

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
1980**

For 1980 the Officers and Directors elected by the membership were:

President	Joy Craig	Membership	Phyllis Shannon
Vice-pres.	Al Creasy	Mimeograph	Judith Wilmouth
Rec. Secty.	Jean Munn	Newsletter	Betty Lovekamp
Cor. Secty.	Donna Gaines	Program	Doris Huenink
Treasurer	Peggy Fuller	Hospitality	Sara Jane Cushing
Books	Ruth Hamm		& Sandra Voyles
Cemetery	Bill North	Publications	John/Lucille Reynolds
Finance	Kay Carius	Publicity	Susan Lentz
Library	Lou Ann Jacobs	Quarterly	Louise Muxfeld

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society library continued to be open for all genealogists on the third floor of the McBarnes Building from Tuesday through Sunday afternoons with hours 1 to 5 PM.

Society Board monthly meetings were held this year on Tuesday evenings in the Society library third floor McBarnes location. The monthly general membership meetings were moved from the Commerce Building to the conference room on the first floor of the McBarnes Building because the Society experienced constant scheduling conflicts. Much searching for a membership meeting location resulted in a satisfactory arrangement with the Chicago First Financial S & L at 1515 East Empire on the east side of Bloomington.

An operating budget was set at \$4000. Because the old used copier donated by Alice Ogle in 1977 proved to be a liability in regard to repairs the Society approved the leasing of a Sevin #755 Copier as a replacement. The Quarterly Editor reported that a total of 400 of the B-N Society quarterlies were being mailed out regularly—a milestone. In March of 1980 Society members were able to help with the formation and with the orientation of a beginners group of genealogists sponsored by the Home Extension of the McLean County Farm Bureau. A drive was supported by the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society to prevent the dispersal of records from the National Archives to various depositories far from a central control. Letter writing was organized to confront Congress that dispersal would be an error and loss of records would be probable in any uncontrolled dispersal. The Society was informed by a Mormon group of Latter Day Saints that microfilming of local McLean County records would soon be attempted for their data bank in Salt Lake City, Utah. Member Lucille Reynolds was selected by the Illinois State Genealogical Society to head up a project of listing the entire 1860 Illinois census, county by county.

Member Elizabeth Masters was nominated by the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society to the Illinois State Genealogical Society for the Local Service Award of 1980. Elizabeth received the 1980 award.

May 6, 1980 C-11

She'll show Amish dolls



Faceless dolls

Myrna Park will explain to Bloomington Friends of the Library that the Amish dolls in her collection are faceless because the Amish believe reproductions of faces are graven images, the same as

photographs. She said they are opposed to the images because of their interpretation of the Biblical commandment. (Pantagraph photo by Nancy Holding)

A collection of Myrna Park's Amish things will supplement the program to be given by Dr. Paul Miller for the annual meeting of Friends of Bloomington Public Library Monday night.

Miller's program on the Amish of Arthur will be part of the 7:30 p.m. open meeting in the library's community room. He is a professor of sociology at Illinois Wesleyan University and was the subject of a Pantagraph feature April 6.

Mrs. Park will display the faceless Amish dolls, books, pictures, quilts, bonnet and shawl from the early part of the century.

She became interested in the Amish through her love for antiques and her work with Mennonite genealogy. She is a member of the Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society.

"The Mennonites date back to about 1525 and the Amish to 1693," she said, adding that some of the Amish broke away from the Mennonites.

The quilts she will have displayed are collectable folk art, she said, because of their resemblance to mosaics and stained glass. They are made of both brightly colored fabrics and dark colors.

"Most people think of the Amish as wearing black, but actually their dresses were kelly green, bright rose, peacock blue, purple, mauve...." So the quilts are scraps from these bright dresses.

The quilts from her collection were probably made in the 1920s, she said; one is from Pennsylvania and another from Ohio. The dolls are from Holmes County, Ohio.

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Monthly general membership meetings were held regularly in 1981 in the Community Room of Chicago First Financial S & L on 1515 East Empire in Bloomington.

A hefty 1981 budget for the B-N Genealogical Society was approved for \$5000. Steel shelving was purchased to stand on the north wall of the Society library on the third floor of the McBarnes building. The Society's Book Fund allowed additional book purchases and donated genealogical volumes continued to find acceptance.

Member Al Creasy was able to obtain a good used microfiche reader for the library. It was noted in the 1981 records that locating maintenance help and necessary parts for the mimeograph machine was becoming more of a problem—heavy duty being forced on this machine for a variety of Society publications, new and reprints.

Members Doris Hilton and Myrna Park were recipients of Illinois State Genealogical Society Awards of Appreciation. Member Bill North received their 1981 Local Service Award. Bill as Cemetery Director for the B-N Society spearheaded new cemetery record collection and the completion of new cemetery publications (i.e., Randolph Township Cemetery volume).

The new Savin copy machine got good use in 1981 for 21,000 copies were made.

Membership in October 1981 totaled 366, with 206 McLean County memberships.

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
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The monthly membership meetings of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society were held at various sites this year, including the McLean Co. Courthouse and the Milner Library on the ISU campus and in the library of the McLean County Historical Society. Most general meetings took place at Chicago First's Community Room where the Society paid a \$20 fee for the year. Cold weather in January and February complicated meeting schedules and the use of the third floor McBarnes building which closed at times due to lack of heat.

The libraries of the Historical Society and Genealogical Society were both closed for the month of July due to the McBarnes Building getting a new roof.

The 1982 budget was approved at \$5100 which included the annual payment of \$600 to access and use the third floor McBarnes leased by the Historical Society. 500 pamphlets were printed explaining the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society to a public audience. Initial supplies of the pamphlets were distributed to local business locations and to the Welcome Wagon promoters. Microfilm of the McLean County 1910 census was purchased for library use. The Society decided on a project to reprint the 1917 Farmer's Review. A pre-production price of \$25.50 was set with the selling price to go to \$28.50 after 31 December 1982. It was also decided to raise dues to \$7.00 each membership plus \$1.00 per additional member at same address. Postage and third class mail costs which were raised over 50% placed a burden on the Society's current budget.

Officers and Directors who served the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society for 1982 were:

President	Joy Craig	Library	Carol Hustuft
Vice-Pres.	Al Creasy	Membership	Lucille Smith
Rec. Secty.	Betty Waugh	Mimeograph	Judy Wilmouth
Cor. Secty.	Kay Carius	Newsletter	Betty Lovekamp
Treasurer	Peggy Fuller	Program	Doris Hilton
Books	Ruth Hamm	Publications	John & Lucille Reynolds
Cemetery	Bill North	Publicity	Susan Lentz
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The Annual Meeting in November took place in the Community Room of Chicago First Financial with a potluck supper and story telling. Each member was obliged to relate a "Short, Tall Tale" about **an** ancestor or ancestors.

Short Tall Tales



The Sunday Pantagraph

DEC. 26, 1982

James Koehler, rural Hudson:

"The story has to do with my grandmother's first encounter with sweet corn.

"My grandmother came from Germany and as a young girl emigrated to the States — she was 18 years old.

"She was a wonderful cook, and she seemed to have the inside track along the way because she worked for the elite. She worked in New York, and then, a short time later she ended up in Chicago, where she worked for Mrs. Palmer (known for the Palmer House Hotel).

"Mrs. Palmer, so the story goes as I recollect, was having a big social dinner and one of the entrees was sweet corn.

"The delivery boy brought the corn — a good stack of it — put it on the counter, and my grandmother was very indignant because in Germany, sweet corn or corn of any kind was always fed to the pigs for fattening and getting ready for market or butchering, and it wasn't fit for human consumption.

"She took care of the sweet corn right then.

"I guess the dinner was going along pretty well, and Mrs. Palmer was quite shook up because the sweet corn hadn't appeared on the dinner table.

"She went to the kitchen and asked my grandmother what had happened to the sweet corn. My grandmother said, 'I fed it to the hogs, because it's fit for hog consumption.' "



Warren Craig, 502 Hovey Ave., Normal:

"One of my great-great-great-grandfathers was John Fredericks, a farmer in Bald Eagle Township, Clinton County, Pennsylvania. He had a large family, and one of his sons was Newton W. Fredericks, a go-getter. He also had a large family, and lived on the family farm where his father had died in 1843.

"In addition to farming, Newton W. entered the lumbering business and also helped establish a brick works at a nearby town. He very aptly earned the nickname of 'Busy' Fredericks, but more for the following reason than for his various enterprises.

"Newton's wife died. He got cleaned up and dressed up and attended her funeral. Then, since he was dressed up, he went to town and stayed there until he was able to come home with another wife.

"Family tradition says that he had five wives, and the pattern was the same for each new wife — clean up and dress up for the funeral of the deceased wife, then go to town and stay there until a new wife was found! He simply could not afford to waste time getting dressed up more than once for courting purposes; nor could he afford to be without a wife and helpmate!

"So 'Busy' Fredericks he was, indeed!"



Betty Waugh, 2914 Mockingbird Lane, Bloomington:

"I want to tell you about a christening that took place in Ireland. A baby was born on the Isle of Valencia in Dingle Bay and when it was time to christen her, her parents insisted that they take her to the mainland to the Episcopal Church there.

"The crossing was rough. As they got there, two young men were walking down the coast, and when they realized they were having a problem trying to moor the boat, they came to help the family out.

"When they (the two men) discovered the reason for the trip, they asked if they, too, could go to the church for the christening. The family, of course, was happy to have more people go to christen their baby.

"Right in the middle of the christening the door burst open and a whole group of soldiers came in and asked the clergyman if he had seen any strangers in the area. The clergyman said he hadn't seen anybody all day except the family that was coming to have this baby christened. So the baby was christened Tamazine Boyd and they left.

"After they got out of the church, these two young men identified themselves, and one of them was Edmund Burke. Because he was in the church and did not get captured by the soldiers, he was able to eventually escape from Ireland and go to England and become a politician, a statesman and a writer, which is all of course in the history books.

"It's a beautiful story, isn't it! It's just got one fallacy. The baby who was christened Tamazine Boyd was born in 1799, and Edmund Burke died as a relatively old man in 1797.

"So I'm still trying to find out if there was a christening 50 years prior to that, or if the whole thing is just a tall tale.



Pantagraph graphics/A.C. HEVENER

Lois Young, R.R. 4, 75 Lunar Drive, Bloomington:

"My maiden name is Zimmerman ... Our grandfather, from Tazewell County, was a big tease and he liked to have something that would puzzle us to think about (when she was a child).

"We knew what it meant to have a twin, and he had a twin brother. My grandfather's name was Richard Zimmerman and his brother's name was Robert Zimmerman. Robert had died many years before.

"The thing that grandfather told us that was quite a puzzle to us, until we got a little older, was that, (as he would say), 'Well, I was born in one year and my brother was born the next year. We weren't born in the same year.'

"So come to find out, when we could understand what this really meant, my grandfather's birthday was December 31 in 1878, and his brother Robert was born just after the New Year, January 1, in 1879.

"That's something a little bit different."

Paul Bunyan and Johnny Appleseed may have to move over to make room for "Busy" Fredericks and a few other characters who debuted last month at a meeting of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

"Short Tall Tales" was the theme of the gathering, at which members presented probable and improbable stories handed down in their families.

The tales are presented here so that they can become part of the collection of elaborate fabrications in the best American tradition.



Peggy Fuller, 1404 Baugh Drive, Normal, president of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society:

"A few old-time 'true?' stories have been handed down through the generations, one of which is attributed to old Henry Proffitt Cornelius (Mrs. Fuller's great-grandfather), in which he describes the millions of wild pigeons that roosted in the trees of Hittle Grove, near his home in Central Illinois, in the 1840s and 1850s.

"One day, the sky was dark with millions of migrating wild pigeons, so Henry decided to load up his old muzzle loader and ride his horse over to the grove where they were roosting.

"It was getting late, and the trees were loaded with pigeons, bending some limbs almost down to the ground. Henry wanted to get as many birds as possible with his one shot, so he tied his horse to a low-hanging limb to hide her, and then slipped around to where the pigeons were the thickest for the best possible shot. Well, with one shot he killed enough pigeons to fill his sack, and keep his family in meat for several days.

"He then returned to where he had tied his horse, but she was not there — but a big commotion up in the tree attracted his attention. And, there she was, hanging by her halter from that limb on which many pigeons had been roosting before Henry shot.

"Henry said there were a lot of pigeons that day."

Eugene Mayne, El Paso, told a story from an old retired El Paso dentist who was known for his tall tales.

"One of his stories I remember from when I was quite young. He had been out hunting, and he knew a shortcut home, but there was a big gully across his pathway.

"He looked at the gully and said, 'Well, if I get back and run and jump hard enough, I can jump that gully.'

"So he got back and made the run. He said, 'I got halfway across and I found I wasn't going to make it, so I turned around and went back.'"

Arthur Dornaus, rural Hudson:

"My story is about my great-great-great-great grandfather, David Wagener. He was born in Philadelphia in 1752 and died in New York in 1799.

"According to tradition, when they decided to leave Philadelphia, he hitched up his wagon and his horses and he went out in the yard and broke a branch off of the apple tree.

"He used that branch to whip the horses all the way north up to New York. When they finally got there and settled, he still had that branch of the apple tree, so he took it out in the yard and stuck it in the ground.

"According to tradition, that branch started growing, and it started an orchard.

"Well that was the tradition. The fact was though that his son, Abraham, did propagate an apple, which is called the Wagener Apple. It is still growing and still being sold.

"About a year and a half ago, I ordered one from a nursery in New York, so I now have my ancestral apple tree.

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Peggy Fuller was elected President for 1983. Other changes in the Board were Ron Secord, Vice-president; Lynn McCarthy, Corresponding Secretary; Harold Burgess, Treasurer; Joy Craig, Mimeograph; Ruth Wilkerson, Newsletter; and Donna Jenkins, Programs—all other positions carried over as the 1982 slate indicated.

The general membership meetings for 1983 were continued at 1515 East Empire in Bloomington even though the name of the proprietorship changed from First Financial to First Federal of Chicago. The fee for the use of the Community Room there was increased to \$40 for the year. Programs for the year included: Computers for Genealogical Recordkeeping, Exploring Illinois State Archives, Illinois Land Surveys, and Following an Attorney through the Courthouse in Search of Genealogy.

Members Art Dornaus and Bill North were nominated to act as a committee to support the efforts of the LDS microfilm team coming to the area to record the cemetery, church and funeral home information prior to 1921.

Bob Scott agreed to take all the finished Publications of the Society into his home where he would handle all orders.

Of interest to B-N Genealogical Society members was the fact of an LDS Genealogical Library opening in October 1983 in Peoria.

The practice of obtaining an annual inventory of all Society-owned materials held in the homes of Committee Chairmen and Officers was begun at the end of 1983.

The copy machine use exceeded 25,000 copies during the year. Membership in the Society by November totaled 357 with 200 members listed from McLean County.

The Society's November Annual Meeting invited all to bring covered dish potluck with the Society furnishing turkey and ham entrees. The program featured member Marian Spratt telling of humorous episodes she found in "Climbing My Family Tree."

During 1983 the B-N Genealogical Society's project to reprint the 1917 Farmers Review Directory for Livingston and McLean Counties moved forward with 200 copies ordered for sale under the direction of member Ron Secord as Project Chairman.

PROGRAMS 1983

JAN

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Federal of Chicago, 1515
E. Empire St., Bloomington; program, "A
Stitch In Time," describing clothing worn
between 1850 and 1880 by member Laura
Waugh, whose hobby is researching and
designing clothing in certain time periods.

FEB

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Federal of Chicago; pro-
gram, "A Brief History of Land Surveying in
Central Illinois," by Melvin "Bud" Davis of
Farnsworth and Wylie, consulting engi-
neers; meeting date was submitted incor-
rectly for an earlier report.

MAR

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Federal of Chicago; pro-
gram, "The Role of a Computer in Geneal-
ogy and Family History," by Ron Secord.

APR

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Federal of Chicago; pro-
gram, "Tracing Your Family Tree in the
Courthouse," by Attorney Ralph Turner;
transportation, Peggy Fuller, 452-3583.

MAY

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Chicago Federal commu-
nity room; program, "General and Un-
usual Resources," by Diane Wilhelm, re-
ference librarian at the Illinois State Hi-
storical Library, Old State Capitol, Spring-
field.

JUNE

June 20, 1983

First Federal
Professor Paul Bushnell,
Illinois Wesleyan University
"Ohio Valley Sources"

July

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Chicago Federal Savings
and Loan; program on members' "prob-
lems and solutions;" Ruth Hamm will as-
sist those with information and applica-
tion for membership in DAR.

The **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**
7:30 p.m. September 12th. Program
will be by Mollie Harrison whose topic
will be *The Historic Hands of Callig-
raphy* (art of beautiful writing) She
has taught courses on the subject both
in Iowa and locally. Meeting is at the

SEPT

The **B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**
7:30 p.m. October 17th at the First
Chicago Federal Savings and Loan
1515 E. Empire (Route #9) Bloom-
ington. We are having as our guest
speaker Mr. Warren Simmons who is
manager of Park Hill Cemetery.
Mr. Simmons is past-president of the
Illinois Cemetery Association and
presently serves as treasurer on the
board of directors.

OCT

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
6:30 p.m., November 21st at the First
Federal of Chicago, 1515 E. Empire
(Route #9). This is the annual potluck
dinner and meeting. Marian Spratt
from LeRoy, and a member of the
society will give the program
My Family Stories.

NOV

PANTAGRAPH 19 Nov 1983

Gun-toting grandpa lives in stories

By ELAINE GRAYBILL
Pantagraph staff

LEROY — Marian Spratt's favorite family tale is so salty that when she told it at a Lincoln DAR meeting one time, a couple of her cousins who were in attendance "just about passed out."

Mrs. Spratt has been collecting family folklore for 10 years or so (see accompanying stories), and is helped by the fact that family members for a couple of generations before her were interested in preserving their stories.

So she had "lots of clippings" and some prolific writing about her ancestors to get her started. Also, she has talked with elderly relatives, several times each, at their homes and at family reunions, until she gets the stories.

The tale she told the Lincoln

DAR is about her step-great-grandfather, William Cresswell. Though Cresswell lived in McLean County at one time, this story took place when he was raising cattle in Texas around 1880.

A neighbor started using Cresswell's watering hole for his cattle and Cresswell didn't like that, because he feared his own cattle would die from lack of water.

The neighbor met Great-Grandfather's objections by hiring a gunslinger to accompany his cattle to Cresswell's watering hole. In a confrontation there, the gunman shot Cresswell in the groin.

The wounded Cresswell then crouched behind his horse, dug a jammed shell out of his gun with a knife, and shot the gunslinger dead.

Cresswell stood trial for the kill-

ing and was pronounced "not guilty." Then he went to Wyoming and became a cattle rancher.

Mrs. Spratt has another tale of high adventure, about a great-great-grandfather's sister who was captured by the Indians in 1789, and lived with them five years until she was ransomed.

Mrs. Spratt will tell some her stories Monday night at the meeting of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society. Also, she is writing a play about a great-great-grandmother, to be presented at a meeting of LeRoy Historical Society, of which Mrs. Spratt is founder.

Part of Mrs. Spratt's mission is to pass these family stories on to her own children and grandchildren, however, "I can't say that they are really gung-ho on them," she says. But she counts on their interest growing as they get older, just as hers did.

By ELAINE GRAYBILL
Pantagraph staff

Mr. Event Dial is not terribly interested in genealogy. After all, his father was a crank and his son is an easy touch.

But Halbert's, Inc. of Bath, Ohio, didn't know that, and sent him a flyer — first class mail — advertising a genealogical book called "The Amazing Story of the Dials in America," listing "almost every Dial family in the United States."

Mr. Event Dial is better known to his friends as Dial-An-Event, a now defunct service of McLean County Historical Society, listed in the telephone book at the society's address, 201 E. Grove St., which is where Halbert's sent the letter.

It just so happens that in a corner room of the historical society is the headquarters of Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, and when President Peggy Fuller saw the letter to Mr. Event Dial, it was the last straw.

Mrs. Fuller and many of her fellow genealogy buffs object to Halbert's, Inc., and one or two other companies that market directories of family names through letters to many people. They protest on the grounds that people who don't know much about genealogical research are naively paying \$20 to \$30 for something they could obtain for a little time and a trip to public libraries, some of which have telephone directories from around the United States.

She handed over a full-page editorial from the Decatur Genealogical Society "Newsletter," reprinted from the Elgin Genealogical Society's newsletter, that outlined, page-by-page, the genealogical deficiencies of a directory sold by one of the companies similar to Halbert's.

The Halbert's book is advertised to include a drawing of a coat of arms "which ancient archives reveal is over 600 years old," and instructions on "how you can search for your ancestry and trace your Dial family tree using the fully documented Dial directory."

Mrs. Fuller objects to the shortcomings of Halbert's book as a beginning guide for genealogical research:



"Here is a picture of me holding a copy of my own fascinating book," writes "Sharon Taylor" on the back of this picture mailed out by Halbert's, Inc. "Sharon Taylor" is fictitious, in the manner of Betty Crocker. The woman pictured is actually a former employee of the firm.

there are far better such books at Bloomington Public library, she says. And the best place of all to begin, she says, is to take the "Family Tree" course through Bloomington Adult Education.

But what she and the Decatur and Elgin people object to most of all is the commercialization of genealogical research: the mass mailings and the fictitious "Sharon Taylor" who signs Halbert's letter and is featured on a color photo tucked in the envelope with the offer. As the Elgin editorial concludes, "...it's just the darned principle of the thing."

One man's reaction to that is that

some genealogists are being "exceedingly stuffy" about the family directory business. That man is Gary Curtis, vice president and chief operating officer of Halbert's, Inc.

"We have nothing to hide," Curtis says, pointing out that some similar companies will not talk to the press, but he has given many interviews. Halbert's has been in business 13 years and is the largest marketer of "surname products" in the world, Curtis says. In fact, Halbert's president has been filmed in the arena with genealogists for a possible "First Camera" program on NBC-TV.

The business works like this.

Halbert's has researched 34,000 surnames in its years of business, using the services of R.H. Donnelley Corp., a Chicago telephone directory and mailing list company.

In the last year and a half, the names have been narrowed to 8,000 unusual ones and "heavy" mailings have gone to those people from telephone directory listings. Thus the letter to Mr. Event Dial, and also to Bloomington residents M.L. Dial at 1017 S. Mercer Ave. and Charles and LaDon Dial at 1112 Rosney Ave. A directory for a common name, such as Smith or Jones, would be "a mammoth problem" because of the number of listings, Curtis says.

When the orders arrive at Halbert's for the directories, at \$24.95 plus \$1.35 shipping and handling each, that many are printed up and delivered within about eight weeks.

Curtis says the directory is a good deal. "If someone thinks they're going to get that (elsewhere) for \$26 — that's amazing!" And the benefits have been amazing in at least one case he knows of, in which a Mr. Hallenbeck of Wolverine, Mich., purchased a Halbert's book and found listed there a brother and sister he had lost track of 61 and 55 years previously. That story is not used in the advertisements because the Hallenbecks would not give permission, Curtis says.

