the Adult Education course taught by Mrs. E. E. Lundeen.

Other officers of the newly formed club include Mrs. Lula Paul, vice-president; Mrs. Doris L. Hilton, secretary; Mrs. Arnold Hering, treasurer; Mrs. Lundeen, advisor and Mrs. James Chariton, program chairman. The group meets every third Monday at Withers library.



Beatrice Armstrong presides at final meeting of her term of office in Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society held at her home November 19.



Ruth Hamm wore her great-grandmother's dress to win the prize for best costume.



Myrna Park (left), president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, is pictured with Doris Hilton, newly-elected president of the local chapter, and Beatrice Armstrong, retiring president.



Myrna Park installs new officers.

Genealogical Society ends year with Thanksgiving feast

The large collection of antiques in the Donald Armstrong home in rural Cooksville made a perfect setting for the traditional Thanksgiving dinner served November 19 to members of the Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society. Mrs. Armstrong has been president of the group for the past two years.

following the dinner, Doris Hilton was elected president. Elizabeth Masters was named vice president; Janice Shieler, recording secretary; Donna Gaines, corresponding secretary; and Kay Carius, treasurer. Chairmen elected were Ruth Hamm, Hudson, book committee; Mr. and Mrs. George

committee; the Rev. Keely Kepner, finance; Alice Ogle, library; Ruth Richards, membership; Josephine Munro, program; Ardys Serpette, publications; Marian Spratt, LeRoy, and Sarah Cushing, publicity. The new officers were installed by Myrna Park, who was recently elected president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society. Another member of the local chapter, Dr. Robert G. Bone, is vice president of the State organization. (All those not identified by residence are from Bloomington - Normal.)

Ruth Hamm was awarded a prize for the best 19th century costume.

A playlet about the John Scott family of Waynesville in the 1820's was presented.

Genealogical Society sets library workshop

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will hold a meeting and library workshop at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the home of Miss Alice Ogle, 116 Eastview Drive, Normal. The newly elected president, Mrs. Doris Hilton, will conduct the meeting.

Theme of the workshop will be "Books Galore for '74". Mrs. James Hamm of Hudson, chairman of the book committee, will review the books which were acquired by the society in 1973, giving suggestions on how they may be used in genealogical research.

Miss Ogle will tell about the 100 different publications which the society receives regularly from other genealogical organizations. These publications contain birth, death and marriage records, land grants, Bible records, wills and administrations, and articles on the history of the various counties, towns and regions.

Miss Ardys Serpette, 919 W. Wood, will bring the members up to date on the material published by the local society. These include five issues of McLean County birth records covering the period between 1869 and 1892 and two issues of county marriages occurring between 1831 and 1862.

Members of the society have also copied and published many of the records originally published by Milo Custer. Mrs. Richard Wright, 17 Grand-

view Drive, Normal, was in charge of this task for the past few years.

The society has accumulated more than three dozen family genealogies. One of the most recently acquired is of the Bane family, of McLean County, which was compiled and published by LeRoy attorney Arlo E. Bane. Dr. Robert Bone, local member and vice president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, has published a Bone family genealogy.

The book committee has been securing as many published censuses as possible and now has 1850 censuses of 16 Illinois counties. The 1850 census gives, in addition to heads of families, the names and ages and nativity of all family members.

All of the books and publications belonging to the society were formerly kept in the old Normal Public Library but since last spring have been housed in the home of Miss Ogle.

Genealogical group sets genetic topic

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan, Normal. Dr. Felissa Lashley Cohen, assistant professor of genetics at the University of Illinois, will speak on "The Genetic Traits of Kindred."

Dr. Cohen is involved in the genetic counseling program in Central Illinois Region 3B. She will discuss the physical and characteristic traits which are passed from generation to generation.

She will show slides on genetic study and will answer questions following the talk. Dr. Cohen is author of several publications and articles on genetic diseases and counseling and has been affiliated with Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and SUNY at Farmingdale University Hospital.

The hospitality committee will serve refreshments.

To preside at state genealogical sessions

The annual conference of the Illinois State Genealogical Society will be held in Springfield April 26-27 at the Holiday Inn East, with Mrs. Homer Park of Normal, state president, conducting the meeting.

Mrs. Doris Hilton of Bloomington is conference coordinator.

Registration begins at 3 p.m. Friday, April 26, followed by a reception for presidents of the local societies of the state. The 7 p.m. banquet will be followed by speeches by William K. Alderfer, state historian and executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society, and Orlando Kuhle of Decatur, who will speak on "Early Chautauqua in Illinois." Alderfer's topic will be the state historical library.

Saturday speakers will include Dr.

Raymond M. Bell, professor at Washington and Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, whose topic will be "Pennsylvania Records of Illinois Pioneers;" and Dr. Cullom Davis, editor of bicentennial studies in Sangamon history, who will discuss "Genealogy With the Tape Recorder."

Saturday seminars will be on migrations of religious groups in Illinois, family genetics, genealogy for beginners and Germans in Illinois and their origins given by Dr. Clifford Neal Smith, Mrs. Rachel Klein, Mrs. Pauline Wandschneider and Robert Buecher, respectively.

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1967

The year 1967 was a very productive year for the fledgling Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society. Membership increased beyond 100 members. Goals of the Society became crystallized and implementation actively pursued.

In their first Constitution goals included: (1) to preserve and perpetuate the records of our ancestors (2) to encourage the study of family histories and genealogies and to promote social relationships among people with same interests (3) to cooperate with other genealogy societies and with the public libraries of Normal and Bloomington in the promotion of a genealogical section in those libraries (4) to promote and publish genealogical articles in the form of quarterly periodicals covering the area of the Corn Belt.

Results were achieved with a first Monthly Newsletter to all members distributed on 17 April 1967 and a first Quarterly issued in September. Betty Lovekamp was the first Editor of the Newsletter and in July of 1967 was joined by Betty Hering as Assistant Editor. The Society's Quarterly "*Gleanings from the Heart of the Corn Belt*" Volume 1, Number 1, was put together by Editor Louise Muxfeld with the help of Betty Lovekamp and Betty Hering. Subjects featured in the "*Gleanings*" for 1967 were: early marriages in McLean County 1831-1841, Book A Deeds of McLean County, early wills of McLean County and excerpts from the 1850 McLean County census. By the end of 1967 the Society was exchanging quarterlies with fifty other societies.

Regular monthly membership meetings were held in the Community Room of the Citizens Savings and Loan building at Broadway and Beaufort Streets in Normal.

Dues for 1967 membership were set at \$3.00 per person plus \$1.00 for a second member at the same address.

Officers elected for 1967 were: Myrna Park as President, Betty Lovekamp as Vice-president, Doris Hilton as Secretary, Barbara Wright as Treasurer, Ruth Carpenter as Corresponding Secretary.

Genealogical Group To Meet in Normal

The Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society will hear a report on a similar organization at Salt Lake City, Utah, at a meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Citizens Savings and Loan Building, Normal.

Mrs. Lula Paul and Mrs. Alice Steinberg will conduct the program. Members will learn what information is available to the public and how to receive assistance in family research.

Nov 19-1967

*Doris Hilton - 1st Secretary
Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society*

Genealogy Leads to Discovery Of Royalty in Her Family

By Doris Hilton

"GENEALOGY!" "WHAT-E-ALOGY?" "GENEALOGY!"-Have you ever done any family research? Do you like mystery, intrigue, old attics, antique auctions? How does this all tie in with genealogy? Ask me.

Interest in family research has been growing steadily throughout the country and the searchers so numerous that Archivists and County Recorders are seeking legislation to govern the use of their records.

Only Name

How did I become involved? I became curious when I realized that mine was the only family I knew by my maiden name ANGLETON, and I wanted to know what had happened to the earlier ANGLETONS.

In the fall of 1965 I enrolled in a class, "Family Tree" offered by Adult Education. Whee! Did I get involved!

The Scotch Presbyterian Clans, Dalrymples and Alexanders, who fought against each other in the 12th century would 'roll over in their graves' if they knew a descendant, David Dalrymple and

an Alexander descendant, Helen Kay Hilton, had married. Then there was great, great, grandfather's brother, Samuel Mason, son of one of the first governors of Virginia, a captain in the American Revolution with a fine record who came "West" to become a pirate at Cave-in-Rock, Ill., on the Ohio River and highwayman on the route to Natchez, robbing and plundering the early travelers.

Found out too, that the Earl of Stirling, William Alexander, was an ancestor whose title was fought over for many years and settled by a royal monarch in 1871.

Delving into your ancestry is NOT always easy. It can be very complicated as the following excerpt from an article appearing in the Indianapolis News shows:

Strange Family

"Cousin Sid--that is Sidney Stevens, of Rabbit Hash, the Kentucky hamlet opposite 'The Rising Sun'--has a strange family. To be able to figure out just what relation he is to himself, his wife and his children, note well: Sid's father

and mother were first cousins. His wife's father and mother were first cousins. These four first cousins were all first cousins of one another and their fathers were all brothers. Now, Sid's grandparents were all brothers and his children's great-grandparents, of course, were all brothers. That, however, is only the beginning. In this intermarried family many of the other relatives have married so that a man is likely to find himself nephew to himself and cousin to his children.

Johnson Case

There is "Cousin" William Johnson. Johnson's wife died. His son married a Miss Miller. Then William Johnson, the father, married his son's wife's sister, by which he became an uncle to his own son's child, as well as its grandfather. He also became his son's brother-in-law. Both father and son became parents of children by these marriages, which made--but what's the use of wasting space. Figure it and future possibilities out for yourself.



Doris Hilton, secretary to statistician in the Fire Company, carefully and thoroughly pursues her hunt for ancestors.



Compile Genealogical Booklet

Looking over "Gleanings," the quarterly publication of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, are, from left, Miss Louise Muxfeld, Mrs. Ivan Light, Mrs. Glen Lovekamp and Mrs. Arnold Hering, the committee which was responsible for compiling the booklet, which has

been sent to 50 other societies. Each of the women has had the Adult Education course in genealogy and those interested in taking the fall course may attend the Oct. opener at Withers Library, taught by Mrs. Edgar L. Lundeen. (Pantagraph Photo)

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1968

The year 1968 can be noted for the contribution of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society in organizing the Constitutional Convention for the Illinois State Genealogical Society to be held in *Bloomington*. Also, during 1968 Betty Hering headed efforts of the Society to obtain an enumeration of all McLean County cemeteries (at one time there were 354 cemeteries tallied in McLean County with a third being identified as active in 1968).

The Society began this year to provide for publication and sale of specific collections of data on McLean County genealogy. To raise money for the purchasing of additional volumes for its library the Society took on projects like a bake sale held at *Eastland* Mall.

In 1968 Helen Harris and Donna Smith combined to publish the Newsletter. Louise Muxfeld continued as the Editor of the "Gleanings" quarterly with help from Alice Steinberg as Records Chairman and Barbara Wright as the Subscription Chairman and Anna Marie Pisell as Operations Chairman and Donna Smith the Printing Chairman.

1968 Officers for the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society were listed as: Myrna Park, President; Alice Steinberg, Vice-president; Sara Jane Cushing, Secretary; Barbara Wright, Treasurer; Honore Hill, Corresponding Secretary; Esther Smith, Programs; Betty Lovekamp, Membership.



Family Tracers *July 1, 1968*

Mrs. Richard L. Wright, treasurer of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, right, and Mrs. Eugenia Boone, Normal librarian, look over genealogy book

in a display at Normal library. Display is attracting residents to explore books at library and look up family backgrounds. (Pantagraph Photo)

ELOCMINGTON-NORMAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1968 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Albin, Miss Linda	603 E. Chestnut, Bl. 61701	967-4335
Andrew, Mrs. Russell (Louise)	18 Violet Lane, Somers Point, N.J. 08244	
Augspurger, Mrs. Dean E. (Charlotte)	202 E. Emerson St., Bl.	
Baetz, Mrs. Albert L. (Ann)	215 O'Neil Dr., Ames, Iowa 50010	
Barekman, Mrs. H. C. (Ruth)	352 S. Belaire Dr., Monett, Mo. 65708	
Beatty, Mrs. Merle L.	1521 Somowaro, Las Vegas, Nev. 89109	
Bieber, Mrs. Ed (Beryl)	Holder, Ill.	724-8192
Bowman, Mrs. Lewis O.	216 Croydon Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850	
Buis, Mr. & Mrs. Leo M. (Agnes)	702 E. Douglas, Bl.	822-6877
*Carpenter, Mrs. Joe M. (Ruth)	Shirley, Ill.	823-8738
Castle, Mr. Drew W.	11 S. Eastern Ave., Joliet, Ill. 60435	
Clark, Mr. William E.	309 Orlando, Normal 61761	452-3286
Colter, Miss Mary	R.I., Normal	
Cushing, Miss Sara Jane	1101 N. Lee St., Bl.	828-9848
Davis, Mrs. Donald D.	1240-14th St., Marion, Iowa 52302	
Deane, Mrs. Leila C.	9675 LaDue Rd., St. Louis, Mo. 63124	
Deane, Mrs. Roger A. (Mae)	R.I., Timber Ridge Rd., Lexington, Ill. 61735	
Drake, Mrs. George E. (Louise)	907 W. Olive, Bl.	829-9726
Drybread, Mrs. Louis C. (Lorraine)	1009 S. East St., Bl.	829-6756
Dulin, Mrs. C. Duane (Jean)	301 S. Vale, Bl.	822-2215
Esposito, Mrs. Margaret	805 Apple, Nl.	829-9562
Finch, Mrs. Ben	Kelley, Iowa 50134	
Firebaugh, Mrs. F. W. (Vera)	Box 6321, Odessa, Texas 79762	
Fisher, Mrs. Hubert L. (Jean)	16 Sandra Ct., Huntington Stn., N.Y., N.Y. 13057	
*Flanagan, Mrs. Paul (Lucille)	114 Greenwood, Bl.	
Frazer, Mrs. Ralph O. (Mabel)	145 E. Dauenhauser, E. Syracuse, N.Y. 13057	
Gannaway, Mrs. Orville (Virginia)	408 E. Sycamore, Nl.	452-1904
Gerwick, Mrs. Verda	304 N. Elm, Lexington, Ill. 61753	
Goodwin, Mrs. N. D.	713-43rd. Ave., Gulfport, Miss. 39501	
Hamilton, Mrs. James R. (Nina)	5607 Everhurst Road, Baltimore, Md. 21209	
Handley, Mr. Robert E.	710 N. Lee, Bl.	822-2170
*Harris, Mrs. Vester B. (Helen)	705 Apple, Nl.	828-8696
Hartweg, Mrs. Kenneth (Shirley)	28 Clinton Pl., Nl.	967-6823
*Hering, Mrs. Arnold L. (Betty)	1610 E. Oakland, Bl.	822-2899
Hill, Miss Honore'	303 Stewart Place, Nl.	452-5856
*Hilton, Mrs. Doris Angleton	305 Meadows, Bl.	829-1749
Hoenstine, Mr. Floyd G.	Box 208, Hollidaysburg, Pa. 16648	
Hoffman, Mrs. Inez P.	1016 Congress, Emporia, Kans. 66801	
*Hoffman, Mrs. Howard (Muriel)	Anchor, Illinois	723-4534
Howell, Miss Ellen	R. 4, Carthage, Miss. 39051	
Hunsley, Mrs. Jessie	P. O. Box 1148, Springfield, Ill. 62705	
Lamb, Mrs. Estol (Mary)	Giordano Dr., Yorktown Hgts., N.Y. 10598	
Lamb, Mrs. Jones W. (Elizabeth)	125 Riverside Dr., Greenwood, Miss. 38930	
Lehman, Mrs. Wanda	808 S. Allin, Bl.	829-2099
*Light, Mr. & Mrs. Ivan (Betsy)	R.I. Shirley, Ill.	823-4099
Light, Mrs. Lois H.	27590 Highway 99, Visalia, Calif. 93277	
Lind, Mr. & Mrs. Chas. E. (Carol)	5218-48th Ave., S.W., Seattle, Wash. 98116	
*Love, Miss Louise	204 W. Emerson, Bl.	967-2173
*Lovekamp, Mrs. Glen H. (Betty)	223 Ivanhoe Way, Bl.	828-9023
*Lundeen, Mrs. Edgar (Rachel)	105 N. Mercer, Bl.	829-2635
Mahaffey, Mrs. Ray (Nola)	29 Magnolia Blvd., Melbourne, Fla. 32901	
Maxwell, Miss Lena	1115 Sudduth Rd., Nl	
McClellan, Mrs. Marvin (Evelyn)	R.I., Colfax, Iowa 50054	

Meadors, Mrs. Harold (Helen)	304 W. North St., Leroy, Ill. 61752	
Melnick, Mrs. Louis D.	2343B Geneva Terrace, Chicago, Ill. 60614	
Miller, Mrs. Ordra A.	1414 Point Clair Ct., Sunnyvale, Calif. 94087	
Miller, Tessie J.	512 N.W. 27th, Apt. 1, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103	
Mixon, Mrs. S. L.	4905 Kinkead, Ft. Smith, Ark. 72901	
*Munro, Mrs. W. B. (Josephine)	508 N. Colton Ave., Bl.	829-7987
*Muxfeld, Miss Louise B.	410 E. Washington, Apt. 350, Bl.	822-5308
Ogle, Miss Alice	116 Eastview Dr., Nl.	452-4878
*Park, Mrs. Homer W. (Myrna)	311 S. Main, Nl.	452-2795
Partridge, Mrs. S. N. (Sylvia)	350 Arballo Dr., Apt 5K, San Francisco, Cal. 94132	
*Paul, Mrs. Lula	134 Holton Homes, Bl.	829-1390
Piazza, Miss Connie	2304 Webb St., Joliet, Ill. 60435	
*Pisell, Miss Anna M.	805 E. Empire, Bl.	829-8727
Powell, Esther W.	36 N. Highland Ave., Akron, Ohio 44303	
Richmond, Miss Edna	7626 W. Beloit Rd., West Allis, Wis. 53219	
Robertson, Frances	P. O. Box 26, Vista, Mo. 64789	
See, Mrs. Joe B. (Ida)	610 Broad St., Grinnell, Iowa 50112	
Schaffert, Mrs. Eugene	R. 1, Trenton, Neb. 69044	
Serpette, Miss Ardys	919 W. Wood, Bl.	828-8222
Shafer, Mrs. J. S.	Box 333, Oil City, Louisiana 71061	
Shaffer, Mrs. Glen (Goldie)	955 N. Pine St., Ukiah, Calif. 95482	
Shenkel, Mr. Charles H.	928 N. Prairie, Joliet, Ill. 60435	
*Shutes, Mr. Leroy L.	509 E. Monroe St., Bl.	828-8340
Sims, Mrs. Glen	203-13th Ave., S.W., Oelwein, Iowa 50662	
Sitz, Mrs. E. L. (Golda)	901 Wildcat Ridge, Manhattan, Kans.	
*Smith, Mrs. Howard (Donna)	407 E. Graham, Bl.	829-5994
Smith, Mrs. Jack (Esther)	409 Miles Lane, Bl.	452-2122
Smith, Mrs. Rolland I. (Donna)	Winthrop, Iowa 50682	
*Steinberg, Mrs. Robert (Alice)	401 E. Main, Danvers, Ill.	963-4628
Stewart, Mrs. Raymond	615 W. Thomas, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601	
Symms, Mrs. Chas. (Nellie)	R. 3, Box 39, St. John, Kans 67576	
Voorhees, Mrs. Louis (Selma)	R. 2, Box 105, Eureka, Ill. 61530	
Voyles, Miss Sandra	603 E. Chestnut, Bl.	967-4335
Watkins, Mrs. L. W. (Dorothy)	R. 1, Box 80, Arthur, Ill. 61911	
Werner, Mrs. Earl F.	4652 Bunry Run Rd., Wichita Falls, Tex.	
*Wetter, Mrs. Chas. R. (Elinor)	56 Whites Place, Bl.	828-0716
Williamson, Mrs. A. N.	306 High St., Greenwood, Miss. 38930	
Wilkinson, Mrs. Dorothy D.	2519 N.W. 66th, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73116	
Wilken, Mrs. Chas. (Ruth)	Toulon, Ill. 61483	
Wright, Mrs. Harold E. (Virginia)	8 Charles Pl., Bl.	829-7385
Wright, Mr. & Mrs. Richard (Barbara)	17 Grandview Dr., Nl.	452-4645
Warzburger, Mr. Earl J.	1146 S. 7th Ave., Kankakee, Ill. 60901	
Young, Rev. Edw. J.	108 W. 11th St., Hugoton, Kans 67951	
Swanson, Mrs. Robert E. (Wilma)	6851 W. Hobart Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60631	

*Charter Members

101 members as of April 25, 1968



Aug. 25, 1948

State Genealogical Society Organizes

Looking over constitution proposals for a state society of genealogists are from left, Mrs. Charles Wetter of 56 White Place, board member; Ronald Ford of Decatur, president; and Mrs. Homer Park of 412 Normal Ave., Normal, second

vice president. Officers and board members, who were elected in July, met Saturday at the Illinois House to organize a constitution. Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society was host. (Pantagraph Photo)

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1969

The B-N Genealogical Society edited and produced for sale a number of "Publications" to augment its treasury. Seven different Publications were being offered to the public by the end of 1969. During this year the Society began to compile a comprehensive listing of burials in each McLean County cemetery. These cemetery listings would form a basis for many additional Publications. The committee actively pursuing the goal of notation of gravestones and cemetery records included June Crank, Barbara Wright, Mildred Buckles and Jeanette Jones. Their activity even caught the attention of the local Bloomington Pantagraph newspaper which printed an article on the group on 20 May 1969.

Alice Steinberg became the Editor of the "Gleanings" this year and Ron Smith Printing did the printing of the quarterly. Regular monthly meetings continued to be in the Citizens Savings and Loan building in Normal. Dues were raised in January to \$4.00 per member plus \$1.00 each extra member at the same location.

Officers for 1969 were: Barbara Wright as President; Doris Hilton as Vice-president; Ardys Serpette as Secretary; Alice Steinberg as Corresponding Secretary; Charlotte Augsburg as Treasurer.



The first Presidents (L to R)
Barbara Wright 1969 & 1970, Elinor Wetter 1966, Myrna Park 1967 & 1968



From London for Weekend

Mrs. William Munro's bachelor cousin from Australia flew from London to Chicago for the weekend on his first trip to the USA to meet his American relatives. He is Robert Mann, the last of the Manns from England and the last to be born in the 400-year-old ancestral home near London. The Munros, of 508 Colton, visited the home just two weeks before Mr. Mann this summer and both talked to villagers there. They gave him Mrs. Munro's name. Mr. Mann is on 12-weeks vacation from a steel firm near Sydney, Australia. He brought with him family papers dating back to 1700. (Pantagraph Photo)

Virginia Man To Address State Genealogical Society

4/3/69

LEXINGTON (PNS) — Raymond B. Clark Jr., of Arlington, Va., will be one of the guest speakers at the first spring conference of the newly formed Illinois State Genealogical Society, Saturday, April 12, at the Illinois House in Bloomington.

Mr. Clark is a past president of the National Genealogy Society and is editor of the "Maryland-Delaware Genealogist." His topic for the morning session will be "New England Research" and in the afternoon he will speak on "Migration Routes."

Willard Hiess, a columnist for

the "Tri-State Trader" and chairman of the genealogy section of the Indiana Historical Society, will speak on "Tracing Your Ancestors Through Indiana" and "Quaker Records."

Mrs. Homer Park of 311 S. Main, Normal, is chairman of the conference. A luncheon will be served at the hotel at noon and individual genealogical and historical societies in Illinois will have display tables during the day.

The all-day event is open to anyone interested in genealogy or family history. Reservations will be accepted until April 5.

Information on reservations may be obtained by writing or calling Mrs. Esther Smith, 409 Miles Lane, Normal, 61761, phone 452-2122.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program will start at 9 a.m. The conference is sponsored by the Illinois State Genealogical Society, whose purpose is to assist in the organization of new local societies, organize reference materials, preserve county and township records, establish a program and speaker bureau, assist in workshops and promote legislation affecting genealogy.



Raymond Clark Jr.



Mrs. Donald Armstrong with chair she refinished and for which she worked the needlepoint seat and back. She made the drapes shown and the double knit dress she is wearing.

Oct 1971

Mrs. Donald Armstrong Enjoys many interests

The name Beatrice Armstrong is familiar to most readers of the Press for it has been the by-line on many articles on the history of Cooksville and this area. Mrs. Armstrong enjoys digging into the past, and the old Cooksville Enterprise has been the source of much of her material. She handles with loving care the brittle yellowed pages of the almost century old newspaper which brings again to life for her an age that has gone.

A different branch of history to which she devotes a great deal of time is genealogy - the study of family histories. She has traced her own family through the Cope line back to early Britain. Mrs. Armstrong gets her information from visits to and correspondence with others who share the same family names, books, libraries all over the country, cemeteries, and court house records - birth, marriage and death records and deeds.

One rich source of information is the family Bible, and the Armstrongs are fortunate to have two of the Bibles from his forebears, those of the George Brumme and Wolf families. The Wolf Bible is in German.

Bea is membership chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her membership in that group is based on the fact that at least four of her ancestors fought in the Revolution. As membership chairman, she helps others trace their families to the Revolution in an effort to qualify them for membership.

She is now working on the genealogy of her husband's family - the Armstrongs, Brummes and Wolfs. She secured from the National Archives a photo copy of the pension record of one of his great great grandfathers who served in the Revolutionary War.

Although history and genealogy occupy most of Mrs. Armstrong's spare time at the moment, she has many other interests and talents. Perhaps her most ambitious undertaking was the drawing of the plans for the house she and her husband Donald had built a few years ago on land granted to his family by a land grant charter, a framed copy of which hangs on the dining room wall. She also did all the interior painting and made all the draperies.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong are both avid antique collectors. Mrs. Armstrong has refinished many of the handsome pieces included in their home furnishings. She caned the chairs used at the counter and table in the large dining - family room as well as a rocking chair in that room. She also braided the room - size rug and several large runners.

Another hobby is photography and enlarged prints of slides she and Donald have made are framed and used in the decoration of their home. One interesting group of pictures she took shows her granddaughter, Kathy Troyer, wearing Bea's own baby clothes. Each of the poses is framed individually and then all grouped in a large frame.

Mrs. Armstrong has taught Sunday School, been a 4-H leader and done bedside teaching. She was at one time District President of the WSCS. In addition to the DAR, she belongs to the McLean County Historical Society, the Illinois State Historical Society, the McLean County Homemakers Extension Association, the Bloomington Genealogical Society and the Illinois Genealogical Society and is an active member of the United Methodist Church.

Looks 40 Years For Ancestor

Mrs. E. E. Lundeen of 105 N. Mercer has been looking for an ancestor who might have brought a sugar bowl to this country on the Mayflower.

She's been looking for 40 years without luck.

When her grandmother, the late Julian McCurdy, gave the bowl to her before her marriage, she said "Take care of this, it came over on the Mayflower."

But she didn't say who carried it on the boat.

No Interest

At the time, Mrs. Lundeen had little or no interest in her ancestors. Since then she has developed a great interest in genealogy and even teaches an Adult Education class on the subject.

But still there remains the elusive ancestor, if in fact the person with the sugar bowl is an ancestor. She has traced the McCurdy and Givens lines back as far as she can.

The only connection of the English-Scotch family with the Mayflower is this, her latest clue—one of the McCurdy sons married a Doty girl. And Mr. Doty was a passenger on the Mayflower.