As for "Sharon Taylor," Curtis says, "We use a personalized approach just like a lot of other companies (General Mills, Reader's Digest) do," and it works. The woman actually pictured is a professional writer who was involved in the development of the "Amazing Story" books, whose name the company will not release to protect her from cranks. She has the "librarian look," he says, which is "the image we wanted to project."

Curtis doesn't seem to mind the criticism from genealogists — and he gets a lot of it, he says. "They shouldn't be angry with us, because I would think we are generating a great interest in people to find out their actual lineage."

And, with a chuckle, Curtis says, "Maybe genealogists should do more advertising."

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Officers and Committee Chairmen for the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society elected for 1984 were as follows:

President	Peggy Fuller	Membership	Lucille Smith
Vice-Pres.	Ron Secord	Mimeograph	Jean Munn
Rec. Secty.	Betty Waugh	Newsletter	Ruth Wilkerson
Cor. Secty.	Lynn McCarthy	Programs	Wanda Haxel
Treasurer	Dorothy Allen	Hospitality	Sandy Voyles
Books	Ruth Hamm		& Sarah Cushing
Cemetery	Bill North	Publications	Joy Craig
Finance	Donna Gaines	Publicity	Susan Lentz
Library	Carol Hustuft	Quarterly	Louise Muxfeld

Monthly Board meetings for the year were held in the McLean County Historical Society Library on the 3rd floor of the McBarnes Building. Monthly general membership meetings centered at 1515 East Empire Street in Bloomington where the ownership of the Community Room there changed in 1984 from First Federal of Chicago to Citicorp. Some topics featured in the monthly general meetings were titled: "Print It and Preserve It", "Immigration of the Irish into Illinois", "How to Use the LDS Library in Peoria" and "Our Local Library Total Resources". A workshop was held in May on cemetery, church and school information as available in McLean County. In August the Society membership visited the McLean County Courthouse where county employees assisted the researching of family ancestor information.

The income-producing project of sales of the reprinted 1917 Farmers Review was brought to completion with over 200 copies sold. Society volunteers labored all year on the microfilm reader in the Society library translating names from the Fulton County 1860 census film to written lists for later publication. When McLean County Fair officials asked the B-N Genealogical Society to furnish a booth at the August fair, the Society agreed and exhibited genealogy wares of interest to the public. Jean Munn moved the mimeograph machine into her own home to facilitate her operations closer at hand, Carol Hustuft as Librarian questioned the continued free circulation of Society books after she took count of missing volumes. Her library inventory starting the year showed 1350 volumes on hand, 111 separate quarterly files, 150 issues of various historic societies, 28 microfiche and 31 rolls of microfilm. During 1984 Lynn McCarthy, Corresponding Secretary, answered 270 separate letter inquiries. The Society copier was busy to the tune of over 30,000 copies made. \$1300 worth of Society Publications were sold as yearly income.

Membership totaled 356, 213 living in McLean County. B-N Genealogical Society members volunteering for weekend library duty ceased to worry about keys and opening access to the McBarnes Building after October when the Historical Society then employed security guards for the weekend opening of the museum and library facilities.

During the year the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society suffered the loss of several key Board members who moved away by reason of their professional relocation. Louise Muxfeld who had nurtured the Gleanings quarterly as Editor from 1970 left McLean County in May. Librarian Carol Hustuft moved away in August. Both Vice-president Ron Secord and Cemetery Chairman Bill North departed in the fall. The active interest and participation of these individuals counted greatly toward the intrinsic value of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society now aged 18 years.

PROGRAMS, 1984

Jan 16th First Federal
Dr. H. Gibson, Dr. Robert Bone
and Joy Craig, "Print It to Pre-
serve It"

Feb. 20th First Federal
Maragaret Esposito,
"How The Irish Came to
Mc Lean County"

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Federal of Chicago;
Carol Hustuff will explain the society's
library system and how to use the num-
bering system, card catalog, quarterlies
and files to advantage.

Apr. 16th, First Fed.
Myrna Park, Pennsylvania
Germans 300 Years In The
U.S.A."

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at First Federal of Chicago;
workshop for preparing members for ge-
nealogical vacation trips and research.

June 18th, Citicorp,
Sue Anderson of Peoria
Stake Branch Library

July 16th, First Federal
Mrs. Doris R. Bowers of
Decatur, "Land Records"

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
7:30 p.m., September 17th, First
Chicago Federal Savings and Loan,
1515 East Empire, Bloomington.
Mark Wyman, a historian an ISU, and
author of *Immigrants In the Valley*
will tell us why he wrote the book and
about the issues evolving from the
influx of New Englanders and
Southern mixing with the migration of
German and Irish into the Mississippi
Valley about the time of the Civil War.
The public is invited to attend.

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at Citicorp, 1515 E. Empire St.;
program, "Genealogy at the State
Archives," by Lowell M. Volkel, senior
archivist and head of the reference unit
at the Illinois State Archives and found-
ing president of the Illinois Genealogical
and Historical Society and the Illinois
State Genealogical Society; to elect of-
ficers for 1985.

November 19th at Citicorp,
Potluck, Election of
officers, and members to
share the ancestor with
whom they most closely
identify, giving a
short, possibly humorous
reason for his choice.

Sexton solving cemetery's puzzles

By Miriam Engelhorn

LAKE BLOOMINGTON—Edgar Lee Masters told a little bit about Lucinda Matlock and the others sleeping on the hill in "Spoon River Anthology."

That's more than Verda Gerwick, knows about Lucinda Peck and Mary Foote, or Adam Ferdinand and Johanna Schuth, who may be sleeping on the hill overlooking Money Creek.

It's not that she hasn't tried.

Exactly three years ago, Hinthorn Cemetery trustees authorized Mrs. Gerwick, their sexton, to plat the cemetery.

They told her she could order markers for the 72 unmarked graves.

The project is about as complete as she can make it.

Although she has recorded 60 cemeteries and has more than a casual interest in this one because four generations of her ancestors are buried there, Mrs.

Gerwick admits she nearly lost her mind over the project.

"I've promised the good Lord that never in this world or the next one will I do this again," she says.

The rows of tombstones are crooked. W.S. "Vet" Vandegraft wasn't much help.

The former sexton had a little paper drawing showing where people were buried.

It wasn't always accurate, says Vet's granddaughter, Mrs. Gerwick.

"I've been chasing Rankin Armstrong for years."

A distant relative to Mrs. Gerwick by marriage, Armstrong was supposed to be buried in Hinthorn. Tedious checking of death certificates in McLean and Woodford counties finally revealed the elusive Armstrong wasn't there after all.

Cemetery sextons had a habit of fail-

ing to turn in death certificates to county clerks. This is the cause of the gaps in McLean County records, not the courthouse fire. The county clerk's records were saved.

Most 1890 census records were destroyed by fire in 1921 in the U.S. Department of Commerce building in Washington, D.C.

Newspaper obituaries are only as good as the source and many have important omissions to keep family skeletons locked in their closets.

When she started, Mrs. Gerwick knew of 103 burials in the old cemetery, but that was all she knew.

After all the checking and interviewing and poring over microfilm, Mrs. Gerwick finally has a color coded plat drawn exactly to scale.

She went to the extreme of have an aerial photograph made to help her cope with the wavering rows. She had the



Markers ordered

Lake Bloomington—Verda Gerwick, Lexington, has completed a plat of Hinthorn Cemetery and ordered markers for 72 unmarked graves in the

cemetery. Platting the cemetery does not solve all the mysteries represented by tombstones like the one above. (Pan-tagraph photo)

cemetery, which is behind Hinthorn Chapel, surveyed.

There are 75 unmarked graves—no stone, nothing. Another 36 graves are marked only with plain stones, indicating burial, and nothing more.

The first burial was Margaret Hinthorn, daughter of Isaac and Hannah. She died Dec. 3, 1834. Her uncle William, one of the seven Hinthorns who came to Illinois from Licking County, Ohio, gave the land on a wooded hill so his niece would have a burial place.

Because there was free burial in the cemetery, no lots were sold and burials were haphazard rather than in precise rows.

Now that the plat has been drawn, there are still mysteries.

Mrs. Gerwick has proof that 10 people are buried in the cemetery, but she doesn't know where.

There are 23 veterans of all the nation's conflicts except the Revolutionary and Vietnam wars.

If someone could provide the death date of Jacob Shiner, Mexican War veteran born in 1820 in Winchester, Va., he would be entitled to a free marker provided by the government.

So would William Lyons and Addison Williams. They were Confederates about whom Mrs. Gerwick has no information.

The two boys in gray were not entirely out of place in this community, called Hell's Bend because of the reputations of inhabitants. Residents were called everything from bootleggers and horse thieves to Copperheads for their alleged Southern sympathies.

About Adam and Johanna Schuth, Mrs. Gerwick can learn nothing.

But their twin black marble stones with "Ruhe in Frieden" engraved under the dates, suggest that they are buried far from their German homeland and that someone cared enough to spend a lot of money to mark their graves.

Other stones give evidence of what occurred.

The five identical white sandstone markers only hint at the tragedy in one household.

Four children of Jacob and Sarah Hinthorn Moats died between Sept. 20 and Oct. 21, 1840.

Rebecca, 16, was the first, followed by her brother, William, 24, on Sept. 28. Mary A. died a day after her 20th birthday on Oct. 5. Jane, 21, was the last.

It was an ailment diagnosed as "the flux."

Only their 15-year-old sister survived. She died nine years later.

The most intriguing of the mysteries is a tombstone with "Friendship" across the curved top and the name Lucinda Peck (1831-1895) on one side and Mary A. Foote (1813-1893) on the other.

Lucinda's obituary and death certificate say she died in 1899. She was a widow.

The 1860 census lists a 21-year-old Lucinda and 25-year-old Arthur living in Gridley Township with 12-year-old David Smiley.

A marriage certificate shows that Lucinda D. Nay and Arthur Peck were married April 18, 1860.

Exit David and Arthur forever.

There is nothing about them in the 1870 census lists. Nor is Lucinda Peck mentioned.

But, in the 1880 census, there are a Mary Foot, 66, and a Lucy Peck, 45, living in Hudson in a household headed by John Brintell, 62.

The slight differences in the women's names further complicates Mrs. Gerwick's work.

Lucy Peck was single and born in Ohio, as were both of her parents, according to the census.

It is impossible to decipher the writing and Mrs. Gerwick can't tell if Mary Foot is widowed or divorced.

She was born in Connecticut, as were her parents.

Brintell, single, was born in New York. His father was born in Vermont and his mother in Kentucky.

Lucy Peck and Mary Foot were not related to the head of the household, according to the census.

Then, according to Lucinda Peck's newspaper obituary, the 64-year-old native of Ohio lived with the Brintell family here and in Ohio for nearly 30 years. She came to Hudson with Brintell's sister who "died several years ago and and ... (Mrs. Peck) ... kept house for Mr. Brintell since that time."

According to the obituary, Lucinda Peck had one son "living in Pittsburg when last heard from."

Mrs. Peck was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

"Not much is known of her personal history," said the obituary writer.

About Mary Foote (or Foot) and Brintell, Mrs. Gerwick can find no other records.

This twisted plot is the sort of puzzle that will have Mrs. Gerwick spending Memorial Day in Hinthorn Cemetery to see if visitors can help her fit another piece into place.

Monday, June 4, 1984

Doll show



Pantagraph photo/LORI ANN COOK

Joie Munro, 508 Colton Ave., Bloomington, was one of 46 exhibitors from seven states at a doll show and sale yesterday at the Scottish Rite Temple in Bloomington. Mrs. Munro made the costume for the antique German bisque doll, which dates from the late 1800s. The show, sponsored by Jill Vernon and Peg Sours, both of Bloomington, drew about 800 people.

to time

1984

By CHRIS HEISER
Pantagraph farm editor

An oasis in a desert of sprawling modernization, the P.K. Benjamin farmstead east of Bloomington seems a bit out of place — like a fortress against invading subdivisions and airports.

Its solitary existence is striking. Immediately one knows this is a special place, somewhere to go and kick off the shoes, sit beneath a massive walnut tree and forget about the worries of the world.

As spring breezes rustle the shade tree boughs, they seem to whisper the sounds and waft the smells of yesteryear. With eyes closed, one can hear the rumble of a wagon and team of horses as they approach the farmstead with a load of freshly cut logs from Blooming Grove.

Voices resound above the din of saws and hammers. Breezes carry a curious mixture of smells — the mellowness of just-hewn wood, the fullness of smoke from a cooking fire and the sweetness of stew bubbling in a kettle.

The scene is not a figment of the imagination. With the aid of Benjamin's storytelling ability, the raising of his great grandfather's house comes alive. That was in September 1858, and as far as Benjamin can tell, the house cost about \$100 to build.

A history lover who admits he's on a "geneology kick," Benjamin and his wife, Lois, have traced roots of his family back 15 generations and her family for a dozen generations. With the aid of relatives, legal records and newspaper clippings, the Benjamins have steeped themselves in tradition. And in 1972, they applied to and received from the Illinois Department of Agriculture designation as a Centennial Farm.

"We're kind of wrapped up in this place. That's why we stay," said Benjamin, retired in 1978 after a long career in business management with Western Electric and a large Louisville paint firm.

"We're close enough to town, but still have space," added Mrs. Benjamin, a North Carolina native, who maintains flower and vegetable gardens.

Because his family has recognized the significance of history, Benjamin is the proud owner of his great grandfather's diary, many farm tools and several pieces of furniture built by the carpenter-turned-farmer.



Pantagraph photo

Paul and Lois Benjamin of rural Bloomington have surrounded themselves with family tradition. Their home, constructed in 1858, contains many antiques including a China cabinet built by Benjamin's great grandfather, William.

William H. came to Illinois in 1856 from New York after reading a book relating the richness of the prairie state's soil. His diary shows that wood for the home, in which the Benjamins live, came from Blooming Grove, was taken by sleigh to a city lumber mill and sawed for \$34.25. A wagon was traded to secure 2,000 bricks; purchases included eight wagonloads of sand for \$3.20, 200 pounds of nails for \$9, siding and roof shingles for \$24 and brickwork labor at \$24. Fourteen windows were also bought for an undisclosed price.

On Dec. 2, 1858, William's family moved into the house. Benjamin's grandfather, Frank W., was born there that same year and spent his entire 82 years on the site farming and raising horses and ponies. In 1892, Benjamin's father, Paul K., made his debut on the farmstead. A member of the Illinois State University Athletic Hall of Fame, Paul Sr. enjoyed a career as teacher and sports trainer.

From 1957 until 1978, the home was rented. Upon retiring in 1978,

the Benjamins took up residence in the antiquated structure and began extensive restoration projects to ensure the house's future.

Adamant about hanging onto a little piece of history, the Benjamins have not changed the house structure significantly. Improvements have consisted of strengthening basement walls, rewiring electrical outlets, enlarging the kitchen, replacing the back porch with a utility room, and adding a fireplace and bathroom on the ground floor of the two-story structure.

Basically, the house contains all the original materials — lumber, bricks and windows.

Outbuildings on the farmstead have also withstood the test of time. Although several of the structures have been rebuilt, they contain original materials. Still standing are the coalhouse, smokehouse, pony barn, a larger barn and garage.

The only building torn down

Cemetery to be resurrected

By **BARB KUENY**
Pantagraph staff

1984

There is a danger that a cemetery, especially after decades of neglect, will eventually vanish altogether.

SHIRLEY — The cemetery was buried under debris for some 40 years.

Its resurrection in the last few weeks has meant much to townspeople who want to preserve their history.

Hidden in a grove of wild cherry trees, shielded by undergrowth on four sides, invisible from the road, its 1½ acres occupy a slight rise of ground south of town. Just beyond the east edge, the ground drops away to railroad tracks below.

The tops of a couple of monuments can be distinguished across the field from a house on the south edge of town if you know where to look. There is no access road. The route to it runs to the end of the gravel drive behind the grain elevator and between the rows of a cornfield.

Some of the monuments are broken, some of the inscriptions blurred to permanent obscurity. The ruins of iron fences lean over family plots.

But occasionally the writing on the stones is sharp and clear, a vivid testimony to the life of the person beneath it.

No one has been buried in the cemetery since 1938. People from Shirley are now buried in Funks Grove or Bloomington.

Yet to some residents, the cemetery represents the past of the community as a whole. Their ancestors, the people who built the town, are buried there. Through the inscriptions on the stones, history can be traced.

One such resident is Ruth Carpenter, who has lived in Shirley since 1933. She can see the cemetery from her kitchen window.

"People lost interest in the cemetery because of poor upkeep, and there was no access road," Mrs. Carpenter said. Several attempts have been made in past years to clean it up, but were abandoned before the work was completed, she said.

Once the cemetery is restored, most likely it still will not be used, Mrs. Carpenter said.

According to Bill North, cemetery chairman of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, at one time there were more than 354 cemeteries in McLean County. Now there are only 105.

Often, small family plots on private land disappeared once the land was sold and are now beneath houses, barns or fields.

However, in the past three years, several county cemeteries have been restored.

Rehabilitating McLean County cemeteries was a CETA project initiated by Ron Morehead of the Bloomington and Normal Trades and Labor Assembly.

Morehead sent out letters to town supervisors offering the help of CETA workers in cleaning up cemeteries.

Mrs. Carpenter, after an unsuccessful attempt last year, succeeded in getting Shirley's cemetery put on the CETA list this year.

There are 150 people in Shirley's 50 houses. About 70 people are buried in the cemetery, planned in 1862 with spaces for 96, according to the Shirley Cemetery Book. About 10 people have been moved to other cemeteries.

Part of the cemetery was lost when the railroad came through in 1905.

The oldest tombstone is marked at 1884. There is one monument to a Civil War veteran. There is none for a young woman who walked in front of a train.

There has been some vandalism over the years, some by people, but more by cows that a farmer allowed to graze among the gravestones.

There are now signs of human activity within the cemetery. The CETA crew members restored some of the monuments, cleared away underbrush, picked up debris and cut down many of the cherry trees.

Stacks of cut logs attest to the return of man-made order.



Pantagraph

A Shirley cemetery, which has been neglected for years, is scheduled to get a facelift.

But something will be sacrificed once the cemetery grounds are reclaimed from their reversion to forest. The wild flowers, violets, lily-

of-the-valley and iris that carpet the ground early this spring, gone when the ground is regrown.

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
1985**

The Society began 1985 on a firm financial foundation with \$900 in the checking account and \$1300 in savings. Members agreed to a 1985 budget of \$6100. Citicorp raised the rent of their Community Room for the Society membership monthly meetings and quarterly assembly sessions to \$60 annually. However, by agreeing to transfer the money accounts to Citicorp the Society was able to meet rent-free. The Book Committee was very active in adding volumes to the genealogical library, including the purchase of twenty-one state census indexes in 1985. It was decided to index the Gleanings quarterly each quarter rather than once per year. A complete list of all the McLean County cemeteries and their locations was completed by Cemetery Chairman Al Greasy. A Board decision during the year was made to cancel newsletter exchanging unless the societies of Central Illinois (only) specifically requested exchange. The well used mimeograph machine was returned to the Society library where working members could coax it to production of the various Society publications.

Monthly membership meetings were well attended. Subjects ranged from a use of the Soundex system, clues to the use of the Pennsylvania Archives and how to preserve old, old pictures. \$170 was raised separately for a national fund to restore the Statue of Liberty.

A new Board position was created in 1985 to establish a close liaison with the McLean County Historical Society. Because of her many years of cooperative experience with the Historical Society, Elizabeth Masters was elected to be the B-N Genealogical Society Liaison Officer. "Liz" was able to attend Board meetings of both societies.

Again the B-N Genealogical Society manned a table at the McLean County Fair in August.

By October 1985 the Society membership counted a membership of 373 members with 211 located in the county.

Officers and Committee Chairmen who served during 1985 were:

President	Betty Waugh	Library	Marge Mehlberg
Vice-pres.	Paul Benjamin	Membership	Lucille Smith
Rec. Secty.	Donna Jenkins	Mimeograph	(all users)
Cor. Secty.	Lynn McCarthy	Newsletter	Ruth Wilkerson
Treasurer	Dorothy Allen	Programs	Clara Costello
Books	Ruth Hamm	Publications	Joy Craig
Cemetery	Al Greasy	Publicity	Susan Lentz
Finance	George Perkins	Quarterly	Miriam Englehorn

PROGRAMS, 1985

B-N Genealogical Society.— 7:30 p.m.
Monday at Citicorp, 1515 E. Empire St.;
Peggy, Fuller, former president, will
speak on "Soundex, An Index to the
Census," and an aid to locating an-
cestors in the 1880, 1900 and 1910
census.

The **B/N GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY** will meet at 7:30 p.m.
February 18th, at Citicorp,
1515 East Empire Street. The
speaker will be Greg Koos, archivist
for the McLean County Historical
Society. His topic will be "Grandma's
House: Folk and Popular Architec-
ture in McLean County". Please dis-
regard the date in your newsletter
for this meeting. It is incorrect.

March 18th, Milner Library,
at ISU. Tour limited to 30
followed by Talk by Garold
Cole on library's holdings
of interest to the genealogist.

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday at Citicorp; Susan Anderson, who
has been an instructor of the basic gene-
alogical research class for the LDS
Church in Bloomington-Normal, will speak
on "Keeping Genealogical Records, In-
cluding Using Genealogical Computer
Programs."

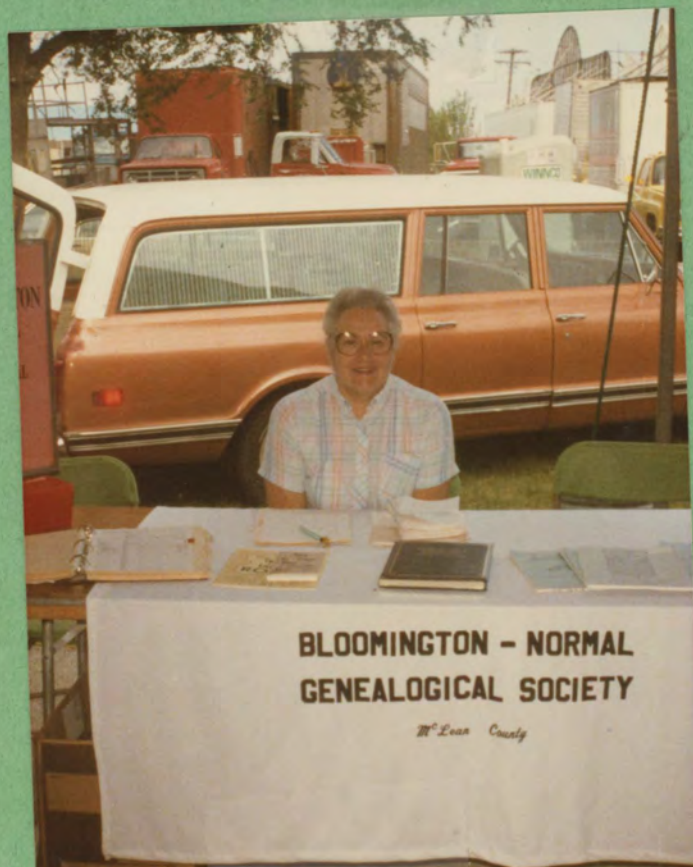
May 20th at Citicorp,
Maragret Esposito,
"Sarah Josepha Hale,
Persuader, Not Crusader."