From Holland?

Did the Doty family give the sugar bowl to one of Mrs. Lun-



Sugar Bowl

... may have traveled on Mayflower.

Pantagraph Photo

dean's ancestors? It is like a detective story.

The bowl itself has no markings, but authorities on an-

tiques say it could have been made in Holland. (The May-

flower passengers lived a year in Holland before making the trip).

A modernistic tulip design is painted on the side of the bowl, which is a yellow lustre.

For this year's bumper apple crop. Mrs. Armstrong brought

out these favorite recipes:

APPLE DUMPLINGS

Make syrup of

2 cups water

2 cups sugar

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/4 tsp. nutmeg

Add 3 tablespoons butter

Pare and core 6 large apples

Sift:

2 cups flour

2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

Cut in 3/4 cup shortening

Add 1/2 cup milk all at once.

Stir until moistened. Roll 1/4 inch thick; cut in 5-inch squares.

Arrange apple on each square.

Sprinkle with sugar, cinnamon

and nutmeg. Dot with butter.

Fold corners to center; seal

edges. Place in greased pan. Add

syrup. Bake in moderate oven

(350 degrees) 45 minutes.

APPLE CAKE

Sift together and set aside:

2 cups flour

1/4 tsp. soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

Cream

2 cups sugar

1/2 cup shortening

Add 2 eggs well beaten

Add 4 cups chopped apples and nuts if desired.

Beat with mixer.

Add flour mixture in thirds. Do not overbeat.

Bake in 13 x 9 inch pan at 350 degree for 45 minutes or more.

4/19/69

Mrs. Wright Heads Genealogists



Mrs. Wright

Mrs. Richard L. Wright of 17 Grandview Drive, Normal, will be installed as president of the Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society at 7 p.m. Monday. Others to be installed at the meeting to be at Centennial School will include Mrs. Doris A. Hilton, vice president; Miss Ardys Serpette, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Steinberg, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Dean Augspurger, treasurer; Miss Sally Cushing and Mrs. Wesley Crank, directors.

Four short talks will be given by Mrs. Steinberg on "Research in Indiana;" Mrs. Verda Gerwick, president of the Lexington Historical and Genealogical Society, "Research in Illinois"; Mrs. Edgar Lundeen, "Research in Kentucky"; and Mrs. Lula Paul, "Research in Missouri."

The society promotes the study of family history and genealogy. Anyone interested may attend.



Genealogical Search

May 20, 1969

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society has been active this spring recording information from graves in McLean County — township by township. Saturday the group was at Frankenberger Cemetery, near Ellsworth in Dawson

Township. From left, four Normalites, Mrs. Wesley Crank, 705 N. Walnut; Miss Jeanette Jones, 302 N. Fell; Mrs. Richard Wright, 17 Grandview, and Mrs. Dean Buckles, 302 E. Sycamore. Mrs. Wright is group's president. (Pantagraph Photo)

Genealogists Compiling Publishing Research Facts 1/26/69

It might be a sugar bowl, a family Bible, desire to join the DAR or an interest in history.

All are reasons which lead to the study of genealogy. And the formation of genealogical societies.

Some say genealogy even ranks second in hobby popularity.

All kinds of publications are published to aid the ancestor searchers. Libraries have set aside areas for books and periodicals on the subject—including Normal Library and Withers Public Library.

Cataloging

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society was formed three years ago and one of the projects undertaken by the group is cataloging information from grave stones in all of McLean County.

They are even interested in one or two stones in someone's backyard or private burial grounds. One of the early workers on this project Mrs. Verda Gerwick of Lexington, a member of the Twin City club and president of the Lexington Historical and Genealogical Society.

Mrs. Arnold L. Hering of 1610 E. Oakland, who has been active this past year in recording cemetery records in the Bloomington area, has traipsed across beanfields and up hills in uncovering precious records.

Turns Up

She found a cemetery at Moore's Mill hill in Mount Hope Township, east of McLean, and turned about eight stones on the old Mount Hope Cemetery.

Also in the works is the recording of Bentown Cemetery.

The group copies all the information on the stones in the hundreds of cemeteries of the county. Their desire is to someday publish the information in booklet form by townships.

This aids people all over the country who might have had relatives in the area at one time. About 75 percent of the society membership is from out of state.

New Booklets

The local society is republishing the Milo Custer history, originally published in 1925. They have also published the early marriage records of McLean County from 1831-1841.

And they are publishing wills and deeds and land records prior to 1900 in a quarterly magazine. These quarterlies are exchanged with groups in nearly every state.

Mrs. Richard Wright of 17 Grandview Drive, Normal, president of the society, regards books as her most valuable source of information. However, this is not proof, she adds.

More Value

But books can often place an ancestor in the proper locale, so that one might know where to get written proof. She feels that family keepsakes mean more to her because of her interest in genealogy.

Mrs. Wright spent part of every day for a week in Wash-

ington, D.C., in the National Archives looking over census reports.

Other areas to find ancestor clues include birth, death and marriage records at the courthouse; church baptismal records; abstracts; plats; old quilt and samplers; war records; Springfield Archives and Newberry Library in Chicago, to name a few.

State Genealogy 10/17/69 Speakers Named

DECATUR — The fall conference of the Illinois State Genealogical Society will be Friday and Saturday at the Hotel Orlando. Speakers will be John Frederick Dorman of Washington, D.C., and Miss Margaret Waters of Indianapolis.

Mr. Dorman will speak on "Research in Virginia, West Virginia and the Eastern Seaboard." The certified genealogist is editor and publisher of the Virginia Genealogist and is first vice-president of the National Genealogical Society. He has compiled 34 volumes of genealogical research publications and has contributed several articles to historical and genealogical magazines.

Miss Waters is a noted author

and lecturer on Indiana genealogical research. A professional genealogist, Miss Waters is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Colonists, and Daughters of Founders and Patriots. She has compiled several genealogical aids. Miss Waters' topic will be "Delving into the Unknown from the Known," and will be slanted toward both the beginner and the more advanced genealogical worker.

The conference will begin with a reception at 8 p.m. Friday in the ballroom. Genealogical societies and commercial groups will display publications and genealogical aids at the public reception.

Saturday's session, including luncheon, calls for a fee.

Mrs. James Delbridge of 103 E. Harrison, Decatur, will take reservations through Tuesday.



Mrs Munro Mrs Wright Mrs Steinberg



Spratt Jones Coulter Serpette

1970 November Dinner Party House



outgoing Pres - Mrs. Wright
New Pres - Mrs. Spratt



Jones Marguis Serpette Spratt



Munro Smith Wright

Says Genealogy Handy Tool To

By Roland White

Understanding of History

Quoting the example of the ancestor who became so illustrious after his death that his tombstone should have been enlarged, Mrs. Rachel Lundeen in a more serious vein told Bloomington Exchange Club members Wednesday that a study of Genealogy can lead to enlarging the individual's knowledge of history.

Interest in both genealogy and history has increased during the last 50 years, she said.

The speaker, wife of architect Edgar Lundeen, has been an art teacher and has conducted adult education classes in genealogy.

Admittedly the interest in family trees was scant early in this nation's history, Mrs. Lundeen acknowledge. She ascribed it to two reasons.

"The pioneer who went into the wilderness and cleared the land was a self-made man, and so were his sons."

Opposed

One of the main periods to which latter day Americans like to trace their ancestry was against the whole idea, she indicated.

"A great deal of feeling against genealogy occurred after the Revolutionary War when there was feeling against the British aristocracy," she explained. This was the second reason.

But later wars helped revive interest. Men from different parts of the country met in uniform, discovered they had the same name and began wondering about family connections. In later wars some had an opportunity to look up the homes of ancestors in Europe.

Mrs. Lundeen indicated how movements of families in succeeding generations trace patterns of travel in the building of this country.

Followed River

Starting with the first settlement in Jamestown, Va., in 1607, she showed how the pattern of the first English settlers was to move up the navigable James River and establish plantations.

This continued into the piedmont of foothill region. Then breaks were found in the Blue Ridge Mountains, usually called timber or water gaps, and settlement spread into the Shenandoah Valley.

Discovery of the Cumberland Gap at the juncture of Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky opened another route which settlers were to take on the way to Indiana and Illinois, Mrs. Lundeen said. Some went up the Potomac River to the Cumberland Road, eventually by other routes to Louisville or Vincennes.

Perhaps this was appropriate. The local region, Mrs. Lundeen said, was once part of Augusta County, Va.

Alternates

Alternative routes from other areas included a northern one by Buffalo to Chicago, much of it by water, and a middle way down the Ohio. By the time of the Civil War two railroads were helping carry immigrants westward.

The tributaries to the stream of migration were by no means entirely English. Mrs. Lundeen mentioned by name only two of the larger early groups, Germans and Irish, but said there were millions of immigrants.

"All of us had immigrants for ancestors at one stage," she said.

One of the more interesting of these was Henry Adams, who came from England to Braintree, Mass., in the 1600s. Two of his descendants, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, were to become presidents.

Henry Adams was a man of distinction.

"Listed in his effects when he died, along with the bedroom furniture, axe and hoe, were nine books — eight more than the neighbors had. Everybody had a Bible."

John Quincy Adams in his turn had such a large library that special accommodations were built to preserve it, she said.

Mrs. Lundeen mentioned two of her links with the past.

She was given a sugar bowl by her grandmother and told to keep it because it came over on the Mayflower. There is no other evidence it actually did, but she was assured by an antique expert at Marshall Field's that it could have.

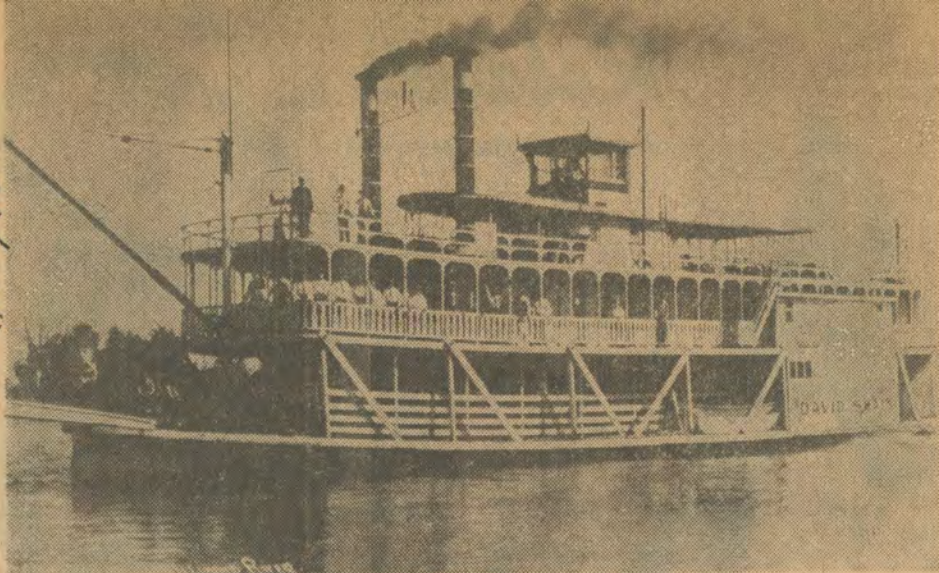
The sugar bowl's design resembled a pattern in vogue in Holland at that time. The Pilgrims who arrived in 1620 had been in Holland immediately before coming to the new world.

The other link is a tradition

about an ancestor who had land at a river crossing used by Gen Charles Cornwallis, who later put his name in the history books by bowing to the weight of French naval might and surrendering to the joint forces at Yorktown.

Her ancestor furnished breakfast, but it wasn't his hospitality that caused the British general to take him along afterwards. Cornwallis learned he had seven sons in the rebel forces and took him as a prisoner.

9/20/70



David Swain Boat

... on Illinois River in early 1900s.

Steamboat Historian Genealogical Speaker

Sounds of steamboat whistles and showboat calliopes will be heard at the Monday meeting of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

"Good Bye to the Great Boats," will be the topic of guest speaker, the Rev. Robert L. Brandstatter, associate minister of the First United Methodist Church of East Peoria and Conference Historian of the United Methodist Church.

There will be tapes, slides and a book display highlighting

the days of the Mississippi Steamboats. Mr. Brandstatter has a large collection of memorabilia relating to the boats, the people who perfected them, raced them and traveled on them.

He developed a special interest in steamboats because his wife is a descendant of the inventor of a steamboat, Lt. John Fitch. He built one in Philadelphia in 1783-1790.

In 1925, Congress voted money to erect a national monument to Fitch at Bardstown, Ky., and declared him the real

inventor of the first steamboat, but in 1965 the U.S. Post Office Department issued a stamp honoring Robert Fulton as inventor of the steamboat.

Mr. Fitch should have the credit, says Mr. Brandstatter.

He is a member of the Illinois State Historical Society, Putnam County Historical Society and Sangamon County Historical Society.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Wesley Room of the Central Illinois Conference Building, 1211 N. Park. The meeting is open to the public.

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1970

The February 1970 meeting of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society was made special with a dinner at the Guest House—notable as the first Society dinner occasion.

Activity for the year for the Society centered around composition and stencil production for articles to be contained in issues of the “Gleaning”. Editor Louise Muxfeld directed the effort.

Alice Ogle became the anchor and official genealogical librarian for the Society’s book (and quarterly) collection housed in the Normal Public Library.

Officers who served the Society for 1970 were: Barbara Wright as President; Elinor Wetter as Vice-President; Ardys Serpette as Secretary; June Crank as Corresponding Secretary; Mary Colter as Treasurer.

Freyberger talk ^{Feb} for genealogists 1970

Dr. Ruth Freyberger of ISU's Art Department will discuss "Family Treasures — Heirlooms in Use" for Monday night's meeting of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society. The 7:15 program will be at Citizens Savings and Loan Building in Normal.

Miss Freyberger, who is of Pennsylvania Dutch and German ancestry, did graduate and undergraduate study in Pennsylvania and is affiliated with the Pennsylvania Guild of Crafts, Pennsylvania Folklore Society and Pennsylvania German Society. Her specialty is Pennsylvania Dutch folk art.

She will have a display of her own textiles, illuminated fractures and ceramics.



**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1971

Sixteen Chairmen took part in the Society activity in 1971. They were:

Membership	Louise Love	By-Laws	Doris Hilton
Program	Myrna Park	Mimeograph	June Crank
Books	Rachel Lundeen	Publications	Barbara Wright
Librarian	Alice Ogle	Fund Raising	Betty Porter
Finance	Debra Brown	Hospitality	Sandra Voyles
Publicity	Myrna Park	Telephone	Louise Drake
Cemetery	Mildred Buckles	Historian	Muriel Hoffman
Newsletter	Helen Harris	State Rep.	Doris Hilton

During 1971 the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society increased the amount of Genealogical publications available for sale to the count of nine.

Members Ruth Carpenter and Milo Marquis organized Society members and others in a campaign to clear off the ancient cemetery at Shirley.

Officers elected for the year 1971 were: Marian Spratt as President; Doris Hilton as Vice-president; Jeanette Jones as Secretary; Ardys Serpette as Corresponding Secretary; Mary Colter as Treasurer.

Outgoing 1970 President Barbara Wright awards the gavel to 1971 President Marian Spratt



The 1971 Officers (L to R)
Marion Spratt, President
Jeanette Jones, Recording Secretary
Ardys Serpette, Corresponding Secretary



Nov 1971

Report of the President

Elected and installed as president of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society in November, 1971, I undertook the work falteringly because of my inexperience in the procedures of the society, but with enthusiasm because of my deep interest in and love of genealogy.

The first project of the year was to publish in the Newsletter lists of books owned by individual members of the society who were willing to submit such a list and be willing to do research from their personal library on request of other members of the society. This has proved to be a worthwhile project.

Discussion concerning the purchase of a microfilm reader to be used at the Normal Public Library did not lead to action in 1972. It is hoped that project will be completed in 1963.

Thanks goes to Muriel Hoffman for accepting the mimeographing duties of the society. Thanks also goes to the several members who participated in the clearing of the Shirley Cemetery. Gravestones can now be seen from Route 66.

Perhaps the greatest undertaking of the Genealogical Society in 1972 was the display at Eastland Shopping Center on August 26. With the theme, "Tracing the Footprints of Our Ancestors" eight separate but related exhibits were arranged beginning with the first steps in genealogy, the trip to the cemetery, visiting the Court House, visiting the library, securing records, assembling data, the service to the public by the society in providing publications, and finally observers registering for two free memberships awarded after the drawing at the close of the display. Excellent cooperation came from the seventeen different members contributing time and materials for the display.

Five publications have been added in 1972: McLean County Birth Records, Vol. 3., 1883-85; Vol. IV., 1886-1888; Vol. V., 1889-1892; McLean County Cemeteries, Vol. II, Empire Twp.; and McLean County Cemeteries, Vol. III, Bloomington Township.

A variety of excellent programs was presented during the year including a panel discussion, a seminar, "Your Question, Please", and talks by invited speakers most qualified in their fields. Of the two programs of special interest, the first was the gathering in July at Blooming Grove Cemetery commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first settlers in McLean County, followed by a watermelon party. The second program was held on a Sunday afternoon in September at the Benjaminville Meeting House with Clifford Neal Smith, himself a Quaker, the speaker. This meeting was in cooperation with the McLean County Historical Society. We thank Myrna Park, program chairman, for planning these fine programs.

Since our library is housed at the Normal Public Library and as a "Friend of the Library" a free will offering was taken at both the October and November meetings to be a gift to the library for its new quarters.

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As president, I wish to thank each member, officer, and board member for the cooperation I have received during the year. It is with your encouragement and enthusiasm that our society grows both in number and in activity.

Beatrice Armstrong

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
1971 MEMBERSHIP LIST

LOCAL MEMBERS

ALBIN, Miss Linda, 603 E. Chestnut, Bloomington, Ill. 61701	828-4472
ARMSTRONG, Mrs. Donald G. (Beatrice), Armstrong Farms, Cooksville, Ill. 61730	725-3572
ASBURY, Mrs. C. Eugene (Maurine), 1226 E. Empire St., Bloomington, Ill.	829-9962
BAYLIE, Mrs. Nina, 605 Pine St., Normal, Ill.	452-2381
BEIER, Mrs. Donald D. (Charlene), 75 Park City South, Bloomington, Ill.	829-1373
BIEBER, Mrs. Ed (Beryl), Holder, Ill.	724-8192
BITTNER, Mrs. Walter (Irene), 504 W. Washington, Bloomington, Ill.	828-4618
BROWN, Miss Debra A., R. R. 1, Raab Road, Normal, Ill.	452-7025
BUCKLES, Mrs. Dean (Mildred), 16 - 3rd St., Greenwood Ct., Bloomington	452-3797
BUIS, Mr. Leo, 702 E. Douglas, Bloomington, Ill.	828-5420
CARIUS, Mrs. Larry D. (Kay), 6 Wach Drive, Bloomington, Ill.	663-1744
*CARPENTER, Mrs. Joe M. (Ruth), Shirley, Ill. 61772	828-5738
CHAPMAN, Mrs. Vita, 1303 Prospect, Normal, Ill.	829-6228
COLTER, Miss Mary, R. 1, Normal, Ill.	Carlock 376-4263
COX, Mr. and Mrs. James (Phyllis), R. R., Hudson, Ill. 61748	726-2977
CRANK, Mrs. Wesley (June), 705 N. Walnut, Normal, Ill.	452-3559
CUSHING, Miss Sara Jane, 1101 N. Lee St., Bloomington, Ill.	828-9848
DARLINGTON, Mrs. Winthrop (Willene F.), 12 Harbord Drive, Bloomington	828-9269
DEANE, Mrs. Roger A. (Mae), R. 1, Timber Ridge Rd., Lexington, Ill. 61735	365-5251
DePEW, Mr. James R., 50 White Place, Bloomington, Ill.	
DRAKE, Mrs. George E. (Louise), 907 W. Olive, Bloomington, Ill.	829-9726
DUNGEY, Mrs. Charles E. (Helen E.), R. R. 3, Bloomington, Ill.	827-6933
FINFGELD, Mrs. Clifford (Lois), R. R. Cooksville, Ill. 61730	725-3563
*FLANAGAN, Mrs. Paul (Lucille), 36 Illinois Ave., Greenwood Tr. Crt., Bloomington, Ill.	
GAINES, Mrs. Robert (Donna), 618 N. School St., Normal, Ill.	452-3300
*HARRIS, Mrs. Vester B. (Helen), 705 Apple, Normal, Ill.	828-8696
HASTINGS, Mrs. Ray (Marie), R. R. 1, Normal, Ill.	452-3960
*HERING, Mrs. Arnold L (Betty), 1610 E. Oakland, Bloomington, Ill.	828-7627
HILL, Miss Honore, 303 Stewart Place, Normal, Ill.	452-7227
*HILTON, Mrs. Doris Angleton, 305 Meadows, Bloomington, Ill.	829-1749
*HOFFMAN, Mrs. Howard (Muriel), Anchor, Ill. 61720	723-4534
HOLDER, Mr. George, P. O Box 807, Bloomington, Ill.	
JONES, Jeanette, 302 N. Fell, Normal, Ill.	452-1592
KING, Mrs. Ruth, R. 2, Box 107, Eureka, Ill. 61530	
LEHMAN, Mrs. Merlin (Charlotte), 5 Wach Drive, Bloomington, Ill.	662-3264
LEHMANN, Mrs. Wanda, 808 S. Allin, Bloomington, Ill.	829-2009
*LIGHT, Mrs. Ivan (Betsy), R. 1, Shirley, Ill. 61772	828-3400
*LOVE, Miss Louise, 204 W. Emerson, Bloomington, Ill.	828-2830
*LOVEKAMP, Mrs. Glen H. (Betty), 223 Ivanhoe Way, Bloomington, Ill.	663-1625
*LUNDEEN, Mrs. Edgar (Rachel), 105 N. Mercer, Bloomington, Ill.	663-1226
MARQUIS, Mr. & Mrs. Milo (Ruth), R. R. 1, Normal, Ill.	452-4670
MARSHALL, Mrs. Leon (Daisy), 1809 E. Lincoln, Bloomington, Ill.	827-8178
MARTIN, Mrs. Carl (Dorothy), 212 N. Linden, Clinton, Ill. 61727	
MAXWELL, Miss Lena, 1115 W. College Ave., Normal, Ill.	452-3086
MEADORS, Mrs. Harold (Helen), 304 W. North St., Leroy, Ill. 61752	962-4331
*MUNRO, Mrs. William B. (Josephine), 508 N. Colton Ave., Bloomington, Ill.	829-7987
*MUXFELD, Miss Louise B., 410 E. Washington, Apt. 305, Bloomington, Ill.	828-7956
OGLE, Miss Alice, 116 Eastview Dr., Normal, Ill.	452-4878
*PARK, Mrs. Homer W. (Myrna), 311 S. Main, Normal, Ill.	452-2795
PATTERSON, Mrs. Robert J. (Dorothy B.), 142 Main, Greenwood Crt., Bloomington, Ill.	828-2582
*PAUL, Mrs. Lula V., 104 E. Wood St., Apt. 1105, Wood Hill Tower South Bloomington, Ill.	829-1390

LOCAL MEMBERS (Cont.)

PERRY, Mrs. Edwin (Mary), R. R. 1, Arrowsmith, Ill.	727-3168
PIERSON, Mrs. Charles M. (Bernice L.), 516 Florence, Bloomington, Ill.	828-9189
PORTER, Mrs. Charles B. (Betty), 310 Belview Ave., Normal, Ill.	452-1943
RICHARDS, Miss Ruth E., 607 S. Florence Ave., Bloomington, Ill.	827-6618
RINGO, Mrs. Claude, 804 E. Monroe St., Bloomington, Ill.	829-2476
SCAIFE, Miss Marjorie, 1300 Searle Drive, Normal, Ill.	452-5064
SCHIELER, Mrs. Don, R. R. 1, Gridley, Ill. 61744	77-17
SERPETTE, Miss Ardys, 919 W. Wood, Bloomington, Ill.	828-8222
SHANNON, Miss Phyllis, 1602 E. Jackson St., Bloomington, Ill.	829-9981
*SHUTES, Mr. Leroy L., 509 E. Monroe St., Bloomington, Ill.	828-8340
*SMITH, Mrs. W. Howard (Donna), 407 E. Graham, Bloomington, Ill.	829-5994
SMITH, Mrs. Jack (Esther), 409 Miles Lane, Normal, Ill.	452-2122
SPRATT, Mrs. Floyd S. (Marian), 204 E. Elm, LeRoy, Ill. 61752	962-9117
STELLING, Miss Barbara M., 205 E. Cole St., Box 451, Heyworth Ill. 61745	473-3981
STEIN, Mrs. Keith (Eloise), 104 Lawrence, Normal, Ill.	452-2601
*STEINBERG, Mrs. Robert (Alice), 605 S. Allin, Bloomington, Ill.	827-8110
TINSLEY, Mrs. M. Jane, 1007 S. Fell Ave., Normal, Ill.	452-5978
VOORHEES, Mrs. Louis (Selma), R. 2, Box 105, Eureka, Ill. 61530	
VOYLES, Miss Sandra, 603 E. Chestnut, Bloomington, Ill.	828-4472
WELSH, Mrs. M. C. (Katharine H.), 505 W. Jefferson St., Bloomington, Ill.	828-8348
*WETTER, Mrs. Charles R. (Elinor), 56 Whites Place, Bloomington, Ill.	828-0716
WHETZEL, Mrs. Joseph L. (Elsie), R. R., El Paso, Ill. 61738	Gridley 94-15
WINTERROTH, Mrs. Shirley F. (Ruth), 803 N. School St., Normal, Ill.	452-2934
WRIGHT, Mrs. Richard L., (Barbara), 17 Grandview Drive, Normal, Ill.	452-4645

*Charter Members

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

BALES, Miss Grace D., 1829 Cherry Road, Springfield, Ill. 62704	
BALLARD, Mrs. Roy, Medaryville, Indiana 47957	
BEAM, Mrs. L. G. (Elsie L.), 1317 W. Center, Visalis, Cal. 93277	
BEELER, Mrs. Morgan (Hazel), 722 "H" St., Centralia, Wash. 98531	
BLONSHINE, Mrs. Arta, 4202 W. Flora, Tampa, Fla. 33614	
BLUMHAGEN, Mrs. Helen M. Room 701, Deseret Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111	
BRANDSTATTER, Rev. Robert L., 201 Everett St., East Peoria, Ill. 61611	
BRIGGS, Fern L., 9159 South Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60617	
CAMPBELL, Mr. Don, Rt. 1, Lake Crystal, Minn. 56055	
COOLEY, Mrs. Inez M., Juntura, Ore. 97911	
CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. Roger, 2930 Georgian Court, Lincoln, Neb. 68502	
DEVANNY, Mrs. John, 312 - 10th St., Lincoln, Ill. 62656	
ELGAS, Mrs. Z. C. (Barbara), 1639 E. Tripoli Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53207	
FINCH, Mrs. Ben, Kelley Iowa 50134	
FINEOUT, Mrs. C. W., 1325 Washburn, Topeka, Kans. 66604	
FRAZER, Mrs. Ralph O. (Mabel), 145 E. Dauenhauer, East Syracuse, N. Y. 13057	
HACKMAN, Mrs. John (Wahneta), 3827 Aikenside Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45213	
HEIBEL, Mrs. Betty Lou, Leola, South Dakota 57456	
HOLSAPPLE, Olive, Toledo, Ill. 62468	
HOPPER, Mrs. Raymond, 113 Adams St., New Albany, Ind. 47150	
HURD, Mrs. Walter J. (Elmira Brock), apt. A509, 9201 Shore Rd., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11209	
INGRAM, Mr. Everett A., Cummings, Cal. 95477	
JEWETT, Florence H., 205 South St. Joseph St., White Pigeon, Mich. 49099	
LAMB, Mrs. Estol (Mary), 555 Giordano Drive, Yorktown Heights., N. Y. 10598	
LANNERT, Miss M. Annabel, 2219 S. Rosewood, Santa Ana Cal. 92707	

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS (Cont.)

LIND, Mrs. Charles E. (Carol), 5218 - 28th Ave. S.W., Seattle, Wash. 98116
LINDSEY, Mrs. John E., 1406 Ash St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240
MACKEY, Mr. & Mrs. Roy G., 611 Little St., Streator, Ill. 61364
MARQUARDSEN, Mr. William G., 4720 W. 182nd Place, Country Club Hills, Ill. 60477
MARTIN, Mrs. Charles L. (Evelyn Rydquist, P. O. Box 493, Burley, Idaho 83318
MATTOCKS, Mr. D. Gene, 208 Gross Ave., Marysville, Cal. 95901
O'CONNELL, Dr. Frank B., Jr., 1328 Belmeade Drive, Kingsport, Tenn. 37664
PARTRIDGE, Mrs. S. N. (Sylvia), 350 Arballo Drive, Apt. 5K, San Francisco, Cal. 94132
PATTERSON, Mrs. Kenneth (Doris), R. R. 1, Beason, Ill. 62512
RICHMOND, Miss Edna, 7626 W. Beloit Road, West Allis, Wis. 53219
SCHNORMEIER, Mrs. Walter (Velma), Lambertton, Minn. 56152
SEE, Mrs. Joe B. (Ida), 610 Broad St., Grinnell, Iowa 50112
SHELLHAMMER, Mrs. J. Dalen (Sandra), Rt. 1, Iliopolis, Ill. 62539
SIEGMUND, Mrs. C. W. (Edith), Orangedale Route., Green Cove Springs, Fla. 32043
SIMS, Mrs. Glen, 203 - 13th Ave. S. W., Oelwein, Iowa 50662
SMITH, Mrs. Rolland I. (Donna), Winthrop, Iowa 50682
STUCKEY, Miss Louise, 718 Millikin St., Hamilton, Ohio. 45013
SWANSON, Mrs. Robert E. (Wilma), 6851 W. Hobart Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60631
TAYLOR, Mrs. Harlin B., 2358 East Johns, Decatur, Ill. 62521
TEMPLAR, Mrs. George, 2864 Knollwood Court, Topeka, Kans. 66611
VEATCH, Mr. J. Guy, 2600 Broadmoor Drive, Elkhart, Ind. 46514
WAGNER, Miss Geroldine F., Box 42, Donnellson, Iowa 52625
WATKINS, Mrs. L. W. (Dorothy), R. 1, Box 80, Arthur, Ill. 61911
WEBER, Mrs. Robert (Shirley), 21 Greentree Lane, Kansas City, Mo. 64116
WHITEHEAD, Mrs. Dorothy L., P. O. Box 2847, Springfield, Ill. 62708
WILCOX, Mrs. Edward A. (Alice), 2608 W. Daniel St., Champaign, Ill. 61820
WILKINSON, Mrs. Dorothy D., 2519 N. W. 66th, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73116
WOOD, Mr. Gordon, Rt. 1, Box 154A, Weslaco, Texas 78596
WURZBURGER, Mr. Earl J., 1146 S. 7th Ave., Kankakee, Ill. 60901

Shirley residents to gather for cemetery cleanup effort *hw 1971*

SHIRLEY (PNS) — The old Shirley Cemetery is due for a new look.

Residents of the community will gather there today in an effort to clean the grounds of about 50 years' undergrowth, as resident observers described the challenge.

There are about 50 graves in the cemetery with a number of stones and sizable monuments scattered about. Some burials have been made within the last 20 to 30 years.

The cemetery is located south of the elevator along the railroad tracks. No public road serves the cemetery.

'Migration routes' *march* genealogist topic *1971*

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogy Society will meet at 7:15 p.m. Monday at the Bank of Illinois, Normal. Mrs. Mildred Devanney of Lincoln, former Illinois State Genealogy Society board director and presently state chairman and consultant for patriotic societies, will talk on "Migration Routes." Mrs. Devanney has held numerous DAR state and national offices.

The Illinois State Genealogy Society's third spring conference has been scheduled for April 30 and May 1 at the St. Nicholas Hotel, Springfield. Mrs. Doris Hilton (829-1749) and Mrs. Myrna Parks (452-2795) of the Bloomington-Normal society are on the state board of directors and members of the conference planning committee. They will be available to answer questions and arrange for transportation to the state conference.

Questions, problems *Feb* for genealogists *1971*

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, meeting at 7:15 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan Building in Normal, will have a "Your Question, Please," with Elinor Wetter and "Problems and Solutions" with a number of members involved.

An Indiana discussion will be led by Sally Cushing and Sandy Voyles; Ohio, Helen Harris and June Crank; Pennsylvania, Barbara Wright; Kentucky, Donna Smith and Mary Colter; general research, Alice Steinberg; Mennonite research, Mrs. Myrna Parks, newly appointed program chairman. Members are being encouraged to take problems and workbooks.

Genealogy sessions set

Concurrent work sessions on genealogy will be held at the Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Wood Hill Towers.

Genealogists, historical group to meet jointly

McLean County Historical Society and Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will hold a joint meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan Building, Normal.

Ronald E. Nelson of Bishop Hill, historian for parks and memorials of the State of Illinois, will be featured speaker. His topic will be, "Early Settlement Patterns in Illinois."

Mr. Nelson is in charge of the restoration of the Swedish Colony Church at Bishop Hill. He has been president of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association since 1962 and is second vice president of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society of Chicago.

O. Johnson 1971

1850 county census, marriage lists printed *1971*

LEXINGTON — The 1850 federal census for McLean County and marriage records of the county are now available in printed form with indexes, according to Mrs. Verda Gerwick and Mrs. Lilah Smith, both of Lexington, compilers of the publications.

The list of marriage licenses issued in the county covers the years 1842-1926, according to Mrs. Smith, principal compiler, and lists nearly 1,000 marriages.

The names were taken "primarily from the Lexington newspapers," according to the preface, "but not every year is represented."

The census of 1850 is complete with occupations and place of birth for every person. Listings are according to townships.

It was compiled by Mrs. Gerwick.

Of the 84 occupations listed, many reflect the pioneer life of the time — basket maker, brick maker, constable, cooper, harness maker, livery man, shingle maker, stage driver, tanner, thrasher, wagonmaker and wood chopper.

Both booklets are available from Mrs. Gerwick, Mrs. Smith or Heritage House, publishers at Danville.

Genealogical Society speaker

Mrs. Homer W. Park, 311 S. Main, Normal, will discuss "The Mennonites, Dunkards and Amish" during an Oct. 1-2 conference of the Illinois State Genealogical Society in Springfield.

Mrs. Park, who helped form the genealogical society, has done extensive research on Mennonite, Dunkard and Amish people.

The two-day conference in Springfield will be at the Hotel St. Nicholas.

Other conference speakers will include Winston DeVille, a Connecticut publisher, who will discuss "Genealogy — A Critique on Current Trends," and Clifford N. Smith, of De Kalb, whose topic will be "Records of the American Revolution."

He will refer to German records, British records and American land records.

7/15/71

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1972

During this year the Normal Public Library continued to shelve all the Society-owned books and quarterlies collection. The Citizens S & L of Normal continued to make available facilities for monthly membership meetings.

The B-N Genealogical Society by late 1972 was able to offer 19 publications on McLean County genealogy for sale to the public. Growth in all the activities of the Society prompted an increased budget for the year at \$1000. Membership increased to 175 with 109 from McLean Co. and 66 others representing 20 states.

A big project for the Society was an all-day genealogical presentation for the patrons of Eastland Mall on 26 August 1972. This successful effort was called "Tracing Footprints of Our Ancestors". Impressive displays by the Society emphasized steps to be taken in searching for one's ancestors and where information was available to the cause.

Ruth Hamm produced the monthly Newsletter and Louise Muxfeld edited the Gleanings quarterly. The elected officers for 1972 were: Beatrice Armstrong, President; Doris Hilton, Vice-president; Donna Gaines, Recording Secretary; Kay Carius, Treasurer; Ardys Serpette as Corresponding Secretary. It is important to note that on 7 October 1972 the United States Park Service placed the McLean County Courthouse at Bloomington on the Register of Historic Places List for Preservation. This fourth McLean County Courthouse which cost \$500,000 to erect in the early 1900's is famous for its "Classic Revival" architecture. At the cornerstone dedication on 22 May 1901 Judge C. D. Myers had defined: "from base to dome, from cornerstone to capital, it shall be beautiful in every line and feature, that it may fitly express the intelligence, the culture, the development, the hope and accomplishment in seventy years of growth and endeavor (of McLean County). And in 1903 on the 24th of September Adlai E. Stevenson, the 23rd Vice-president of the United States, orated "This day marks an epoch in our history and this splendid building is for all time dedicated to the public. It is indeed a magnificent structure and in its conveniences and appointments is most probably unsurpassed in beauty of finish and elegance of decoration. It would be a difficult task to find its counterpart. It reflects honor on all who have shared the responsibility of its construction."

Late in this year of 1972 the Progress Committee of the Association of Commerce of McLean County in anticipation that the Courthouse might be preserved as a historic "white elephant" voted 6 to 3 that the Courthouse itself should be razed as soon as it became vacant. This did not happen—and fortunately for the Society later in history.

Nov 1972

Report of the President

Elected and installed as president of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society in November, 1971, I undertook the work falteringly because of my inexperience in the procedures of the society, but with enthusiasm because of my deep interest in and love of genealogy.

The first project of the year was to publish in the Newsletter lists of books owned by individual members of the society who were willing to submit such a list and be willing to do research from their personal library on request of other members of the society. This has proved to be a worthwhile project.

Discussion concerning the purchase of a microfilm reader to be used at the Normal Public Library did not lead to action in 1972. It is hoped that project will be completed in 1963.

Thanks goes to Muriel Hoffman for accepting the mimeographing duties of the society. Thanks also goes to the several members who participated in the clearing of the Shirley Cemetery. Gravestones can now be seen from Route 66.

Perhaps the greatest undertaking of the Genealogical Society in 1972 was the display at Eastland Shopping Center on August 26. With the theme, "Tracing the Footprints of Our Ancestors" eight separate but related exhibits were arranged beginning with the first steps in genealogy, the trip to the cemetery, visiting the Court House, visiting the library, securing records, assembling data, the service to the public by the society in providing publications, and finally observers registering for two free memberships awarded after the the drawing at the close of the display. Excellent cooperation came from the seventeen different members contributing time and materials for the display.

Five publications have been added in 1972: Mc Lean County Birth Records, Vol. 3., 1883-85; Vol. IV., 1886-1888; Vol. V., 1889-1892; McLean County Cemeteries, Vol. II, Empire Twp.; and McLean County Cemeteries, Vol. III, Bloomington Township.

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As president, I wish to thank each member, officer, and board member for the cooperation I have received during the year. It is with your encouragement and enthusiasm that our society grows both in number and in activity.

Beatrice Armstrong.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS For the Period Dec.1,1971 thru Nov.30,1972

Cash Balance November 30,1971

\$82.49

RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD:

Membership	\$690.00
Publications	498.50
Quarterly	127.16
Book Fund	105.48
General	5.95
Duplicating Paper	26.00
Tupperware	33.09
Silent Auction	19.80
Library Fund	32.35

TOTAL RECEIPTS

1,538.33

TOTAL AVAILABLE

1,620.82

LESS DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD:

Quarterly	\$148.19
Publications	190.32
Newsletter	100.97
Hospitality	20.06
Membership	28.08
Library	51.31
Treasurer	8.88
Program	72.81
Corresponding Secretary	33.25
General	9.40
Book Fund	50.75

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$ 1,014.02

Cash Balance, Nov.30,1972

\$ 606.80

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

175 members

109 local members

members live in 20 states in addition to Illinois

LIBRARY REPORT

Dec.1,1971 -- Nov.11,1972

Acquisitions:

- 18 Hard cover Books (other than genealogies)
- 13 Genealogies
- 7 Census reports
- 422 Bulletins, pamphlets, catalogs, quarterlies, magazines,
Newspapers, etc.
- 1 Wooden Bookcase
- 1 Table

Financial report:

Budget Allowance -----\$60.00

Expenditures:

Feb.18- Reads of Normal--6 pkg.index cards	\$ 1.42
" 24-Alexander Lumber Co.-- lumber--	11.85
" 28 " " " finish for bookcase	2.99
Mar.30-Reads of Normal--file box & book rings	3.02
Apr.24 " " 1 doz. binders, clips, 6 pkg. cards	7.10
May 16- Gaylord Bros -- 1 doz.file boxes	11.25
Sept.2- " " 1 " " "	11.80
" 5- Reads of Normal- 2 marking pens	.92
" 27- " " 19 cover binders	10.60

Total Expenditures 60.95

I request an increase of \$15.00 in the budget for 1973.
Costs of materials have risen. Each binder is now 10¢ more than the
last bought, and other supplies have increased.

Present supplies are low in quantity.

Alice R. Ogle-- Nov.11,1972

ANNUAL REPORT- EDITOR, NEWSLETTER- Mrs.James J.Hamm

This report covers the period January 1,1972 through Dec.31,1972

Newsletter- 11 issues- 33 pages- 2128 copies mailed

Beginning with the February issue of the Newsletter we used the bulk
mailing permit at .017 per copy instead of .08 cents per copy pre-
viously paid; a saving of 6.3 cents per copy.

The April issue of the Newsletter contained the Membership List and the
beginning of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical self-help book list.
Twenty-four members listed 308 books, printed on 13½ pages in the
Newsletter.

The October issue of the Newsletter was mailed to each person who
visited and registered at the Society's display at Eastland Mall on
August 26.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
1972 MEMBERSHIP LIST

LOCAL MEMBERS

ALVERSON, Mrs. H. L. (Juliet), 609 Maple Place, Normal 61761	828-8925
ARMSTRONG, Mrs. Donald G. (Beatrice), Armstrong Farms, Cooksville 61730	725-3572
BARCLAY, Mrs. Barbara T., 213 S. Adelaide Street, Normal 61761	438-3649
BAYLIE, Mrs. Nina, 605 Pine Street, Normal 61761	452-2381
BIEBER, Mrs. Ed (Beryl), Holder 61746	724-8192
BITTNER, Mrs. Walter (Irene), 504 West Washington, Bloomington 61701	828-4618
BROWN, Miss Debra A., R.R. 1, Raab Road, Normal 61761	452-7025
BUIS, Mr. Leo, R.R. 3, Bloomington	828-5420
CARIUS, Mrs. Larry D. (Kay), 6 Wach Drive, Bloomington 61701	663-1744
*CARPENTER, Mrs. Joe M. (Ruth), Shirley 61722	828-5738
CHAPMAN, Mrs. Vita, 1303 Prospect, Normal 61761	829-6228
COPE, Mrs. James (Ruth H.), Hudson 61748	726-5233
COX, Mr. and Mrs. James (Phyllis), R.R., Hudson 61748	726-2971
CRANK, Mrs. Wesley (June), 705 North Walnut Street, Normal 61761	452-3559
CUSHING, Miss Sara Jane, 1101 N. Lee Street, Bloomington 61701	828-9848
DARLINGTON, Mrs. Winthrop (Willene F.), 12 Harbord Drive, Bloomington 61701	828-9269
DEANE, Mrs. Roger A. (Mae), R.R. 1, Timber Ridge Road, Lexington 61735	365-5251
DRAKE, Mrs. George E. (Louise), 907 W. Olive Street, Bloomington 61701	829-9726
DUNGEY, Mrs. Charles E. (Helen), R.R. 3, Bloomington 61701	827-6933
ELY, Mr. James L., 1103 E. Emerson Street, Bloomington 61701	829-8920
FEVER, Mrs. Leo (Eleanor), 712 N. Prairie Street, Bloomington 61701	829-8889
FINFGELD, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford (Lois), R.R., Cooksville 61730	725-3563
*FLANAGAN, Mrs. Paul (Lucille), 36 Illinois Ave., Greenwood Trailer Ct., Bl.	452-3300
GAINES, Mrs. Robert (Donna), 618 N. School Street, Normal 61761	963-4930
GARTON, Mrs. Malinda D., P. O. Box 277, Danvers 61732	828-0298
HALL, Mr. Harber H., 1202 E. Jefferson Street, Bloomington 61701	726-2441
HAMM, Mr. and Mrs. James J. (Ruth), 101 S. Broadway, Hudson 61748	828-8696
*HARRIS, Mrs. Vester B. (Helen), 705 Apple Street, Normal 61761	452-3960
HASTINGS, Mrs. Ray (Marie), R.R. 1, Normal 61761	828-7627
*HERING, Mrs. Arnold L. (Betty), 1610 E. Oakland Avenue, Bloomington 61701	829-1749
*HILTON, Mrs. Doris Angleton, 305 Meadows Avenue, Bloomington 61701	723-4534
*HOFFMAN, Mrs. Howard (Muriel), Anchor 61720	
JANTZE, Mrs. Joseph (Mary), 324 Riley Drive, Apt. 1B, Bloomington 61701	662-1063
JEFFERSON, Mrs. Thomas P., 8 Northcrest Court, Bloomington 61701	452-5408
KEPNER, Rev. and Mrs. Keely W., 445 S. Adelaide, Normal 61761	
KING, Mrs. Ruth, R.R. 2, Box 148, Eureka 61530	829-2009
LEHMANN, Mrs. Wanda, 808 S. Allin Street, Bloomington 61701	452-3573
LESHER, Mrs. George (Edna), 305 N. School Street, Normal 61761	828-2830
*LOVE, Miss Louise, 204 W. Emerson Street, Bloomington 61701	663-1625
*LOVEKAMP, Mrs. Glen H. (Betty), 223 Ivanhoe Way, Bloomington 61701	663-1934
*LUNDEEN, Mrs. Edgar (Rachel), 105 N. Mercer Avenue, Bloomington 61701	452-4670
MARQUIS, Mr. and Mrs. Milo (Ruth), R.R. 1, Normal 61761	827-8178
MARSHALL, Mrs. Leon (Daisy), 1809 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington 61701	
MARTIN, Mrs. Carl (Dorothy), 212 N. Linden Street, Clinton 61727	828-4546
MATTHEWS, Miss Beverly, 1106 E. Washington Street, Bloomington 61701	452-3086
MAXWELL, Miss Lena, 1115 W. College Avenue, Normal 61761	
MAYS, Mrs. Carl, Chenoa 61726 (Mr. and Mrs.)	
MEADORS, Mrs. Harold (Helen), 304 W. North Street, LeRoy 61752	
*MUNRO, Mrs. Wm. B. (Josephine), 508 N. Colton Avenue, Bloomington 61701	829-7987
*MUEFELD, Miss Louise B., 410 E. Washington Street, Apt. 305, Bloomington	828-7956
OGLE, Miss Alice, 116 Eastview Drive, Normal 61761	452-4878
OYER, Mrs. Verle (Margaret), Foosland 61845	
*PARK, Mrs. Homer W. (Myrna), 311 S. Main Street, Normal 61761	452-2795
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PATTERSON, Mrs. Robert J. (Dorothy B.), 142 Main, Greenwood Trailer Ct., Bl	828-2582
*PAUL, Mrs. Lula V., 104 E. Wood Street, Apt. 1105, Wood Hill Tower, So., Bl	829-1390
PERRY, Mrs. Edwin (Mary), R.R. 1, Arrowsmith 61722	727-3168
OVERLY, Mr. and Mrs. George, 109 S. Pine Street, Lexington 61753	

LOCAL MEMBERS (Contd.)

PIERSON, Mrs. Charles M. (Bernice L.), 516 Florence Avenue, Bloomington	828-9189
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RINGO, Mr. and Mrs. Claude (Marjorie), 804 E. Monroe Street, Bloomington	829-2476
ROGERS, Mr. Wayne, 1208 E. Jefferson Street, Bloomington 61701	829-6604
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SERPETTE, Miss Ardys, 919 W. Wood Street, Bloomington 61701	828-8222
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SMITH, Mrs. Richard (Marge), 604 Normal Avenue, Normal 61761	452-2917
*SMITH, Mrs. W. Howard (Donna), 407 E. Graham Street, Bloomington 61701	829-5994
SPRATT, Mrs. Floyd S. (Marian), 204 E. Elm, LeRoy 61752	962-9117
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STEIN, Mrs. Keith, (Eloise), 104 Lawrence, Normal 61761	452-2601
*STEINBERG, Mrs. Robert (Alice), 605 S. Allin, Bloomington 61701	827-8110
SUTTER, Mr. Harry, Ellsworth 61737	724-8291
TINSLEY, Mrs. M. Jane, 1007 S. Fell Avenue, Normal 61761	452-5978
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VOYLES, Miss Sandra, 603 E. Chestnut Street, Bloomington 61701	
WELSH, Mrs. M. C. (Katherine H.), 505 W. Jefferson, Bloomington 61701	828-8348
*WETTER, Mrs. Charles R. (Elinor), 56 White Place, Bloomington 61701	828-0716
WINTERROTH, Mrs. Shirley F. (Ruth), 803 N. School Street, Normal 61761	452-2934
WRIGHT, Mrs. Richard L. (Barbara), 17 Grandview Drive, Normal 61761	452-4645

* Charter Members

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS

BALLARD, Mrs. Roy, Medaryville, Indiana 47957	
BEAM, Mrs. L. G. (Elsie L.), 1317 W. Center, Visalia, California 93277	
BERGSEID, Carolyn R., 1129 Poli Street, Ventura, California 93001	
BLONSHINE, Mrs. Arta, 4202 W. Flora, Tampa, Florida 33614	
BLUMHAGEN, Mrs. Helen M., 321 Crandall Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101	
BOHAL, Mrs. Clarice, 2906 N. Stewart Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46218	
BRIGGS, Fern L., 9159 S. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60617	
CAMPBELL, Mr. Don, R.R. 1, Lake Crystal, Minnesota 56055	
CLARK, Mrs. Chester L. (Neval R.), 7429 Gardner Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23518	
FRAZER, Mrs. Ralph O. (Mabel), 145 E. Dauenhauer, East Syracuse, New York 13057	
HACKMAN, Mrs. John (Wahnetta), 3827 Aikenside Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45213	
HILL, Mr. Edwin R., 3448 W. 10th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46200	
HOLSAPPLE, Olive, Toledo, Illinois 62468	
HOPPER, Mrs. Raymond, 113 Adams Street, New Albany, Indiana 47150	
HURD, Mrs. Walter J. (Elmira), 9201 Shore Road, Apt. A-509, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11209	
INGRAM, Mr. Everett A., Cummings, California 95477	
JONES, Mrs. Emit (Myrtle), Box 338, Syracuse, Kansas 67878	
KANE, Mrs. Melvin L. (Linda Albin), CMR #3, Box 6704, APO San Francisco, Ca. 96553	
LAMB, Mrs. Estol (Mary), Giordano Drive, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598	
LANNERT, Miss M. Annabel, 2219 S. Rosewood, Santa Ana, California 92707	
LIND, Mrs. Charles E. (Carol), 5218 48th Avenue, S.W., Seattle, Washington 98116	
LINDSEY, Mrs. John E., 1406 Ash Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240	
LONG, Mrs. Ronald (Terry), 2000 W. Estes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60645	
MACKEY, Mr. and Mrs. Roy G., 611 Little Street, Streator, Illinois 61364	
MARTIN, Mrs. Charles L. (Evelyn R.), P.O. Box 493, Burley, Idaho 83318	
MATTOCKS, Mr. D. Gene, 1390 Peach Tree Lane, Yuba City, California 95991	
O'CONNELL, Dr. Frank B., Jr., 1328 Belmont Drive, Kingsport, Tennessee 37664	

OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS (Contd.)

PARTRIDGE, Mrs. S. N. (Sylvia), 350 Arballo Drive, Apt. 5K, San Francisco, Ca. 94132
RICHMOND, Miss Edna, 7626 W. Beloit Road, West Allis, Wisconsin 53219
SEE, Mrs. Joe B. (Ida), 610 Broad Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112
SHAFER, Mrs. F. J. (Lois), 4132 Cornell, Des Moines, Iowa 50313 32043
SIEGMUND, Mrs. C. W. (Edith), Box 279, Orangedale Route, Green Cove Springs, Fla.
SIMS, Mrs. Glen, 203-13th Avenue S.W., Oelwein, Iowa 50662
SMITH, Mr. Kenneth L., 1815 S. 29th Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47801
STUCKEY, Miss Louise, 718 Millikin Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45013
SWANSON, Mrs. Robert E. (Wilma), 6851 W. Hobart Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60631
TEMPLAR, Mrs. George, 2864 Knollwood Court, Topeka, Kansas 66611
VEATCH, Mr. J. Guy, 2600 Broadmoor Drive, Elkhart, Indiana 46514
WATKINS, Mrs. L. W. (Dorothy), R. R. 1, Box 80, Arthur, Illinois 61911
WEBER, Mrs. Robert (Shirley), 21 Greentree Lane, Kansas City, Missouri 64116
WHITEHEAD, Mrs. Dorothy L., 1454 N. 8th Street, P.O. Box 2847, Springfield, Il 62708
WILLSON, Mrs. Otis T. (Verna), 1013 E. Magnolia Boulevard, Burbank, Ca. 91500
WILMARTH, Mrs. E. L., 1006 N. W. 18th, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
WURZBURGER, Mr. Earl J., 1146 S. 7th Avenue, Kankakee, Illinois 60901

NOTE: This membership list is NOT to be used for circularization or advertising.

Additions:

LOHR, Mrs. Jesse A., 1045 N. E. 59th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97213
SMITH, Mrs. Roland I., Winthrop, Iowa 50682
YOUNG, Rev. Edwin J., 1122 Grandview Boulevard, Sioux City, Iowa 51105

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SELF-HELP BOOK LIST

See February 1972 Newsletter for details on procedure. The response has been great. If you have not sent the list of your genealogy books to Miss Ogle, please do so. In fact, you have so many books out there we are changing the procedure slightly. We are listing the books together with name and address of owner so that you may write directly to the owner for information from a particular book(s). There is no charge but you must state clearly exactly what information you are seeking. Also, you must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (large) with your request.