The **B/N GENEALOGICAL SOC.**
will meet at 7:30 p.m., Monday,
June 17th, at Citicorp, 1515 East
Empire Street (Route 9). The speaker
will be Dr. Paul Holsinger who has
been the professor of history at
Illinois State University since
1969. The topic will be a historical
summary of the growth of
Bloomington-Normal after the Civil
War until the late 1800's.

Speaker for the July 15th meeting
of the **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** will
be Charles B. Stringer, Decatur.
His topic will be "The Pictures in
Grandma's Trunk: American Stu-
dio Photographs, 1840-1920." With
slides, Mr. Stringer will describe
the common type of photographs
made in this country, with approx-
imate dates for the various tech-
niques, media, and fads. Meeting is
at 7:30 pm, July 15, at Citicorp,
1515 E. Empire St.

September 9, at Citicorp
Talk by Ruth Carpenter,
charter member of society
on cemetery research, esp-
ially in those of Mc Lean
County.

November 17th at Citicorp
Potluck, installation of
officers, "Show and Tell"
by members using mementoes
from their families.



Our Organization has a table at
the Mc Lean County Fair of 1985
Both Pictures: Betty Waugh represents us

Families

Permanence eluded Solomon and Oak Grove

Solomon's heart was its store

By ELAINE GRAYBILL
Pantagraph staff

SOLOMON — C. Ross Johnson, rural Wapella, says all he ever did in Solomon was loaf.

That may have been the case for most of the farmers of Wilson Township in DeWitt County.

When Solomon existed, its center consisted of the Solomon store, a blacksmith shop, a pool hall and four or five houses. A telephone exchange and barbershop also have been mentioned. And, Johnson says, "Solomon was all there ever was to Wilson Township."

The store — the heart of Solomon — was a place for farmers to gather after they finished their chores. "All the men just went to the store every night to swap tales," says Fern Lane Briggs of Clinton, who grew up in Solomon in the 1920s.

Solomon's history is consistent with the easygoing nature of the place.

The little settlement, with a population of about 50, moved four times in its approximately 100-year life, for a total of five locations.

According to history provided by Johnson, whose grandfather Solomon Franklin Merrifield was one of 16 proprietors of the Solomon store, the first location, around 1860, was just over the line in Rutledge Township.

The second location was to the west, on the Wilson Township line, and the third location was across the road from a tile factory (see photo), in section 24 of Wilson Township.

The tile factory, in existence from approximately 1855 to 1900, employed about 40 men, and produced brick and tile.

Community mail was brought to the Solomon store from DeWitt. Near the end of the century, Solomon Merrifield asked, the Postal Department to have the little community named Merrifield. The reply came in a letter still in the possession of Ross Johnson: "There is a Merrifield, Ill., post office still in existence, 1895, so yours will be Solomon."

The store was later moved to the Emery home, and in 1900 a new building for the store was erected across the road from that, near where a sign was erected last year by the LeRoy Historical Society to mark the site of Solomon.

Johnson says though he spent years of his life close to Solomon, he had trouble learning its history, because whenever he asked his Uncle Marion about it, the old man said, "I'll tell you next time," and next time never came.

Mrs. Briggs remembers the Solomon of the 1920s. In addition to the business district, Solomon was considered to include six houses on a two-mile stretch of road. Cain School, which she attended through eighth grade,

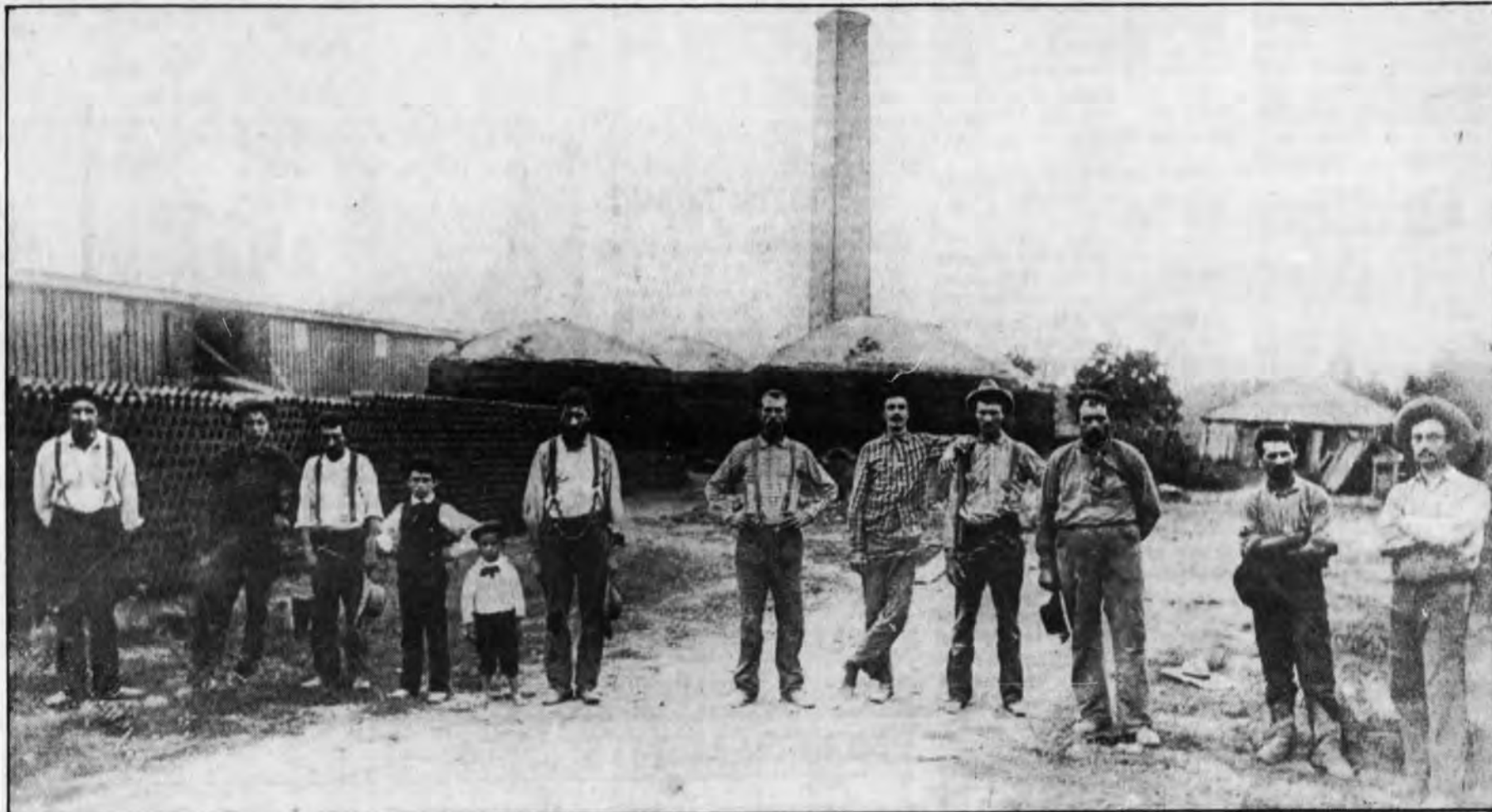


Photo from collection of C. Ross Johnson

About 40 men worked at the tile factory across from Solomon store in the latter 1800s. Three men in this photo have been identified: third from right, James Fitchhorn; sixth from right, Solomon Johnson; and seventh from right, Solomon Franklin Merrifield.



Pantagraph photo/MARC FEATHERLY

C. Ross Johnson, 80, is a long-time resident of the Solomon area. Behind him is part of the foundation of the blacksmith shop, one of the few physical remnants of Solomon.

was south of the business district.

"My heart is there," in Solomon, she says. "It was just a good neighborhood to live in. Everybody helped everybody."

When she married, she left Solomon. Others left, too: "None of the younger generation wanted to stay there and farm,"

she says.

By the early 1950s, the blacksmith shop and pool hall were gone and business wasn't too good for the Solomon store, which then sold gasoline and groceries. "The cars just drove on by," Johnson says.

The store closed and was torn

down in 1956, and Solomon's heart stopped beating.

Mrs. Briggs, who has become a specialist on all the ghost towns of DeWitt County, will give a public talk on that topic at 7:30 p.m. April 25 at LeRoy State Bank, sponsored by the LeRoy Historical Society.

High-class Oak Grove moved down the hill

By ELAINE GRAYBILL
Pantagraph staff

OAK GROVE — Oak Grove was a pretty town, with neat lawns and hedges.

It was a model town, with upstanding citizens who went to church and were kind to those less fortunate.

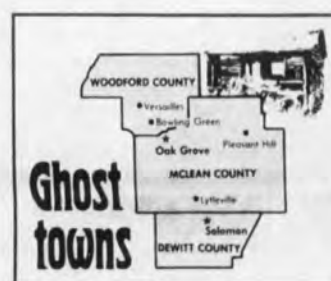
It was an interesting town, with a brass band, weekend cultural programs and a store painted like the American flag.

But in 1888, when the railroad came through a mile to the south and a mile to the west, the residents hired Wash Henry and Sons to move their houses and businesses down the hill to the tracks, where they ceased to be Oak Grovians and became instead Carlockians.

Fern Hamilton, 87, of Carlock, a granddaughter and daughter of Oak Grove residents, remembers what Oak Grove looked like when she was a child, which was well after the town's heyday. She is author of "Carlock: Where History is Still Being Made," which includes Oak Grove history.

"When I was a girl, up that whole road there, there was a row of houses," Mrs. Hamilton says of an area north of U.S. 150, about a mile east of Carlock. She also remembers hedge fences, cut low.

Five Oak Grove houses remain along what is now a country road



bordered by fields in White Oak Township, McLean County. Carlock and Interstate 74 can be seen down the hill, off in the distance from this spot.

Mrs. Hamilton heard stories about one of those remaining houses, which was "The Gundy Place" in the days before she was born.

"They were a well-liked family," and their home was "quite a resort" for the people of Oak Grove. One Gundy fiddled for square dances at their home. "They had a bunch of daughters," which no doubt made the place more attractive for some Oak Grove neighbors.

Another house still there was her "Grandpa" Chris Miller's, and its driveway used to be one of the town's main streets. Years ago, the house had a porch and summer kitchen.

One proud feature of Oak Grove was the 40- by 80-foot com-

Please see OAK GROVE, C2

OAK GROVE

From C1

munity center, where regular cultural events were held.

Another attraction for strong partisans was that there were separate cemeteries for Republicans and Democrats.

Oak Grove was not an 1836-era town, as were many of the abandoned towns in Central Illinois. The exact date of its founding is vague, but is somewhere in the 1870s.

A description of it in the 1879 "History of McLean County, Illinois," is ironic, given what we know now:

"Within the last few years, the village of Oak Grove is starting up in the central part of White Oak (township). We find there the Town Hall, built in the early part of 1878; the post office, two stores, a hotel, a wagon shop, two blacksmith shops, a physician, and about 12 families are residing there.

"All this has happened within the last three or four years, and the indications are very favorable for the building of quite a nice little village, either with or without a railroad.

"The only wonder is that a village has not been commenced here earlier, as the wants of the surrounding country will easily sustain quite a town.

"There is no trading-place of any importance nearer than 8 or 10



Photo from collection of Fern Lane Briggs

A few Solomonites posed in front of the Solomon store around 1918, when the business was in its final location. From left, Leona Kenser; Minnie Harrold holding infant Harry; Jacob Harrold; Blanche Harrold; Mary Walters and Lawrence Walters. Mary Walters was Minnie's mother, and Lawrence Walters her brother.

miles, and the roads are often so bad that the necessities of a farming community require towns much nearer together than we

have had them in the past.

"Oak Grove may be regarded as a permanent town. It will draw to itself most of the elements from

the rich surrounding country that go toward the formation of a village, and will become a town of considerable importance."

rootworms

By MIRIAM ENGELHORN
Pantagraph staff

You often hear highly entertaining and instructive things, Rhett Butler told Scarlett O'Hara.

He was talking about eavesdroppers, of course, but it could have been genealogists.

The very word makes doubters think of blue-blooded ladies with bemedaled sashes across their ample bosoms. Wrong.

Many genealogists are men. And once you get into it, you are going to learn your ancestors probably were regular red-blooded American boys and girls.

Why should blue-bloods leave the good life to come to an untamed land? Those little boats the wretched refuse came on were not the Queen Mary.

One of my cousins gave up on searching for his roots when he learned our ancestors were servants. It is carved in stone in the walled village churchyard at Chilton Foliat, Wiltshire, England:

"In affectionate remembrance of Stephen Ambrose, who for over 40 years was a faithful servant of the late Gen'l Popham, Littlecote House."

The Pophams also got around to mentioning Hannah, "relict of the above."

Shortly after the deaths of Stephen (1849) and Hannah (1850), three of their six children left England forever.

You'll notice it wasn't the Pophams who got out of town. Littlecote House is still standing, with enough room to put the Assembly Hall in one wing. From the looks of the place, if the Pophams had not had a lot of faithful servants to tend the fireplaces and clean, they would have left for Florida — very quickly.

Ambrose Ambrose, according to family legend, made a fortune in the gold fields of Australia. He certainly deserved something for that redundancy. One should never assume, but it seems fairly safe to jump to the conclusion that Ambrose ditto was not only unplanned but unexpected.

His brother, James, worked in the shipyards of New York City long enough to get money to pay for his passage and to follow Greeley's advice to go west to Hudson. James and family were joined by his sister, Jane Ambrose Humphries, and her husband, Thomas.

There they spent the rest of their lives, useful, responsible, charter members of the Hudson Baptist Church.

Pretty dull stuff?

Not to worry. If you don't like staid ancestors, look around a bit. The number doubles every generation. You are one. You have two parents, four grandparents, etc., etc. into infinity. You are bound to find some dandies — and some just might not be red-blooded Americans.

I once asked my paternal grandmother, Rebecca Bishop Ambrose, if we had any interesting ancestors. She understood that I was hoping for something more exciting, but the best she could come up with was John Briley, her great-grandfather. He was a drummer boy during the Revolutionary War. Some of her cousins said he was a bugle boy, but there are too many perfect monotones in the family for my grandmother to swallow that.

According to his pension papers, John Briley enlisted at Annapolis in the Fourth Maryland Line and served at Yorktown and in South Carolina.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to my grandmother, her Timmons ancestors were trying to play hob with General Washington (and Private Briley) down at Yorktown.

As far back as May 9, 1777, they made the list of men under guard, "committed for being in the Tory camp and at the erecting of the King's standard."

Worse yet, one of the terrible Timmons was second in command to Joseph Whaland, "most notorious" of the pirates who sallied out on Chesapeake Bay to plunder the patriot boats carrying supplies down to Yorktown. Again, it seems safe to assume that they were not very successful in their mission.

This all ended on a fairly peaceful note. Maybe there is hope for Ireland.

John Briley's daughter, Celia, married Nehemiah Timmons' grandson, Henry Beam Timmons. Her side won. Among the names for their sons were Francis Marion and Marquis Lafayette.

If you decide to leaf out your family tree, you will probably find that some of your ancestors were several hundred years ahead of their times.

You know how our president wants to get the government off our backs?

The Bishop ancestors never let the government get on theirs. Those Scotch-Irish moved so fast and so far that they never let themselves get tangled up in red tape.

They were alleged to have been in Madison County, Ala., in 1820. The 1820 Alabama census records were burned, although the Bishops probably didn't have anything to do with that.

They were positively creative when it came to dealing with later census takers. Over the decades, they listed

Root diggers have many sources

If you plan to join the millions of Americans who are learning what contribution their common, ordinary ancestors made to an extraordinary, common effort, help is at hand.

Many counties and towns have active genealogical or historical societies. Some have both. They will welcome you.

Illinois leads the nation in the number of genealogical societies, so there is one near to you.

Here is a partial list:

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 488, Normal, 61761.

Lexington Historical and Genealogical Society, 318 W. Main St., Lexington, 61753.

DeWitt County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 632, Clinton, 61727.

Logan County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 283, Lincoln, 62656.

Piatt County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 123, Monticello, 61856.

Decatur Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2205, Decatur, 62526.

Tazewell County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 312, Pekin, 61555-0312.

Mason County Genealogical and Historical Society, Box 246, Havana, 62644.

Sangamon County Genealogical Society, Box 1829, Springfield, 62705.

Odell Historical and Genealogical Society, Box 82, Odell, 60460.

Champaign County Genealogical Society, Urbana Free Library, Archives Room, 201 S. Race St., Urbana, 61801.

Iroquois County Genealogical Society, Old Courthouse Museum, 103 W. Cherry St., Watseka, 60970.

Illinois State Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 157, Lincoln, 62656.

If you are interested in computer genealogy, contact Mrs. Walter Baselt, 707 Park Lane Drive, Champaign, 61820.

When contacting these societies, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

several states as the places of their birth. Offspring reported being born in states where their parents were never known to have lived.

They were either immaculate nativities or the first test-tube babies. But this will not make it any easier for you if your ancestors were like that.

One of the best things about genealogy, though, is that you will find a lot of people to share the blame for the foibles of your offspring. You don't need to put all the blame on your

spouse, either.

Two of my adorable children are identical twins, and I refuse to take all the responsibility for them. True, great-grandmother Amelia Hedges Ambrose died in childbirth (stillborn twins). But one of their paternal great-grandfathers, Emil Engelhorn, former postmaster at Harness, was half of a set of twins.

One of their paternal great-grandmothers was a Michener. You've got it. Quakers and right there at William

Penn's right hand when he needed someone to be peaceful and loving. You would just expect James Michener to write a tale of a peaceful ocean.

The younger of the matched set is Matt. He trailed his brother Tom by five minutes. He has an explanation for how his brother got the jump on him:

"I got so sick of Tom. He was always hanging around, nagging as usual, so I just kicked him out."

Isn't that what brotherly love is all about?

**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
1986**

Celebrating twenty years of thriving existence of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society began with the January meeting of the Society. The main program featuring skits and compositions about the beginning years of the Society was conducted by Charter Member and Past President Myrna Park. Current President Betty Waugh presented appreciation certificates to the Charter Members in attendance including Ruth Carpenter, Muriel Hoffman, Betsy Light, Louise Love, Rachel Lundeen, Josephine Munro and Donna Smith (and Myrna Park). Red carnations honoring Past Presidents in attendance were awarded by President Betty Waugh to: Elinor Wetter, Myrna Park, Barbara Wright, Marian Spratt, Bea Armstrong, Ruth Cope, Doris Hilton, Elizabeth Masters, Esther Hannon, Joy Craig and Peggy Fuller.

During the year 1986 general meetings were continued in the Community Room of Citicorp and Board meetings in the Historical Society Library. Some subjects covered in general membership meetings were: "Old-time Surveyors and Their Patchwork," "Kentucky and Tennessee Migration Trails" and "Genealogical Sources in the Illinois State Historical Library."

Folding chairs for the genealogy library were purchased by the sale of a quantity of ancestor charts. The 1860 Fulton County microfilm census was finally transcribed. Ruth Cope volunteered and was accepted as Mimeograph Chairman, Because the postage for nonprofit institutions was increased twice in a short time the Society decided to insert the newsletter into the quarterly mailings rather than mail out the newsletter separately for the months the "Gleanings from the Heart of the Cornbelt" was issued.

After studying costs and the regional level of genealogical society dues, the B-N Genealogical Society decided to establish annual membership dues at \$10 per family. By-laws were again revised up to date for voted changes.

Ruth Hamm, Book Chairman, was able to buy 33 additional state census indexes at a real savings.

In October 1986 it was learned that the McLean County Historical Society was interested in moving to a vacated Courthouse if and when the McLean County Administration transferred all its active offices to the new Law and Justice Center. The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society at once became interested in being able to join the Historical Society in such a potential move. More space for increased holdings of library assets and equipment of the B-N Genealogical Society simply was not available in the area of the third floor of the McBarnes Building allotted to the Society in 1986.

PROGRAMS 1986

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; Peggy Fuller, former society president, will discuss, "Soundex, An Index to the Census," and using soundex as an aid to locating ancestors in the 1880, 1900 and 1910 census.

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; program, "Using Libraries in Family History Research," with five society members relating their experiences in using libraries.

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY will meet at 7:30 p.m. March 17 at Citicorp, 1515 East Empire St., (Rt. 9). The speaker will be Charles Hurliman, an Illinois Registered Land Surveyor with 16 years experience. Slides will accompany his brief history of the rectangular survey system and its effects on us all.

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; speakers will be Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bone on "The Lewis and Clark Trail," highlighted with a slide presentation of 90 markers placed along the trail.

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY May 20, 7:30 p.m., Citicorp, 1515 East Empire (route #9). Margaret Esposito, McLean County Home Extension Advisor, will give the program on Sarah Josepha Hale who was the publisher of Godeys Ladies Book.

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY will meet at Citicorp, 1515 East Empire. The speaker will be Marie Rhine; topic: *Genealogical Resources in the Illinois State Historical Library.*

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; Ruth Hamm, one of the early members of the local society and a long-time DAR member, will speak on "Ruth Hamm Answers Your Questions About Genealogical Research."

B-N Genealogy Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; Greg Koos, archivist of the McLean County Historical Society, will show slides and speak on "Researching Your Illinois House."

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meets November 17, Community Room of Citicorp, 1515 East Empire Bloomington. Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner. Those attending should bring a covered dish and their own table service. Following dinner, there will be the election and installation of officers. The speaker for the evening will be Mrs. Elwell Crissey. She will portray *Jane Hendrix, First Lady of Blooming Grove*. The society scrapbook will be on display.

PROGRAMS 1987

Perkins to lead genealogists

George Perkins will preside as new president of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society at its meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at Citicorp.

Other new officers to preside for the first time that evening will be Dorothea Russell, vice president; Phyllis Abner, recording secretary; Lynn McCarthy, corresponding secretary; and Dorothy Allen, treasurer. There are also 13 new committee chairmen.

Speakers for the meeting will be Dr. Robert and Karin Bone, whose topic will be "Greatness to Spare," highlighting signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The society is beginning its 21st year, starting with 17 charter members in 1966. There are now more than 400 members, with about half living in McLean County and the rest scattered throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The society library is located on the third floor of the McBarnes Building and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
February 16, 7:30 p.m., Community Room of Citicorp, 1515 East Empire, BL. The speakers will be Dr. Robert Bone and Mrs. Karin Bone. The title of their presentation will be *Greatness to Spare*. The program is about the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

B-N Genealogy Society — 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Genealogical Society Library, McBarnes Memorial Building, 201 E. Grove St., Bloomington; open house; McLean County Historical Society Library, which includes DAR library, open for touring; researchers available for assistance; computer demonstration.

B/N GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
meet March 16, 7:30 p.m., Genealogical Society Library, McBarnes Memorial Building, 201 East Grove Street, BL. Program will be open house of the B/N Genealogical Society Library and the McLean County Historical Society Library which includes the DAR Library. Experienced researchers will be on hand to assist anyone with research questions or problems. A computer with the "Personal Ancestral File" genealogy software will be set up to demonstrate the use of computers in genealogical research. New or potential members are invited. Tours will be available.