Mrs. Harold Meadors - 304 W. North Street, LeRoy, Illinois 61752

1. Genealogical Records of Some Members of the MEADOR FAMILY. By Daniel Burton Meador, 220 Pecan Street, Fairhope, Alabama. Published 1968, Memmonite Press.
2. Documented materials of the FUNK-STUBBLEFIELD families. By Helen Gates Meadors (Mrs. Harold Meadors above)

Miss Louise B. Muxfeld - 410 E. Washington, Apt. 350, Bloomington, Illinois 61701

1. ANTIQUITIES, HISTORICALS, GRADUATES of Northampton, Mass. Author: Clark.
2. The MEADOW CITY'S QUARTER MILLENNIAL BOOK (Northampton, Mass.)
3. FIRST CENTURY of HISTORY of SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 1636-1736. Author: Henry M. Burt. Published: 1898, Vol. 1, 442 pages
4. COLLECTIONS of the DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Vol. 1, 1894.
5. DANIELS FAMILY, Descendants of William of Dorchester and Milton, Mass. Author: James Harrison Daniels, Jr.
6. DAR PATRIOT INDEX and First Supplement. 1967. Author: Daughters of the American Revolution
7. DESCENDANTS of DEACON EBENEZER STRONG PHELPS. 1958
8. DIRECTORY of the ANCESTRAL HEADS of NEW ENGLAND FAMILIES. 1629-1700. Author: Frank R. Holmes. Published 1964.
9. The FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS of SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Bloomington, Illinois. Author: Roy A. Ramseyer.
10. GENEALOGY of the PHILBRICK and PHILBROOK FAMILIES, Descended from the Emigrant, Thomas Philbrick, 1583-1667. Author: Rev. Thomas Chapman. 1886.
11. The HAMPSHIRE HISTORY, Celebrating 300 Years of Hampshire County, Mass. 1964
12. HINGHAM, OLD and NEW. Pub: Hingham Tercentenary Committee for the Town of Hingham, Mass.
13. A HISTORIC and PRESENT DAY GUIDE to OLD DEERFIELD, MASS. Author: Emma Lewis Coleman. Published 1907.
14. HISTORICAL CATALOGUE of the NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS FIRST CHURCH, 1661-1891. Author: Rev. Solomon Clark. Published 1891. 239 pages.
15. HISTORIC HAMPSHIRE (County, Mass.) in the CONNECTICUT VALLEY. Author: Clifton Johnson.

16. A HISTORY of the FIRST CENTURY of the TOWN of PARSONFIELD, MAINE. 1888.
17. INDEX to LOCAL NEWS in the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, NORTHAMPTON, MASS. 1786-1937
Part III, Personal Section. Compiled by: WPA
18. The MEADOW CITY'S QUARTER LILLENNIAL BOOK (Northampton, Mass.)
19. MEMOIRS of ROGER CLAP, 1630.
20. NEW ENGLAND DIARIES 1602-1800. Compiled by: Harriette Merrifield Forbes.
21. The NEW HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL RECORD. Vol. I, July 1903-April 1904.
22. The NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS BOOK. Chapters from 300 years in the life
of a New England town 1654-1954. 426 pages.
23. NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS - The MEADOW CITY. Pub. F. N. Kneeland and
L. P. Bryant
24. NOTES on the DOVER (N.H.) COMBINATION of 1640. Author: Rev. A. H. Quint.
Reprinted from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Jan. 1879
25. 150th ANNIVERSARY of EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 1785-1935.
26. PIONEERS of MAINE and NEW HAMPSHIRE. Author: Charles Henry Pope. 1965.
27. PLANTERS of the COMMONWEALTH, 1620-1640. Author: Charles Edward Banks.
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company. Reprint 1961.
28. REGISTER of the DEATHS in NORTHAMPTON, MASS. 1653-1824.
Author: T. Watson Shepard.
29. ROLL of NEW HAMPSHIRE MEN at LOUISBURG, CAPE BRETON, 1745. Pub. 1896.
30. SHELDON MAGAZINE - Vol. II, V, VI and other Sheldon pamphlets.
31. SOME OLD NORTHAMPTON (MASS.) HOMES. Author: Harriet F. Kneeland. 1909.
32. SPRINGFIELD (MASSACHUSETTS) 1636-1886. History of Town and City. 1888.
33. WIGGIN-SMITH-ROBINSON FAMILIES of Exeter, Stratham and Greenland, New
Hampshire. Compiled by Alexander Lincoln.

Mrs. Howard Hoffman - Anchor, Illinois 61720

1. DeWITT and PIATT COUNTY HISTORY. Author: Chapman Brothers. Pub. 1885.
2. 1840 CENSUS of CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Author: Arthur J. Crumrin.
3. GREEN COUNTY KENTUCKY MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1793-1836.
4. McLEAN COUNTY ILLINOIS HISTORY. Pub. S. J. Clarke Company. 1899.
5. OLD CASS COUNTY, ILLINOIS CEMETERIES. Author: Arthur J. Crumrin.

To be continued.

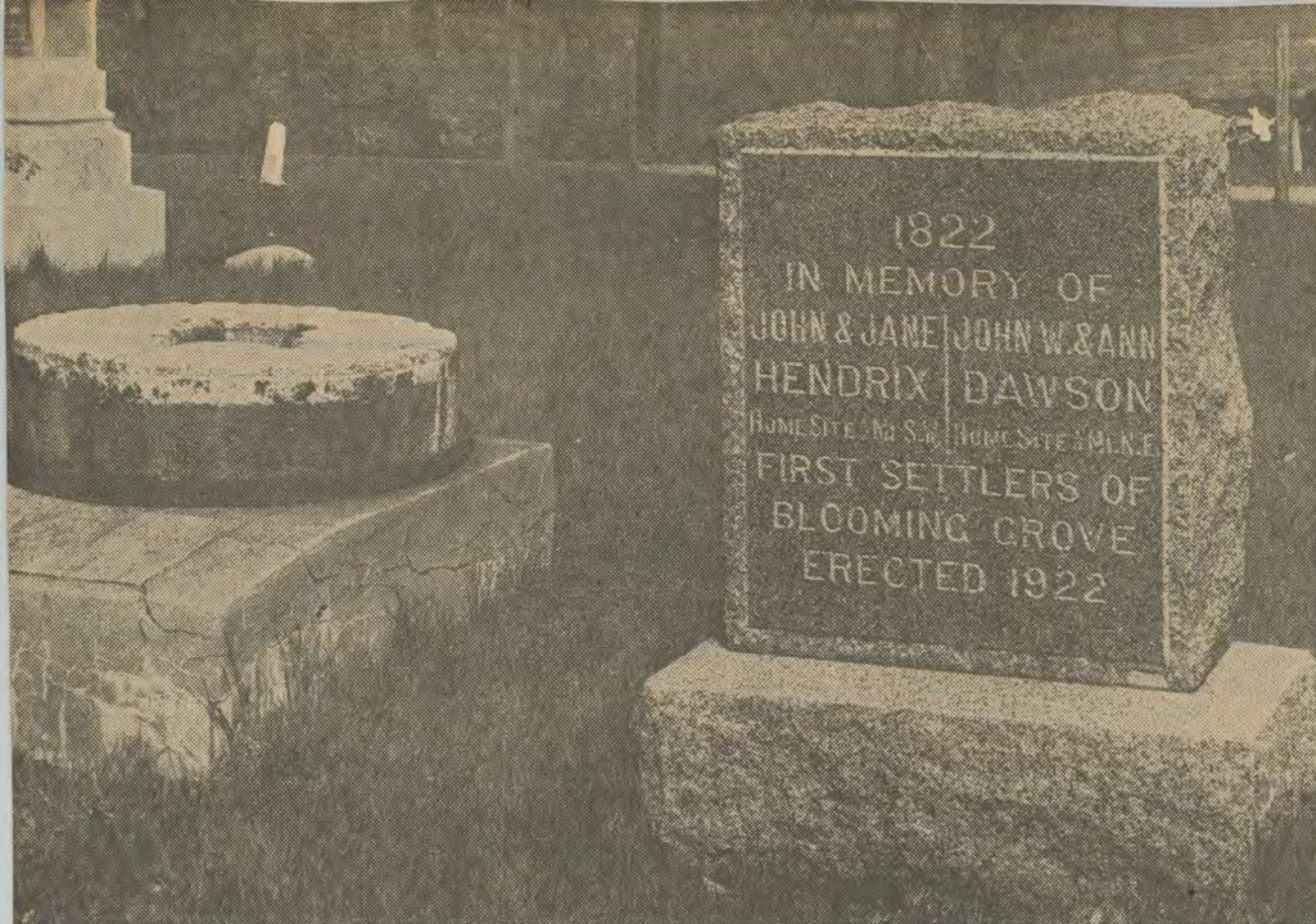


'Joey' retires

5-8-72

Mrs. William (Josephine) Munro, seated front, was honored at a reception Sunday afternoon recognizing her 24 years of service in creation and development of Bloomington-Normal's Adult Education Program. A scrapbook full of mementoes of those years—pictures of programs offered and warm notes from friends—has the attention here at the reception of, back from left, Robert Mann of Newcastle, Australia, Mrs. Munro's cousin who arrived a week early for the event;

Mr. Munro, and the Munros' grandson, Tim Vernon of 1200 E. Vernon, Normal. On either side of Mrs. Munro, whom many affectionately call Joey, are her daughters, Mrs. George Swanson (Joie) of Lubbock, Tex., left, and Mrs. Walter Vernon (Jill) of 1220 E. Vernon. Recognizing tributes by H. Clay Tate and George Wells, "Joey" said that Adult Education was "kind of like a third child. If I had a career to choose again, it would be adult education."



Meeting site
 PANTAGRAPH
 7-14-1972

Orendorff Cemetery will be location for a meeting Monday night of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society. McLean County's earliest settlers will be honored with brief ac-

counts of their experiences. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Blooming Grove can be reached south on U.S. 51, left at Crestwicke Country Club sign, left again at dead end.

Tracing footprints of our ancestors

8-24-1972

The Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society will have at Eastland Shopping Center all day Saturday, August 26 a display showing the sequence in "Tracing the Footprints of Our Ancestors."

The display of "First Steps" will be in charge of Mrs. Clifford Finfgeld of Cooksville and Mrs. Doris Hilton of Bloomington. Milo Marquis of Normal and Mrs. Wanda Lehman of Bloomington will show what is done in "Cemetery" research.

The material available at the "Courthouse" for genealogical research will be demonstrated by Mrs. Robert Steinberg of Bloomington. Information available at National and State "Archives" will be presented by Mrs. James Hamm and Mrs. James Cope both of Hudson. The section showing what to look for at a "Library" will be in charge of Miss Alice Ogle of Normal.

Bringing all the obtained information together in a book form is the last step. Mrs. Edwin Perry of Arrowsmith and Mrs. Howard Hoffman of Anchor will display their completed books.

The Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society publishes a quarterly entitled "Gleanings from the Heart of the Corn Belt." This publication goes to all the members of the society who live in Illinois and in nineteen other states.

In addition to the Quarterly the society has put out nineteen different publications. These include early McLean County records such as birth records, marriage records, family records, recordings of cemeteries, obituaries, early war records, and an index to the 1874 "Good Old Times in McLean County" by Duis. These publications are for sale to the public.

Since genealogy is the third most popular hobby today, exceeded only by stamp collecting and coin collecting, it is the hope of the society to have something of interest to the public at the display at Eastland on Saturday, August 26.

The McLean County Historical Society will also have a display at Eastland the same day.

Genealogists set panel discussion

Bloomington-Normal Genealogist Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. Monday at Citizen's Savings and Loan Association.

"Tracing Our Ancestors' Footsteps in Other States" will be the subject for a panel discussion. Mrs. William Munro will be moderator and Mrs. Doris Hilton, Miss Sally Cushing, Mrs. Lucille Flanagan and Miss Mary Coulter will be panelists. A question and answer period will follow.

Genealogical society

May 1972

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan Building, Normal. Lowell Volkel, assistant archivist at the Illinois State Archives in Springfield, will speak on "The Use of Census Records for Genealogical Research."

Genealogists slate talk on settlements

Feb 1972

Miss Martha Montgomery of Maroa will be featured speaker at the 7:30 p.m. meeting of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan Building, Normal.

Miss Montgomery, editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Society's Journal, will speak on "Early Settlements in Virginia." She is a curator of the North Fork Museum of the Macon County Historical Society and is an organizer of the Decatur Genealogical Society.

A workshop will be held Thursday at the Milner Library Lounge. Miss Louise Lane is in charge of arrangements for the workshop on "Virginia Research."

Genealogical society to hear Bushnell

April 1972

Paul E. Bushnell, assistant professor of history at Illinois Wesleyan University, will speak to the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan Association, Broadway and Beaufort, Normal.

Bushnell will discuss the types of people who first settled in the Ohio River Valley and the influence of their origins.



Family trees

8-27-72

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society members Saturday told Eastland Shopping Center patrons how to trace their family trees. Left to right are Chapter President Mrs. Donald Armstrong, corresponding secretary Ardys Serpette, and member Mrs. Wanda Lehmann. (Pantagraph Photo)



Benjaminville Quaker church

Sept 15, 1972
A-10

'The Quakers in Illinois' topic of historical meeting

"The Quakers in Illinois" will be the topic of a historical meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the century-old Quaker church at Benjaminville.

Benjaminville is about nine miles east of Bloomington, one-half mile south of Illinois 9 on the Bentown-Holder Road.

Professor Clifford Neal Smith, an authority on Quaker settlements and professor at Northern Illinois University, will be the Sunday speaker.

Smith has researched and published many of the original Quaker meetings.

Sunday's meeting is sponsored by the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society and the McLean County Historical Society. Mrs. Frank Homer Park and Wayne Rogers are in charge of the meeting arrangements.

The present church, built in the early 1870s, was the second one on the site and is styled after other early Quaker meeting houses.

The Benjaminville Church is one of few remaining in Illinois. Interior

modifications have been made.

A cemetery adjacent to the church is where many of the pioneers who established what is said to have been the strongest "Yearly Meeting of Friends in Illinois are buried."

Genealogical Society to hear Mrs. Jesse

Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:15 p.m. Monday at the Bank of Illinois in Normal to hear Mrs. Henrietta Jesse of Macon speak.

Her topic is "What You Can Find in Courthouse Records." Mrs. Jesse is president and one of the founders of the Illinois State Genealogy Society. She is a researcher and compiles records for use in genealogical and historical publications. She is also a member of the executive board of the Decatur Genealogy Society.



The century old Benjaminville Quaker meeting house.

'The Quakers in Illinois' topic of meeting

Colfax-Press
9-28-1972

The century old Quaker Meeting House at Benjaminville was the site of a meeting of historical interest on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 17, with about one hundred guests attending.

Clifford Neal Smith of Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, spoke on "The Quakers of Illinois." Professor Smith, a Quaker himself, is an authority on Quaker settlements and has researched and published many of the original meeting records. He is interested in the old Quaker community at Benjaminville and the role it played in relation to other settlements of Friends in Illinois. Professor Smith had prepared and had distributed to the guests some of the early records of the early Benjaminville Monthly meeting.

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society and the McLean County Historical Society co-sponsored the event. Mrs. Donald Armstrong, Cooksville, president, and Mrs. Homer Park, Normal, program chairman, of the Genealogical Society and Maurice Jones, Lexington, president, and Wayne Rogers, Bloomington, program chairman of the Historical Society had charge of the arrangements.

The Meeting House is located about nine miles east of Bloomington on the Bentown-

Holder road. It was built in the early eighteen seventies, the second Meeting House to be built on the site. Its style is typical of other early Quaker Meeting Houses and is one of the few remaining in Illinois. The exterior is unchanged after one hundred years, but the interior

has been adapted somewhat for its present use as a community Sunday School.

The well kept cemetery adjacent to the Meeting House is the resting place of many of the pioneers who established the strongest "Yearly Meeting" of Friends in Illinois. A thriving hamlet of Benjaminville was nearby in the early days. Family names included in the early records are: Allen, Benjamin, Brown, Coale, Conner, Derrick, Duffa, Fell, Harvey, Heacock, Marot, Moore, O'Neill, Ray,

Seth, Smith, and Wood.

Guests attended from Maroa, Eureka, McNabb, Heyworth, Farmer City, Pontiac, Chenoa, LeRoy, Bloomington, Normal, Cooksville, Anchor, Ellsworth, Hudson, Lexington, and other central Illinois towns. They experienced the quietness of the Quaker Meeting for a few minutes. Friends (Quakers) would sometimes meditate in quiet for one to two hours until one in the group was moved to speak. They waited for God to speak to them.

Bone, genealogy speaker, author of family history

4-15-1973

By Vi Gilmore

When Dr. Robert G. Bone speaks to the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society Monday night, it will be about "Early History of Pennsylvania."

Mr. Bone has a special interest in this subject because his own Scotch-Irish ancestors settled in this area before moving on to other states.

And he has a real love for history, having taught history at the University of Illinois before serving as president of Illinois State University from 1956-67.

He started working on his family's genealogy about 50 years ago and "I've been working on it off and on ever since," he said. "When I retired I did more." The result has been a 350-page book which he has had published. Of the 400 copies printed, there are only 80 left.

A great-uncle did the initial research for the family history in the 1860s. Mr. Bone verified and checked figures as much as he could, which required a good deal of traveling.



Dr. Robert Bone

The Bone name was spelled Bohon in 975 A.D., so while in Normandy he went to visit two towns still with that name.

The completed book takes the family as far as 1850 and has an index with 6,200 names. He gives the history of the family migrations from the East coast to Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Illinois. His Illinois research took him to Sangamon and Menard counties.

Mr. Bone only had difficulty when someone in the family just disappeared or when Southern records were destroyed during the Civil War. Persons often get replies from Southern counties such as "Your people burned our records when Sherman's men came through," he said.

During Monday night's program, Mr. Bone hopes to emphasize the settlements in Pennsylvania, the immigration and emigration patterns. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan, Normal.

He will tell where different groups settled in this country, how they came

over in religious groups because they didn't conform to Anglican ways and the reasons for moving on to different states. He will illustrate with maps of the area.

Mr. Bone is a member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, Illinois State Historical Society and McLean County Historical Society.

There will be a pre-meeting session from 7 to 7:30 p.m. for those wanting individual help. Mrs. Elinor Wetter, who teaches the adult education class on genealogy, will have well-organized records for viewing and will answer questions on record keeping.

This meeting will set the pace for other in-depth study groups on Pennsylvania research.

At 7:30 p.m. April 23, Mrs. Homer Park, 311 S. Main, Normal, will have a study group on "Pennsylvania German Research." Mrs. Richard Wright of 17 Grandview, Normal, will conduct help on "Pennsylvania Problems." Members will take their Pennsylvania books and maps in addition to their own charts and problems.

Library tour on tap for genealogy group

3-18-73

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Milner Library on the Illinois State University campus to hear Miss Louise Love, discuss genealogical materials in the library.

The group will meet in the lounge off the second floor lobby. After Miss Love's talk, the group will visit four of the key genealogical areas.

Members assisting will include Wayne Rogers, periodical room; Miss Alice Ogle, census records; Ardys Serpete, county histories; and Miss Love, card catalogue.

Mrs. Doris Hilton, vice president, reports that the membership list just released shows 143 members with 59 from out of McLean County, representing 18 states. Mrs. Hilton states that the society is searching for unpublished records of McLean County, especially the Bible records prior to 1890. Mrs. Hilton of 305 Meadows, will accept calls after 5 p.m. from anyone with such records.

Two honored in Springfield

Oct 1972

Mrs. Helen Harris of 705 Apple, Normal, was honored for local service by the Illinois State Genealogical Society Friday night at its annual fall conference in Springfield. Mrs. Harris, who was nominated by the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, received a plaque. Receiving a certificate for similar service was Mrs. Verda Gerwick of Lexington.

Genealogical group elects Mrs. Park

1972

Mrs. Homer Park, 311 S. Main, Normal, will take office as first vice-president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society at its board meeting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Streid's Restaurant.

To become a member of the board of directors is Mrs. John Devanny, Lincoln. Mr. Leslie A. Bryan of Champaign will be the new president.

Volunteers clean up cemetery *June 8, 1972* to qualify it for county funds ~~June 8, 1972~~

SHIRLEY (PNS) — Dale Township may receive \$300 per year from the county for annual maintenance if the Shirley Cemetery can be cleaned up.

About a dozen volunteers showed up Wednesday morning to clean up the long-neglected cemetery.

The undertaking was organized by Mrs. Ruth Carpenter of Shirley and Milo

Marquis of Normal, members of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

Clifford Heck appeared with equipment and his two sons, Richard and Larry.

Also assisting in the work were Lloyd Orrick, Kenneth Walden, Carl Becker, John Yearly and Ivan Light, of Shirley, and Robert Funk Rehtmyer of Funks Grove.

One of the earliest burials in the cemetery is that of Walter Bracken in 1859. The oldest person buried is "Uncle" Caleb Woodard, born in Massachusetts in 1787. He died in 1871. Another old person was Elizabeth Quinn, born in Kentucky in 1796 who died in 1881.

Further clean up will be required before any money will be available for maintenance.

Mr., Mrs. Shutes *Sept 1972* celebrate 62nd year

Mr. and Mrs. Le Roy L. Shutes of 509 E. Monroe celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary at the home of their daughter, Mrs. William H. McKnight, in Alexis Monday.

They were married at Lee Center in 1910 at the home of the bride's uncle, Fred Haley.

They left by train the next day for Estherville, Iowa, where Mr. Shutes was engineer for the Municipal Electric and Water System.

Oct 6-72 Named State Director

Dr. Robert G. Bone, 2 Clinton Pl., has been seated as a director of the Illinois Genealogical Society. He attended the annual meeting held Saturday in Springfield.

Mrs. Homer Park, 311 S. Main, will continue as first vice-president of the Society.

Mrs. Helen Harris, 705 Apple St., was presented a plaque for local service to the organization. She was nominated for the award by the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1973

In May of 1973 the Normal Public Library faced an expansion problem and had to request the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society to remove its book collection from the premises. Alice Ogle, the Society Librarian, graciously offered to shelter the Society's growing collection of books, quarterlies, etc. in her own home at 116 Eastview Drive in Normal. She provided viewing of the genealogy references in her home on Wednesdays with an assist by Elizabeth Masters. During 1973 thirty new volumes on genealogy were added to the Society's collection. It was reported that by year end shelving consisting of wide boards and basic bricks amounted to over one hundred twenty-five feet in total length.

In 1973 Society Board meetings were held at the homes of various Board members. Also, certain study groups on such topics as the Pennsylvania Archives were held at member homes. Most of the regular monthly meetings did continue at Citizens S & L. A special August meeting took place at the Twin Grove Cemetery where all pitched in to record headstone inscriptions. The Annual Meeting, now held each November, became an old fashioned Thanksgiving with members appearing this year in costumes of the season. It was held in the home of President Beatrice Armstrong. There was public acknowledgement that the varied monthly meetings, study groups and field trips created an active membership interest. Society By-laws were revised and updated in 1973.

Officers for the Society and Editors for the Gleanings and Newsletter continued in place from 1972. On the initiative of member Betty Hering the Society was able to locate and duplicate the burial records of the McLean County (Poor) Farm from 1860 to 1922. In September of 1973 member Ivan Light was instrumental in the obtaining and placing a marker on historian Milo Custer's grave in the Scogin Hill Cemetery.

Member Myrna Park was elected President of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and member Dr. Robert Bone as her First Vice-president. Three new genealogical publications were added to the list for sale by the B-N Genealogical Society. Over 100 quarterlies from other societies came in on the exchange program. Membership by the end of 1973 tallied 193 members—107 of the total from McLean County.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
1973 MEMBERSHIP LIST

MEMBERS IN McLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Alverson, Mrs. H. L. (Juliet)	609 Maple Place, Normal 61761	828-8925
Armstrong, Mrs. Donald G. (Beatrice)	Armstrong Farms, Cooksville 61730	725-3572
Baylie, Mrs. Nina	605 Pine Street, Normal 61761	452-2381
Bieber, Mrs. Ed (Beryl)	Holder 61746	724-8192
Bittner, Mrs. Walter (Irene)	504 West Washington, Bloomington 61701	828-4618
Bone, Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. (Karin)	2 Clinton Place, Normal 61761	829-3837
Buckles, Mrs. Dean (Mildred)	16 Third St., Greenwood Ct., Bloomington	
Buis, Leo	R.R. 3, Bloomington 61701	828-5420
Canfield, Ralph	P.O. Box 73, McLean 61754	874-2008
Carius, Mrs. Larry D. (Kay)	6 Wach Drive, Bloomington 61701	663-1744
*Carpenter, Mrs. Joe M. (Ruth)	Shirley 61772	828-5738
Chapman, Mrs. Vita	1303 Prospect, Normal 61761	829-6228
Chase, Arthur B.	301 North Lincoln, Downs 61736	378-4138
Cope, Mrs. James (Ruth H.)	Hudson 61748	726-5233
Cox, Mr. and Mrs. James (Phyllis)	Hudson 61748	726-2971
Cushing, Miss Sara Jane	703 West Market, Bloomington 61701	828-4772
Darlington, Mrs. Winthrop (Willene)	12 Harbord Drive, Bloomington 61701	828-9269
Darnall, Orion H.	802 E Lafayette St., Bloomington 61701	829-3497
Deane, Mrs. Roger A. (Mae)	R. 1, Timber Ridge Rd., Lexington 61735	365-5251
Drake, Mrs. George E. (Louise)	907 W Olive St., Bloomington 61701	829-9726
Ely, James L.	1103 E Emerson, Bloomington 61701	829-8920
Fever, Mrs. Leo (Elenora)	606½ W Washington St., Bloomington	829-8889
Finfgeld, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford (Lois)	R.R., Cooksville 61730	725-3563
Gaines, Mrs. Robert (Donna)	618 N School Street, Normal 61761	452-3300
Garton, Mrs. Malinda D.	P.O. Box 277, Danvers 61732	963-4930
Hall, Harber H.	1202 E Jefferson Street, Bloomington	828-0298
Hamm, Mr. and Mrs. James J. (Ruth)	101 South Broadway, Hudson 61748	726-2441
*Harris, Mrs. Vester B. (Helen)	705 Apple Street, Normal 61761	828-8696
Hastings, Mrs. Ray (Marie)	R.R. 1, Normal 61761	452-3960
*Hering, Mrs. Arnold L. (Betty)	1610 E Oakland Ave., Bloomington 61701	828-7627
*Hilton, Mrs. Doris Angleton	305 Meadows, Bloomington 61701	829-1749
*Hoffman, Mrs. Howard (Muriel)	R.R. 1, Anchor 61720	723-6348
Holder, George	Box 807, Bloomington 61701	
Kepner, Rev. and Mrs. Keeley W. (Jennye D.)	445 S Adelaide, Normal 61761	452-5408
King, Miss Effie A.	520½ E Chestnut, Bloomington 61701	829-8567
Lehmann, Mrs. Wanda	808 S Allin St., Bloomington 61701	829-2009
*Love, Miss Louise	204 W Emerson St., Bloomington 61701	828-2830
*Lovekamp, Mrs. Glen H. (Betty)	223 Ivanhoe Way, Bloomington 61701	663-1625
*Lundeen, Mrs. Edgar (Rachel)	111 Rust Road, Apt. 202, Bloomington	663-1934
Marquis, Mr. and Mrs. Milo (Ruth)	R.R. 1, Normal 61761	452-4670
Marshall, Mrs. Leon (Daisy)	1809 E Lincoln, Bloomington 61701	827-8178
Masters, Miss Elizabeth	205 Kreitzer Avenue, Bloomington 61701	829-7155
Maurer, Mrs. Harold E. (Ruth R.)	613 Taylor Street, Bloomington 61701	828-3867
Maxwell, Miss Lena	1115 West College Avenue, Normal 61761	452-3086
Meadors, Mrs. Harold (Helen)	304 West North Street, LeRoy 61752	962-4331
*Munro, Mrs. William B. (Josephine)	508 North Colton Avenue, Bloomington	829-7987
*Muxfeld, Miss Louise B.	410 E Washington, Apt. 305, Bloomington	828-7956
Ogle, Miss Alice	116 Eastview Drive, Normal 61761	452-4878
*Park, Mrs. Homer W. (Myrna)	311 South Main Street, Normal 61761	452-2795
Patterson, Mrs. Kenneth (Doris)	R.R., Beason 62512	
*Paul, Mrs. Lula V.	104 E Wood, Apt. 1105, Wood Hill Tower, South, Bl.	829-1390
Perry, Mrs. Edwin (Mary)	R.R. 1, Arrowsmith 61722	727-3168
Pierson, Mrs. Charles M. (Bernice)	516 Florence Avenue, Bloomington 61701	828-9189
Porter, Mrs. Charles B. (Betty)	310 Belview Avenue, Normal 61761	452-1943