B-N Genealogical Society — 6:30 p.m. Monday at Scogin Hill Cemetery; tour of the cemetery with historical and genealogical highlights narrated by Theodora Johnston and Fontella Haycraft; demonstration of headstone rubbing and a demonstration and discussion of the best ways to photograph grave markers to document cemetery visits.

Genealogical Society will meet Monday

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet Monday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Citicorp, 1515 E. Empire, Bloomington.

Betty Waugh is guest speaker and will present a program entitled "Irish Immigration in the Between Years" which will cover the million plus people who came to North American from 1815-1845.

Mrs. Waugh is past president of the Society.

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; Dr. Carl Weatherbee of Decatur will present an illustrated program, "Ships, Ferries and Waterways," which traces the history of man using water as a means of transportation and how waterways influenced migration patterns of early settlers.

Genealogy Society will meet Monday

Bloomington-Normal Genealogy Society will meet Monday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the McLean County Courthouse.

Jeanette Barrett, McLean County Clerk, and Mae Deane, McLean County Recorder of Deeds will discuss "Records of Interest to Genealogists in the McLean County Courthouse."

Anyone interested in genealogical research in McLean County is invited to attend.

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held on Monday, October 16th, at 7:30 p.m. in the McBarnes Building, 201 E. Grove Street, Bloomington, Illinois. Professor Mark Wyman will speak on "Getting to Know the DP's - Europe's Displaced Persons." This is based on his third book, "Europe's Displaced Persons, 1945-51." His talk will be illustrated with slides. Professor Wyman holds a Ph.D from the University of Washington. He has been a Professor of History at Illinois State University since 1971.

Genealogy Society will meet Monday

Bloomington-Normal Genealogy Society will meet Monday, Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Citicorp, 1515 E. Empire St., Bloomington.

Meeting will honor Sally Cushing and Sandy Voyles for approximately 20 years of continued "Hospitality Service."

Potluck supper will begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring table service and a covered dish to pass. Rolls and drinks will be provided.

A "Show and Tell" will follow the meal.



Bloomington Normal Genealogical Society
Meeting June 15, 1987



Bloomington Normal Genealogical Society
Meeting June 15, 1987



Bloomington Normal Genealogical Society
Meeting June 15, 1987



Bloomington Normal Genealogical Society
Meeting June 15, 1987

Courthouse will become home of historical society



McLean County Board Chairman Nancy Froelich, left, and McLean County Historical Society Board President Dave Ashbrook, right, signed papers Wednesday at the Courthouse on the future for the building.

McLean County Courthouse will be converted into the McLean County History Center. A ceremony was held Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Old Circuit Courtroom in which Nancy Froelich, Chair of the County Board and Jeanette Barrett, County Clerk, officially signed for the County, and David Ashbrook, President, and Elizabeth Masters, Secretary, signed for the Society.

The McLean County History Center will house the museum, libraries and archives of the Society and affiliated groups and as part of the agreement, an interior restoration will be undertaken and rooms adapted for museum galleries. The Bloomington firm of Hilfinger, Asbury, Cufau and Abels has been hired to undertake initial studies.

The County will retain ownership of courthouse and be responsible for maintenance and utilities.

The courthouse was built in 1901-03 from the plans of William B. Reeves, of the Peoria firm Reeves and Baillie. The building is an excellent example of Beaux-Arts Style Design.

Making history

The McLean County Board and the McLean County Historical Society yesterday signed an earlier-approved agreement to convert the courthouse into the McLean County History Center after county offices are moved to an expanded Law & Justice Center. Shown are David Ashbrook, president, and Elizabeth Master, secretary, who signed the agreement on behalf of the society.

The Pantagraph/MAUREEN O'CONNOR

3 SEPT 1987

For courthouse move

Historical Society gets \$50,000 from council

By JOHN O'CONNOR
Pantagraph staff

McLean County may already be rich in history, but its history is a little richer, thanks to a \$50,000 gift from the city of Bloomington.

The Bloomington City Council approved the grant to help the county Historical Society move to the downtown courthouse, a move that is like coming home for the society, a former courthouse tenant.

But the council Monday delayed action on the society's request for an annual \$10,000 subsidy.

The grant gives a lift to the society's \$2 million fund-raising effort and comes on the heels of its herculean effort to secure \$750,000 in community pledges.

"This very well may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a significant contribution toward the enhancement of the facilities and methods available to display and interpret the history of McLean County," City Manager Herman Dirks wrote in a staff report.

The council voted 6-0, with Alderwoman Judy Markowitz, the Historical Society's vice president, voting "present."

The Normal City Council has not yet been approached about making a similar gift, but will be later, said society Executive Director Greg Koos.

Bloomington's contribution is a "leadership" grant, others of which the society is soliciting from area individuals and corporations,

society President Fred Dolan said. "Leadership" efforts will be over by year's end — with expected pledges, Dolan hopes, totaling about \$1.5 million. A second fund-raising phase will kick in to collect the balance.

The \$2 million Historical Society effort will go toward renovating the courthouse, mostly for installing protective climate controls for the society's 20,000 artifacts and 8,000 books, Dolan told the council.

County government abandons the building next year for the expanded Law & Justice Center two blocks south on Front Street. The society will move to the "history center" in 1991.

The society hopes its 15,000 yearly guests to its present museum on the top floor of the McBarnes Building will jump to 50,000 with the centralized, high-profile courthouse site, the county's ceremonial, if not geographical, center.

The \$50,000 grant will be spread over two years, Dirks said. At budget time, the council will consider the annual operating fund grant request.

The county has agreed to pay utility costs and provide maintenance, equal in cash to about \$100,000, Dolan said, adding that he expects the society's \$150,000 annual budget to more than double.

The society, 100 years old in 1992, first had a home in the county's third courthouse, which burned in the Great Fire of 1900.

The Society, along with the Genealogy Society and DAR, holds a valuable and extensive collection in the research library and archives.



**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
1988**

The entire Board for the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society was reelected in 1988 with the exception of the Mimeograph Chairman as Diane Hall replaced Ruth Cope.

Distribution Chairman Ruth Wilkerson reported in January that she had the Society's complete membership list on her computer so membership could be maintained current and accurate. It was decided in January that all book fund contributions taken up each month at regular meetings would be used to buy special books for memorials to deceased members. During 1988, memorial book inscriptions were made for Bob Flegel, Bill Monroe, Elsie Popejoy, Don Carlock, Ruth Richards and Robert Mayne.

General membership meetings ceased to be held at Citicorp after June. Arrangements were then made to hold all Board and general membership meetings in the Conference Room on the first floor of the McBarnes Building. An effort was made to obtain more steel shelving to fit into critical library space to house additional volumes continuing to accumulate from donations and purchasing. Publication Chairman Joy Craig reported the Fulton County 1860 census takeoff was finally in the stencil typing stage and would be available in published volumes of 100 pages each. By June of the year Jim Scott reported the sale of over 250 Publication issues. In October the Book Committee was authorized to buy the entire United States collection of the International Genealogical Index (IGI) microfiche from the Church of Latter-Day Saints of Salt Lake City, Utah. This IGI set included microfiche of the entire U.S. surname catalog, the entire subject catalog and entire author/title catalog. It was also approved to buy several used microfiche readers from State Farm in Bloomington.

Responding to the opportunity expressed in the news in late 1987 for a move to expanded quarters in the Courthouse in 1990 with the Historical Society, President George Perkins appointed ten members to a special long range planning committee early in 1988. The committee members elected Paul Benjamin, Chairman, and Marian Spratt, Secretary. The possible combining of the B-N Genealogical Society's books with the library collections of the DAR and the McLean County Historical Society was considered by the committee in its February meeting. It was made apparent at the time by the Historical Society that a full-time library professional would be employed (by them) for any new combined research facility if a proper endowment was realized.

At their February meeting the Long Range Planning Committee passed a resolution on to the Society Board that the name of the Society be changed officially to "The McLean County Genealogical Society". In May 1988 the new title was adopted by the membership.

For the prospective move of the libraries to the new Courthouse location the Historical Society suggested a consultant be employed to guide the consolidation and planning. The McLean County Genealogical Society agreed to help underwrite this expense. Georgine Olson, hired as the Library Consultant, met with the Long Range Planning Committee in March. She emphasized that successful libraries appeared "user-friendly" and presented a visible professional aura. Also

in following the guidance of the consultant, the Long Range Planning Committee worked diligently for months to get an acceptable written library policy with which to form a procedure manual. A format outline for the procedure manual was presented to the Society Board in October. And it was suggested that a written agreement concerning future library consolidation with the DAR and the Historical Society was desirable.

Upon the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee and approval by the Society Board and acknowledgement by the membership the following resolution was signed and sent to the McLean County Historical Society by President George Perkins on 11 July 1988: "The McLean County Genealogical Society agrees to combine its library collection (books, microfilms, microfiche, index cards, maps, equipment, etc.) with that of The McLean County Historical Society's Library which will be located in The McLean County Historical Research Center. The library collection of The McLean County Genealogical Society may be interfiled with The McLean County Historical Society's collection. However, The McLean County Genealogical Society will retain ownership of their collection and each volume, record, etc. will be clearly marked as belonging to the genealogical society. The McLean County Genealogical Society reserves the right to regulate which of its material may be checked out and by whom. We wish to cooperate in establishing policies and procedures of the research library."

The year 1988 required the serious assessment of the structure and the strengths of The McLean County Genealogical Society along with a close examination of its purpose. Getting the policies, procedures, goals and hopes into written form was to help materially in steering a true course.

Genealogical Society Begins 22nd Year In B-N

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society begins its 22nd year this month with a meeting on January 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Community

Room of Citicorp, 1515 East Empire Street, Bloomington.

The group's first meeting was held in January 1966 at Wither's Library by a group of women who had attended Mrs. Rachel Lundeen's adult education class on genealogy.

The group wanted to continue getting together and decided to form the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society.

That first meeting was attended by 13 women and Mrs. Eleanor Vance Wetter was elected president. There were 22 charter members.

The society has grown to a present membership of more than 400.

By-laws for the society were drawn in a later meeting that January.

A small library was quickly formed and has grown to a large one today. The library is located in the northeast corner of the 3rd floor of the McBarnes Memorial Building and is associated with the McLean County Historical Society. The library is staffed by volunteer society members and is open Tuesday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Monthly meetings are held at Citicorp on the third Monday at 7:30 p.m., except in August and September. Interesting and informative programs are presented to the membership.

15 FEB 1988 IVAN LIGHT SPOKE AT CITICORP ON "WILLS AND ABSTRACTS". MR. LIGHT IS AN ATTORNEY.

The current president is George Perkins.

The program for this anniversary meeting will be presented by Greg Koos, acting director of the McLean County Historical Society.

Koos will speak on "The

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society in the Old Court House."

Koos directed the restoration of the Miller-Davis Museum in Bloomington and the Matthew T. Scott House in Chenoa.

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; Robert Frizzell, assistant professor and social science librarian at Sheean Library, Illinois Wesleyan University, will speak on "Chain Migration as Revealed in Ger-

March

Genealogical Society Workshop Set

The next meeting of the Bloomington - Normal Genealogical Society will be April 18th, at 7 p.m. at Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society Library and McLean County Historical Society Library, located on the third floor of the McBarnes Memorial Building, corner of Grove and East Streets.

April

Genealogical Society

The Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society will meet May 16th at 7:30 p.m. in

the Community Room of Citicorp, 1515 East Empire, Bloomington. The speaker will be Esther Gilbert Hannon, whose topic will be "The Journal of Benjamin McGee: Life of the Settlers Here in the 1830s." Mrs. Hannon is past president of the Genealogical Society and past regent of the DAR. She has been involved in genealogical research for many years.

McLean County Genealogical Society — 6 p.m. Monday, tour of Funks Grove Cemetery by Stephen Funk, great-grandson of Isaac Funk; nearby picnic grounds open at 4 p.m. for use before meeting.

June

McLean County Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at the McBarnes Memorial Building, Bloomington; program, "My Swedish Ancestors," by Aldrich Larson of Saybrook.

Genealogical Society

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet July 18th at 7:30 p.m. on the first floor of the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove, Bloomington. The speaker will be Georgine Olson, a planning consultant. She will discuss plans to move the library to the Old Court House. Parking will be available in the Champion Federal lot across the street, north of the McBarnes building.

Genealogical Society

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet September 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor meeting room of the McBarnes Memorial Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington.

The speaker for the meeting will be Dr. William Walters Jr., who will speak on "Five Historical Houses in McLean County." Dr. Walters is professor of Historical Geography at Illinois State University.



Elizabeth Masters
81st birthday cake
Board meeting
June 13, 1988



Elizabeth Masters
Reading cards
Background:
Lucille Smith
Dorotha Russell
Betty Waugh
"Teddy" Johnston
Peggy Fuller
Lynn McCarthy



Elizabeth Masters
Background:
"Teddy" Johnston
Lynn McCarthy



June 13, 1988
Elizabeth Masters
Reading birthday cards
Background:
Peggy Fuller
Louize Muxfeld
Diane Hall



Elizabeth Masters
81st birthday
Board Meeting
June 13, 1988

Others:
Standing: Lynn McCarthy
Louize Muxfeld
Diane Hall
Phyllis Abner
George F. Perkins



Board Meeting
June 13, 1988

Joy Craig
Dorothy Allen
Lucille Smith
Dorothea Russell

A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois 1989

In January, the McLean County Historical Society signed a lease with the McLean County Board regarding the move into and occupation of the county Courthouse as basically specified in an intergovernmental agreement made in September of 1987. Under this lease the county would retain its ownership of the Courthouse and the Historical Society would rent the 23,000 square feet of space that will become available (forecast to go into effect in 1990 within a few months after the county moves out). The Historical Society lease was for a period of 30 years during which time the Historical Society would pay the county a rental of \$833.33 per month with the county picking up monthly utility costs and furnishing a maintenance employee. The county agreed to maintain insurance for the building; the Historical Society getting insurance for the contents of the new history and research center. The county agreed to pay the cost of any exterior upkeep; the Historical Society for any restoration of the interior. With the signing of this lease and the assurance from the Historical Society that the McLean County Genealogical Society would be accepted as an integral part of the move, the officers and members of the McLean County Genealogical Society renewed their initiative to make the move a complete success.

The Board elected for 1989 included:

President	Dorotha Russell	Membership	Lucille Smith
Vice-pres.	Paul Benjamin	Mimeograph	Diane Hall
Rec. Secty.	Phyllis Abner	Newsletter	June Parr
Cor. Secty.	Lynn McCarthy	Programs	Betty Waugh
Treasurer	Dorothy Allen	Publications	Joy Craig
Books	Ruth Hamm	Publicity	Theodora Johnston
Cemetery	Ruth Carpenter	Quarterly	Miriam Englehorn
Distribution	Ruth Wilkerson	H.S. Liaison	Elizabeth Masters
Finance	Peggy Fuller	Past Pres.	George Perkins
Library	Marge Mehlberg		

During the year the president and vice-president took advantage of many opportunities to speak to community organizations regarding the activity of the McLean County Genealogical Society. General membership meetings were mostly held in the Conference Room on the McBarnes Building first floor. Two special meeting nights were set aside for open house on the third floor for the membership to become more familiar with all society libraries there. In June the general meeting was held at the Friend's Benjaminville Church. Topics for meetings included: "Let's Organize Our Clutter", "Naming the German Names", "Tracks of European Migration", "Research in Washington D.C."

Probably the most important meeting on genealogy for the McLean County Genealogical Society in 1989 occurred on June 24th. This was the date of an Everton Publishers workshop which included classes: "Beyond Vital Records", "Unusual Record Sources", "Ships and Passenger Lists" and "Southern U. S. Research". 81 Central Illinois genealogists attended the full day at the Bloomington Elks Club. The committee that put the workshop into professional being was headed by Betty Waugh who was assisted by Donna Jenkins, Esther Hannon, Theodora Johnston, Dorotha Russell and Nola Marquardt - all members of the McLean County Genealogical Society.

During the year, member Bernice Brighton got up a complete inventory of all the Society's quarterlies. This list was entered in the nationwide OCLC computer network. Volume I of the Fulton County 1860 census was assembled in March. By October The McLean County Genealogical Society counted a membership of 334.

1989

McLean County Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday in the McBarnes Building, 201 E. Grove St., Bloomington; program, "German Names and Naming Traditions," by Myrna Park, past president of the McLean County and Illinois State Genealogical Societies; officers for 1989 presiding; Dorothea Russell, president; Paul Benjamin, vice president; Phyllis Abner, recording secretary; Lynn McCarthy, corresponding secretary; and Dorothy Allen, treasurer.

The McLean County Genealogical Society public meeting will be held on Monday, November 20th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Court House on the square in Bloomington. The program will be "An Update on Moving to the Court House" given by Greg Koos, director of the McLean County Historical Society, and Georgine Olson, of the Corn Belt Library System and consultant on the Historical Society's move to the old court house. This is the Annual Meeting of the Society and officers will be installed for 1990.

Migration Program

Professor Gerlof Homan, Ph.D., of Illinois State University, will speak on "European Migration to the United States" at the Monday, April 17th, meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society. The time is 7:15 p.m. in the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington.

Homan will discuss the significance of the European migration to this country and his talk will be illustrated with slides. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas and has been at ISU since 1968.

'Night at the Library'

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet Monday, February 20th, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the McBarnes Building at 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington. The program will be "A Night at the Library." The Genealogical Library, the Davis Library, and the D.A.R. Library will be open for use. There will be members to answer

questions and help with research problems. Sue Anderson will give a briefing on how to use the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which has recently been added to the Society's library.

McLean County Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday in the McBarnes Building; program, "Research in Washington, D.C.," by Mrs. James Hamm.

Genealogy Meeting

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet Monday, March 20th, at 7:30 p.m. in the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington. The speaker will be George Perkins, past president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and immediate past president of the McLean County Society. Perkins will speak on "Let's Organize That Clutter," which should help everyone to get his or her family data filed in good order.

Family History

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet Monday, June 19th, 7 p.m., at the Benjaminville Meeting House.

Paul Benjamin will speak on the old Quaker meeting

house and its history. He will also talk about the history of Benjaminville and the founding family.

To reach the Benjaminville Meeting House, travel east on Oakland Avenue to the Holder-Bentown Road. Turn left and drive a short distance. The church will be on the right side of the road. Those using Route 9, go east to the Holder-Bentown Road and turn right. The church will be located on the left less than a mile from the intersection.

B-N Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at Citicorp; topic, "Libraries with Genealogical Collections In or Near McLean County," with speakers Verda Gerwick of Lexington Historical Society, Lois Evans from Brumbaugh Library in LeRoy, and Lucille Pech from Atlanta Public Library.

Genealogical Society

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet October 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the McBarnes Memorial Building, 201 East Grove, Bloomington, in the first floor conference room. The speaker will be Elizabeth Veselack, who will talk on "Why Go to Salt Lake City?" She has worked twice in the genealogical library in Salt Lake City. Mrs. Veselack will give an insight as to how best to utilize the vast resources of this library.

Genealogical Meet

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet on Monday, July 17th, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The program will be "A Night at the Library." The Genealogical Library, the Davis Library, and the D.A.R. Library will be open for use. There will be members there to answer questions and give needed help. Sue Anderson will provide a briefing on how best to use the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which was recently added to the Society's library.



General Lee To Call Upon McLean County Genealogists

General Robert E. Lee, the commander of Confederate forces during the Civil War, will pay a little visit on members of the McLean County Genealogical Society when they meet on Monday, September 18th, 7 p.m., in the Community Room of the Normal Public Library.

Lee, who is actually Charles Lee Pope, a Biloxi, Mississippi native now residing in Peoria, will bring to life a period of history in the United States which was peopled by giants such as Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, our own David Davis, as well as southern heavyweights like Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, and, of course, Lee.

Did you know that Robert E. Lee did a lot of work in Illinois while a young man?

Back in the 1830s, Lee, as an engineer for the U.S. Army, worked in St. Louis and up and down the Mississippi.

He served in the U.S. Army for 34 years before joining the Confederacy when hostilities began in 1861.

"Abraham Lincoln offered Lee full command of the entire Union Army when the Civil War was just getting started," says Pope. "Lee turned it down because he didn't want to invade his native state (Virginia) and fight against his own relatives."

When Pope entertains on September 18th, he will be joined in costume by his wife, June Pope.

Pope was a commercial artist until his retirement last year. He now serves as a lecturer at schools and for other groups, usually about Robert E. Lee or the Lee family. Two years ago, he took part in a series of seminars for high school teachers at the Chicago branch of the National Archives.

Mrs. Pope is currently researching women of the time, a difficult task, she says, because writers of that day didn't write about women.

Pope's interest in the Civil War and Robert E. Lee began at an early age after playing in the old trenches at Port Hudson in Louisiana. He also heard war stories from old Civil War veterans and second hand stories of several of his ancestors.

The summer of 1974, his first as a resident of Peoria, saw Pope become active in Civil War re-enactments. Shortly afterwards, he built a replica of a seven-barreled volley gun and organized an artillery unit.

Today, Pope, as General Lee, seldom commands at battle re-enactments. Rather, he is called upon to narrate the battles with a play-by-play account of what spectators are viewing.

Presidential roots

George Bush's family linked to McLean County, Davis family

By ELAINE GRAYBILL
Pantagraph staff

The most famous man in the country has McLean County roots.
President George Herbert Walker Bush has joined the cast of nationally prominent people with McLean County in their pasts.

According to Christopher T. Walker, family genealogist and son of Bush's first cousin, interviewed by telephone, the president was not aware of his McLean County connection when he campaigned here last year.



David Davis

Inquiries by Walker, Woodbridge, Conn., and a Michigan genealogist were the catalysts that brought the following facts to light: George E. and Harriet Mercer Walker, the president's great-great-grandparents, came from Maryland to McLean County in a wagon in 1838 and raised their family on a farm southeast of Bloomington, on land now intersected by Interstate 74. They are buried in a small cemetery near there.

Their son David Davis Walker, named for his first cousin, Judge David Davis, was President Bush's great-grandfather.

David Davis Walker was born in 1840 and raised southeast of Bloomington, in Blooming Grove, where Bloomington's first pioneers settled. His school attendance records for three years are in the archives of McLean County Historical Society. He attended secondary school with Judge David Davis's children in Beloit, Wis. At the age of 17 he moved to St. Louis, where the judge had secured him a clerk position with one of his fellow land investors. Eventually, David Davis Walker founded Ely Walker Dry Goods Co. in St. Louis.

In 1903, David Davis Walker, then 63, and his son, George Herbert Walker, the president's grandfather, built the Kennebunkport, Maine, complex now owned by the president.

Even though the future president didn't know about it, his genealogist cousin, a 34-year-old full-time church elder, became aware of the McLean County tie during his nine years of research into Walker family genealogy. When Walker learned Bush would be visiting McLean County, he said, "I almost called his office, but I decided not to bother him."

On a few occasions Walker has hired genealogist Carole Hughes of Heyworth to look up McLean County records and take pictures of family tombstones. Mrs. Hughes did her work diligently but did not notice the name "George Bush" at the bottom of the genealogical chart Walker sent her.

A couple of months ago, Walker wrote to the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington asking for information. David Davis was a political ally and friend to Abraham Lincoln. After he was elected president, Lincoln appointed Davis to the United States Supreme Court.