Richards, Miss Ruth E.	607 Florence Avenue, Bloomington 61701	827-6618
Ringo, Mr. and Mrs. Claude (Marjorie)	2002 E Taylor, Bloomington 61701	662-1504
Scaife, Miss Marjorie	1300 Searle Drive, Normal 61761	452-5064
Serpette, Miss Ardys	919 West Wood Street, Bloomington 61701	828-8222
Shannon, Miss Phyllis	1602 E Jackson St., Bloomington 61701	829-9981
*Shutes, Leroy L.	509 E Monroe Street, Bloomington 61701	828-8340
Sieg, Mrs. Raymond	R.R. 1, Shirley 61772	829-8008
*Smith, Mrs. Howard W. (Donna)	407 E Graham, Bloomington 61701	829-5994
Smith, Mrs. Richard M. (Marge)	604 Normal Avenue, Normal 61761	452-2917
Spratt, Mrs. Floyd S. (Marian)	204 E Elm, LeRoy 61752	962-9117
Steiling, Mrs. Barbara M.	205 E Cole St., Box 451, Heyworth 61745	473-2285
Stein, Mrs. Keith (Eloise)	104 Lawrence, Normal 61761	452-2601
*Steinberg, Mrs. Robert (Alice)	605 S Allin St., Bloomington 61701	827-8110
Sutter, Harry	Ellsworth 61737	724-8291
Voyles, Miss Sandra	703 W Market St., Bloomington 61701	828-4472
Weed, Mrs. Wilbur	409 E Emerson St., Bloomington 61701	828-2248
*Wetter, Mrs. Charles (Elinor)	56 White Place, Bloomington 61701	828-0716
Winterroth, Mrs. Shirley F. (Ruth)	803 N School Street, Normal 61761	452-2934
Wright, Mrs. Richard L. (Barbara)	17 Grandview Drive, Normal 61761	452-4645
Yeast, Miss Pauline R.	607 Florence Avenue, Bloomington 61701	827-6618

*Charter Members

MEMBERS FROM OUTSIDE McLEAN COUNTY

Allen, Otis W.	1200 South Boulevard, Greenwood, Miss.	38930
Bales, Miss Grace D.	1829 Cherry Road, Springfield, Il.	62704
Ballard, Mrs. Roy	Medaryville, Indiana	47957
Blonshine, Mrs. Arta	4202 W Flora, Tampa, Florida	33614
Blumhagen, Mrs. Helen M.	321 Crandall Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah	84101
Briggs, Mrs. Fern L.	9047 South Muskegon Avenue, Chicago, Il.	60617
Calvin, Mrs. Susie Edenburn	505 E Third Street, Danville, Il.	61832
Claudon, Charles	387 Dogwood, Park Forest, Il.	60466
Denman, Mark	1655 North Gilbert, Danville, Il.	61832
Dimmett, Mrs. Edwin P.	4770 Delhi Road, Cincinnati, Ohio	45238
Firke, Mrs. Ferne	1604 Orange Street, Citrus Mobile Park, Edinburg, Texas	78539
Firebaugh, Mrs. F. W.	1306 Doran Drive, Box 6321, Odessa, Texas	79761
Frazer, Mrs. Ralph O. (Mabel)	145 E Dauenhauer, East Syracuse, N. Y.	13057
Gillaspie, Mrs. Lewis (Lois)	Mahomet, Il.	61853
Hackman, Mrs. John (Wahneta)	7320 Quail Hollow Road, Cincinnati, Ohio	45243
Holsapple, Olive	Toledo, Il.	62468
Holt, Mrs. James	R.R. 2, Clinton, Il.	61727
Hopper, Mrs. Raymond	113 Adams Street, New Albany, Indiana	47150
Johnson, Mrs. Harry (Barbara)	3328 Elk Lane, Grants Pass, Oregon	97526
Kane, Mrs. Melvin L. (Linda Albin)	1585 Briarfield Road, Apt. 128, Hampton, Va.	23366
King, Mrs. Ruth	R.R. 2, Box 148, Eureka, Il.	61530
Knoppel, Mrs. Anna	P.O. Box 27, Covington, Oklahoma	73730
Lamb, Mrs. Estol (Mary)	555 Giordano Drive, Yorktown Heights, N.Y.	10598
Lind, Mrs. Charles E. (Carol)	5218 48th Avenue, SW, Seattle, Washington	98116
Lindsey, Mrs. John E. (Beverly)	1406 Ash Street, Iowa City, Iowa	52240
Long, Mrs. Ronald (Terry)	Tulip Tree Apartments 102, Bloomington, Ind.	47401
McGregor, Mrs. John R.	2701 College Avenue, Terre Haute, Ind.	47803
Martin, Mrs. Charles L. (Evelyn)	P.O. Box 493, Burley, Idaho	83318
Martin, Mrs. Carl (Dorothy)	212 North Linden, Clinton, Il.	61727
Mattocks, D. Gene	1390 Peach Tree Lane, Yuba City, Calif.	95991
Miller, Mrs. Ordra	1414 Point Claire Court, Sunnyvale, Calif.	94087
Michler, Mrs. William H.	631 NE 39th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo.	64116
Moore, Mrs. Dean	8101 S Mason Avenue, Burbank, Il.	60459
- Beam, Mrs. L. G. (Elsie L.)	1317 West Center, Visalia, California	93277

O'Connell, Dr. Frank B., Jr.	1328 Belmeade Drive, Kingsport, Tenn. 37664
Partridge, Mrs. S. N. (Sylvia)	350 Arballo Dr., Apt. 5K, San Francisco, Ca. 94132
Richmond, Miss Edna	7626 W Beloit Road, West Allis, Wis. 53219
Ridlen, Mrs. Earl L. (Colleen)	2160 Mann Drive, Beech Grove, Ind. 46107
See, Joe B.	610 Broad Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112
Shaffer, Mrs. F. J. (Lois)	4132 Cornell, Des Moines, Iowa 50313
Schnormeier, Mrs. Walter (Velma)	Lamberton, Minnesota 56152
Siegmund, Mrs. C. W. (Edith)	Orangedale Route, Green Cove Springs, Fla. 32043
Sims, Mrs. Glen	203 13th Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa 50662
Smith, Kenneth L.	1815 S 29th Street, Terre Haute, Ind. 47801
Smith, Mrs. Rolland I. (Donna)	Winthrop, Iowa 50682
Snelson, Mrs. F.	R. 3, Arlington, Washington 98223
Steider, Mrs. Alma	207 S Walnut Street, Eureka, Il. 61530
Stuckey, Miss Louise	718 Millikin Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Templar, Mrs. George	2864 Knollwood Court, Topeka, Kansas 66611
Tygart, Millicent Graig	Box 43, Brewster, Kansas 67732
Veatch, J. Guy	2600 Broadmoor Drive, Elkhart, Indiana 46514
Voorhees, Mrs. Louis (Selma)	R.R. 2, Box 143, Eureka, Il. 61530
Waddell, Mrs. Glen M. (Mildred A.)	1 Country Club Lane, Centralia, Il. 62801
Weber, Mrs. Robert (Shirley)	P.O. Box 995, San Ysidro, California 92073
Whetzel, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. (Elsie)	R.R., El Paso, Il. 61738
Whitehead, Mrs. Dorothy L.	929 S Broadway, Havana, Il. 62644
Williams, Mrs. James (Mary M.)	2422 South 64th Street, West Allis, Wis. 53219
Willson, Mrs. Otis T. (Verna)	1013 E Magnolia Boulevard, Burbank, Cal. 91500
Wurzbarger, Earl J.	1146 S Seventh Avenue, Kankakee, Il. 60901

This membership list is NOT to be used for circularization or advertising.



Poor of another era in forgotten cemetery

528-73

By Mark Spencer

On this Memorial Day, when respects are paid at gravesites throughout the nation, a cemetery in McLean County will go unvisited.

Approximately 300 persons have been buried there and forgotten. Even the records which contain their names have apparently been lost.

The only remaining testaments to their existence are concrete markers which barely rise above the uncut grass.

On the markers—at least on many of them—are numbers which once linked the dead to their names in a register.

Now the register cannot be found. And on several of the markers, the concrete no longer wears even a legible number.

The cemetery is the pauper's cemetery of what once was the McLean County Farm—poor farm, as it was known—and what is now the Maple Grove Nursing Home.

The cemetery lies on a knoll about a quarter of a mile from the nursing home. It is surrounded by tilled ground where crops have been planted. A barbed-wire fence encircles it.

Now unused

The cemetery has gone untended for some time. Near its entrance—an opening in the fence—lie the skull and skeleton of a dead animal, apparently a calf.

The farm was opened for the county's poor about 100 years ago. Many of the poor who died there were buried in the cemetery. The burials stopped in the early 1930s, according to the widow of a former superintendent.

In 1953, the poor farm buildings were converted into the present convalescent home.

The county board, with a new nursing home under construction in Normal, has made no decision on what it will do with Maple Grove and the 360-acre county farm itself.

During discussion about possible sale of the property, board members were told that if the farmland is sold, the cemetery plot will need to be subtracted from the total acreage.

Maple Grove Administrator Howard Nehlig Sr. said he has been told that records were kept of those buried at the cemetery. He said the records are nowhere to be found at the nursing home.

Records lost

County Clerk Paul D. Morris does not know what happened to the records. "I've made inquiries, but I haven't found

anyone who knows what happened to them," he said.

If the poor are forgotten today, they received care and attention while they lived at the farm, according to a Bloomington woman who spent her girlhood there.

"Many of the people there you would just learn to love," said Mrs. Sig Moline, 402 Kreitzer. Her father, Arthur Jones, was superintendent of the farm for about 20 years, until 1933.

She moved to the farm while a fourth-grader. The farm would average an occupancy of about 100 "inmates," as they were called.

In winter, the home held more. "We had as many as 20 tramps on some winter nights," she said. They were bunked in "what we called the tramp house, because we didn't want to put them with our inmates."

Mrs. Moline still can vividly recall some of the occupants. Two of the men "were just like children," she said. "They were quite harmless, but they were so childlike."

Another "looked just like a bulldog, but he was a wonderful worker."

Garden work

The occupants naturally developed their own social arrangements and responsibilities.

One man "always walked to the end of the lane to get the mail, and boy, you didn't have any one else go get the mail."

Another assigned himself the duty of meeting the interurban when it brought members of the Jones family home from the city. He sometimes would start for the tracks two hours before the train was due to arrive, she said, to assure himself that he would not miss the arrivals.

Many of the men worked in the farm's garden, which Mrs. Moline said was "a large, large, large garden. Of course, they liked to have something to do."

The garden also produced work for the women occupants, who helped Mrs. Moline's mother cook and can.

The canning chores were evidently outsized. Mrs. Moline recalled that her mother would put up as many as 10,000 cans of vegetables, including from 5,000 to 8,000 cans of tomatoes.

"It was a very interesting life," she said.

No burials

Her father kept a record of the dead buried in the cemetery, she said. Occupants of the home poured and numbered the concrete markers.

Mrs. Moline did not know what might have happened to the record. "Things like that probably get thrown away. They don't look very important," she said.

She said she had often wondered if the cemetery was still there.

Mrs. Ernest Ummel and her husband took over supervision from Arthur Jones in 1942. She did not know what might have happened to the death register, and did not believe anyone had been buried there during their tenure.

A Daily Pantagraph story from 1925 began, "Old age, poverty and friendlessness, the great triumvirate of bugbears to which many persons in middle life look forward to with great apprehension, have lost their terrors here."

"The McLean County Farm Home which shelters the aged, the poverty stricken, the forlorn, and the friendless, does not belie its name."

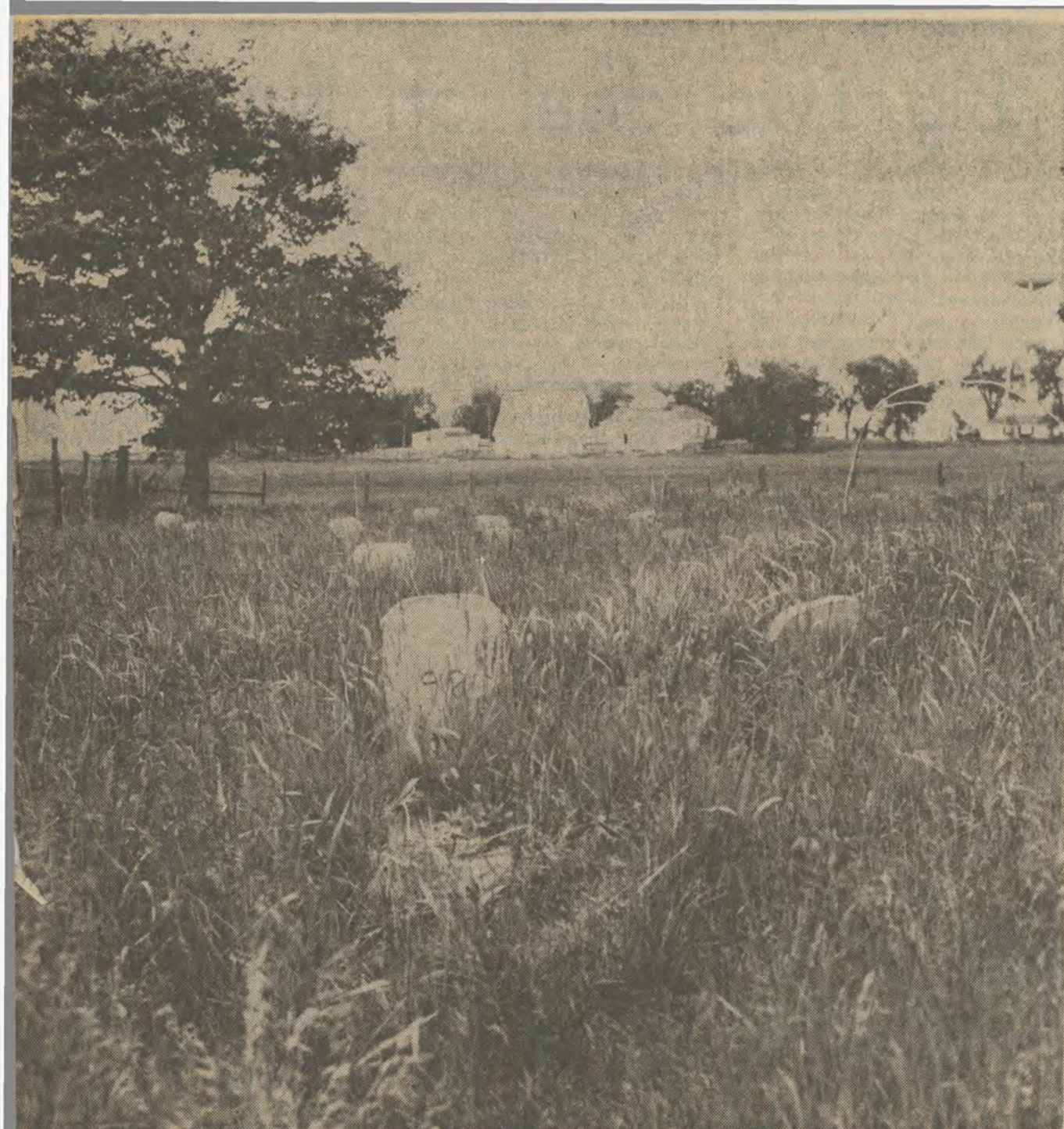
'Small slabs'

The author went on to quote a poet: "When he is forsaken, withered and shaken, what can old man do but die?"

Waxing sentimental, the author wrote, "Age, it should be remembered, has opportunity no less than youth itself, tho in another dress, altho there is less incentive in the days of the sere and yellow leaf and when the sunset is nearing."

"In the cemetery of the county farm where several hundred rest until the resurrection day, small white slabs, each containing a number, marking the narrow cell where former inmates, like a storm that's spent, lie hushed."

"Into these furrows, where rest the weary and forlorn, there is calm for those who have wept, the one destined period men in common have."



Unidentified

This cemetery on the property of the McLean County Farm will likely go without a visitor today. Records which contained the names of county "poor farm" occupants who died and were

buried on the grounds apparently have been lost. Life on the farm, however, was interesting to a Bloomington woman who spent her girlhood there. (Pantagraph Photo)

County farm death records 'found' in society publication

5-29-73

Death and burial records of the McLean County Farm apparently have not been lost, after all.

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society published a portion of the records in December, 1969, and March, 1970, issues of "Gleanings," the society's quarterly publication.

A Pantagraph article Monday said the records had apparently been lost. Neither Howard Nehlig Sr., administrator of the Maple Grove Nursing Home, nor County Clerk Paul D. Morris knew where the records were. Both said they had made inquiries.

The records were found in the attic of the nursing home—once the county poor farm—a few years ago. The deaths and burials were compiled for publication by Mrs. Betty Hering, 1610 E. Oakland.

The deaths date back to April 7, 1860. The society published the records through 1890, and said records also are available through 1922.

Mrs. Hering said the deaths were logged in a ledger recording the happenings at the poor farm.

She said the task of compiling them had been "rather amusing," because of eccentric spellings and English usages.

"Sometimes I have to read between the lines. And some of the handwriting wasn't very good."

She said she had turned the records over to Mrs. Jack Smith, 422 Miles Lane, Normal, who was to return them to the home. Mrs. Smith could not be contacted Tuesday morning.

One record is of the death of a woman May 29, 1890, "of inaction of Hart."

A man died June 26, the same

year—"Death being over come by the intense heat."

A man who died in 1885 was "killed by being struck by the engine of the Denver Express."

Another died in 1886 "of blood poison from having the left leg amputated below the knee, caused by being run over by the cars at Shirley."

New state laws now in effect

Oct 1
Sept 1973

By Roland White

If you planned to put studded snow tires on your car, it would be better to wait another six weeks.

The reason is that one of 553 new state laws which took effect at 12:01 a. m. Monday makes them illegal before Nov. 15. The date formerly was Oct. 1.

A statewide ban on burning leaves has been removed, but it would be wise to check local ordinances before going out to show your smoke. Local governments still have the right to prohibit leaf burning. Bloomington and Normal, among other cities, do prohibit it.

You probably aren't going to admit any plan to buy a handgun. If you do have such ideas, the cheap pistols known as "Saturday night specials" are out. A new law prohibits the sale of any firearm which will melt at less than 800 degrees.

Chances are you already heard that it is legal for youths of 19 and 20 to buy beer and wine (but not hard liquor). There's another law which reduces the age for serving on juries from 21 to 18, the same as the legal age for voting.

How come Oct. 1 is the effective date for so many new laws?

It stemmed from a change in the 1970 Illinois Constitution. The constitution requires the legislature to specify the effective date of any bill bills passed between Jan. 1 and June 30.

The present legislature set the date for bills which did not specify otherwise as Oct. 1.

Among other new laws:

—Making Jan. 15 a memorial holiday for Martin Luther King and March 1 a holiday for Casimir Pulaski.

—Requiring that employes be given one day off in seven.

—Repealing bounties on crows and foxes.

—Requiring flashing amber lights on farm vehicles, including those drawn by horses.

—Prohibiting agricultural work by children less than 10 years old, except on their parents' farm.

—Requiring wheelchair slopes on all new or rebuilt curbs in municipal business districts.

—Empowering the department of registration to license and regulate rain-makers.

—Requiring formerly frozen raw foods to be labeled "previously frozen."

—Opening records dated 1916 or earlier to genealogical societies.

—Increasing from \$200 to \$300 the public aid payment for burial.

—Providing compensation up to \$10,000 for victims of violent crimes.

Besides these laws, others will go into effect on dates specified in individual bills and another group will become effective Jan. 1, 1974.

Included in the last effective date are laws permitting a right turn at a red light after stopping, lowering the driver license fee for senior citizens and imposing new penalties for littering.

Mrs. Homer Park heads Genealogical Society

1973

Mrs. Homer Park of 311 S. Main, Normal, was elected president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Saturday at Streid's Restaurant. One of the founders of the state society, Mrs. Park is compiling records of early Mennonite families in Illinois.

Others elected at the state board meeting were Dr. Robert G. Bone, Normal, first vice president; Mrs. Donald Armistead, Naperville, second vice president; Miss Christine Henderson, Springfield, corresponding secretary; Mrs. William Haupte, Warrensburg, recording secretary; and Robert W. Bills, Urbana, treasurer.

Mrs. Park succeeds Dr. Leslie A. Bryan of Champaign, former professor at the University of Illinois.



Mrs. Park and Dr. Bryan



History seekers

8-22-73

Members of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society spent Monday afternoon gathering information from tomb stones in the Twin Grove Cemetery. With other groups, the society plans to compile data from all county cemeteries to help in research of

ancestral roots. From left are: Mrs. Donald Armstrong, Cooksville, president of the society; Harriet Wheeler, 121 Eastview, Normal; Eleanor Fever, 606½ W. Washington; and Fern Newton, Ellsworth. (Pantagraph Photo)



Custer, friends

You wouldn't expect a distant cousin of General Custer to live with Indians, but that is just what Milo Custer did back in 1906. He is second from left as one of congregation that attended the church of Kanakuk on Kickapoo reservation Oct. 6, 1906, in Brown County, Kan. (County Historical Society photo)

After 21 years, Milo Custer to get marker on his grave

By Roland White

Sept 1973

Milo Custer, a man who went to great pains to preserve inscriptions from the graves of others, will have a marker on his own grave for the first time.

Ivan Light, Shirley, chairman of a committee to bring this about, announced the marker will be unveiled at 3 p. m. Sept. 30 at Scogin Hill Cemetery southwest of Bloomington.

Custer was in financial distress at the time of his death in 1952 and had no immediate family. Consequently he was buried in an unmarked grave.

There was even a problem of determining his grave's location. Marvin Haycraft of Wapella, Scogin Hill Cemetery Association president, appointed Light and Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Quinn, McLean, to the task. They established that he was buried in the Custer-Miller family lot.

Custer was a great-grandson of James T. Miller, successful candidate for state treasurer in 1856 on the state's first Republican ticket, nominated at the founding convention in Bloomington.

Miller Park and Miller Street in Bloomington were named for him.

Custer, who claimed to be a descendant of Gen. George Custer, lived among the Kickapoo Indians in 1906 as part of a research project financed by George P. Davis of the McLean County Historical Society.

He returned to Bloomington to become custodian for the historical society, 1909-17.

founded the Central Illinois Historical Society, an organization devoted primarily to genealogical research.

As the society's author and publisher, he turned out booklets on everything from deaths to the early buildings of Central Illinois. His writings also appeared in quarterly publications of the Illinois State Historical Society.

His works included "Original Town of Bloomington, Ill.," "Family Records," and "Pioneer Portraits of Central Illinois."

The association's reason for locating and marking Custer's grave was given in a paragraph:

"Many, many years ago, he visited numerous old graveyards in McLean County and neighboring counties and, painstakingly, copied and published the

inscriptions from old tombstones, much of which has now become undecipherable with the ravages of time, yet no stone or record marks his own grave."

How do you get to Scogin Hill Cemetery?

Go west from Six Points (U. S. 66 and Morris Avenue Road) on Four Points Road, also known as the Hill Roads. Cross railroad tracks. At 1.2 miles go under Interstate 55 overpass. At 1.6 miles turn left (south) at crossroad, West Oakland Avenue Road.

From Gesundheit Party House on the northwest corner of this intersection it is 0.4 miles south to the cemetery.

Another route is to go west from Bloomington on West Oakland Avenue Road to the Gesundheit corner and turn south for 0.4 miles.

Wed., Nov. 21, 1973

Genealogists elect Mrs. Hilton president

In its annual meeting Monday night in Cooksville, Mrs. Doris Hilton was elected president of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

Miss Elizabeth Masters was named vice president; Miss Janice Shieler, recording secretary; Mrs. Donna Gaines, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Kay Carius, treasurer; Mrs. Ruth Hamm, Hudson, book committee chairman; Mr. and Mrs. George Overly, Lexington, cemetery chairmen; the Rev. Keely Kepner, finance chairman; Miss Alice Ogle, library.

Other chairmen are Miss Ruth Richards, membership; Mrs. Josephine Munro, program; Miss Ardys Serpette, publications; Mrs. Marian Spratt of Le Roy and Miss Sarah Cushing, publicity. All those without town identifications are from Bloomington-Normal.

Two members of the local society elected to top office in the Illinois State Genealogical Society are Mrs. Myrna Park, president, and Dr. Robert G. Bone, vice president.

Some of the members dressed in 19th Century attire for the meeting, held at the home of the Donald Armstrongs of Cooksville. Prizewinner for best costume of those wearing attire of the 19th Century was Mrs. Hamm, who wore her great-grandmother's dress.

A pioneer playet was read about the John Scott family of Waynesville, circa 1828.



Marked now

10-3-73

The grave of Milo Custer, one-time McLean County Historical Society curator who spent years checking grave-stones of others, had no marker for 21 years. Ivan Light, chairman of Scogin Hill committee which arranged for one, examines rhyolite (molten granite) stone from neighboring quarry. Dedication was Sunday. (Pantagraph Photo)



Representing Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter DAR were Mrs. J. Emerson Scholl, Regent of Arrowsmith and Mrs. Donald Armstrong, membership chairman, of Cooksville as they accepted the Ruth B. Hamm silver, a trophy for

attaining the highest net gain in membership of the 121 DAR Chapters in Illinois during the past year. (L. to R) Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Scholl and Mrs. Hamm of Hudson.

DAR receives Membership Award

4-5-73

When Mrs. James J. Hamm, Hudson, Illinois, completed her term of office as regent of the State of Illinois National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, she purchased a beautiful silver tray to be presented annually to the chapter in the state having the highest net gain in membership for the past year. This tray serves as a traveling trophy, for the name of the winning chapter is engraved on the tray along with the year of the award. It was not until the spring of 1972 that the silver tray came to Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter and McLean County.

In March of 1972 Mrs. Hamm surprised Mrs. Claude Ringo, regent, of Bloomington, and Mrs. Donald Armstrong, membership chairman, Cooksville, when she called them to the platform at the state DAR convention in Chicago to accept the tray for their achievement for the past year. It was at that moment that goals were set to bring the tray home to Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter a year later! That was accomplished on March 16, 1973 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, again at the Illinois State DAR Con-

necessary to secure 29 new, reinstated, or transferred members. This required much time, research, and traveling, for the lineage of each member must be proven back to a person who served our country during the Revolutionary War. When the losses by death, transfer out, or resignation were deducted, the chapter had a net gain of 17, exceeding any other chapter in the state by two.

New members from the Colfax area in 1972 include Mrs. Ira Bourne and Mrs. Carl Brock. A former Colfax resident, Mrs. Victor Armstrong, now of Bloomington, also became a member. New members for 1971 were Mrs. George Arnold, Lexington; Mrs. Diane Haas, Mrs. Larry Thomas and Mrs. Roy Spencer, all of Downs and Mrs. John H. McAllister Sr., Danvers.

Mrs. Martin Frieburg, Saybrook, joined the chapter the past year, and Mrs. Joseph Glass, whose address is Bloomington but who teaches in the Tri-Valley Unit II School System, was accepted as a member. Mrs. A. A. Dunbar, Heyworth, and Mrs. Bruce

General Telephone's new
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Beatrice Armstrong presides at final meeting of her term of office in Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society held at her home November 19.