The graves of President George Herbert Walker Bush's great-great-grandparents, George E. Walker, left, and Harriet Mercer Walker, are in a private cemetery southeast of Bloomington.

The David Davis Mansion staff was interested to learn of the presidential connection to Judge Davis. Curator Rebecca Landau, who is researching Davis family genealogy as part of her ongoing work, plans to write a letter to the president informing him of his ties to the Davis Mansion, which is a state historic site.

Last fall, a Michigan genealogist with McLean County connections came across the Bush ancestors. He alerted a McLean County genealogist, and a copy of his letter ended up at The Pantagraph.

The original Walkers — Harriet Mercer and George E. — who migrated to Illinois in 1838, are the foundation of the George Bush-McLean County story.

George E. Walker's parents, Thomas Walker and Catherine McLelland Walker, both were born in England. According to one record, Catherine held the title of "Lady." Thomas and Catherine married in 1785 in Clifton, Bristol, England. Their first two children were born in 1786 and 1787 in England. By the time their youngest child, George, was born, they

lived in Burlington, N.J., in a large brick house on the Delaware river.

The year of George's birth was not a good one for Thomas and Catherine Walker. Thomas was a ship's captain. That year, as the story goes, he was thrown overboard by a mutinous crew.

Walker, the Connecticut genealogist, believes the mutiny story and attributes scanty documentation of the mutiny to the family's grief at the time.

Widow Catherine remarried and moved to Philadelphia in 1801. Later, her son George was sent to a Catholic school under the guardianship of his brother-in-law.

Widow Catherine remarried and moved to



Dorothy Walker Bush

Philadelphia in 1801. Later, her son George was sent to a Catholic school under the guardianship of his brother-in-law.

George E. Walker married Harriet Mercer of Cecil County, Maryland, in Baltimore on May 22, 1821. It is likely that those attending the wedding included Harriet's sister, Ann, and Ann's 6-year-old son, David Davis, who would later move to Bloomington and become the Supreme Court justice.

From their marriage until they moved to Illinois, George, a farmer and schoolteacher, and Harriet farmed a section of her family's estate in Maryland. It was their nephew, David Davis, who convinced them to follow him to the Bloomington area.

George and Harriet had as many as nine children, three of whom died as infants. David Davis Walker was the youngest of their sons.

George died in 1864 and Harriet in 1869. They are buried in a private cemetery southeast of Bloomington owned by the Rhodes family.

David Davis Walker was a particular friend of George Perrin Davis, who was Judge David Davis's son and just two years younger than Walker. The two corresponded for years after Walker moved to St. Louis.

It was probably George Perrin Davis, a Bloomington resident, who is responsible for President Bush's connection to Kennebunkport. From his research into family letters, the Connecticut genealogist has learned that in 1889, George Perrin Davis's family vacationed at a hotel in Kennebunkport. The Walkers went to Kennebunkport for the first time the following year. The genealogist surmises that they went because George Perrin Davis recommended it.



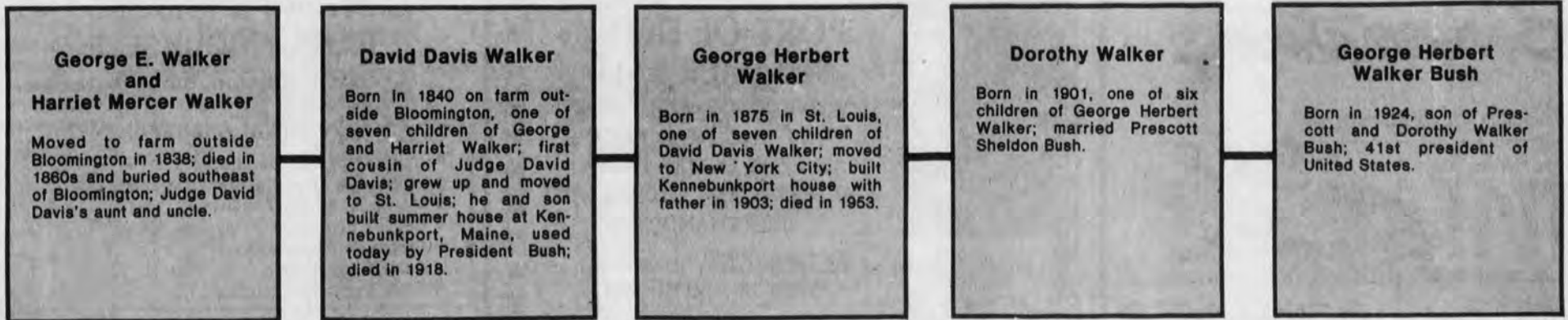
President George Bush

The Walkers rented houses in Kennebunkport until 1903, when they built the complex of five houses and barns on the peninsula called Walkers' Point. George Bush bought the estate in the late 1970s from a Mary Walker.

The Connecticut genealogist Christopher Walker said he is the first to explore the family history of the president. Some of his results have appeared in "Ancestors of American Presidents," a book published this year by the New England Genealogical Society. Walker may write his own family history someday.

Getting a president on the family tree was a lucky break for the genealogist. When Bush was elected, "I was kind of glad for him," Walker said, "but I was glad because what it meant was I would have some cooperation and help" with his genealogical search.

Walker gave Bush copies of some of the information he has gathered. While Bush himself is not a family-history buff, he was "an appreciative recipient."



**A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
1990**

The Executive Board of The McLean County Genealogical Society in its January meeting regretfully recognized a letter of resignation from President Dortha Russell. Dortha had received a ministerial appointment to serve two churches in northern Illinois acknowledged to be struggling without clergy. Vice-president Paul Benjamin was approved officially to move into the President's chair. Ruth Winterroth was nominated for the vacated Vice-president office and was accepted for the 1990 term.

The Society approached the year with an approved budget of \$7250, including a new annual fee of \$1200 for the use of the facilities in the McBarnes Building. The purchase of a special computer printer for cutting the stencils for the production of the Society's monthly newsletters was approved. The Newsletter was entered early in 1990 in the National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition. A critique of this entry was returned in September with helpful design comments. In May, the Society thought it favorable to buy the Savin copier which had been leased for several years.

In May, the Society was a co-partner with the Palatines To America organization in promoting a genealogy workshop at Illinois Wesleyan University.

In June, the Historical Society embarked on a fund-raising campaign to acquire 2.1 million dollars for the move relocation to the Courthouse. Members of The McLean County Genealogical Society were already aware of the needs and scope of the campaign for Historical Society Director, Greg Koos, had outlined the new prospective layout and the space utilization in a February video presentation to the Society. Members wholeheartedly supported the campaign and a number became donors pledging funds over the designated 5-year term.

In June, members of The McLean County Genealogical Society assisted with the Black History workshop sponsored by the Historical Society. President Paul Benjamin was asked by the Historical Society to participate in the selection process for a Librarian/Archivist for the new combination of library collections, Bill Todtz who was selected for this new position appeared before The McLean County Genealogical Society in a special August Board meeting to give an outline of his expectations for the new research library and a picture of the second floor space allocated to it at the Courthouse.

In July, following the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Board, The McLean County Genealogical Society adopted a new dues schedule of \$15 per member and \$5 for each additional member at the same address. The increase in dues was aimed to allow the Society to plan for offset printing of the quarterly "Gleanings from the Heart of the Corn Belt" instead of struggling with an obsolete mimeograph machine and stencils. Also, it was intended that by the McLean County Society joining the FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) each member would receive a free FGS quarterly, the Forum magazine. It was acknowledged that without a Society membership card entrance to the new Museum and Library complex in the Courthouse would cost individuals \$2.00 per visit,

In August, Paul Benjamin and Joy Craig manned a table for the Society at the McLean County Fair on Senior Citizen's Day.

In September, the Society by-laws were amended to permit the Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee to officially become a member of the Board. Marian Spratt, chairman of this active committee, had served on the "Long Rangers" since its inception. Also in September, Library Chairman Marge Mehlberg headed a Society project to inventory all assets, including furniture and equipment, to the aim of preparing holdings of The McLean County Genealogical Society for the anticipated move to the second floor of the Courthouse. A 72-drawer modern file cabinet was furnished by the Historical Society to house all the McLean County birth, marriage and cemetery file cards owned by The McLean County Genealogical Society.

Some of the 1990 membership meetings which were held in the Conference Room of the McBarnes Building had the titles stating "Brick Walls and Breakthroughs", Earning Your Prairie Pioneer Certificate" and "A Helping Hand With Your German Research". The April meeting in the Milner Library on the campus of Illinois State gave the membership an opportunity to learn what genealogical sources were then available there. The October meeting at Bloomington's Public Library offered complete information on library loan systems. Program Chairman Betty Waugh obtained an unusual genealogical video concerning finding missing women and/or tracing the ladies for the September meeting. The Annual Meeting for the Society was convened at the Old Country Buffet in Normal in November. After the installation of the Committee Chairmen and Officers for the new year, the theme of the program then involved members telling about famous decorations or holiday traditions belonging to their families.

At the close of the Society's fiscal year on October 31st the Society counted 318 members and a solid financial position with \$2000 in checking and \$5800 in a money market account (accumulated for anticipated expenses associated with moving). The Society membership rued the loss of Betty Waugh to the state of Missouri. Before she moved on, President Paul Benjamin presented Betty with a Society Certificate of Appreciation. The Society lost important members in death in 1990-Vicki Fleming, Marie Adam, Alice Ogle, Gert Shadid, Martha Benson and William Ross.

Although at one time it was imagined the Society's relocation to the Courthouse on the Square in Bloomington would be accomplished in 1990, the facts of fate and the McLean County office occupants did not clear the way for the move in 1990. The locating and interfiling of those approximately 8,000 volumes from the libraries and archives of the McLean County Historical Society, the DAR and The McLean County Genealogical Society to a common new home would have to wait.

1990

The McLean County Historical Society public meeting will be held on Monday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington. The program is entitled "Brick Walls and Breakthroughs." We are asking members to bring a problem that has hindered their research or bring a solution that has proved helpful. Let's get the year started by sharing. You could get an answer to one of the "brick walls" in your research or you could give someone else the "breakthrough" to further his research.

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held on Monday, February 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove, in Bloomington. The program is entitled, "The Migrations of the Huguenots." The speaker will be Betty Waugh. This will be a look at the first dispersal of the Huguenots and their later journeys and the effect they have had on many areas. Betty Waugh has been doing family research for nearly ten years and has been a student of history for many years.

McLean County Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday in the McBarnes Building; program, "A Helping Hand with German Re-

search" by Eleanor Mede, German teacher at Illinois State University, who will give causes of emigration during the 1800s and 1900s; help will also be given with deciphering German writing and locating German towns.

McLean County Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at the McBarnes Building; program, "Medical Histories," by Ruth Carpenter, registered nurse, who will discuss genes and allergies and the importance of keeping medical records on ancestors.

McLean County Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday in the McBarnes Building; program, "Prairie Pioneer Certificates Issued by the Illinois State Genealogical Society," by David Kent Coy, who will relate the history of the certificates, the

process of obtaining an application and the criteria required.

McLean County Genealogical Society — 7:30 p.m. Monday at the McBarnes Building; program, "Researching in Washington, D.C." by Mrs. James Hamm, who will report on several research facilities in that area.

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held on Monday, September 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive Street. The program will be a video presentation entitled, "Finding the Missing Women." It should give ideas on where to look for those elusive women that have escaped the usual research techniques.

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held on Monday, October 15th, at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library. Liz Veselak will present the program entitled, "Library Systems—Making the Best Use of Our Local Resources." She will tell what library systems are available and how to use these holdings. Liz is a retired teacher and an amateur genealogist who has been doing research for ten years.

The Annual Meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society will be held Monday, November 19th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet in College Hills Mall. Dinner at your own expense. Officers for 1991 will be installed. The program will be "Show and Tell" featuring holiday decorations brought by the members or sharing a family holiday traditions.

Genealogical Society to meet

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15 in the lower level Community Room of the Bloomington Public Library.

Liz Veselak will present the program entitled, "Library Systems - Making the Best Use of Our Local Resources". She will tell what library systems are available and how to use these holdings.

Liz is a retired teacher and an amateur genealogist who has been

10-15-90

County Genealogists' annual meeting Monday

The Annual Meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society will be held 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, 1990, at the Old Country Buffet in College Hills Mall. Dinner at your own expense.

Officer for 1991 will be installed.

The program will be "Show and Tell" featuring holiday decorations brought by the members or sharing a family holiday tradition.

11-90

Two Historical Society members receive awards

Two of the McLean County Historical Society's member of the Board of Directors received recognition and awards for their extensive work for the Society.

The Central Illinois Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives awarded Fred Dolan, Jr. with The Lewis J. Burger Outstanding Volunteer Fund Raiser Award and Harriett Rust with The Outstanding Philanthropist Award.

Page 2

Courthouse tour set for Dec. 2 by Historical Society

Three elegant and historic Christmas events are being planned by The McLean County Historical Society.

On December 2, a tour of the Courthouse in downtown Bloomington will be from 1-5 p.m. and includes a variety of music entertainment, programs for adults and children such as puppeteers and storytellers, crafts and Christmas refreshments.

12-90

2, The Normalite, November 22, 1990

Courthouse tour set for Dec. 2 by Historical Society

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On December 2, a tour of the Courthouse in downtown Bloomington will be from 1-5 p.m. and includes a variety of music entertainment, programs for adults and children such as puppeteers and storytellers, crafts and Christmas refreshments. St. Nicholas will arrive and stay for the afternoon taking children's Christmas wishes (pictures will be available for \$1.00 each.)

The event will conclude with the lighting of the rotunda trees and the community Christmas Sing.

The suggested donation is \$2.00 per person.

A Candlelight Tour of the Funk Prairie Home in Shirley will be held on December 6, 7, 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The Prairie Home was built by Lafayette Funk in 1863. It is now preserved as a museum. This year for the first time it will be decorated for Christmas. Decorators from throughout McLean County have joined hands to make this possible.

The evening will include festive outside decorations, tour of the elegantly decorated house, candlelight, music and Christmas wassail. Each room will have a costumed room guide with bits of history to share.

Vicki L. Fleming

Vicki Lynn Fleming, 44, of 612 W. Oakland Ave., Bloomington, a part-time clerk with the Internal Revenue Service, formerly in the drafting department at Growmark Inc., Bloomington, died at 8:39 a.m. yesterday (Sept. 10, 1990) at her home. She had been ill several years.

Her funeral will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Kibler-Smith Memorial Home, Bloomington. Burial will be in Park Hill Cemetery, Bloomington.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 tonight at the memorial home.

Miss Fleming was born July 3, 1946, in Bloomington, a daughter of John and Mary Watson Fleming.

Survivors include her mother and stepfather, Mary and Edward Weatherley, 403 W. Kelsey St., Bloomington; her maternal grandmother, Irene Watson, 612 W. Oakland Ave., Bloomington, with whom she made her home; four brothers, Jeff Weatherley, 1216 W. Grove St., Bloomington; Jim Fleming, Walnut Creek, Calif.; Ken Fleming, Santa Cruz, Calif.; and Tim Phillips, Magalia, Calif.; and two sisters, Cindy Starkey, Hudson, and Jackie Torbohn, Oakland, Calif.

Her father preceded her in death.

Miss Fleming graduated from Bloomington High School and Illinois State University, where she received degrees in industrial technology and business administration.

She was a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and the McLean County Genealogical Society.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

In Memory of

VICKI LYNN FLEMING

Date of Birth
July 3, 1946

Date of Death
September 10, 1990

Date & Hour of Service
September 12, 1990 - 1:00 P.M.
Kibler-Smith Memorial Home

Officiating
Rev. O.D. Reed

Interment
Park Hill Cemetery

Twenty-third Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want . . .

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters . . .

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake . . .

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over . . .

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gertrude E. Shadid

Gertrude E. "Gert" Shadid, 70, of 1002 Broadmoor Drive, Bloomington, a registered nurse, died at 12:30 a.m. yesterday (Oct. 19, 1990) at Brokaw Hospital, Normal. She had been a patient there since Sept. 25.

Her funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bloomington, the Rev. George F. Wilcox officiating. Entombment will be in Park Hill Mausoleum, Bloomington.

Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Metzler-Froelich Memorial Home, Bloomington.

Mrs. Shadid was born June 12, 1920, at Hillsboro, a daughter of Mirl and Ida Kitch Whitenack. She married Woodrow G. Shadid on Dec. 24, 1942, in Washington, D.C. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons, W. William Shadid, Columbus, Ohio, and Stephen M. Shadid, Chicago; one brother, John David Whitenack, Chicago; and three grandchildren.

She was a member of Brokaw Hospital Service League and St. Joseph's Nurses Alumni Association. Mrs. Shadid also was a member of Eastsiders Unit of McLean County Home Extension Association; McLean County Genealogical Society; Antique Study Group IV; the Genealogy Study Group; Palatines to America; McLean County Gardeners; and the Women's Club of Bloomington/Normal.

Mrs. Shadid was a graduate of St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in 1941. She had worked for the McLean County Health Department and later for Head Start before retirement.

Memorials may be made to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bloomington.



Gertrude E.
Shadid

Alice R. Ogle

Alice R. Ogle, 87, of 116 Eastview Drive, Normal, died at 1:48 a.m. yesterday (Nov. 6, 1990) at Heritage Manor Nursing Home, Normal.

She will be cremated, with inurnment in Afton Cemetery, Cherokee, Iowa. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Stubblefield Funeral Home, Normal, is in charge of local arrangements.

Miss Ogle was born Aug. 6, 1903, at Cherokee County, Iowa, a daughter of Frank M. and Velma Anne Loft Ogle.

Survivors include a brother, Emmet A., Seattle, Wash., and a sister, Daphne O. Stevens, Portland, Ore.

Six brothers and a sister preceded her in death.

Miss Ogle was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Normal. A retired teacher in 1968 of Illinois State Normal University laboratory schools, she was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a national society of teachers; Sigma Pi Lambda sorority; Alpha Gamma Pi art honorary; Kappa Delta Pi education honorary; and the Historical and Genealogical Society of McLean County.

She received her master's degree from Teachers College of Columbia University in New York. From 1932 to 1950 she taught at Metcalf and University high schools in Normal. In 1950, in special education, she developed a program in arts and crafts.

Memorials may be made to the building funds of the Presbyterian Church of Normal or the American Red Cross.

A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois 1991

After the county offices were cleared, renovation of the interior of the early 1900 Courthouse proceeded under the watchful eyes of McLean County Historical Society leadership. When it was discovered that asbestos removal regulations would require work not anticipated, the target date for the move was set back to the fall of 1991. Early in the year the Historical Society curtailed all weekend activity and access to the third floor of the McBarnes Building because their museum was into a packing mode. Huge stacks of boxes of artifacts and rolls of textiles and archive containers clogged the area. The still-accessible library of The McLean County Genealogical Society library began new hours which included afternoons for the five weekdays. During the early months of 1991 the McLean Genealogical Society accepted a wait-and-see posture in its operations and proceeded with regular meetings.

The Officers and Committee Chairmen elected for 1991 were:

President	Paul Benjamin	Membership	Lucille Smith
Vice-pres.	Ruth Winterroth	Mimeograph	Peggy Fuller
Rec. Secty.	Phyllis Abner	Newsletter	June Parr
Car. Secty.	Lynn McCarthy	Programs	Liz Veselack
Treasurer	Dorothy Allen	Publications	Joy Craig
Books	Ruth Hamm	Publicity	Theodora Johnston
Cemetery	Ruth Carpenter	HS Liaison	Liz Masters
Distribution	Ruth Wilkerson	Quarterly	Miriam Englehorn
Finance	Art Dornaus	Past Pres.	George Perkins
Library	Marge Mehlberg		

In February, Distribution Chairman Ruth Wilkerson reported the increase in bulk postage had moved the cost of mailing the Newsletter from 8.4 cents to 11.1 cents each. The first two issues of the Society quarterly "Gleanings from the Heart of the Corn Belt" contained first-time published data on McLean County township records of selling their Section 16 lands for the benefit of township schools. The project involved the translation and transcribing the original McLean County Commissioner record book of 1831 to 1875, yielding over 1300 names of settlers. Paul Benjamin was the transcriber; Betty Waugh, verifier.

Dr. Robert Bone, former President of Illinois State and Long-time member of The McLean County Genealogical Society, passed away in February. A new book, "The South 1860 Illinois Census," was inscribed with his name as a memorial. In March, Books Chairman Ruth Hamm reported the acquisition of the forty-volume Domesday collection (England's 1086 A.D. census).

The Long Range Planning Committee continued to up-date and polish the contents of a written library procedures and policies manual. The manual was accepted by the Board on March 11th.

In March, member Doris Hilton was named DAR Regent and member Ruth Hamm named President General of the National Society of the Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century. In May, Ruth Winterroth who had to resign as Vice-president because of a troubling illness was given a Society Certificate of Appreciation. Donna Jenkins was nominated and accepted as Vice-president for the balance of 1991. It was reported in May the Society already had 327 paid members.

In June, the Long Range Planning Committee constructed a final draft of an agreement proposed for the future relationship between the McLean County Historical Society and The McLean County Genealogical Society to take effect after moving to the Courthouse. The Society library was closed on June 28th to allow interfiling and packing of the book collection for the move. Librarian Marge Mehlberg, working with Bill Todtz of the Historical Society, gave the Society books a final culling and declared some 60 volumes surplus.

In July, Volume 2 of the Fulton County 1860 census was pronounced ready for sale. To prepare for increased Society recognition and membership 2,000 new brochures defining the organization and 1,000 tropic-colored pencils properly marked were authorized. President Paul Benjamin and Vice-president Donna Jenkins used both the new brochures and colored pencils as handouts at the McLean County Fair in August.

The Society by-laws were revised in September to reflect the change in meeting hours according to room availability in the Courthouse for open nights under the new agreement. The Society opted for Tuesday meeting nights for Board and general membership meetings once the Courthouse was fully operational. Also, changes in the by-laws indicated a new Society Board position for a voting representative to the new combination library committee; the Liaison Officer being replaced.

In September, Liz Veselack and Nola Marquardt volunteered to photocopy several thousand indexed naturalization cards from the McLean County Circuit Court office. The indexing of this data from original naturalization papers onto file cards was begun by members of the Society in 1975. However, until Liz and Nola had access to the file cards and trays, these files had not been allowed out of the Circuit Court.

In October, after Joy Craig attended the Illinois State Genealogical Society Convention in Urbana she reported the sale of many of her Publication Committee issues there.

In November, a final revised version of a working agreement with the McLean County Historical Society was approved and presented to the Historical Society. In November, The McLean County Genealogical Society Annual Meeting took place in the first floor reception and briefing room of the Courthouse on the Square. The large-scale move of the Historical Society to the Courthouse from the McBarnes Building had been achieved on September 30th after volunteers had spent considerable hours cleaning halls, erecting shelves, etc. in the Courthouse.

The spacious second floor library which now combined the books, archives and equipment of the McLean County Historical Society, of the DAR and of the McLean County Genealogical Society was opened for business on November 1st. Beginning library hours were for 9:30 to 5:00 for weekdays. It was anticipated at the time a more complete schedule for hours of the library and the museum exhibits and galleries would follow the grand opening of the Courthouse on 25 January 1992.

The year 1991 for the McLean County Genealogical Society could not by any measure have been considered a routine one. With the closing of the Society library in June and the re-opening for research delayed until November some genealogists no doubt had cause to put some searching for ancestor background in limbo. However, members of the Society carried forward all the vital activities of a working organization and regular meetings took place. Topics for membership monthly meetings included: "What's New with the Mormon Libraries at Peoria and Urbana", "History of the Quakers in the U. S.", "Using IRAD—the Illinois Regional Archives Depositories", and "The Status of County Records in McLean County". "Brickwalls and Breakthroughs II" was touted in January. In September, Society members were treated to a unique slide presentation of "Cities and Towns in Illinois." Visits to Law and Justice center offices and to Hinthorn Cemetery were additional programs. By the end of 1991 The McLean County Genealogical Society membership considered the Courthouse home grounds. A workroom/office had been provided to accommodate the Society's records, Publications and files. The partnership relationship between the McLean County Historical Society and The McLean County Genealogical Society which had budded in 1974 had culminated in a firm understanding and solid working agreement for the 1990's and beyond-situated in the magnificent structure of the Courthouse on the Square.

1991 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, & ASSISTANTS

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	<u>Paul K. Benjamin, Jr.</u>	662-4780
VICE-PRESIDENT	<u>Ruth Winterroth</u>	452-2934
RECORDING SECRETARY	<u>Phyllis Abner</u>	452-6312
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	<u>Lynn McCarthy</u>	452-5869
	Irene Bittner - Court House	828-4618
	Ruth Miller - Sub/Dist. Mail	452-2683
	Helen Anderson - Sub/Corr.	452-1646
	Carol Hughes - Sub/Corr.	1-473-2099
TREASURER	<u>Dorothy Allen</u>	452-4686

COMMITTEES:

BOOK	<u>Ruth Hamm</u>	1-726-1641
CEMETERY	<u>Ruth Carpenter</u>	828-5738
	Mary Goldsmith	827-8937
DISTRIBUTION	<u>Ruth Wilkerson</u>	452-0630
	DeAnn Weber	452-6681
FINANCE	<u>Art Dornaus</u>	1-747-3097
LIBRARY	<u>Marge Mehlberg</u>	452-0809
	Bernice Brighton	663-2925
	Nancy Fry	452-4349
	Liz Veselack	452-4505
	Liz Masters - Volunteers	829-7155
	Elaine Pavlik - Anc. Charts	827-8161
MEMBERSHIP	<u>Lucille Smith</u>	829-5877
	Peggy Fuller - Labels	452-3583
	Ruth Carpenter	828-5738
MIMEOGRAPH	<u>Peggy Fuller</u>	452-3583
	Ruth Wilkerson	452-0630
	Phyllis Abner	452-6312
NEWSLETTER	<u>June Parr</u>	1-473-2457
	Ruth Wilkerson	452-0630
PROGRAM (Hospitality to be provided by board when needed)	<u>Liz Veselack</u>	452-4505
	Donna Jenkins	662-3740
	Nola Marquardt	452-6310
PUBLICATIONS	<u>Joy Craig</u>	452-6824
	James and LaVerne Scott	452-1869
Typist:	Phyllis Abner	452-6312
	Esther Hannon	1-963-4383
PUBLICITY	<u>Theodora "Teddy" Johnston</u>	828-5371
	Diane Hall - Scrapbook	827-8658
QUARTERLY	<u>Miriam Englehorn</u>	828-2436
Typist:	Ruth Winterroth	452-2934
HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIAISON	<u>Elizabeth Masters</u>	829-7155
PAST PRESIDENT	<u>Dorothea M. Russell</u>	1-723-3431
	George F. Perkins	454-4371
LONG RANGE COMMITTEE	Marian Spratt	1-962-9117

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1991 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN & ASSISTANTS

Paul E. Benfante, Jr.
 Ruth Winick
 Evelyn Aker
 Lynn McAlister
 Irene Bittner - Corresponding Secretary
 Ruth Miller - Sub/Office, Hall
 Helen Anderson - Sub/Office
 Carol Hughes - Sub/Office
 Patricia Allen

Ruth Mann
 Ruth Campbell
 1-735-1641
 828-5736
 827-8827



James and Lavonne Scott
 Phyllis Spack
 Esther Hanson
 Theodore "Teddy" Johnston
 Gladys Hall - Scrapbook
 Miriam Engelhorn
 Ruth Winick
 Elizabeth Harkins
 Geraldine M. Russell
 George F. Perkins
 Marion Spack
 452-1869
 452-8312
 1-923-4383
 828-5371
 827-8828
 828-2438
 452-1936
 828-7122
 1-735-3631
 454-4331
 1-923-9117

OFFICERS:
 PRESIDENT
 VICE-PRESIDENT
 RECORDING SECRETARY
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

TREASURER

COMMITTEES:
 BOOK
 CEMETERY

DISTRICT
 FINANCE
 LIBRARY

MEMBERS

MINOR

NEWSLET

PROGRAM

Typist:

PUBLICITY

QUARTERLY

Typist:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIAISON

PAST PRESIDENT

LONG RANGE COMMITTEE

Release to Forum--

In 1991 members of the McLean County Genealogical Society of Illinois had great cause to celebrate their Society's Silver Anniversary. In its twenty-fifth year of continuous activity this Society was presented with an opportunity to obtain permanence for its library, office and meeting space within the classical structure of the historic old McLean County Courthouse. This 1991 move was made possible when the McLean County Historical Society was awarded complete residency of the Courthouse on the Square in downtown Bloomington. (County offices had all been moved into a new Law and Justice Center building). The long-standing close association between the McLean County Genealogical Society and the McLean County Historical Society propelled an agreement which supplied the needs of the Genealogical Society under the auspices of the Historical Society. Professional experts suggest the finest museum of interpretative history in conjunction with a comprehensive library and archives has created excellence for genealogists and historians that is unsurpassed in downstate Illinois. The library assets now boast merged collections of both the Genealogical Society and Historical Society and books of the local DAR chapter in total offering in excess of ten thousand items.

Early in 1966 twenty-four members of the twin cities of Bloomington-Normal launched a charter genealogical society which grew shortly to a hundred members, then two hundred in the 70's and later peaking to about four hundred members. The organization name became the McLean County Genealogical Society in April of 1988. During the second year, 1967, the Society began its monthly newsletter mailings and also issued each quarter its "Gleanings from the Heart of the Cornbelt", both not missing a publication in 25 years. In 1968 this Society was host to the Constitutional Convention of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and since then has furnished the state organization with more than a few presidents and board members.

During the years of its existence the McLean County Genealogical Society on its own was always fortunate to find a home for its growing library and space for its meetings. However, many of the community sponsorships were tentative. In 1974 this Society was able to team up with the McLean County Historical Society in housing their separate libraries in a common location. From this date forward an equitable arrangement was continued by the two societies to keep their facility open seven days a week with genealogists furnishing library volunteers. From 1977 to 1991 this arrangement was sited in downtown Bloomington's McBarnes Building. It was a red-letter day when the McLean County officials offered the entire Courthouse to the Historical Society for a "McLean County Museum and Library". Plans for the relocation and renovation of the Courthouse were begun in 1988. Being included in the plans was a source of real appreciation by the McLean County Genealogical Society. Making the move was truly a celebration of its Silver Anniversary.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

MY HOW TIME FLIES! When you receive this Quarterly our Library will have been in our new quarters for eleven months and open for researching for the past ten months. If you have not been to visit our combined Library facilities we sure hope that you will soon. Our members are doing a great job of volunteering with a total of 1266 hours thru the end of June. Of this time we were only open Monday thru Friday, until The McLean County Historical Society had their Grand-Opening the last weekend in March, after that date we went to the extended hours of all day on Saturday, noon to 5:00 pm on Sunday and Tuesday Evening until 9:00 pm.

It was with regret that the Executive Board and I accepted the resignation of our recent Quarterly Editor, Paul Benjamin, Jr. Laurel Quaid has accepted the appointment to fill the vacancy.

Society Purchases Computer

I am pleased to report that the Executive Board has approved the purchase of an IBM compatible computer to be placed in the Reading Room of the Library for use by all members and patrons. It is our plan to load all of our birth, marriage, death, cemetery/obituary, and naturalization records on the computer for easy access. Certainly it will take many months to enter our records, but the more volunteers who can come forward to help the faster the process will take. To speed up data entry, we are also purchasing software programs that are specially designed for our society to allow any of our members with an IBM compatible computer to enter our records at their leisure in their own home.

Our new computer has CD capabilities which will allow us to purchase records in the future in this medium. The amount of records that are being placed on CD is growing dramatically every month. For example the New England 1850 Census is available in hundreds of publications or 195 floppy disks or just one CD disk.

Computer Funds

The purchase of this computer clearly is the most significant addition to our library to date. It is fitting that during our 25th birthday celebration this year we have made such a significant contribution. In order to allow all of our members an opportunity to be apart of the birthday gift, a computer fund has been established for anyone who wishes to contribute. Two sizable contributions from Dorothea Russell and Liz Masters have been made to the computer fund to get us started. A nice plaque will be placed next to the computer in the library listing all individuals who have contributed \$25 or more to the fund. We thank you in advance for your generous contribution to this worthwhile project.

There are many other uses for the computer in the future, watch for more announcements later.

A HISTORY OF THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois 1991

December 1991

From the Editor's Notebook-

Members of the 1991 Executive Board of The McLean County Genealogical Society in total represent 266 years of commitment to the Society. As one reads the preceding Society history it is evident throughout that key members have served in various responsible positions for a number of years. And it is worthy to note that not only history-named Officer and Committee Chairman electees have contributed countless volunteer hours but also there are many nameless Society heroes who have served as volunteer librarians, publication typists, mimeographers, quarterly assemblers, etc. Dedicated voluntary service surely must be labeled as the total enduring strength behind the Society growth from the start in 1966.

Record for the 1991 Officers and Committee Chairmen:

<u>Name</u>	<u>1991 Board Position</u>	<u>Year Joined</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Ruth Carpenter * Cemetery Chairman 1966</u>
25 Elizabeth Masters	Liaison to Hist. Soc.	1967	24	Marian Spratt Long Range Planning 1969
22 Ruth Hamm	Book Chairman	1971	20	Joy Craig Publications 1975
16 George Perkins	Past President	1975	16	Peggy Fuller Mimeograph Chairman 1975
16 Lynn McCarthy	Correspondence Secretary	1976	15	Lucille Smith Membership Chairman 1976
15 Art Dornaus	Finance Chairman	1978	13	Donna Jenkins Vice-president 1979
12 Liz Veselack	Program Chairman	1980	11	Dorothy Allen Treasurer 1981
10 Ruth Wilkerson	Distribution Chairman	1981	10	Miriam Englehorn Quarterly Editor 1982
9 Paul Benjamin	President	1983	8	Marge Mehlberg Librarian 1983
8 June Parr	Newsletter Editor	1984	7	Theodora Johnston Publicity Chairman 1986
5 Phyllis Abner	Recording Secretary	1987	4	

* Charter member Total 266

Some comments by 1991 Board members:

Ruth Hamm: "During the past eighteen years the composition of the Society Board has changed but every member has been capable, efficient, enthusiastic, hard working and always friendly. It has been a pleasure to work for and with this really great organization."

Lynn McCarthy: "Joining the Society was a great opportunity. I went to all the meetings to learn more. In those days we did not have as many books in our library but I think I read every one there. I met such interesting enthusiastic members who were always willing to share their knowledge."

Phyllis Abner: "I probably would have stopped family researching if I had not joined this Society. The members and the library contents have kept me going. This Society is made up of super people and it has been a joy to be a part of it."

Joy Craig: "This Society has brought me new friends. It has been a source of much information, It has helped me know of other sources. It has led to out-of-town trips. It has given me the opportunity to use some of my talents. It has been a pleasure and a challenge to belong to this Society."

Liz Masters: "This Society has been one of the most challenging and satisfying associations I have had, especially since my retirement in 1972. It has been a most fulfilling way in which to spend my spare time and a wonderful way to meet and get acquainted with some fine people who were also searching for their roots."

Marge Mehlberg: "This Society has given me the incentive, knowledge, enthusiasm and the tools needed to do our family research."

Liz Veselack: "The McLean County Genealogical Society has provided a place to ask questions and seek help needed for a beginner researcher. Society programs are geared to all levels of researchers as well as being of interest to the general public. The Society provides a place to meet others with a common interest."

Marian Spratt: "This Society has given me ideas on research through its programs. It has given me helpful information on all aspects of genealogy. The Society quarterly and newsletter have often contained names of my ancestors and relatives."

Don't you agree that the above comments say it best!?

The Editor

THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY A Listing of Society Presidents 1966-1991

1966	Elinor Wetter
1967	Myrna Park
1968	Myrna Park
1969	Barbara Wright
1970	Barbara Wright
1971	Marian Spratt
1972	Beatrice Armstrong
1973	Beatrice Armstrong
1974	Doris Hilton
1975	Elizabeth Masters
1976	Ruth Cope
1977	Ruth Cope
1978	Esther Hannon
1979	Esther Hannon
1980	Joy Craig
1981	Joy Craig
1982	Joy Craig
1983	Peggy Fuller
1984	Peggy Fuller
1985	Betty Waugh
1986	Betty Waugh
1987	George Perkins
1988	George Perkins
1989	Dortha Russell
1990	Paul Benjamin
1991	Paul Benjamin

Honorary Life Memberships to The McLean County Genealogical Society have been awarded the following as specified in the Society By-laws:

David Kent Coy
Doris Hilton
Rachel Lundeen
Elizabeth Masters
Josephine Munro
Myrna Park
George Perkins

THE OPERATING AGREEMENT

So that the members of The McLean County Genealogical Society may have a complete understanding of the Society's agreement with the McLean County Historical Society in regard to operations and limitations for ongoing activities in occupying the Courthouse on the Square, the agreement is copied herewith:

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into by and between the McLean County Historical Society, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, party of the first part; and The McLean County Genealogical Society, a not-for-profit organization, party of the second part.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of each of these organizations to preserve these historically important collections, and to make these collections available to the general public for historical and genealogical research, and;

WHEREAS, both of the organizations wish to consolidate their collections in one location in order to make them available to the public.

NOW THEREFORE, each organization agrees to the following:

I. Each party will retain title to its property as it exists and to any future property acquired and placed in the combined collection.

II. The party of the first part shall be responsible for the general operation of the consolidated library and archives, and shall provide a Librarian/Archivist for this purpose. That person shall have responsibility for the following:

- a. Ordering and cataloging of archival supplies.
- b. Supervising the library volunteers.
- c. The review of all new materials to be cataloged and placed in the library.
- d. The conservation of the materials including the contracting conservation work.

III. Hours of operation will be determined by the party of the first part.

IV. New items to be placed in the library shall first be reviewed by the staff of the party of the first part and The McLean County Genealogical Society librarian to determine whether or not such new materials are appropriate for the library. Each party retains the authority to deaccess or remove its own items as per their internal bylaws. No items shall be removed except upon five (5) working days notice to the librarian. Each party agrees that in all cases generally accepted ethical procedures will be followed by each party, and each party agrees that there can be no appearance of private gain or enhancement as a direct result of the operation of a library for the public benefit.

V. Library volunteers will be treated as auxiliary staff, and thereby shall be entitled to the use of staff restrooms and lounge when on duty. Library patrons, along with other patrons, will use the public restrooms. Volunteers will be on hand to assist library patrons with questions, to reshelve books, to check-out and check-in materials, to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the librarian. Volunteers shall complete such training as may be necessary to properly carry out the procedures adopted for the operation of the library, and to properly care for the library preservation. The McLean County Genealogical Society agrees to furnish library volunteers whose sole function will be library work as assigned by the librarian. A genealogical library volunteer may also volunteer independently for other McLean County Historical Society museum work and activities.

VI. Policy decisions affecting the library operation and procedures will be made by the library committee of the McLean County Historical Society to which the second party will designate a voting representative to serve on the committee. The president of the respective organizations will designate at least annually to the president of the McLean County Historical Society the person to be its representative.

VII. There shall be an advisory committee to be composed of three members from each of the parties which will meet at least once a year to discuss and review library operations. The year begins July 1.

VIII. The McLean County Genealogical Society shall pay \$100 per month to the party of the first part and agree that the money so paid shall go into a special fund to be disbursed at the discretion of the librarian. Funds shall be used for capital purchases, including equipment.

IX. The party of the first part agrees that the party of the second part shall be allowed to use any of the courthouse's three meeting rooms at no charge. Use of said rooms, however, shall be subject to prior scheduling and use by the party of the first part during normal building hours. The party of the second part agrees that it will, in using the space, adhere to the policies or rules pertaining to the use of the rooms established by the party of the first part. The party of the first part further agrees that the party of the second part shall have the exclusive use of Room #211 located on the second floor of the courthouse, and shall have access to said space during normal business hours. Decisions regarding building policy or safety will be made by the party of the first part.

X. The McLean County Genealogical Society reserves the right to terminate this agreement and withdraw their collections from the facility after giving 60 days notice. The McLean County Historical Society also reserves the right to ask The McLean County Genealogical Society to remove their collections from the facility upon 120 days advance notice.

Operating procedures initially instituted were posted in the month that the agreement was completed, with the understanding the procedures could be modified from time to time by the standing library committee and approved by the Board of the McLean County Historical Society. The first proposed set of operating procedures follows on the next page.



The Official Signing of the Library Operating Agreement

(Standing) Paul Benjamin, Past 1991 President, McLean Co. Genealogical Soc.
 Bill Todtz, Librarian and Archivist, McLean Co. Historical Soc.
 George Perkins, Genealogical Society's Library Representative
 (At the Table) Donna Jenkins, 1992 President, McLean Co. Genealogical Soc.
 Fred Dolan, President, McLean County Historical Society

LIBRARY OPERATING PROCEDURES **(the first edition)**

The library committee, as established by the McLean County Historical Society, together with one designated voting representative of The McLean County Genealogical Society, shall have the responsibility for supervision and operation of the consolidated library of the three organizations (including the DAR) in furthering this purpose (the purpose as outlined in the preceeding agreement pages); it shall have responsibility in determining the rules and regulations governing the staff and patrons of the library. The following are the initial operating rules for the library which may be modified, added to, or deleted in the future.

1. All library personnel and patrons shall be required to demonstrate a minimum proficiency in the proper handling of library archival materials prior to being authorized to use and handle said materials. The librarian shall be responsible for the determination of such proficiency.

2. All copying of books and other materials shall be done on the book-edge copier located within the library. In order to help preserve the integrity of the collection and to reduce extraneous copying, all patrons, members and volunteers will not remove items to be copied elsewhere. There will be a charge made for copies, an initial charge of 20 cents per page.

3. The circulation of library materials shall be limited to serial publications and quarterlies. The limit shall be four (4) items for 14 days. \$1.00 per day per item late charges shall be levied for items not returned on time. Days when the library is closed shall not be counted in computing the due date.

4. Corn Belt Library System: At the librarian's discretion certain selected materials may be circulated through inter-library loan for inlibrary use only. Up to ten (10) pages may be copied at no charge per inter-library loan request.

5. The librarian shall insure that volunteers are properly trained and knowledgeable in the area in which he or she is asked to serve. In working with the volunteers, the librarian shall consider the personal preference of the individual volunteer whenever possible. It is the intent of the Historical Society, the library committee, and the organizations they represent to operate a professional library at all times.

6. The library shall be open at all hours the building is open to the public. Initial hours of operation are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM; Sunday 12:00 AM to 5:00 PM (these hours forecast to be effective after the Grand Opening in 1992).

7. Library patrons shall be required to pay the standard entrance fee to Museum and Library center. This fee is waived for members of the McLean County Historical Society and The McLean County Genealogical Society. The entrance fee will not be charged to on-duty museum or library volunteers.

Genealogical Society to meet Monday, Jan. 21

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21 in the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington. The program is titled "Brick Walls and Breakthroughs II". The repeat of last year's program is by request of our members.

We are again asking members to bring problems or solutions to share with others. An added feature of this year's "B B II" will be help for beginners. Help will be available to anyone who wishes to begin working on his or her family history. Visitors will be welcome.

01-91

Chris Koos to complete term on commission

Chris Koos is a new member of the Normal Historic Preservation Commission to complete the term of the late Dr. Robert Bone who passed away Jan. 13, 1991.

During its Tuesday, Feb. 12 meeting a motion was passed directing the Executive Secretary to file a petition for a Zoning Map Amendment requesting designation as local S-3 zoned historic landmarks for the Bakewell-Jenkins House, 607 N. Main and the Camelback Bridge, Virginia Ave.

2-14-91

McLean County Genealogical Society to meet

McLean County Genealogical Society public meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18 at the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington. The program "What's New?", will be given by Susan Anderson.

The program will present an update of newly introduced materials and services which are available at the Peoria and Urbana Branch Libraries of Mormon Church.

These libraries are affiliated with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mrs. Anderson is a family genealogist and a member of the Mormon Church in Normal.

2/91

9th ISU president, Robert Bone, dies Sunday at home at age 84

Robert Gehlmann Bone, 84, one of the most popular presidents in Illinois State University's history, died Sunday, Jan. 13, 1990 at his home, 2 Clinton Place, Normal. He had been in failing health since suffering pneumonia in October.

Visitation was held Tuesday in the Circus Room of Bone Student Center. The funeral was held Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church, Normal. Graveside services were held at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield. Stubblefield Funeral Home, Normal, was in charge of arrangements.

ISU and the Town of Normal are planning a memorial celebration of Dr. Bone's life at a later date.

When Dr. Bone became the University's ninth president on Sept. 1, 1956, the institution was known as Illinois State Normal University, reflecting more than a century devoted solely to teacher training. ISU had 3,200 students, and the value of campus buildings was \$13 million.

The institution changed its name to Illinois State University on Jan. 1, 1964, and enlarged its purpose to offer comprehensive academic programs through the doctoral level. When Dr. Bone retired at the age of 61 on Aug. 31, 1967, ISU had more than tripled its enrollment to 11,000 students. High-rise residence halls changed the community skyline, bringing the value of campus buildings to nearly \$90 million.

Dr. Bone came to ISU from the University of Illinois, where he was professor of history and assistant provost. Dr. Bone had memorized hundreds of names and faces from the school yearbook.

"He had as near a photographic memory as anyone I ever met," recalls



Nelson Smith, director of Photo Services for more than 50 years at ISU.

When he returned from a month-long educational mission to Egypt for the U.S. State Department in 1964, a crowd of 4,000 students, faculty and staff waited in the November cold, late at night, for a surprise welcome. When he arrived, the lights went on in the Quadrangle and the throng sang "Hello, Bobby" to the tune of Broadway's "Hello, Dolly."

After his retirement, students and faculty installed a sculpture in his honor, the Bone Hand of Friendship, facing the Quadrangle in front of Hovey Hall. Students initiated a fund drive to establish the Bone Scholars program, the highest academic honor given at ISU. Dr. and Mrs. Bone continued to be visible, distinguished citizens of the Bloomington-Normal community. They were honored as a couple in 1982 when the ISU student union was renamed the Robert and Karin Bone Student Center.