Ruth Hamm wore her great-grandmother's dress to win the prize for best costume.



Myrna Park (left), president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, is pictured with Doris Hilton, newly-elected president of the local chapter, and Beatrice Armstrong, retiring president.



Myrna Park installs new officers

Gives talk at Anchor Grade

A local historian, Mrs. Howard (Muriel) Hoffman gave a talk to the 3rd and 4th grade students at Anchor on Thursday, May 17. She told them of the settling of McLean County and mainly about Anchor.

It all proved to be very interesting to the boys and girls as she mentioned many of the early families, some of whom had the same last name as theirs. She displayed many old pictures and books, which were all thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

Mrs. Hoffman, who has written many historical articles for the Colfax Press, should be commended for her work in this field. Our area is indeed fortunate to have someone who will take the time to compile these facts and figures so that we may know "our heritage".

Genealogical Society ends year with Thanksgiving feast

The large collection of antiques in the Donald Armstrong home in rural Cooksville made a perfect setting for the traditional Thanksgiving dinner served November 19 to members of the Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society. Mrs. Armstrong has been president of the group for the past two years.

In the business meeting

following the dinner, Doris Hilton was elected president. Elizabeth Masters was named vice president; Janice Shieler, recording secretary; Donna Gaines, corresponding secretary; and Kay Carius, treasurer. Chairmen elected were Ruth Hamm, Hudson, book committee; Mr. and Mrs. George Overly, Lexington, cemetery

committee; the Rev. Keely Kepner, finance; Alice Ogle, library; Ruth Richards, membership; Josephine Munro, program; Ardys Serpette, publications; Marian Spratt, LeRoy, and Sarah Cushing, publicity. The new officers were installed by Myrna Park, who was recently elected president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society. Another member of the local chapter, Dr. Robert G. Bone, is vice president of the State organization. (All those not identified by residence are from Bloomington - Normal.)

Ruth Hamm was awarded a prize for the best 19th century costume.

A playlet about the John Scott family of Waynesville in the 1820's was presented.

71-29-1979

Library tour ^{3/17/73} on tap for genealogy group

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Milner Library on the Illinois State University campus to hear Miss Louise Love discuss genealogical materials in the library.

The group will meet in the lounge off the second floor lobby. After Miss Love's talk, the group will visit four of the key genealogical areas.

Members assisting will include Wayne Rogers, periodical room; Miss Alice Ogle, census records; Ardys Serpete, county histories; and Miss Love, card catalogue.

Mrs. Doris Hilton, vice president, reports that the membership list just released shows 143 members with 59 from out of McLean County, representing 18 states. Mrs. Hilton states that the society is searching for unpublished records of McLean County, especially Bible records prior to 1890. Mrs. Hilton, of 305 Meadows, will accept calls after 5 p.m. from anyone with such records.

10/3/73 Pantagraph



IN HONOR OF
MILO CUSTER
1879—1952
DEDICATED RESEARCHER, RECORDER
PRINTER, PUBLISHER, PRESERVER
OF OUR LOCAL
HISTORY AND GENEALOGY
PLACED BY FRIENDS AND KIN
1973

Marked now

The grave of Milo Custer, one-time McLean County Historical Society curator who spent years checking grave-stones of others, had no marker for 21 years. Ivan Light, chairman of Scogin Hill committee which arranged for one, examines rhyolite (molten granite) stone from neighboring quarry. Dedication was Sunday. (Pantagraph Photo).

Dr. Bone to speak

"Digging Among the Bones" will be the topic of the Withers Library listening hour beginning at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Speaking on his family tree will be Dr. Robert Bone, president emeritus of Illinois State University.

5/29/73

Oct 28 73

Pantagraph A-2

Bloomington-No

Mrs. Homer Park heads Genealogical Society

Mrs. Homer Park of 311 S. Main, Normal, was elected president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Saturday at Streid's Restaurant. One of the founders of the state society, Mrs. Park is compiling records of early Mennonite families in Illinois.

Others elected at the state board meeting were Dr. Robert G. Bone, Normal, first vice president; Mrs. Donald Armistead, Naperville, second vice president; Miss Christine Henderson, Springfield; corresponding secretary; Mrs. William Hauffe, Warrensburg, recording secretary; and Robert W. Bills, Urbana, treasurer.

Mrs. Park succeeds Dr. Leslie A. Bryan of Champaign, former professor at the University of Illinois.



Mrs. Park and Dr. Bryan

Illinois Gen. Society Elects Officers

Mrs. Homer Park of Normal was elected president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society at its fifth annual fall conference Sept. 22 held at the Holiday Inn, Decatur, with over 200 members in attendance.

Other new officers are Robert D. Bone of Normal, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Donald A. Armistead of Naperville, 2d vice-president; Mrs. William Hauffe of Warrensburg, recording secretary, and Miss Christine Henderson of Springfield, corresponding secretary. Robert W. Bills of Urbana was named treasurer, the office he has held by appointment to fill a vacancy, and Mrs. Frank L. Jenkins of Elmhurst was re-elected parliamentarian.

The five directors elected are Mrs. J. W. Black of Bridgeport, Robert Buecher of Millstadt, Mrs. Rupert Evans of Champaign, Dr. Harold Meyer of Chicago and Mrs. Francis Moseley of Milan.

Under an amendment to the by-laws adopted at the conference, the number of elected directors was increased from six to nine. The directors, who are members of the executive board, will serve three-year instead of two-year terms. Another director will be chosen at the Oct. 27 meeting of the board in Bloomington to fill the ninth seat. There are three holdover members, Miss Alenia McCord of Vandalia, Dr. Robert Bone of Normal and Mrs. Pauline Wandschneider of Downers Grove.

A standing ovation was given to Miss Martha Montgomery of Maroa as she was presented an honorary life membership. Miss Montgomery has served as editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Quarterly for the past five years. Mrs. Park succeeds Dr. Leslie A. Bryan of Champaign in the presidency of the society.

Genealogists 11/21/73 elect Mrs. Hilton

In its annual meeting Monday night in Cooksville, Mrs. Doris Hilton was elected president of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

Miss Elizabeth Masters was named vice president; Miss Janice Shieler, recording secretary; Mrs. Donna Gaines, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Kay Carius, treasurer; Mrs. Ruth Hamm, Hudson, book committee chairman; Mr. and Mrs. George Overly, Lexington, cemetery chairmen; the Rev. Keely Kepner, finance chairman; Miss Alice Ogle, library.

Other chairmen are Miss Ruth Richards, membership; Mrs. Josephine Munro, program; Miss Ardys Serpette, publications; Mrs. Marian Spratt of Le Roy and Miss Sarah Cushing, publicity. All those without town identifications are from Bloomington-Normal.

Two members of the local society elected to top office in the Illinois State Genealogical Society are Mrs. Myrna Park, president, and Dr. Robert G. Bone, vice president.

Some of the members dressed in 19th Century attire for the meeting, held at the home of the Donald Armstrongs of Cooksville. Prizewinner for best costume of those wearing attire of the 19th Century was Mrs. Hamm, who wore her great-grandmother's dress.

A pioneer playet was read about the John Scott family of Waynesville, circa 1828.

HOLD STATE OFFICES

Mrs. Homer Park, 311 S. Main, was named president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society at its fifth annual fall conference held recently in Decatur. She succeeds Dr. Leslie A. Bryan of Champaign.

Dr. Robert G. Bone, 30 Clinton Place, was elected first vice-president.

12/1/73



Beatrice Armstrong presides at final meeting of her term of office in Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society held at her home November 19.



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Myrna Park (left), president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, is pictured with Doris Hilton, newly-elected president of the local chapter, and Beatrice Armstrong, retiring president.



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Genealogical Society ends year with Thanksgiving feast

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**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
1974**

In January of 1974 a communication made by the B-N Genealogical Society to the McLean County Historical Society proposed that it might prove beneficial if both organizations could put their library collections under one roof. This step, it was stated, surely would achieve greater public use and exposure of both libraries. The Historical Society had rescued their holdings from a 1972 fire in the McBarnes Building in downtown Bloomington and had dispersed their artifacts and books to various locations for safe storage.

In this year 1974 the Historical Society rented an old shoe store location at 1340 East Empire Street on Bloomington's east side and Wayne Rogers, President of the McLean County Historical Society, extended an invitation to the B-N Genealogical Society to locate their library there without charge. This new site would allow Historical Society books to be accessed for the first time since the 1972 fire and the Genealogical Society books would find a new home.

Volunteers from the B-N Genealogical Society were instrumental in keeping this new combined library location open seven days a week. Also Genealogical Society members volunteered to go out into the community to speak before church groups, boy scout troops and other organizations to explain how tracing ancestors is sometimes exciting and how to begin the hunt. When the Boys Scouts of America issued their new handbook with a new merit badge offered on genealogy, the B-N Genealogical Society gave all local scouts encouragement and assistance. It was reported that in 1974 publicity for the Society, particularly with the local newspapers, was "very good."

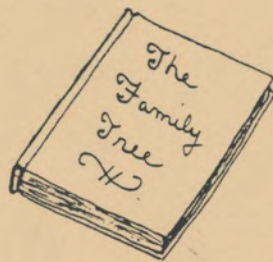
A major project for the Society for 1974 was to make a reprinting of the 1874 McLean County Atlas with an every-name index. It was shepherded by Beatrice Armstrong and the publication dedicated to Alice Ogle. With a pre-publication price of \$12 by the end of the year 287 volumes had been sold.

During 1974 regular membership meetings had included a tour of courthouse offices and a picnic format. Individual member homes were the scenes of workshops where specific state research was a central theme.

Dues were increased in 1974 to \$5.00 because of increased mailing and printing costs for the Newsletter and Gleanings.

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society Board for 1974 included:

President	Doris Hilton	Finance Chr.	Keely Kepner
Vice-pres.	Elizabeth Masters	Library Chr.	Alice Ogle
Rec. Secty	Janice Shieler	Membership	Ruth Richards
Cor. Secty	Donna Gaines	Programs	Josephine Munro
Treasurer	Kay Carius	Publications	Ardys Serpette
Book Chr.	Ruth Hamm	Publicity	Marian Spratt
Cemeteries	George Overly		and Sarah Cushing

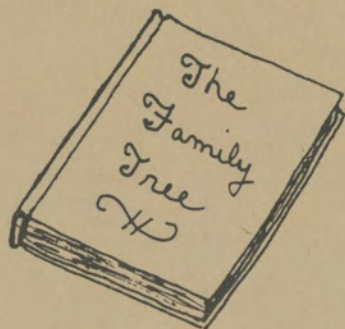


*Come - visit our Bloomington-Normal
Genealogy Society*

*Where - in the McBarnes Building, 3rd
floor, 201 E. Grove St.,
Bloomington*

*See - our selection of: McLean County
Marriage Records 1831-1892 -
Ill. & other public census -
assorted state & county history books -
ancestor charts*

Time - Tues.-Sundays 1-5 p.m.



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Time -

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Historical society will view antique irons and hearse

Pantagraph Photos b

June 1974 Museum tour slated

By D. Wesley Smith

The Donald Armstrongs of rural Cooksville will open their country home antique collection Sunday for the McLean County Historical Society's celebration of its 82nd year.

The day's activities will begin at 2:30 p.m. Picnickers are welcome and refreshments will be provided. A horseshoe pitching contest is planned. The public is invited.

Everything from a bellows to baby beds is found in Mrs. Armstrong's basement of wall to wall antiques. Antique sewing machines, coffee grinders, butter churns, irons, antlers, apple peelers and cherry pitters are on display and Mrs. Armstrong knows the history of each.

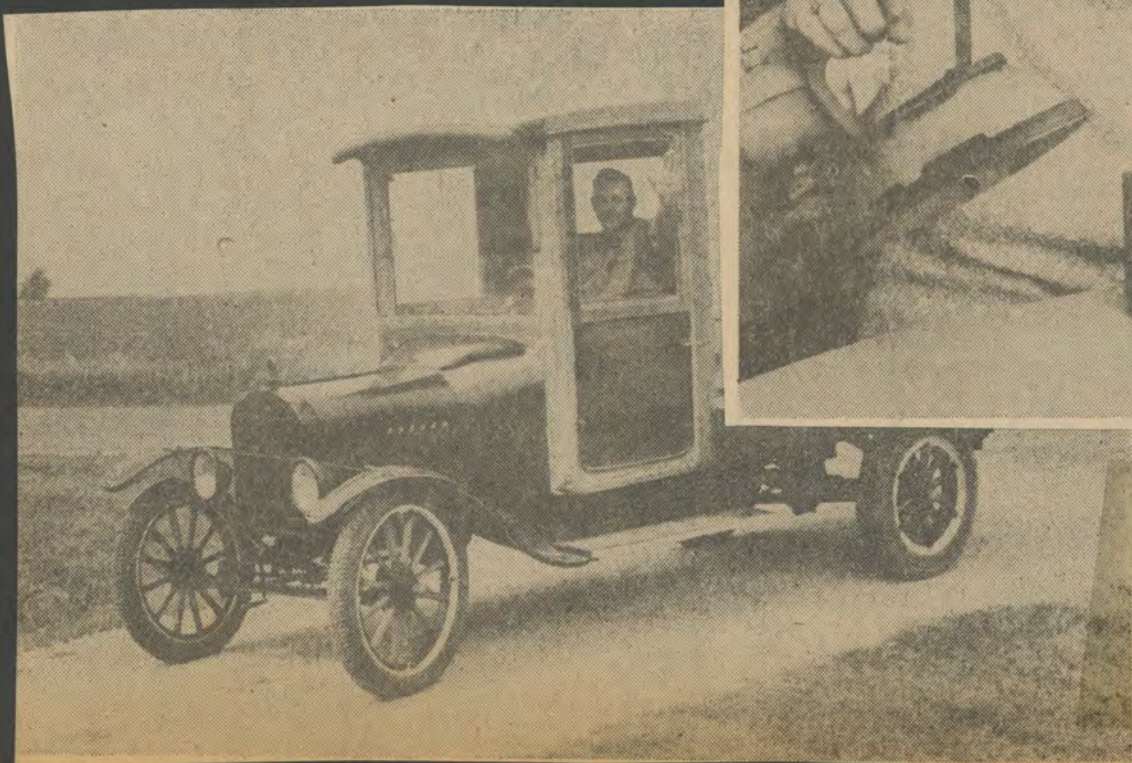
Mr. Armstrong's collection is housed in an oversized shed which "was supposed

to be big enough for everything when it was built" but now is brimful of farm implements from the past alongside antique hand tools, fish traps, cattle de-horners, leather stitchers and a political machine (Mr. Armstrong's parade truck embellished with political comment) that runs on gas rather than the standard hot air.

Mrs. Armstrong will give a brief history of her native Blue Mound Township while Mr. Armstrong might well be persuaded to pass along his formula for "Tradin' Whiskey."

One needn't be an antique collector to enjoy the Armstrong hospitality and a day in the country. The Armstrong home is on the Lexington-LeRoy blacktop 2½ miles north off Illinois 9.

A collection of mailboxes with a tombstone for "dead letters" marks the entrance.





Bellows table is focal point of Armstrong living room

Genealogical Society 1-21-74 sets library workshop

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will hold a meeting and library workshop at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the home of Miss Alice Ogle, 116 Eastview Drive, Normal. The newly elected president, Mrs. Doris Hilton, will conduct the meeting.

Theme of the workshop will be "Books Galore for '74". Mrs. James Hamm of Hudson, chairman of the book committee, will review the books which were acquired by the society in 1973, giving suggestions on how they may be used in genealogical research.

Miss Ogle will tell about the 100 different publications which the society receives regularly from other genealogical organizations. These publications contain birth, death and marriage records, land grants, Bible records, wills and administrations, and articles on the history of the various counties, towns and regions.

Miss Ardys Serpette, 919 W. Wood, will bring the members up to date on the material published by the local society. These include five issues of McLean County birth records covering the period between 1869 and 1892 and two issues of county marriages occurring between 1831 and 1862.

Members of the society have also copied and published many of the records originally published by Milo Custer. Mrs. Richard Wright, 17 Grand-

view Drive, Normal, was in charge of this task for the past few years.

The society has accumulated more than three dozen family genealogies. One of the most recently acquired is of the Bane family, of McLean County, which was compiled and published by LeRoy attorney Arlo E. Bane. Dr. Robert Bone, local member and vice president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, has published a Bone family genealogy.

The book committee has been securing as many published censuses as possible and now has 1850 censuses of 16 Illinois counties. The 1850 census gives, in addition to heads of families, the names and ages and nativity of all family members.

All of the books and publications belonging to the society were formerly kept in the old Normal Public Library but since last spring have been housed in the home of Miss Ogle.

Genealogical group sets genetic topic

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan, Normal. Dr. Felissa Lashley Cohen, assistant professor of genetics at the University of Illinois, will speak on "The Genetic Traits of Kindred."

Dr. Cohen is involved in the genetic counseling program in Central Illinois Region 3B. She will discuss the physical and characteristic traits which are passed from generation to generation.

She will show slides on genetic study and will answer questions following the talk. Dr. Cohen is author of several publications and articles on genetic diseases and counseling and has been affiliated with Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University and SUNY at Farmingdale University Hospital.

The hospitality committee will serve refreshments.

Genealogical 1974 Society to hear Dr. Bone speak

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan, Normal.

Dr. Robert G. Bone, president emeritus of Illinois State University, will speak on "The Northwest Territory—Its Development." Dr. Bone has done extensive research in this area and will answer questions following the program.

The meeting is open to the public and especially any Boy Scouts interested in working on the new genealogy merit badge. The badge has been instituted as a part of the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration for 1976.

Refreshments will be served.

To preside at state genealogical sessions April 26-27, 1974

The annual conference of the Illinois State Genealogical Society will be held in Springfield April 26-27 at the Holiday Inn East, with Mrs. Homer Park of Normal, state president, conducting the meeting.

Mrs. Doris Hilton of Bloomington is conference coordinator.

Registration begins at 3 p.m. Friday, April 26, followed by a reception for presidents of the local societies of the state. The 7 p.m. banquet will be followed by speeches by William K. Alderfer, state historian and executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society, and Orlando Kuhle of Decatur, who will speak on "Early Chautauqua in Illinois." Alderfer's topic will be the state historical library.

Saturday speakers will include Dr.

Raymond M. Bell, professor at Washington and Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, whose topic will be "Pennsylvania Records of Illinois Pioneers;" and Dr. Cullom Davis, editor of bicentennial studies in Sangamon history, who will discuss "Genealogy With the Tape Recorder."

Saturday seminars will be on migrations of religious groups in Illinois, family genetics, genealogy for beginners and Germans in Illinois and their origins given by Dr. Clifford Neal Smith, Mrs. Rachel Klein, Mrs. Pauline Wandschneider and Robert Buecher, respectively.

DAR slates ceremony for cemetery plaque

Letitia Green Stevenson and DeWitt Clinton Chapters of DAR will mark the grave of a Revolutionary War soldier, John Maxwell, in Woodlawn Cemetery, south of Bloomington, on Saturday.

The bronze plaque denotes the soldier's name, years of the war and the names of the chapters placing the marker. It will be set on the present white gravestone in a 2 p.m. ceremony Saturday.

This is the 150th year anniversary of the arrival of the first Rhodes family to McLean County. Descendants of the Rev. Ebenezer Rhodes, first minister in McLean County, are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery and the family cemetery organization has assumed maintenance and improvements of it. Benjamin Rhodes, 2008 E. Oakland, great-great-grandson of Rev. Rhodes, will give the history of the family.

Joe Dowell of Bloomington will sing a ballad he composed called "Two Warriors."

The ceremony will be conducted by the two regents, Mrs. Clyde Fry of Clinton and Mrs. Emerson Scholl of Arrowsmith. Historians Mrs. Howard Andersen of Bloomington and Mrs. John Gibson of Clinton; Chaplains Miss Frances Pillsbury of Bloomington and Mrs. Floyd Thomas of Heyworth, will also participate.

A descendant of the soldier, Miss Lena Maxwell, Bloomington, will give the family connection to the Bloomington area. Another descendant, Mrs. Ernest Hamilton of Farmer City, will review the service record of the soldier.

Invocation will be given by Mrs. Cleland Leaman of Willmette, Illinois State Regent of DAR. Mrs. Robert Flynn, state DAR historian from Sterling, will tell of the graves being marked by DAR.

Dr. Robert Youngs of Second Presbyterian Church will give the benediction.

Mrs. Paul Meyers of Springfield, vice



Miss Maxwell

president general of Illinois, will attend. Also invited are members of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society and relatives of the Maxwell family from Kansas, Iowa and surrounding towns.

The American Legion Color Guard Post 56 will close the ceremony, with taps played.

Officers, members and guests will have a luncheon at the Sinorak at 12 noon, with those attending the graveside ceremonies leaving the parking lot at

1:30. Parking space at the cemetery is limited.

Miss Maxwell is hosting refreshments at Brandtville afterwards.

Genealogical society picks Clinton officers

CLINTON (PNS)—Jerry Gawthorpe, Clinton, has been selected as president of the newly organized DeWitt Genealogical Society.

Mrs. Betty Adcock is vice president; Mrs. Phyllis Lynch, recording secretary; Mrs. Bula Rainey, corresponding secretary; Christian DeVisser, treasury, and Mrs. Marjorie DeVore, parliamentarian. All are Clinton residents.

Mrs. Carolyn Gawthorpe will serve as membership chairman.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 7 p.m., June 11.

Membership is open to anyone interested in family history research and the preservation of local genealogical records.

5/18/74

6-19-74

Genealogical society to study records

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the first floor courtroom of the McLean County Courthouse.

The program will be presented by Mrs. Mae Deane, county recorder, and her staff, who will explain the use of courthouse records in genealogical research. County Clerk Paul Morris and Circuit Clerk Helen Rice will also make their offices available for the evening. Some areas to be discussed will be birth, death and marriage records, deeds and wills.

A recent ruling has made vital statistic indexes open for search by any member of an Illinois genealogical society.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

The McLean County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Armstrong near Cooksville. Members should take Route 9 to the Lexington-LeRoy blacktop, turning left 2½ miles.

The group will visit the Armstrong museum of farm implements including an Indian hoe and antiques. Mr. Armstrong will conduct tours and Mrs. Armstrong will tell the history of Blue Mound township.

A horseshoe pitching contest and croquet, together with singing and dancing will form entertainment. Members are asked to bring a picnic supper. Beverage will be furnished.

6/23/74

Genealogical group to visit school 7-14-74

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will have a picnic meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at the picnic area at West Campus at Illinois State University. The area is located at the corner of Adelaide and College in Normal. Each member will bring his own table service and a covered dish. Beverages will be furnished.

Following the picnic, the society will visit the nearby Eyestone School. Mrs. Virginia Wright of the ISU Museum staff will conduct a tour and give a history of the one-room school.

In case of rain, members will meet at the Fairview Park shelter on North Main Street in Normal.



At Bea Armstrong's

Front row: Ruth Cope, Elizabeth Masters

Back row: Ruth Richards, Ardith Serpette, Sally Cushing, and Sandy Voyles

Time for tea, atlases, graveyards, ancestry lists

By Scott Herhold

When the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society met Monday night for coffee and tea at the home of Elizabeth Masters, 205 S. Kreitzer, the talk was of atlases and records and census reports.

A group of about ten members was preparing an American bicentennial project—a reproduction of the 1874 McLean County atlas.

The society is reproducing the atlas in "library-type hard buckram, printed on fine quality paper," and including an alphabetical index of the landowners 100 years ago. The book is being sold for \$12 before its publication date of Nov. 15 and for \$14 afterwards.

"We think it will be very useful to lawyers and genealogists and historians,"

said Mrs. Doris Hilton, the president of the society. "Our purpose is to reproduce and preserve McLean County records."

Asked to explain the satisfaction derived from digging through old records, the women described the strange bits of history they had uncovered, the people they

met, and the thrill of pursuing their own origins. "It's a lifelong habit," said one member, Ruth Richards. "It's utterly fascinating."

Among the society's activities, as the women described it, are the listing of graves in local cemeteries and the reproduction of birth certificates, marriage licenses and other documents.

Each of the members, they explained, is asked to fill out a genealogical sheet tracing his or her ancestry for five

generations. The women claimed to have some 7,000 names in their card catalogue of ancestors.

The atlas the society is reprinting was published by Warner & Beers, Chicago, and is now so rare that the women estimate that an original would bring \$150. The reproductions can be obtained from the society at P.O. Box B, Normal.



Seated: New Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society president, Elizabeth Masters. Standing, (L to R) Beatrice Armstrong, a past president and hostess for the November meeting; Doris Hilton, immediate past president; and Myrna Park, a past president of the County Society and now president of the Illinois Genealogical Society.

Armstrongs host Genealogical meeting

About 35 members of the Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society attended the annual Thanksgiving dinner, election and installation of officers at the Donald Armstrong home on November 18.

Myrna Park of Normal, president of the state society, installed the new officers: Elizabeth Masters, Bloomington, president; Ruth Cope, Hudson, vice president; Donna Gaines, Normal, corresponding secretary; Lynda Waddell, Bloomington, recording secretary and Kay

Carius, Bloomington, treasurer.

Following the installation, Mrs. Armstrong showed slides taken at the genealogical display at Eastland Shopping Center in 1972 and those taken at the joint meeting of the McLean County Historical Society and the Genealogical Society held in the Benjaminville meeting house in 1972. She also showed slides taken in Chester County, Penn. of Joseph Cope, who put together the Cope family chart which was on display and of the Cope homestead.

*Mrs. L. Waddell -
is a member of the B-N Genealogical Society.*

History found in 'hou



Built in 1903

Mrs. Lynda Waddell and her neighbor, John Heafer, survey area in front of his boyhood home and Mrs. Waddell's pre-

sent home. Mrs. Waddell has found the house an interesting link to Bloomington's past. (Pantagraph Photo)

se that Jack built'

se will end Tuesday at the center,
W. Locust.

he By Diane Miller

Can a house have a soul or personality?

The house at 1501 E. Taylor apparently has both. It has inspired the present occupant and owner not only to investigate its history, but also to do detailed research on the two families most intimately connected with its life.

Mrs. Lynda Waddell has spent hours tracking down facts about the Holforty and Heafer families and can rattle off dates and names better than most can of their own family.

The Waddells purchased the home on East Taylor Street in 1972. Mrs. Waddell soon discovered that their next-door neighbor was John Heafer Jr. who had grown up in the home they had just bought. Heafer built a new house next to his boyhood home in 1958.

"This intrigued me," Mrs. Waddell said, "and when I discovered that the Heafer family figured prominently in early Bloomington I guess my love for history took over."

She was off scouting cemeteries and libraries, finding land deeds at the courthouse, doing research at the McLean County Historical Society and talking to those who knew something about the families.

Mrs. Waddell found that John Holforty, a well-to-do farmer, built the home in 1903. He purchased a large tract of ground in 1902 for \$4,800 and in one corner of the land he built his farmhouse on a lot that was to become 1501 E. Taylor. His wife died before the house could be started, so his daughters, Ella and Emma, lived in the house with him until his death.

Ella marries

In 1918 Ella married John W. Heafer and the couple began housekeeping in the East Taylor Street home. John W. Heafer Jr., Mrs. Waddell's neighbor, was the only child of that marriage.

Mrs. Waddell has worked up a history of the Holforty family tracking it back at least three generations. She has talked to some of the Holforty descendants who live in Heyworth.