Dr. Bone was born June 2, 1906, in Springfield. He was educated in Springfield public schools and graduated with honors from the College of Wooster (Ohio) in 1928. He received master's and doctoral degrees in history from the University of Illinois. His interest in history seemed natural; one of his grandfathers shared ownership of a cow with a neighbor and fellow -Springfield attorney who lived on the next corner -- Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Bone's first teaching experience was in the American School at Alexandria, Egypt, during 1928-1931. From 1932 to 1934, he was a professor of history and speech at Lincoln College, Lincoln.

Dr. Bone was a member of the history department at the University of Illinois during 1934-56. In addition to his professorship, he served as director of the division of general studies, director of the division of special services for war veterans, and acting dean of the College of Education. He was assistant provost of the university during 1954-56.

The awards, honors and service to organizations by Robert Bone during his long, illustrious career would fill pages. Among them: representing the Association for Higher Education at the 1960 White House Conference on Education; setting up the American University at Shrivenham, England, and heading its history department while serving on the Headquarters staff of the U.S. Army Forces in Europe during World War II; serving as chairman of the Illinois College Testing Commission;



The Bone family celebrate some new puppies in this 1960's photo. by ISU Photographic Services. At top left is son John, Dr. Bone, son Robert Jr. and Karin in front.

serving on the executive board of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU); being elected a Lincoln Academy Laureate and serving as chancellor of the academy; being awarded honorary doctorates by Lincoln College in 1966 and ISU in 1968; and being honored as the Town of Normal's Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1969.

Following his retirement from ISU in 1967, the Bones remained highly interested in community activities and events but deliberately stayed away from campus the first four years in order to give the new president, Samuel Braden, a chance to begin his term in office. The Bones traveled to Europe. Then Dr. Bone worked for two years with the Ford Foundation and taught for two years at his undergraduate college in Wooster, Ohio.

They returned to their home at 2 Clinton Place, Normal, in 1971 to begin an active retirement that included travel in the United States and abroad, and to continue and enthusiastic involvement at ISU athletic, cultural, educational and social events.

Survivors include Mrs. Bone, who is the former Karin Levanus of Springfield; two sons, John, of Wooster, Ohio, and Robert Jr., Normal; and a sister, Frances Kimble, Springfield.

GULF-805 JAMTOWING

OPINION

Pyne Needles

By Ed Pyne



Just call me "Bob" said Dr. Bone

He was one of the most popular presidents in the history of Illinois State University. Dr. Robert Bone, who passed away this past weekend, always had a smile on his face, a twinkle in his eye, a bright and cheerful outlook on life and a great love of history. His enthusiasm for education was infectious and it's one of the reasons ISU was able to grow during his ten-year tenure and become the college of choice for thousands of students, which it still remains today.

Roger Cushman of ISU's News & Publications Dept. noted that Dr. Bone personally visited the birthplaces and grave sites of all of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, quite an accomplishment since some of them were now resting in unmarked, unkept cemeteries. Dr. Bone wanted to be called simply "Bob," telling former ISU student body president and now Justice Charles Witte that titles are for describing someone, not talking to each other.

Dr. Bone grew up in Springfield, Illinois and his grandfather, a lawyer, was a compratit of Abraham Lincoln. His grandmother was in charge of the floral arrangements for Lincoln's funeral in Springfield. The U.S. flag, that was draped over his coffin, was presented to the Bone family and Dr. Bone kept it for many years before giving pieces of it to others. Dr. Bone was an expert on the history of the U.S. dollar bill and kindly volunteered for an interview with one of our Normalite reporters last spring. It was wonderful to have known him.

1-17-91



Town of Normal honored the late Dr. Robert Bone
with a resolution Tuesday night. 1968 ISU Photo

RESOLUTION HONORING DR. ROBERT G. BONE

A resolution of Posthumous Appreciation and Commendation to Dr. Robert G. Bone for his Many Valuable Contributions to the Town of Normal.

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert G. Bone moved to Normal in 1956 to become the ninth President of Illinois State University and continued to serve in that capacity until 1967; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Bone's leadership as President of Illinois State University, student enrollment increased from 3,200 students to 11,000 students and the value of the Campus Physical Plant soared from \$13 million to \$90 million as a result of an aggressive building program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert G. Bone was a leader in expanding the mission of the University from one of a primarily teacher's training institution to a full service university offering a comprehensive array of academic programs through the doctoral level; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert G. Bone was beloved by the students, faculty and staff of Illinois State University as well as the citizens of Normal for his genuine concern and interest in the well being of all people; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert G. Bone both in his capacity as President of Illinois State University and as an active citizen of Normal, worked tirelessly to enhance the quality of life provided to the residents by our community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert G. Bone's contributions to the Town of Normal were justly recognized in 1969 as he was named the Town of Normal Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Robert G. Bone on January 13, 1991 at the age of 84, the Town of Normal lost one of its most beloved and respected citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF NORMAL, ILLINOIS:

SECTION ONE: That the citizens of the Town of Normal extend their most heartfelt appreciation and commendation posthumously to Dr. Robert G. Bone for his many outstanding contributions to this community.

SECTION TWO: That the Mayor, Paul Harmon, is hereby authorized and directed to present a copy of this resolution to Mrs. Karin Bone and to personally convey the Town's condolences to Mrs. Bone and the entire Bone family.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of January, 1991.

APPROVED:

Paul Harmon

President of the Board of Trustees
of the Town of Normal, Illinois

ATTEST:

Marianne Edwards, Town Clerk

1024-91

Dr. Robert Bone dies Sunday



Former ISU president, Dr. Robert Bone, died Sunday at his home. Following are some comments from friends and colleagues compiled by Roger Cushman of ISU's News and Publications Dept. See inside for more.

Tributes to Dr. Bone-

Dr. Robert G. Bone, ISU president emeritus who died Sunday, left his mark on the university and the community. The following tributes were offered by educators and government officials:

Thomas Wallace, president of ISU:

"Bob Bone exemplified in one person the complete collection of the best human qualities that a person could possibly possess. Caring about others was always his highest personal priority. These personal qualities have had a profound influence on the people who have been associated with ISU and the community. Bob Bone will long be remembered and respected as a model upon which to measure ourselves."

Lloyd Watkins, former president of ISU:

"Dr. Bone retained the enthusiasm and warmth of a young person, and that's one of the things I will always remember about him. He also reminded all of us that it is more important to be a good person than an important person. Of course he was an important person but he was also one of the nicest human beings I have known. He added a very human aspect to the university."

Kenneth Shaw, president of the University of Wisconsin System, ISU graduate and assistant to the president during Dr. Bone's administration:

"Robert Bone was an outstanding president. Most significantly, he was an

outstanding human being. He cared about others. He was an important influence in my young life and I've greatly treasured our friendship."

Paul Harmon, mayor of Normal:

"Bob was so well known in the community and so highly respected that he was the person whose guidance people followed. The community has lost one of those people that hardly seem to exist any more -- someone that everyone looks up to and respects. He was a neighbor and someone easy to talk to, but also somebody to get advice from on public matters which had a good dose of common sense involved. In dealing with people, he had no peers."

Richard Godfrey, former mayor of Normal and an ISU graduate who was public information director under Dr. Bone:

"Dr. Bone was one of the two major role models in my life, the other being my father. He was always kind and considerate of people and he acted with dignity in everything he did. He was greatly involved in the community as a member of various organizations including being an honorary member of Rotary, and his contributions to the community were recognized by various groups through the years."

Carol Reitan, former mayor of Normal and former ISU faculty member:

"He had a real commitment to the community as well as to the university. He and Mrs. Bone came here to settle and to stay and to contribute, and that never changed. From the day they came here they became part of the community and they contributed in many ways. They operated as a couple and they have been a wonderful team."

Earl Reitan, ISU professor emeritus of history and a graduate assistant for Dr. Bone at the University of Illinois:

"He had a really warm ability to communicate with students. I saw that when he was a lecturer in the Department of History at the U of I back in the 1950's. He had a wonderful rapport with students. After he came here, he had the practice of leaving his office in Hovey Hall and walking across campus at 10 every morning because that was a time when most students and faculty were out on the campus. He did that partially to make himself visible so the president would not be a stranger staying in Hovey Hall. He also wanted to make himself available to chit chat and get a feeling of how things were going. He really was a people person."

JAN 17 1991

To celebrate the life of former ISU president

Memorial service for Dr. Bone Sunday

A memorial service at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Mar. 17 in the ISU Bone Student Center Circus Room will celebrate the life of former Illinois State University President Robert G. Bone who died January 13.

The public is welcome to attend.

The program will include comments from many of Dr. Bone's colleagues read by emeritus faculty member Margaret Parret, comments from President Thomas Wallace, former President Lloyd Watkins, Normal Mayor Paul Harmon, alumnus and Appellate Judge James Knecht, and a musical selection by flutist Max Schoenfeld.

Parker Lawlis of the ISU Placement Services will be master of ceremonies.

Special videotape and slide presentations will be shown to recall Dr. Bone's 35-year association with ISU.

Refreshments will be served afterwards.



A memorial service Sunday will honor the memory of former ISU president, Dr. Robert G. Bone, who passed away January 13.

Genealogical Society to meet Monday at 7:30

McLean County Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Mar. 18 in the McBarnes Building, 201 East Grove Street, Bloomington.

The program titled "Record Keeping in McLean County", will be presented by Tracey Sullivan-Covert, Records Manager for McLean County.

What records are available, how they can be used and the various ways they are stored, will be discussed during her presentation. All genealogists will find this an informative program.

Visitors are welcome.

3-91

Genealogical Society to meet

The McLean County Genealogical Society public meeting will be held Monday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the McBarnes Building, 201 E. Grove St., Bloomington.

A slide presentation "Using Irad" will be given by Dr. Rayfield of the Illinois State University history department.

The development of the Illinois Regional Archives Depository system and its value to genealogists will be discussed.

Visitors are welcome.

Genealogical Society to meet Monday at 6:55

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, at the Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front St., Bloomington. Members should gather in the lobby of the Center at 6:55 p.m.

A brief instructional meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. followed by visits to the offices of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, and County Recorder.

Visitors are welcome.

The McLean County Genealogical Society Public Meeting will be held on Monday, July 15th at 7 p.m. at the Hinthorn Cemetery located on the southern edge of Lake Bloomington. A suggested route: follow County Highway 31 (Pipeline Road) north to the "T" intersection. Turn east (right) on County Highway 63 to the cemetery which is easily seen on the north (left) side of the highway. A brief presentation followed by a walking

Historical Society to hear Quakers

The McLean County Genealogical Society public meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 17 in the McBarnes Building, 201 E. Grove St., Bloomington.

Dr. David Chesebrough will be the speaker and the title of his talk is "The Quakers in Early Pennsylvania."

Visitors are welcome.

McLean County COMMUNITY NEWS, July 10-16, 1991

tour of the cemetery will be given by descendants of the Hinthorn family. Visitors are welcome. Parking is limited and car pooling is recommended.

10-02-91
Community
News

History on the Move!

How do you move history? Bill Todtz will soon be able to tell us. He is in charge of moving the McLean County Historical Society to the old McLean County courthouse this week. The move, which has been in the planning stage for two years, started on Monday, September 30th and will continue all week.

Two, and sometimes three, 48-foot-long semi trucks are shuttling repeated loads of artifacts from the museum's old location in the McBarnes Building at 201 E. Grove in Bloomington to the courthouse several blocks away. Windows in both buildings are being painstakingly removed and then carefully replaced once the crane and scissors lift being used to move large items have com-

pleted their jobs.

Packing, which has been going on for over a year, presented many challenges as staff members figured out how to best box unique and unusual items such as a sausage stuffer and pottery shards. All of the artifacts had to be padded and cushioned against the possibility of rough handling. At the same time, each of the artifacts had to be identified so it could be readily found if needed during the waiting period between packing and moving.

Packing the boxes involved a three-step process. First, each object was wrapped in acid-free tissue paper. Next, it was carefully rolled in bubble wrap, padding out its origi-

Continued on Page 2

nal shape. Finally, it was placed in a padded box with a packing list attached to the outside of the box. After each box was filled, the box was assigned a number and given a color-coded tag to denote its proper location after the move.

Many small artifacts, such as eyeglasses and women's hair combs, had been stored in drawers and didn't have to be boxed but still had to be padded and wrapped. Nearly one and three-quarters miles of bubble wrap and right at 900 boxes were used. In addition to the many, many artifacts in the boxes, there are more than 8,000 books and 250 linear feet of paper records from the historical library and archives.

Unpacking all the items and putting them in their assigned places in the new location will fill the hours between now and November 1st when the museum library and gift shop are anticipated to open. Permanent exhibits are scheduled to open in late January. Then, finally, the move itself will be history!

Doris M. Huenink

Doris M. Huenink, 64, of Muskego, Wis., formerly of Normal, died at 11 a.m. Sunday (Aug. 25, 1991) at her home.

A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the West Chapel of Wisconsin Memorial Park Family Center, 13235 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, Wis.

She was cremated. Inurnment will be at Wisconsin Memorial Park.

Hartson Funeral Home, Hills Corners, Wis., has charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Huenink was born June 3, 1927, in Milwaukee, Wis. She married Orvil "Bud" Huenink, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Cheryl Huenink, Essen, Germany, and Patricia Adams, 1711 Truman Drive, Normal; one son, David Huenink, Bristol, Conn.; one sister, Carol Francis, Racine, Wis.; and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Milwaukee Home Care Hospice.



Wandering among the tombstones, I made sure not to step on any of the groundmarkers, more out of respect for the dead than superstition. I found myself tidying up graves as I walked, forcing tilted headstones upright and straightening baskets of fallen flowers.

Though Christmas was over a month ago, many plots still displayed decaying arrangements. Some families made the loving effort of erecting miniature trees, adorned

Historical sites

By Patty Poremba

AXIS Magazine Staff

Continued from Page 1

with garland and ornaments. Near a child's grave, some grieving mother had left a pink, stuffed bunny along with some building blocks.

It's hard to explain the emotions I encountered upon entering these cemeteries. At this time of year, they were naturally deserted. But deserted doesn't mean desolate. Even though the dead were all strangers, I felt a unity with them. Just as there was death in the cemeteries, there was an abundance of love.

"Uncle Bob" passed away last year. Next to his grave was a small Christmas tree wrapped in red velvet ribbons with laminated cards tied to the branches.

I sunk down in the mud, at first hesitant about intruding on a family's expression of a tender loss. But that undefinable harmony was present along with a sense of approval from "Uncle Bob" himself.

"I hope you enjoy this Christmas tree of love," one card read. "Let's take the kids fishing one more time," another person had written. There were allusions to family trips and sleigh rides and the type of guidance that only a grandfather can provide.

I was moved to make a card of my own, for by the time I had finished reading all of the messages, I too felt a part of the family. But I abstained, frightened that a true family member would return to the grave and feel resentment at my self-inclusion. So I struggled to get up, shaking my legs from their sleep and returned to my aimless strolling.

People tend to view cemeteries in extremes. Either they're morbid, depressing and full of haunted spirits or they're a source of peace, wonder and fascination. The cemeteries around Bloomington-Normal, numbering over 100, contain more history than could be found in a classroom textbook and statuary as beautiful as the sculptures found in famed museums. But it's not often that peo-

ple think of cemeteries as places to visit when they have some free time.

Except for Ruth Carpenter, a self-titled "cemetery freak." Head of the Genealogical Society of McLean County, Carpenter has made cemeteries a regular part of her lifestyle.

Catching the "disease" from her father, Carpenter has always been "history-minded."

"I didn't care for the type of history taught in school, but it's the history of cemeteries that really makes me tick."

Carpenter knows the background on just about every cemetery in McLean County. However, she holds a particular interest in Shirley Cemetery located 25 minutes southwest of Bloomington. It is partly due to her efforts that the cemetery even exists to this day.

In the summer of 1982, Carpenter led a crew of workers to the cemetery, whose grounds had been overrun by weeds and trees, uprooting a number of the graves in the process. According to Carpenter, there were people who lived in Shirley all their lives who weren't aware of the existence of the cemetery.

Established in 1859, six years before the town of Shirley was even incorporated, Shirley Cemetery epitomizes the word "rural." The small graveyard sits amongst a grove of wild cherry trees, adjacent to both a corn field and railroad tracks. Almost 100 burials took place in the cemetery, 70 percent before 1900. A great number of the interred are war veterans.

"The cemetery was such a disgrace before we cleaned it up," Carpenter said. "You had to fight your way through to get to any of the graves."

The upkeep has been a struggle. There are still some fallen tombstones, but truthfully, it adds to the aura. Besides, some weigh over 300 pounds and would be impossible to lift.

Similar in setting is Funk's Grove Cemetery, just five minutes away from Shirley. Adam Funk, 1758-1830, selected this site and was the first to be buried here.

Friday, February 8, 1991

of the dead

The two-story church on the grounds was erected 1864-5 by Robert Stubblefield, Isaac Funk and sons and the two families more than make their presence felt on the grounds: 104 Stubblefield's are buried in Funk's Grove and 116 members of the Funk family.

Generations upon generations of families are buried here, some with monuments that defy the laws of gravity. Etched with names like "Lafayette," "Ab-salom" and "Tabitha," some headstones abandoned size for creativity.

A Funk tombstone had been etched with maple trees being tapped for syrup, a reference to the annual "Maple Sirup Festival" of Funk's Grove. One tombstone had a cartoon-like cardinal swinging a baseball bat.

Infant mortality must have been a worry on every parent's mind during the turn of the century. There are countless miniature headstones, topped with dozing lambs

and protecting angels. One family had a plot for their three children that had all died within five years of each other.

Naturally, some of the tombstones were so moss and lichen covered that the inscriptions were illegible. Weather had done its share in wearing smooth the granite surfaces.

Though not as steeped in history as Funk's Grove or Shirley cemeteries, Park Hill is an example of the ability to merge past antiquity with present modernity.

Designed in 1916 by famed cemetery architect Herbert Blaney, there have been a total of 17,000 burials in Park Hill with about 250 bodies interred each year. This would include placement in the four community mausoleums which house 4,400 crypts.

"There has really been a call for that," commented Warren W. Simmons, president of the board and manager of Park Hill for 36 years, referring to the preference

of above ground burial versus below ground. The founders of Beich candy and State Farm Insurance are buried in separate private rooms in the mausoleums.

"You can go into a mausoleum above ground for the same price as below ground. The crypt is your vault," Simmons said. "The rooms are heated, carpeted and well-lit, with furniture and flower tables.

"Cremation is not as popular here as it is in the cities, though we do receive quite a bit of cremation from out of town."

For those not opting for burial in a mausoleum crypt or a cremation niche, a major worry is the upkeep of the family plot once the family members have died. The Perpetual Care Law was established in 1948 and requires cemeteries to pay 15 percent of the plot cost to the Care fund and 10 percent of the mausoleum crypt.

"It's a must, the way the recession and

inflation have been these past years," Simmons said. "The fund takes care of mowing and additional maintenance at no cost to the family." However, it costs \$495 per grave - and that's just the purchase of the land.

The grounds of Park Hill include a Garden of Devotion, Garden of Eventide, Garden of the Pines and a Garden of Prayer, which has 24 niches for remains built into the front it.

"I've stayed with the business because I enjoy serving families," Simmons said. "People will come in and tell me, 'I've dreaded coming out here to do this, but you've made it so easy.'"

Perhaps the best-known cemetery in the area is Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, minutes away from downtown Bloomington. The final home of Judge David Davis, Jesse W. Fell, Adlai Stevenson II and other historical luminaries, Evergreen consists of sprawling acreage, highlighted



Kathleen Rocha / AVIS Magazine

with towering statuary from 100 years back.

Rumbling through the cemetery in his pickup, Lyle Converse, a member of the Evergreen Board of Trustees for 15 years, knows the history behind virtually every tombstone.

"See that small, white tombstone?" he asked. "That's where the Hagger boy is buried. He supposedly crossed the Delaware. . . Do you know about the Delaware? He supposedly crossed the Delaware with Washington."

Also buried in Evergreen is Hall of Fame pitcher Charles "Hoss" Radbourne who, in 1884, won 62 games and lost only 12. Opera star and Bloomington native Marie Litta died in 1883, penniless. Her memorial was erected by the citizens of Bloomington and according to Converse, her funeral was said to have been as heavily attended as Adlai Stevenson II's was 82 years later.

Pointing to the famous grave of Illinois' past governor, Converse complained, "Before Stevenson was buried you couldn't even walk through here it was such a mess."

Maintenance of a cemetery this huge is always a hassle and a great expense. In the summer, five men are hired strictly for lawncare.

There's also the unfortunate occurrence of vandalism.

"If I could just catch those whippersnappers. . ." Converse threatened. "Vandalism goes by spells. Over a 15-year period, there have been 500 markers tipped over; the marble is soft and eaten away

by weather. A lot of the statuary is irreplaceable."

Sinkholes especially have been the bane of the maintenance crew.

"At one time, people were just buried in wooden caskets," Doris Shepherd, office manager and secretary of Evergreen for 11 years, explained. "After so many years, the wood rotted and the casket collapsed. Then the grave collapsed creating a huge sinkhole."

"Now vaults are required. Vaults are the outer container that the casket goes in. It helps keep the moisture out."

A feature unique to Evergreen is Bloomington Vaults, constructed in 1888. The vaults, consisting of four large arched rooms, was used to store bodies in the wintertime when the ground was too hard for digging. According to Converse, graves are now thawed out by bottled gas and the vaults are used only for storage (of equipment, that is).

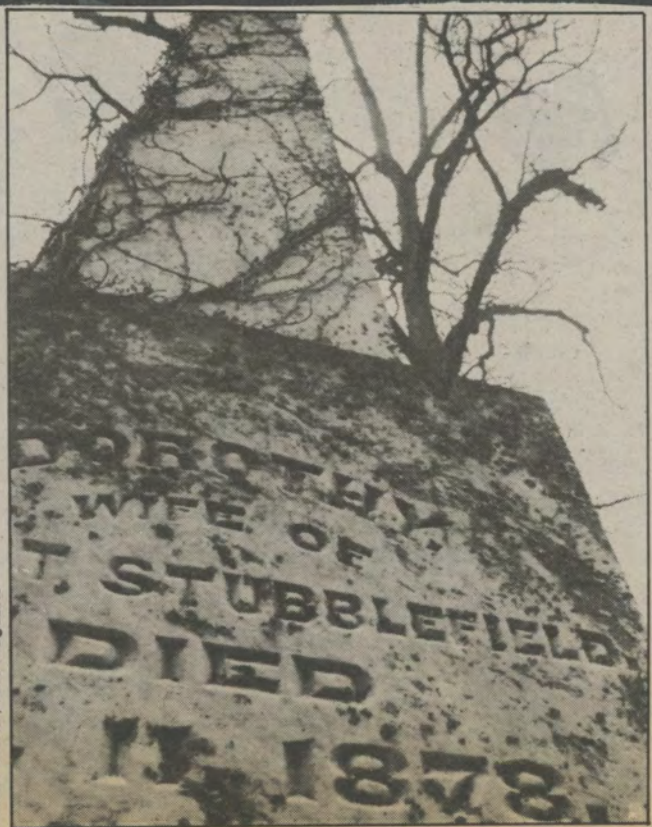
Family mausoleums are numerous, most dating back to the early 1900s. "People can't afford to have them built nowadays," Shepherd explained. "They currently run in the tens of thousands of dollars."