For two years she has worked on the Heafer family history. John Heafer Sr. was a nephew of Napoleon B. Heafer who started a brickyard southeast of Bloomington in 1862. Mrs. Waddell discovered that Napoleon was a colorful fellow. In search of gold, for example, he attempted two trips to Pike's Peak in the mid-1800s. He only made it to the peak once and found no gold.

He was a master bricklayer and among buildings to his credit are the city water works, including the stand pipe, the McLean County Courthouse, which burned in 1900, the McLean County Jail, the residence of Judge David Davis and Irving, Emerson and Sheridan schools.

But Napoleon Heafer is probably best known as the inventor of the paving brick, an idea he conceived of about 1870.

accident in January of 1931.

Mrs. Waddell found it interesting that John Sr. went to Washington D.C., every four years to witness the president's inauguration. He attended seven consecutive ceremonies, the last in 1912 when Woodrow Wilson became president.

Napoleon's son was Edgar Heafer, who was mayor of Bloomington in 1896. Edgar was a pioneer in making round tile drainpipes and the Heafer tile works

Tells past

With the McLean County Bicentennial Arts Festival Committee sponsoring a historic site search contest, a look-into-the past conducted by Mrs. Lynda Waddell has a special bearing.

She already had the site—in fact she was living in it. Although the house probably does not have enough historical significance to rate in the contest, it shows how interesting a job tracking down historical information can be and how fascinating the lives of those who lived in the 1800s were. And it sets one to wondering about all the stories the old homes of Bloomington could tell.

stood where the Eureka Company now stands.

Mrs. Waddell has been thrilled to find out things about the family that the Heafers did not know. She discovered, after going through about 1,000 names, that Edgar was in the Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American War.

Lived with uncle

With the help of an 1891 city directory, Mrs. Waddell learned that John had lived with his uncle, Napoleon, during that year.

Mrs. Waddell feels that their house is even more interesting because it may be one of the last links with the well-known family. The home of Napoleon Heafer southeast of town is gone, as is his house house, built in 1854, at 503 E. Jefferson. The brickyard and tile factory have been gone for years.

With the help of John Heafer she has compiled a list of some of the items used in the home. Mrs. Waddell found that two

hand pumps were used in the house and so she's putting two hand pumps back into it. An ABC washer, which moved on runners from side to side, was used in the home and the runners for the washer are still in the basement.

She laments the fact that the washer probably landed in the dump years ago. She'd love to have one to put in the basement.

Mrs. Waddell has put all the information she has gathered into a notebook. She also has added pictures given to her by the Heafer family and is especially interested in the pictures showing the house as it looked in the early 20s. Miss Elizabeth Masters, who grew up knowing the Heafer family and still resides in the neighborhood, has helped add to her store of information.

'Do-it-yourselfer'

Mrs. Waddell's husband, Garen, is a do-it-yourselfer and is also interested in history. When a small tornado wind blew down a very old oak tree in front of the house, Waddell salvaged the wood and will make shelves for their home.

The Heafers are pleased that Mrs. Waddell has taken such an interest in the house and their family. Betty Heafer admits that she has more interest in the family history than her husband does, but he has enjoyed talking about his family with Mrs. Waddell.

Mrs. Waddell, however, hasn't neglected her own family or her husband's family. She's worked on four family histories and with the help of another woman has traced the Waddell family to 1353.

Mrs. Waddell feels it is important to preserve historical facts and she hopes that their young sons, Scott and Kim, will appreciate the facts she has compiled about the house they are growing up in.

"Everyone should have pride in their families," she said. "Not only for the important things they have done but for the little things that made them individuals."

She believes in writing down things about a person, such as character traits. "I hope when someone asks my kids years from now what their mother was like they'll have something to tell them."

But Mrs. Waddell knows they can tell about the house on East Taylor Street and yes, she says, "it does have a soul and personality."



Over at Alice's House circa 1974
 Alice Ogle generously provided a home for
 the society's holdings when we were 'evicted'
 by Withers Library

Picture 1: Elizabeth Masters in her library,
 Bea Armstrong and ?
 Picture 2: Doris Angleton Hilton hard at work.
 Picture 3: Doris and Elizabeth
 Picture 4: Doris and Alice Ogle at Alice's
 beautiful and very special table.

Every family tree has



**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1975

During the year of 1975 the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society had its library collection available to all each afternoon for seven days a week at the 1340 East Empire address. Society members were allowed to check out a limited number of volumes. They could also have library use of the Historical Society collection, Membership meetings were held in the Citizens building in Normal.

An increased budget of \$2300 was ok'd for 1975. It did not include a necessary special purchase of an AB Dick mimeograph machine for \$900 to complement the old 1968 duplicator owned by the Society.

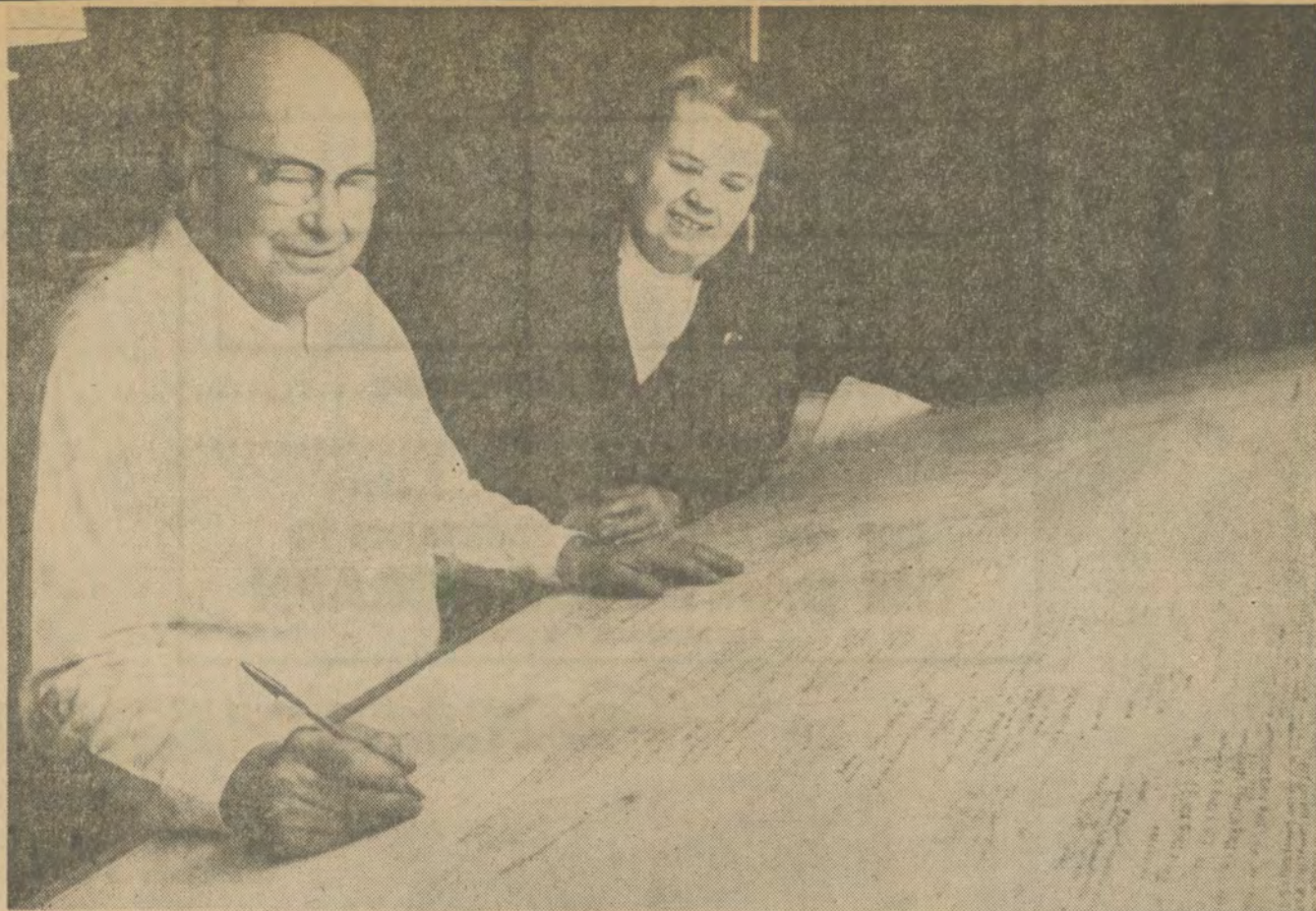
In this year the Society joined in a joint venture with the DAR to republish a 1879 History of McLean County. Pre-publication price was established at \$21.

The 1974 project of reprinting the 1874 McLean County Atlas sold out at 391 purchases and 100 more volumes were ordered from the printer. The Society also now had 28 publications for sale including subject matter on McLean County marriages, births, deaths and old family records.

In October of 1975 a conference of the Illinois State Genealogical Society involved members Doris Hilton as Coordinator, Myrna Park as President, Robert Bone as Vice-president and Ruth Hamm as Recording Secretary.

Officers for the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society for 1975 were: Elizabeth Masters as President; Ruth Cope as Vice-president; Lynda Waddell as Recording Secretary; Donna Gaines as Corresponding Secretary; and Kay Carius as Treasurer.

By 1975 ending the Society had 240 members—138 in McLean County and 92 others.



Genealogy buff

1/8/75

Claude Ringo, 2002 E. Taylor, who retired Saturday after 33 years with the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, will have plenty to fill his free time. Ringo is a genealogist. He works out family trees and has at least two years' work in note form to put onto charts. "I've been looking forward to having the time," he said. Mrs. Ringo,

pictured with him, said it will be genealogy, travel and fishing, in that order. Ringo worked nine years as an Illinois Central Gulf fireman, then became yard engineer in 1952 when an injury forced him to leave "main line" work. He worked in the Bloomington yards. (Pantagraph Photo)



1-11-75
Off the presses

Saturday was an important day for Miss Alice Ogle, right, because the book dedicated to her, an 1874 McLean County atlas, was off the presses and ready for distribution. Mrs. Beatrice Armstrong, left, Cooksville, was printing chairman for the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society which resurrected the atlas,

added an index of landowners and dedicated it to Miss Ogle, 116 Eastview, Normal, for her dedication, time and attention to detail in preparing it for publication. About 60 copies of the atlas remain for sale after a pre-publication sale of 287. It was a Bicentennial project of the society. (Pantagraph Photo)

Genealogical group
schedules meeting

1-20-75
The January meeting of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the temporary quarters of the McLean County Historical Society at 1340 E. Empire.

Books belonging to the genealogical society, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the historical society have been moved to the new quarters, which are now open every afternoon.

Miss Alice Ogle of Normal will explain the arrangement of books to society members at Monday's meeting.

Mrs. James Hamm of Hudson will give brief reviews of the 32 books purchased last year.

Miss Elizabeth Masters, newly elected president, will preside.

Genealogical
group to discuss
Mennonites

2-17-75
"Mennonites in McLean County" will be the program for members of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society when they meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan in Normal.

Mrs. Myrna Park will conduct the program, discussing the settlement in and contributions to the county of this group. Refreshments will be served by the hospitality committee.



Temporary home

The McLean County Historical Society has taken temporary quarters at 1340 E. Empire, where artifacts and books will be available for public view from 1:30 to 5 p.m. weekdays. Shown with books at Jesse Fell's desk are, from left, Miss

Elizabeth Masters, president of the county genealogical society; Mrs. Eunice Fosskett, public relations chairman for the historical society volunteers, and Mrs. A.R. Williams, president of the society volunteers. (Pantagraph Photo)

Historical Society in new quarters

While waiting to find a permanent home for its artifacts, the McLean County Historical Society has opened temporary quarters at 1340 E. Empire.

"We hope the public will remember we still have a historical society," Mrs. A.R. Williams, president of an organization of society volunteers, said Friday.

The majority of the society's items are in storage at the old St. Joseph's Hospital,

where they were placed after the society abandoned its museum in the McBarnes Memorial Building which was damaged by fire in September, 1972.

Mrs. Williams said items have been taken to the temporary quarters to make them available for public inspection while planning continues for acquisition of a new museum space.

Among items in the temporary quarters

are pieces of antique furniture, portraits, and the libraries of the society itself, the county genealogical society, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Also available is the genealogical society's publication of the McLean County Atlas, the organization's bicentennial project.

The temporary quarters are open 1:30 to 5 p.m. weekdays.



SHOW BUS

■ Marian Spratt

■ Marian Spratt has been volunteering with SHOW BUS since 1985. She has served on its Advisory Council, Nominating Committee and has been a liaison with the LeRoy Ambulance Service.

■ She also has been involved with the Girl Scouts, LeRoy Historical Society, LeRoy Senior Citizens, church work and the PTA.

■ She lives at 204 E. Elm St., LeRoy.

26 April 1995

Genealogical Society slates Ronald Bremer on sources

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Citizens Savings and Loan, Normal, when Ronald Bremer will speak on "American Genealogical Sources."

Bremer studied genealogical research at Brigham Young University and is a former research specialist for the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City and past president of the Great Salt Lake Chapter of the Utah Genealogical Association.

He is a regular speaker at the annual convention of Genealogists International, which is held at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Editor of the forthcoming Compendium of American Historical Sources, he has also authored and compiled several booklets and contributed to numerous periodicals.

A question and answer period will



Ronald
Bremer

follow. Bremer, an accredited genealogist, will give solutions to pedigree problems of those attending the meeting.

He is president of Gencor, Inc., a genealogical corporation in Salt Lake City.

Genealogical Society to hear Dr. Bone

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan in Normal.

Dr. Robert G. Bone will present the program, "The First People Who Came to America: Who They Were, Why They Came and Where They Settled." He is president emeritus of Illinois State University and is serving as first vice president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

Members of the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society and DeWitt County Genealogical Society have been invited.

The hospitality committee will serve refreshments following the meeting.

Research topic for genealogists

"Treasures in the Stacks and Where I Found Them" will be the topic when Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan in Normal.

It will be an informal meeting presented by members who will relate their successful searches in libraries, archives, courthouses and other places. The speakers will answer questions after their presentations.

Refreshments will be served by the hospitality committee.

It was 'seventh heaven' for this genealogist

By Vi Gilmore
Living Today editor

Genealogy buffs will be green with envy when they hear about Mrs. Claude Ringo's two-week stay in Utah.

She spent a week in intensive study with professors at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Subjects ranged from census records to guidelines for genealogy note-taking and correspondence.

The hobby of researching ancestors has become so popular that classrooms wouldn't hold all the students enrolled. Students on the campus for this special Tenth Annual Priesthood Genealogy Seminar totaled 3,336.

It was standing room only for some classes and other classes were moved to ballrooms.

Mrs. Ringo's second week was spent in actual research in the extensive records kept at Provo and in the Salt Lake City Library, where the Mormons have the largest genealogical library in the world.

Mrs. Ringo, who resides at 2002 E. Taylor, has been seriously hunting down her ancestors since 1968. Her husband is equally interested in the subject.

On tape

He will share in her new knowledge as she plays the tape recordings of the lectures. She also made several copies of family groups found in the libraries.

In one room of the library used for examining microfilms, there were 80 persons viewing films and others waiting in line.

The Salt Lake City Library has 900,000 rolls of microfilm, 130,000 bound volumes and 6 million family group sheets for genealogy study.

Mrs. Ringo also came back to Illinois with much literature, books and notes. The seminar furnished a 542-page book of class information.

While on the Provo campus, Mrs. Ringo and others enrolled in the seminar were expected to abide by the dress and food codes. They were to have no coffee, tea, carbonated beverages or liquor. No one was allowed to smoke. And women were not supposed to wear short shorts, jeans or plunging necklines to classes. Pants suits were permitted if worn with discretion and dress length was to top of

Marjorie Rehker and her mother was a Bishop.

The Ringos have traveled all over the United States in search of relatives who might have information to add to their family trees.

It's not unusual for Mrs. Ringo's husband to say, "Let's go to Brazil, Ind., (or Kentucky or Denver) to look up some Ringos."

They have been known to call up complete strangers with the same name and start asking questions. Ringo has notes jotted down on matchbook covers and odd pieces of paper, which have to be incorporated in the files.

Mrs. Ringo said they love reunions with a passion. "Someone you least expect can give you a clue," she said.



With facts

Mrs. Claude Ringo returned from a Utah study period with quite a stack of literature and notes for her genealogical hobby. (Pantagraph Photo)

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1976

In this year the rumors of the McLean County Historical Society going back to the McBarnes Building at 201 East Grove Street in Bloomington came to realization. Contracts were signed to remodel the third floor of the McBarnes Building to accommodate the museum and library of the Historical Society. A campaign to raise \$250,000, by the 400 members of the Historical Society to enhance this move got under way early in 1976. Individuals of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society participated in the fund raising with the Society itself donating from a modest budget. It was anticipated that the library collections of both the Historical Society and the Genealogical Society would eventually be put into the third floor capacity of the McBarnes Building. Before a move to this location was consummated the two libraries were removed from the 1340 East Empire location to 112 East Front Street in Bloomington which was a "stones throw" from the McBarnes Building. On May 15th all the books and holdings of the B-N Genealogical Society were packed to leave Empire Street. The Front Street location was open for business in June. Packers for the move of the Society collections included Lou Ann Jacobs, Pat Littlefield, Elsie Kinsella, Alice Ogle and Bill North.

The joint venture with the DAR to print 300 copies of the republished 1879 McLean County History ran into difficulties at the printers which delayed delivery of the sold volumes.

Most membership meetings continued to be held at Citizens S & L in Normal.

The B-N Genealogical Society Board for 1976 was listed:

President	Ruth Cope	Hospitality	Sandra Voyles
Vice-pres.	Elizabeth Masters	Library Chr.	Lou Ann Jacobs
Rec. Secty.	Karen Sweeney	Membership	Phyllis Williams
Cor. Secty.	Donna Gaines	Newsletter	Betty Lovekamp
Treasurer	Kay Carius	Publications	Ardys Serpette
Books	Ruth Hamm	Program	by committee
Cemeteries	Bill North	Publicity	Sara Jane Cushing
Finance	Robert Flegel	Quarterly	Louise Muxfeld



Oldest

Downs—Jacqueline Tarvin, left, and Marilyn Bouhl, right, presented a copy of "Memories of Downs and Old Town Township" to Bernice Phillips, 85,

Downs' oldest resident. Mrs. Phillips made the quilt with the historic illustrations. (Pantagraph photo)

6-10-76

6-10-76
Oldest

Downs—Jacqueline Tarvin, left, and Marilyn Bouhl, right, presented a copy of "Memories of Downs and Old Town Township" to Bernice Phillips, 85,

Downs' oldest resident. Mrs. Phillips made the quilt with the historic scenes. (Pantagraph photo)

Booklet recounts history

By Miriam Engelhorn

DOWNS—Oscar Hatfield was a reporter for the Downs Salamagundi. Writing the story of the attempted robbery of the Farmers State Bank on Oct. 10, 1913, made him hungry.

Hatfield took a stroll through downtown Downs, checked with his news sources, and then returned to his office where he dozed off while making corrections in his robbery story.

In his dreams he interviewed early residents of Downs and Old Town Township. Hatfield dreamed he talked to Pemoatam, John Price, Lawson Downs, Polly Gillum Cowden and Mr. and Mrs. William Bishop.

That story and other tidbits have been included in a booklet created by the Tri-Valley Federated Junior Woman's Club. It's called "Memories of Downs and Old Town Township."

The club members are too young to remember what Downs was like in 1913, not to mention when Pemoatam's Kickapoo Indians claimed all the land between the Wabash and Illinois rivers.

But the members researched McLean County histories and the papers of the late Mrs. Nellie Dooley.

Mrs. Lloyd Combs, Mrs. Cecile Groves, Mrs. Wilbur Goodlick, Mrs. Minnie Hazlett, Court Lechert, Hobart Price and Mrs. Russell Williams shared pictures and information.

One good source was Mrs. Bernice Phillips, 85, Downs' oldest resident. She has spent all but four years of her life in the village. She shared pictures and memories. Her father, John Teter, ran a butcher shop in Downs and cooled the meat with ice he cut from the pond north of Downs.

Mrs. Phillips still quilts, paints, does needlepoint and is a hospital volunteer.

In fact, Mrs. Phillips has made a quilt from blocks embroidered by her daughter, Jeanette Phillips Colter, in 1929.

The patterns, each a different historical scene, were ordered from The Daily Pantagraph. Mrs. Phillips made the quilt about nine years ago.

In their endeavor to capture the past—with an assist from the dreaming reporter—Marilyn Bouhl, Barbara Ely, Marilyn Lechert, Joan Shelton and Jacqueline Tarvin told it as it was in their booklet.

Also included are a map of Old Town Township and a plat map of Downs and essays by Jan Evans and Angela Peel.

Reba Brotherton, president of the Downs American Legion Auxiliary, contributed pieces on the Rev. George L. Fox and the Most Rev. Edward W. O'Rourke, bishop of the Peoria diocese., Mr. Fox, student pastor of Downs

Methodist Church while he attended Illinois Wesleyan University in 1931, was one of the four chaplains who gave up their life jackets on the torpedoed S. S. Dorchester in February, 1943. The four chaplains, along with 600 soldiers and sailors, went down with the ship.

Mrs. Phillips's daughter, Edna, married Mr. Fox's son, Wyatt.

Bishop O'Rourke was born near Downs and installed as bishop of the on July 15, 1971.

Plaques, with appropriate inscriptions, will be presented to their churches in honor of the two pastors.

The club prepared the booklet in conjunction with the community bicentennial celebration on July 4.

The observance will begin with a community church service at 10:30 a.m. in Dooley Park. A parade is planned, starting at 1 p.m. Games, an exhibition of prairie crafts, square dancing and fireworks display are scheduled.

The booklet cover features a sketch of the old church bell, which was in the belfry of the Hopewell Methodist Church from 1867 to 1909 and later in Kickapoo Union Grade School. John Ryan, who purchased the school when it was sold in 1965, donated the bell to the community and it was placed in Dooley Park. Vandals damaged it a year ago, and it was removed for repairs.

Organizers of the bicentennial hope it will be back in place by September.

Copies of the booklet are available from Joyce Jones.

3 octogenarians help to write LeRoy history

1976

members of
B-n. Soc

LEROY— In a sense, LeRoy's history began last August.

That's when the LeRoy Bicentennial History Book Committee began plans for a book describing the 141 years of the

actual history.

The 100-page paperback, "Heritage of the Prairie," contains maps, photos and advertisements.

The book contains articles about

LeRoy's early history, and the history of Empire and West Townships, as well as articles on the chronology of the postal service, the LeRoy fair and LeRoy's centennial.

Mrs. Helen Meadors did most of the research for the history book, according to the book committee chairman, Mrs. Marian Spratt. She used copies of old "LeRoy Journals," scrapbooks, photos and accounts by elderly citizens.

Committee member Byron Kline said the book was a big community enterprise. The writing of the articles was divided between the committee and other interested citizens.

Kline, 81, wrote the section on newspapers, and two other octogenarians, Mrs. Florence Flegel and Miss Addie Stewart, wrote articles on LeRoy's early history and the LeRoy fair, respectively.

The committee hopes to make a profit from the history book to use for a bicentennial project. The LeRoy Bicentennial Commission is looking for a site for a restored museum, since their plans to restore a blacksmith's shop went awry when the owner sold the shop.

The high school sophomore class is selling the books during May, for \$3.50 each. After May, the books will be available at several locations in LeRoy, and at the LeRoy bicentennial celebration June 25, 26 and 27.



Contributors

LeRoy—LeRoy's 141-year history has been recorded through articles, maps and photos in "Heritage of the Prairie." The book was a project of the LeRoy Bicentennial History Book Committee. Three octogenarians, Miss Addie Stewart, Byron Kline and Mrs. Florence Flegel, were the oldest citizens to work on the book. (Pantagraph photo)

Chat snowballs into history

By Sue Jacobus

TOWANDA—Now that Mrs. Ralph Roberts and Mrs. Bill Winter have finished writing a history of Towanda, they are thinking of beginning scrapbooks for the letters they receive.

Towanda residents, past and present, have been writing to these women with comments on their 112-page history book and have included reminiscences and additional pieces of information in the congratulatory notes.

The 17-month project snowballed from a conversation over coffee between the two women. They started the project as a bicentennial effort and because no formal history of Towanda existed. It was completed for Towanda's July 4 celebration.

Proceeds from the sale of the book are to go to Towanda Public Library.

A reading of the booklet indicates that for a small town, Towanda has quite a record for fires. It also has a record for unusual happenings, such as a "Runaway School" and a Carrie Nation-type raid on what was the local tavern, the Buena Vista.

While there is no verified account as to how Towanda got its name, it is supposed that the town had connections with Towanda, Pa., which is reported to have been the birthplace of Jesse Fell, one of the founders of d. a. Ill.

Verified

It is verified, however, that the land for the town was donated Feb. 18, 1853, by Peter A. Bedeau, and the town was mapped out by Bedeau and Fell.

The village square is bisected diagonally by railroad tracks, with businesses on one side and the grain elevators, implements and lumber grain implement dealers on the other.

While the John Trimmer family was the first in Money Creek Township back in August, 1826, the William D. Moore family was the first live in the Towanda proper.

For 35 years, Tilbury tiles were instrumental in opening up the local prairie for farming. The tile factory stood where the school athletic field is, and the clay fields just now are being filled.

One of the first buildings erected on Main Street was Roadnight Hall. The upper floor housed a ballroom and was used as a community center. It fell victim to a Towanda fire and was destroyed near the turn of the century.

Ice-covered

Nearly two-thirds of the Arctic Ocean is covered with pack ice, which forms a layer about six feet thick in one year.

Sunderland's flour mill and warehouse were the first buildings to be destroyed by fire. Warne mill was subsequently built and burned. Campbell's dry goods store and a new school under construction also succumbed to flames, along with Laney's grocery.

Wiped out

Most of the business portion of Towanda was wiped out in a fire Sept. 22, 1905. Since there was no supply of water, surrounding fire companies were not called. The telephone operator and the telegraph operator of the Chicago & Alton Railroad were forced from their posts, so neighboring citizens had to guess the results of the fire.

The residents may have followed the advice given by farmers: "When farm buildings catch fire, save what you can and then get a comfortable chair and watch the rest burn."

On Oct. 14, 1951, fire destroyed the office and warehouse of Towanda Grain Cooperative and on April 5, 1966, the old town hall was destroyed by fire.

But fire was not the only thing the kept things afloat, for in May, 1926, the first electric lights were installed in town. These followed the first sidewalks in 1873 and the first telephone service in 1901.

The town jail was the scene of some adventures in Towanda. In 1892, a salaried officer was hired to patrol the streets from 6 to 9 p.m. each day, with an extra hour Saturdays.

Town records of Feb. 6, 1901, indicate that a committee was appointed to investigate what became of the jail. It had disappeared. The findings of the committee never were recorded.

Runaway

Another runaway from Towanda was Phoenix School, erected in 1867. The school was too far south, as people continued to settle the northern part of the district, but when put to a vote, a northward move was defeated by two votes. One night, a group of men put the house on skids and started to move it. Halfway through the project, they gave up, leaving the school. Later, the directors decided to complete the move. The school still is called "Runaway School."

Smith's Grove School was the first organized school in the township. Located in Smith's Grove, and named for David Smith, a township arrival in the spring of 1830, the building served as a school, church and community meeting house.

The school in Towanda proved a better location for romance, as it was near the C&A Railroad depot. The young teacher and the young depot agent could converse through the open windows. The



Towanda—Mrs. Ralph Roberts, left, and Mrs. Bill Winter looked through the result of 17 months of work—a history of Towanda, 1826-1976, which is being sold to benefit Towanda Public Library. The copy is a leather-bound edition of their book, which was presented by the Towanda Village Board in appreciation of their work. (Pantagraph photo)

Historians

teacher later married the depot agent.

The last high school class to graduate was in 1948, and the last eighth grade class was in 1956. The elementary schools and high school were absorbed into Unit 5.

Other buildings were closed in Towanda's history, but the most spectacular closing had to be "the wreck of the Buena Vista."

Saloon

The Buena Vista was one of three saloons in the village. In the 1860's, 10 women, armed with hatchets from the local hardware store, destroyed the liquor, furniture and one lady's buttoned kid boots—never the same after being whiskey-soaked.

The Carrie Nation-type raid included "a good dinner served at a Bloomington hotel and an afternoon outing thrown in for good measure."

These women executed their raid 30 years before Carrie Nation started on her warpath.

The parks, too, were subject to arguments. A very heated discussion in a

village board meeting in 1894 over the setting out of trees in North Park resulted in a street fight between two businessmen.

Another event that drew much attention in the early 1900s was the arrival of a man and his trained bear. The bear wrestled all challengers, and money changed hands, although betting was strictly illegal.

In 1914, a circus train passing through Barnes lost a lion cub in transit, and Bob Kinder found it. No attempt was made to recover the cub, so he was donated to Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington, where it became known as "Big Leo."

Towanda's sesquicentennial year coincides with the nation's bicentennial.

Another coincidence is that Towanda's zip code is 61776, an appropriate number for the bicentennial year.



Genealogical society sets state meeting

"Horizons Beyond the Bicentennial" is the theme of the annual fall conference of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, to be held Oct. 1 and 2 in the Holiday Inn on U.S. 36 west of Decatur.

Registration will be conducted from 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 1 and at 8 a.m. Oct. 2. The conference is open to persons interested in genealogy and history.

The two featured speakers are Clifford Neal Smith of DeKalb and Dorothy Wilkinson of Oklahoma City, Okla.

The only recipient of the society's Distinguished Service Medal, Smith is a writer, researcher and lecturer on historical and genealogical materials. He is the editor and compiler of the "American Land Series" and co-editor of "The Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research."

Mrs. Wilkinson is a genealogist, lecturer and authority on military records. She has edited genealogical publications and served as state chairman for the bicentennial observance of the DAR.

Many displays at the conference will open at 3 p.m. Oct. 1. A new event opening the program at 4 p.m. that day will be a panel discussion for persons both new and well-educated in genealogy and registered for the conference. Mrs. Claude Jesse of Macon, a past president of the society, will lead the discussion on how to use books, aids, genealogical forms and various records.

Honors and awards will be presented at the dinner scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 1. At 8:15 p.m., Smith will speak on "Beyond the European Horizon: America."

The Oct. 2 morning session will open at 9:15 a.m. with the first part of Mrs.

Wilkinson's lecture "Before and After the Revolution."

Smith will speak on "Promised Land on the Horizon: Records of the Western Movement," at 11 a.m. Luncheon will be served and reports and election of officers are scheduled for 1:15 p.m.

The second part of Mrs. Wilkinson's lecture, "The Revolutionary War," will be presented at 2:15 p.m.

Reservations should be sent to Dr. Carl Weatherbee, registration chairman, 1360 W. Macon, Decatur, before Sept. 27.

Fees for the conference may be paid for the entire conference or for individual sessions.

Doris Hilton of Bloomington is conference coordinator.

Genealogical group to hear state officer

Harold G. Felty, president of Illinois State Genealogical Society, will be the featured speaker at Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society's meeting at 7:30 Monday evening at Citizens Savings and Loan in Normal.

Felty's topic will be "Marriage Laws and Records." He will discuss the period from colonial days through the frontier period, with special emphasis on early southern Illinois settlements. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

10/ 76

Hudson history printed

member - B. N. Soc

1976

HUDSON—Off the presses today for July 4 delivery is "The Hudson Colony" by Ruth Bitting Hamm, published as a bicentennial project of the Hudson Bicentennial Commission.

The 354-page, hard-cover book covers the history of the village and Hudson Township from the Havens Settlement in 1829 to the present.

The book lists the Hudson Township patentees to whom land was U.S. government conveyed. Included is a complete description of the land, location, residence and date of patent. More than 23 sections were entered in the name of Horatio B. Pettit as representative of the Illinois Land Association, which became the Hudson Colony.

The Hudson Colonists are listed with the location and amount of acreage conveyed to them by Pettit. All elected township and village officials are named, together with the history of the organization of the township and village.

Other chapters cover the history of the churches, schools, organizations and journals. There are more than 100 photographs as well as conversations with current residents, some of whom are descended from the colonists.

Hudson personalities include Charles Jesse "Buffalo" Jones, Melville Stone and Elbert Hubbard. The complete 1880 federal census also is included, as are 63 pages of biographies.

The Hudson Colony Day celebration on July 4 will begin with a morning parade from the business section of town to the grade school. A flag-raising ceremony by the American Legion Post 1245 using a 13-star flag and the bicentennial flag will follow at 10:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m., a community worship service will be held at the school with three local pastors, the Rev. Merlin

Stratton, the Rev. Timothy Ting, and the Rev. Gary Ballard, delivering the message. The combined choir will be directed by Mrs. Stephen D. Lampert.

A pioneer dinner of roast buffalo will be served at the Christian Church and at the school cafeteria, with entertainment from Kerry and Kevin Hinshaw playing the organ, and Tamara Hoover and Teresa Tobin tap dancing.

Bell ringing will take place at 1 p.m., and commemorative bells will be sold in town.

"The Hudson Story," directed by Mrs. James P. Newell and narrated by James Turner Gildersleeve and Gary Stephens, will be presented at 1:30 p.m.

A fashion show from 1836 to 1976 will be presented by members of the Hudson Junior Women's Club at 3:15.

Throughout the day there will be

exhibits and craft demonstrations in the school classrooms. Mrs. Walton Fehr is chairman of the crafts demonstration, and Mrs. Beulah Wagner and Mrs. Clinton Thomas are co-chairmen of displays. Walton Fehr is chairman of the antique farm machinery display which will be located on the blacktop area north of the building.

Parade awards will be presented, and a drawing for a quilt made by the Junior Women's Club is planned.

Members of the Hudson Bicentennial Commission who have prepared for Hudson Colony Day are: James J. Hamm, chairman and member of the McLean County Bicentennial Commission; Mrs. James W. Bagnell; Mrs. William Koons; Mrs. James J. Hamm; Joseph E. Metcalf; Charles L. Payton; Mrs. Wendell A. Stotler; and Donald Thompson.



Off the presses

1976

Saturday was an important day for Miss Alice Ogle, right, because the book dedicated to her, an 1874 McLean County atlas, was off the presses and ready for distribution. Mrs. Beatrice Armstrong, left, Cooksville, was printing chairman for the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society which resurrected the atlas,

added an index of landowners and dedicated it to Miss Ogle, 116 Eastview, Normal, for her dedication, time and attention to detail in preparing it for publication. About 60 copies of the atlas remain for sale after a pre-publication sale of 287. It was a Bicentennial project of the society. (Pantagraph Photo)

Ruth Hamm honored for community work

HUDSON—The first Kenneth Koons Memorial Award was presented Friday to Ruth Bitting Hamm for outstanding contribution to the Hudson community.

The award will be given annually. Koons, who died in December, 1975, was mayor of Hudson and active in civic and community affairs.

The award recipient is a long-time resident of Hudson and has contributed to state and local activities. Born in Wyoming and educated in Florida, Mrs. Hamm came to Central Illinois and married James Hamm of Hudson. She was a 4-H leader for 10 years and active in the McLean County Homemakers Extension Association, of which she was president for four years.

Mrs. Hamm is past regent of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the DAR, past state regent of the DAR, past senior president for Children of the American Revolution and past vice general of the National Society of the DAR. Mrs. Hamm also was state recording secretary for the State Genealogical Society.

Mrs. Hamm is the author of four books, the latest of which is "The



Ruth
Hamm

Hudson Colony," a comprehensive history of Hudson. It was a project of the Hudson Bicentennial Commission, of which she was a contributing member. Mrs. Hamm is listed in "Who's Who" and in "2,000 Distinguished Women of the World."

The Kenneth Koons Memorial Award will be presented each year by the Hudson Lions Club to an outstanding citizen of the community. Recipients must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of the Hudson Fire Protection District and have contributed signifi-

cantly to community and civic affairs of Hudson and the surrounding area.

The award was presented Friday at the annual Hudson Lions Awards Night. The Hudson Lion of the Year Award was presented to Chuck Payton for outstanding service to the Lions and the community. Payton also was named Lion Region I—Zone I Lion of the Year. That award was presented by Lions District 1-K.

Payton has been active in Hudson Lions activities, having been tail twister for one year and treasurer for two years. He has been instrumental in raising money for the Hudson ball program and is the chairman of the ball program committee.

Bob Hunter of the Morris Lions Club, governor-elect of Lions District 1-K, presented Rick Percy the 100 Per Cent Secretary Award.

New officers are Rod Hoover, president; Mel Willsie, secretary; Frank Heineke, treasurer; Clarence Rousey, tail twister, and Tom Gustavson, lion tamer.

Directors are Bob Behrens, Bill Waller, Walt Fehr and Bill Clause.

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1977

In March of 1977 the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society packed up its belongings again and left the East Front Street location for the third floor of the McBarnes Building. Members George Perkins, Bill North, Bob Scott and Mary Scott participated in the packing effort. All the genealogy books, exchange quarterlies, card files, ancestor folders and other assets of the B-N Genealogical Society found a secure haven in the northeast section of the McBarnes third floor. The McLean County Historical Society which had contracted for the entire third floor for museum and library areas granted the Genealogy Society its section free of charge. Member Elizabeth Masters took up the task to recruit library volunteers to serve during the seven days per week the Society library would be open. Liz would captain this effort for another 14 years.

In April of 1977 the Citizens Savings and Loan of Normal declined to offer space for the B-N Genealogical Society monthly membership meetings since Citizens had embarked on expansion plans. For the remainder of 1977 the Society was able to secure meeting space in the Community Room of the McLean Association of Commerce building immediately next to the McBarnes building.

The reprint project concerning the 1879 McLean County History was wrapped up with a final report showing a profit. The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society's library collection was enlarged this year by many additional volumes purchased and through member gifts. Member Alice Ogle donated steel shelving to hold all the exchanged quarterlies. She also provided the new library location with a good used copier.

In the fall of 1977 member Doris Hilton was elected President of the State Genealogical Society.

The officers and committee directors for the 1977 year for the B-N Genealogical Society were re-elected complete from the 1976 slate.



The McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington, Illinois



Daily Activity in the McLean County Genealogical Society Library
located on the third floor of the McBarnes Building 1977-1991

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1978

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society's unique new library locale situated with the McLean County Historical Society on the third floor of the McBarnes Building on East Grove Street in Bloomington created a new boost to genealogy interests. Visitor and member activity increased. A sizable addition of books to the Society library in 1978 came from both purchases and donations. Library volunteers were mustered from all the membership to service the Society's section in the afternoons six days a week.

Mimeographing the Society publications became an ever-increasing important function. Phyllis Shannon was awarded the task of overseeing the mimeograph effort in 1978.

Reviewing and re-structuring the By-laws for the Society became a major focus this year since being current with all activities was considered a priority.

Because of calculated costs of operation the Historical Society began charging \$1 for entry to the third floor museum and libraries of the McBarnes building. Members of the B-N Genealogical Society were admitted free of charge after their Society agreed to pay \$50 per month rent in lieu of members single entry fee.

Officers and Chairpersons elected for 1978:

President	Esther Hannon	Finance	Kay Carius
Vice-pres.	Ruth Carpenter	Library	Lou Ann Jacobs
Rec, Secty.	Ruth Cope	Membership	Joy Craig
Cor. Secty.	Donna Gaines	Newsletter	Betty Lovekamp
Treasurer	Peggy Fuller	Publications	John Reynolds
Books	Ruth Hamm	Publicity	Sara Jane Reynolds
Cemeteries	Bill North	Quarterly	Louise Muxfeld

Genealogists, historical group to meet jointly

McLean County Historical Society and Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will hold a joint meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan Building, Normal.

Ronald E. Nelson of Bishop Hill, historian for parks and memorials of the State of Illinois, will be featured speaker. His topic will be, "Early Settlement Patterns in Illinois."

Mr. Nelson is in charge of the restoration of the Swedish Colony Church at Bishop Hill. He has been president of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association since 1962 and is second vice president of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society of Chicago.



Ronald Nelson

Genealogical Society to hear Dr. Bone speak

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citizens Savings and Loan, Normal.

Dr. Robert G. Bone, president emeritus of Illinois State University, will speak on "The Northwest Territory—Its Development." Dr. Bone has done extensive research in this area and will answer questions following the program.

The meeting is open to the public and especially any Boy Scouts interested in working on the new genealogy merit badge. The badge has been instituted as a part of the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration for 1976.

Refreshments will be served.

Genealogical Group To Collect Hints

12/15/78
Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society will have a social hour at its December meeting Monday night at 7:30 in Citizens Savings and Loan Building, Normal. Members will take a helpful hint on genealogy. Refreshments will be served and there will be a special prize.

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

1979

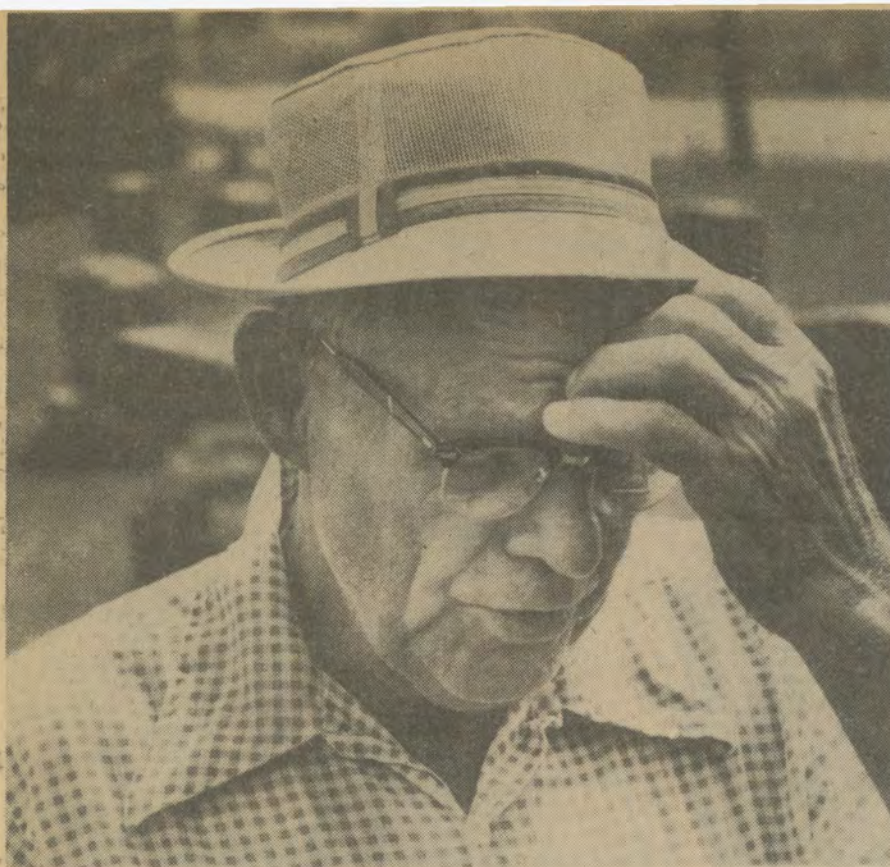
The entire slate of Officers and Chairpersons from 1978 agreed to repeat their responsibilities for 1979. Monthly gatherings of the membership were continued to be held in the Community Room of the Commerce Building located next to the McBarnes Building in downtown Bloomington.

A review was completed of all quarterlies exchanged with other genealogical units with regard to actual usage by the B-N Genealogical Society. An agreed list of eighty exchanges was stabilized.

A review was also made for the potential of publicizing additional cemetery information for the McLean County total number of cemeteries. A microfilm reader was donated to the genealogy library by the Historical Society. Cooperation with the Bloomington Public Library enabled an enumeration and exchange of info on genealogical holdings and references between the Bloomington Public Library and the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

During 1979 the B-N Genealogical Society raised \$900 for a special purchase of new genealogy books for the unit's shelves. Alice Ogle donated a gift of \$700 for the Society to purchase more steel shelving for the expanding library. During this 1979 year the B-N Genealogical Society was able to sell \$1500 worth of its publications to support an ambitious budget.

In 1979 Honorary Life Memberships, approved and awarded, went to Myrna Park, Doris Hilton and Alice Ogle. The title of Honorary President was given to Elizabeth Masters.



Lifelong interest

Since childhood, William Knuth has had a keen interest in cemeteries. He laments that some have been lost or remain uncared for. Once the subject is brought up, however, he will not tire of talking about what he knows of the graveyards.



South of Bloomington

Grassy Ridge Cemetery, a small plot south of Bloomington at Morris Avenue Road and Shirley Road, is representative of many untended cemeteries in McLean County. (Pantagraph photos by Bernie Schoenburg and Jed DeKalb)

Respect for dead spurs cemetery search

By Bernie Schoenburg

A beautiful thing to see, according to William Knuth, is the morning sun burning frost off the grass in a graveyard.

"The grass is always greener on the outline of the graves," he said.

He knows. He has sat and watched.

He knows how to find graves—how to find them by walking on them.

"The ground just seems to, well, it jolts," he said. "The ground is never solid. You can shovel an old grave out. It isn't always that way with other dirt."

Knuth's interest in graveyards is only natural, considering his business and his hobby.

For years, Knuth has done stone engraving and sculpting. He is originator of William Knuth Memorials, 1800 S. Bunn St., which is also the site of his home.

His hobby, which he said is coincidental, is locating old cemeteries.

Since childhood

"Ever since I was a little boy, I went around hunting these things (cemeteries)," he said. "It was my life."

At 72, Knuth seems unwilling to give up his hobby.

"I have located 369 cemeteries," he said, "and I'm still looking for one or two more."

He was talking about graveyards in McLean County. His count of how many burial places exist far exceeds the 129 cemeteries listed by the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, which has a cemetery committee always searching for more information.

But Knuth figures he knows more about cemeteries than just about anybody.

He is an early riser, as likely as not to be found on a sunny morning cutting weeds around the business, getting grass stains on his short-sleeved shirt and work pants, taking off his blue cap to wipe the sweat away.

Seeks respect for dead

He believes in hard work, he said, reaching into his shirt pocket to pull out a cannister of chewing tobacco. In the same strong way, he said, he believes in respect for the dead and the graves that hold them.

"I couldn't see these old people that made the country have broken (grave)stones out there," he said. "We should honor our dead, the loved ones

that's gone."

If it were up to him, all the graveyards in the county would be taken care of, something that is not done.

One of those taken care of better than many is Price Cemetery, a private lot hidden amid a clump of trees at the southeast edge of Bloomington. Stones, including some that have replaced deteriorating ones in recent years, mark about 20 graves, recording deaths from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century.

More people probably are buried there, Knuth said, because it often was the case that some families could not afford permanent markers for graves.

Out of the way

As is the case with many of the cemeteries Knuth can point out from memory, Price Cemetery is in an unassuming place. It lies behind a factory, about a quarter mile northwest of the intersection of U.S. 150 and Hamilton Road. Trees that mark the site are visible from Hamilton Road, but the existence of the cemetery probably is not known by many who drive by.

The Shirley Cemetery is similarly hidden, though it is not cared for.

There is no road to it, but the trees and bushes that hide its markers are clearly visible across the railroad tracks from former U.S. 66 at Shirley, about 200 yards south of a grain elevator.

Tall weeds and trees dominate the Shirley Cemetery, once a neatly laid out, 96-plot site.

Stones are scattered among the dense foliage, at places almost impossible to walk through. A gravestone marked with the names Emly Moberly, who died in 1893, and his wife, Paula Jane, who died in 1861, had probably stood unseen for months until it was recently visited. Unlike other abandoned cemeteries, this one seems secluded and overgrown enough to be spared disturbance from vandals or teen-agers looking for a place to get away or drink beer out of sight of the folks.

Upkeep attempted

Some Shirley residents have tried to care for the graves, but efforts have been unsuccessful, especially because there is no path for a truck with heavy equipment to get across the farm field.

"Two or three years ago, we made a big effort," said Ivan Light, a Shirley resident. Twice, he said, daylong

cleanup outings with food provided were planned, "but every time it would rain." Eventually, he said, "We just quit."

Other cemeteries in the county get a varying amount of care.

Some have been farmed over or are covered by buildings.

Knuth didn't know he was going to discover an example of a cemetery that is no more when he gave directions to find what he remembered as the site of the United Brethren Church and cemetery.

The site of the old church is near a rural blacktop six miles northeast of Heyworth.

Approaching it, Knuth was surprised. On the plot, surrounded by farms on three sides, were a house and a metal garage.

It had been three or more years since he had been to the site, but he wanted

to find if his memory served him correctly.

Riding a lawn-mowing tractor was the owner of the house and garage, Ernest Mountjoy, a Bloomington police sergeant.

"I didn't know there was a cemetery here until I started leveling it off," Mountjoy said of the lot he purchased in 1977. "I found some old stones. Most of 'em was broke. I only had one good one."

Leaning against a wall in the garage is the like-new marble headstone of a woman who died May 31, 1865. Having been underground, the stone was protected from the decay marble suffers when exposed to carbonic acid in the air. The acid eats away at the lime part of the marble, leaving only the granite part intact.

But protection of ground kept two hands fashioned on the marble stone as

detailed as if carved a week ago.

With almost every cemetery, there is a story.

Take, for example, Stewart Cemetery, a fenced-in area surrounded by pasture about one mile southeast of Randolph. It sits on a hill, overlooking a ravine.

Down there, Knuth said, in the early 1800s, there was a sawmill. A worker died there in a storm.

"Lightning struck him, and they buried him in a hollow log. They buried him on the hill 'cause it was a high point."

How do such stories get told?

"When I was a kid, there was an old fellow told me about it, and when the Stewarts were still alive, they told me about it," Knuth said.

Stories can die with the people, but, if Knuth had his way, the graves of those

who have died would be taken care of.

Logan County has a county fund for cemetery care, something any county can have with voter approval. The 1.82 cent tax per \$100 assessed valuation in that county will yield \$50,015 in 1979, enough to have three year-round employees and two summer employees.

Knuth believes such a tax, or prisoners working or people working in exchange for welfare, "should be used to provide care for cemeteries.

"With about four men, it would take two or three days to get this one in shape," he said, surveying the Grassy Ridge Cemetery just south of the intersection of Shirley Road and Morris Avenue Road. Even without such aid, Knuth feels committed.

"I would fix every cemetery in the county," said, determined. "I just don't have the time."

Abandoned cemeteries hidden from view by trees, underbrush

Drivers of the cars going by on U.S. 150 may have no idea what they're passing.

Those who stop in for a drink at the Shamrock Inn at U.S. 150 and the Towanda-Barnes Blacktop may not realize how close they are.

Just a couple hundred feet away, across the Blacktop and a short walk north lies a clump of trees.

The ground is overgrown and poison ivy and poison oak are feared inhabitants. Narrow footpaths lead to scatterings of beer cans.

The gravestones among the bushes and branches could come as a surprise, for the plot, boxed in by farm fields on three sides and Terrace Lawn Subdivision to the north, is a century-old cemetery said to be the resting place for early settlers and pioneers on their way west.

The deteriorated marble stones capture the visitor's interest. Through protruding branches in a dense part of the thicket, the solid, tall granite marker suddenly appears and overpowers.

Symbol of past

Hidden from sight by the summer leaves of the many trees around it, the stone stands as a monolith, reaching up to represent the past.

The names of Samuel Bishop, M.D.; William Bishop and William's wife, Margaret Lake Bishop, are carved into the sides of the tall monument.

For years, the Bishop Cemetery has had little or no care. However, as far as some of the people who live in the neighborhood are concerned, the lack of care isn't for lack of trying.

Indications are that it was once a well-tended family plot. In 1903, records at the McLean County Recorder of Deeds office show, the Bishop Cemetery Association was formed "...for the purpose of maintaining and keeping in good condition the said Bishop Cemetery...."

With \$500 from which to draw funds to tend the grounds, three men who formed the association, Henry C. Bishop, William Genders and Burt Ayers, intended to ensure proper maintenance.

All apparently went well for years, but, according to Wilbur Goodlick, things broke down.

Cemetery close by

Goodlick farmed the land that he has since subdivided into Terrace Lawn Subdivision, about 2 miles northwest of Downs. He has lived near the cemetery all his life, and knows much of its history.

About 1940 or 1945, he said, things took

the biggest turn for the worst. The man who had been in charge of the cemetery fund left the state. The \$600 in the fund disappeared. The weeds and insects started to take over.

"At one time some Girl Scouts went out there to do volunteer work," he said, but that, also, is long past.

More recently, the cemetery got some attention from the Tri-Valley Junior Women's Club.

"The Junior Women's Club was going to take care of it," said former member

Rudelle Goodwin, "but it's so full of poison oak and poison ivy, we're almost scared to go down there."

There also was some opposition to clearing the place, she said, because of wild flowers that grow there. Not much has been tried for at least four years, Mrs. Goodwin said.

Funds sought

A decade ago, Goodlick contacted a state representative, made trips to Springfield, and was involved in seeking

aid from the Old Town Township Board and what was then the McLean County Board of Supervisors.

State law says a county can allocate \$300 a year to any neglected cemetery. With referendum support, a county or a township can levy a tax up to 2.5 cents per \$100 assessed value for care of abandoned cemeteries.

But seeking official help proved fruitless, partly because Bishop Cemetery has an identity crisis.

"It was never deeded to anybody," said Mrs. Goodwin, who is the Old Town Township assessor. "The state says it belongs to the county and the county says it belongs to the township."

"Just as soon as you would approach anybody with it," Goodlick said, "they'd ask for a legal description. But there is none. The best answer they come up with is 'You're working with something that's nonexistent.'"

Referendum opposed

That also could stand in the way of a county or township referendum, he said, though he favors neither because of the negative feelings tax increases produce.

Goodlick, who lives just $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the cemetery, gave up most of his efforts to get the cemetery cleaned up 10 years ago. An heir to one of the people buried there, possibly the only living heir, contacted him and told him it was none of his business.

The woman was scared, he said, that she might be called on to pay some cleanup costs. She lived north of Heyworth, he said, and is probably in her 90s now.

For the Bicentennial, the Junior Women's Club put out a pamphlet explaining some of the history of the cemetery and the area.

Based mostly on what her husband remembered, Margaret Goodlick wrote that the cemetery was close to a building called the Halfway House or the Six Mile Inn. Built in 1834, the building was both home for the Bishops and for travelers. It was considered halfway because it was on the road between Bloomington and LeRoy, or, on a larger scale, between Peoria and Champaign.

"Years ago," Mrs. Goodlick wrote, "as travelers moved westward in the covered wagons on the old road or stopping at the Half Way House, (they) often would lose a family member and would stop off long enough to bury their dead in the Bishop Cemetery...."

Because of the travelers, it is believed there are many unmarked graves in the cemetery.