But neither wealth nor fame is mandatory for burial in any one of the above four cemeteries.

"There are usually no restrictions on the larger cemeteries," Shepherd said. A grave plot at Evergreen costs \$300. And lucky you! Park Hill has room to build three more mausoleums while Evergreen is currently constructing its first. However, you'll still have to settle for the ground in Shirley and Funk's Grove.

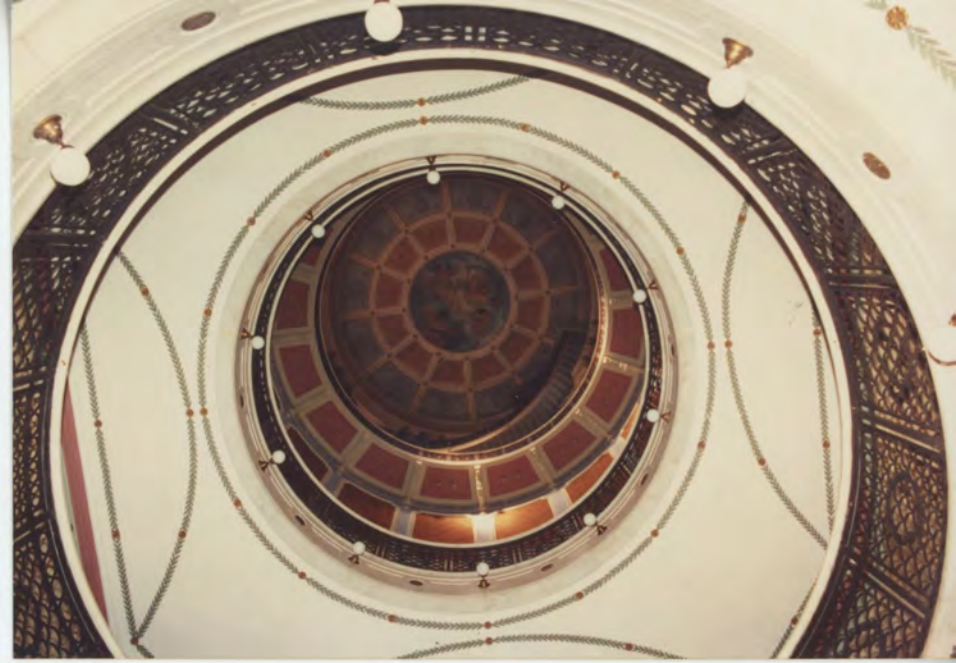


Adrian Rocha / AXIS Magazine



Adrian Rocha / AXIS Magazine





















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Temporary operating hours of the library: Monday thru Friday
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Operating hours after the Grand Opening of the Museum and Library:
Sunday 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Call (309) 827-0428, watch newspapers, or listen to local radio stations for further information of the Grand Opening of the McLean County Museum and Library.

MCLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

MY HOW TIME FLIES! When you receive this Quarterly our Library will have been in our new quarters for eleven months and open for researching for the past ten months. If you have not been to visit our combined Library facilities we sure hope that you will soon. Our members are doing a great job of volunteering with a total of 1266 hours thru the end of June. Of this time we were only open Monday thru Friday, until The McLean County Historical Society had their Grand-Opening the last weekend in March, after that date we went to the extended hours of all day on Saturday, noon to 5:00 pm on Sunday and Tuesday Evening until 9:00 pm.

It was with regret that the Executive Board and I accepted the resignation of our recent Quarterly Editor, Paul Benjamin, Jr. Laurel Quaid has accepted the appointment to fill the vacancy.

Society Purchases Computer

I am pleased to report that the Executive Board has approved the purchase of an IBM compatible computer to be placed in the Reading Room of the Library for use by all members and patrons. It is our plan to load all of our birth, marriage, death, cemetery/obituary, and naturalization records on the computer for easy access. Certainly it will take many months to enter our records, but the more volunteers who can come forward to help the faster the process will take. To speed up data entry, we are also purchasing software programs that are specially designed for our society to allow any of our members with an IBM compatible computer to enter our records at their leisure in their own home.

Our new computer has CD capabilities which will allow us to purchase records in the future in this medium. The amount of records that are being placed on CD is growing dramatically every month. For example the New England 1850 Census is available in hundreds of publications or 195 floppy disks or just one CD disk.

Computer Funds

The purchase of this computer clearly is the most significant addition to our library to date. It is fitting that during our 25th birthday celebration this year we have made such a significant contribution. In order to allow all of our members an opportunity to be apart of the birthday gift, a computer fund has been established for anyone who wishes to contribute. Two sizable contributions from Dorothea Russell and Liz Masters have been made to the computer fund to get us started. A nice plaque will be placed next to the computer in the library listing all individuals who have contributed \$25 or more to the fund. We thank you in advance for your generous contribution to this worthwhile project.

There are many other uses for the computer in the future, watch for the more announcements.

DEATHS

Elizabeth A. Masters

Elizabeth A. Masters, 84, of 205 Kreitzer Ave., Bloomington, died at 5:15 p.m. yesterday (Feb. 19, 1992) at BroMenn Lifecare Center, Bloomington.

Arrangements are incomplete at Metzler-Froelich Memorial Home, Bloomington.

Elizabeth A. Masters

The funeral of Elizabeth Ann Masters, 84, of 205 Kreitzer Ave., Bloomington, a genealogy buff, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Metzler-Froelich Memorial Home.

The Rev. Randy A. Williams will officiate. Burial will be in Park Hill Cemetery, Bloomington.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 tonight at the memorial home.

Miss Masters died at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday (Feb. 19, 1992) at BroMenn Lifecare Center, Bloomington.

She was born June 13, 1907, at Bloomington, a daughter of Allen Gabriel and Emily Woodard Masters.

Survivors include one nephew, Louis W. Masters, 807 W. Mulberry St., Bloomington.

She was preceded in death by one brother.

Miss Masters was a lifelong member of Centennial Christian Church.

She was an active member of the



Elizabeth Masters

Feb. 1992

Pantagraph
Feb 21, 1992

MEMORIAM

FLORENCE SCHROCK passed away November 20, 1991 at the Bromenn Regional Medical Center, Bloomington, IL. She was born May 20, 1905 in Normal, IL; the daughter of David & Catherine (Kaufman) Shertz. She married William Schrock January 17, 1946 in Los Angeles, CA. Florence was an Army Nurse and served 5 years in WW II.

MARY FITCHORN passed away January 14, 1992 at 1006 N. Elder St., Bloomington, IL. She was born October 14, 1923; the daughter of Ralph & Elizabeth (Fruin) Tully. Mary married Joseph Fitchorn June 30, 1951 in Bloomington IL. She was very active in Social Work.

VITA M. CHAPMAN passed away January 20, 1992 at Bromenn Regional Medical Center, Bloomington, IL. She was born June 26, 1893 in Scott County, IL; the daughter of Wm. G. and Barbara Ellen (Vortman) Mueller. Vita married Frederick Chapman October 21, 1922 in Jacksonville, IL. She was a teacher in Unit 5 schools.

McLean County Historical Society and a volunteer for the society. She was an honorary life member of the McLean County Genealogical Society and had volunteered for several major projects of the society over a period of 20 years. She also was a member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

Miss Masters attended Bloomington public schools and graduated from Illinois State Normal University.

She worked as a secretary in the offices of McKnight and McKnight publishers and then worked for Wabash Telephone Co. as a secretary. That company later merged with General Telephone Company of Illinois. She retired in 1972 after 36 years of service.

Memorials may be made to Centennial Christian Church or to the McLean County Historical Society.

The Pantagraph 21 Feb. 1992

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March 1992

MEMORIAM

A 20 YEAR MEMBER OF THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WILL BE MISSED

ELIZABETH MASTERS was born 13 June 1907 in Bloomington, Illinois. She died at the age of 84, on Feb. 19, 1992 at BroMenn Lifecare in Bloomington, IL. Her parents were Allen Gabriel and Emily (Woodard) Masters.

Elizabeth joined the McLean County Genealogical Society in 1972 and received a complimentary lifetime membership in 1981. In 1974 "Liz" became Vice President of our Society, in 1975 she was the President and again in 1976 she was the Vice President. She not only was the Editor of the Newsletter for many years but 1977 thru 1991 she was in charge of recruiting volunteers to work in the library. Several years ago Elizabeth Masters and Louise Muxfeld created the card file on Naturalization and Immigration now in use at the Circuit Clerk's office. The file is arranged alphabetically, with a separate card for each document held. These cards are now in a notebook in our library. In 1985 thru 1991, "Liz" was a Liaison for the McLean County Genealogical Society and the McLean County Historical Society. From 1988 thru 1991 "Liz" belonged to the Long Range Planning Committee for the McLean County Genealogical Society.

Elizabeth graduated from Bloomington High School and Illinois State Normal University. She worked for McKnight-McKnight Printing Company and then went to work for Washbash Telephone Company which then became the Illinois Telephone Company and then merged with General Telephone Company of Illinois, from which she retired after 36 years in 1972.

Not only was she active in the McLean County Genealogical Society but the Illinois State Genealogical Society, the McLean County Historical Society, Walter G. Wright Chapter Pioneer Club, and a very active member of the Centennial Christian Church of which she was on the Cradle Roll.

Elizabeth Masters

Worked for GTE for 36 years was a secretary retired in 1972

Liz was on the McLean County Historical Society Board from 1977 to 1990 was secretary for the board for several years

Joined the McLean County Genealogical Society in 1967 was vice president 1974 and president 1975

McLean Co Genealogical Society books were housed in the Normal Library from 1966 to 1973. They had to be moved as library needed the more room and the books were placed in the basement of Alice Ogle home.

Alice and Liz assisted people with their genealogy every wednesday afternoon at that location.

Jan 1974 the Historical Society proposed both societies put their libraries together. Historical society renting a building and the Genealogical society would man the library by furnising the volunteers and answer the phone. It was open 7 days a week.

We moved into a location on east empire in November 1974.

In 1976 the libraries move to a store on Front street and was still man by the volunteers from the Genealogical society.

Both societies moved to the McBarnes Building in Mar 1977 after it was restored from the fire of 1972.

Liz always recruited the volunteers for the library or working herself, which she also did every thursday afternoon. She kept the library going in the McBarnes building for 14 year until we closed in July of 1990 preparing for the move to the Court House

McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 488

NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

September 23, 1992

Illinois Department of Revenue
Legal Services Bureau
P. O. Box 19014
Springfield, IL 61794-9014

Dear Sirs:

The McLean County Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization which has qualified for the Federal Income Tax exemption.

In response to my recent telephone conversation with the Illinois State Income Tax Office we would like to apply for an "E" number for exemption from State Sales Tax. I am enclosing a copy of our By-Laws, list of officers with addresses, our latest financial statement, and a membership brochure.

If there is anything else that you need, please advise. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Jenkins
President

enclosure

McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 488

NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

September 28, 1992

Internal Revenue Service
EP-EO
DPN22-3
230 South Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Sirs:

The McLean County Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization and has qualified for exemption with you. Our "E" number is 37-6084032.

Would you please send a letter to our organization verifying this on your letterhead and with our new name? I would like to get the correct verification into our permanent records.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Jenkins
President

Internal Revenue Service

Department of the Treasury

District
Director

Person to Contact: EO:TPA

MCLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 488
NORMAL, IL 61761

Telephone Number: 1-800-829-1040
312-435-1040

Refer Reply to: 93-0000

Date: October 2, 1992

RE: EXEMPT STATUS
EIN: 37-6084032

This is in response to the letter, dated September 28, 1992, regarding your status as an organization exempt from Federal income tax.

Our records indicate that a ruling letter was issued in October 1968 granting your organization an exemption from Federal income tax under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Our records also indicate that your organization is not a private foundation but one that is described in Section 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions made to you are deductible by donors in computing their taxable income in the manner and to the extent provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

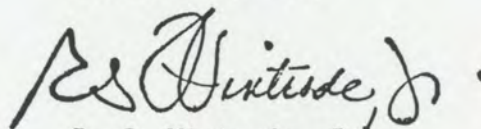
If your gross receipts each year are normally \$25,000 or more, you are required to file Form 990, Return of Organizations Exempt from Income tax by the fifteenth day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period.

You are not required to file Federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under Section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on F-990-T.

If any question arises with respect to your status for Federal income tax purposes, you may use this letter as evidence of your exemption.

This is an advisory letter.

Sincerely yours,



R. S. Wintrode, Jr.
District Director

Illinois Department of Revenue

LEGAL SERVICES BUREAU
WILLARD ICE BUILDING
101 W. JEFFERSON STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62794

OCTOBER 9, 1992.

MCLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
C/O PRESIDENT
P O BOX 488
NORMAL IL 61761

DEAR APPLICANT:

THIS IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF SEP. 24, 1992.

THE EXEMPTION FOR BUYERS FOR SALES TAX PURPOSES IN ILLINOIS, IN THE CASE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, IS LIMITED TO "EXCLUSIVELY" CHARITABLE, RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RECREATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR PEOPLE 55 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, AND NON-PROFIT, 501(C)(3) MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO THE MANY OTHER KINDS OF NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT THERE ARE, INCLUDING YOUR TYPE OF ORGANIZATION.

CONSEQUENTLY, RETAIL SALES OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TO

MCLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF
NORMAL, IL

ARE SUBJECT TO RETAILERS' OCCUPATIONAL TAX IN ILLINOIS.

LEGAL SERVICES BUREAU
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 488

NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

October 20, 1992

Ms. Joan Feistel Griffis
President
Illinois State Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 10195
Springfield, Il 62791-0195

Dear Ms. Griffis,

The McLean County Genealogical Society would like to offer to host the Illinois State Society's Founders Day Reunion next June. It would be held in our new quarters at the McLean County Historical Society, 200 North Main Street, Bloomington, Il.

We understand that the Illinois State Genealogical Society will be responsible for the speaker and the program. The McLean County Society will be responsible for the facilities and arrangement for the meal.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Jenkins
President

ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195

October 27, 1992

Donna M. Jenkins
President
McLean County Genealogical Soc.
P.O. Box 488
Normal, IL 61761

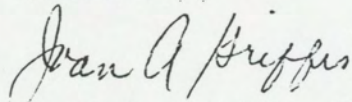
Dear Donna,

On behalf of the Illinois State Genealogical Society I wish to thank the McLean County Genealogical Society for offering to host the Illinois State Society's Founders Day Reunion on June 12, 1993.

We appreciate your offer to be responsible for the arrangements for the meal and the facilities at your new quarters at the McLean County Historical Society. ISGS will be responsible for the speaker and the program.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Joan A. Griffis (Mrs. W.R.)
President, ISGS

5944 N. McCook Ave.
Chicago, IL 60646
October 29, 1992

Donna M. Jenkins, President
McLean County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 488
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Ms. Jenkins,

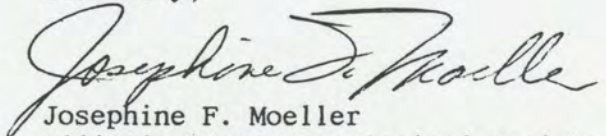
The Illinois State Genealogical Society voted at the recent annual meeting to accept the offer of the McLean County Genealogical Society to host the Founder's Day Reunion on June 12, 1993. We thank you very much for your kind invitation to meet in the McLean County Historical Society building at the renovated courthouse.

I, personally, am looking forward to seeing all that both groups have accomplished in the building. I am enclosing a copy of the announcement that I have sent to Karl Moore for inclusion in the Nov.-Dec. newsletter.

Please let me know when you have any estimates of costs for the banquet. I am hoping we can keep the costs to about \$15.00 per person. I am going to write to a folksinger suggested by Joan Griffis, a Mr. Art Thieme from Peru, IL. But George Perkins said he also knew of a folksinger from your area. I will let you know when we have anything definite. George and I discussed numbers, and I would be expecting between 50 and 80 persons.

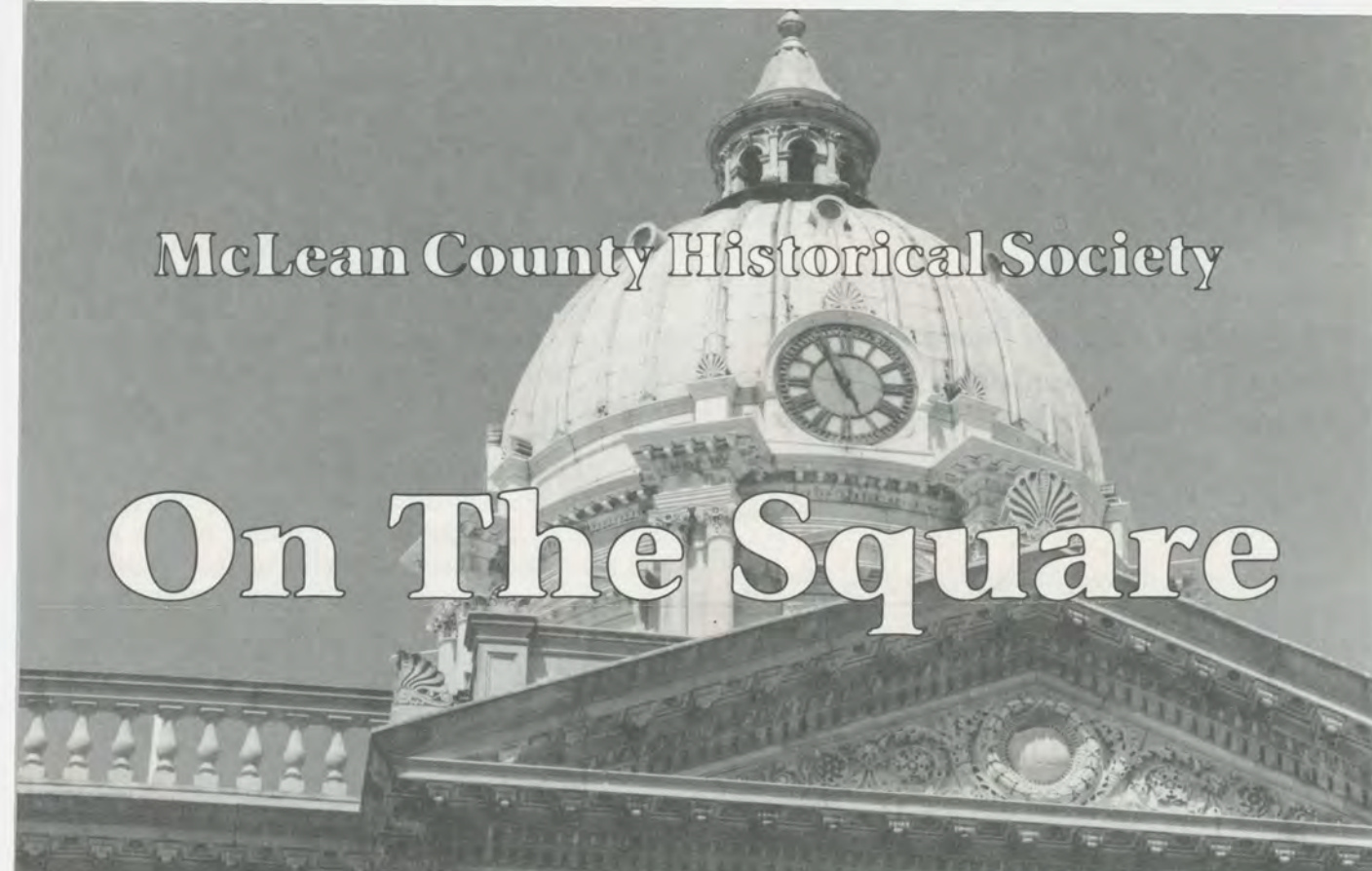
Thank you for the invitation.

Sincerely,



Josephine F. Moeller
Illinois State Genealogical Society
1st Vice-President

copy: Joan Griffis



McLean County Historical Society

On The Square

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER, 1992

How We Are Doing

The museum has now been open for six months and we thought that you might like to know how things are working out. As the story unfolds below you will see that it is about people like yourself. People who give of time, people who give money and people who are coming here to the old courthouse to learn about the heritage for which our county is justly proud.

Admissions From our opening in March to August 31 over 10,000 people visited the museum or participated in programs at the museum. Most of these visitors came to see the exhibit "Encounter on the Prairie." But many also came for meetings, volunteer work, programs and the play "Inherit the Wind." We also saw our first school tour season in which over 1,000 school children came on their spring field trips. In order to get a better handle on our admissions we will be establishing a better tracking method to learn more about our visitors. Our admissions income level, about .68 cents a visitor tells us that you, our members, are taking advantage of your membership benefit of free admission.

Membership There are now over 950 active members of the society. Because of the activity here at the

museum we expect that figure to increase. One of the ways in which more people will be joining in is that we will be asking the many people who are taking advantage of our new programs to help out. You will learn more about this effort later in the fall.

Volunteers Over 200 people are participating in our volunteer program. They are working as receptionists, librarians, gallery attendants, store clerks, office clerks, quilters, hostesses and in many other capacities. We estimate that over \$60,000 of services a year are being donated by these many generous people. By the way, if you would like to help out please call Sue Stott, our volunteer co-ordinator.

Staff Greg, Joyce, Bill, Susan, Sue, and Patty (a new name!) are working hard to keep the operation moving. The change the museum experienced as it opened brought new challenges to us. Patty Bortz is our new educator. She was previously with the Lake County Museum in Wauconda, Illinois. Patty is a recent graduate in history from Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin. She is also planning a fall wedding to Pat Wagner. Her ready smile and enthusiasm has won us all over. Please welcome her when you have a chance.



“What’s That Coming Down the Line . . . Railroads in the American Mind”

The McLean County Historical Society’s first major changing exhibit in the courthouse will open Saturday, November 7. Travel with us back to the days of sleek express trains and chugging locomotives.

America once moved to the rhythms of the rails. Trains carried passengers, the mail, farm produce and industrial goods. Small towns set their watch by the railroad and families gathered trackside to watch the passing of the fast express.

But the railroad was more than a transportation system, it was also an important symbol for a young, restless and growing nation. This symbolic power is the focus of this exhibit, which will look at how the train was once the prime American symbol — an emblem of a nation stretching from coast to coast, quickening with new production, ideas and places to go.

In this exhibit you’ll find travel posters, fine china and actual fittings from elaborate railroad coaches. You’ll see the hardware and tools that set “railroad men” off as a special breed, respected for their daring and dangerous jobs. Accuracy and precision will be highlighted by “Railroad time” — watches, telegraphs and signal systems. “She sells the rails” is a unique look at how women’s images were used to allure the male travelling public. The 1930s streamlining craze won’t be forgotten, along with its resulting flood of stylized consumer products. And of course, children (big and small) will enjoy a collection of vintage toy trains, children’s books and records which transmit the fascination that youngsters have for trains. You’ll even find an operating Lionel train here — make sure you get your turn at the controls!

Throughout the exhibit, you’ll see how the train was a pervasive symbol, used in advertising, music, literature and the movies.

A number of special events are planned in conjunction with this exhibit including a radio call in show on WJBC, Railroad theme music on WGLT, Children’s workshops, a photography contest, collector’s days, a folk music concert, a railroad themed film festival and more! See the calendar of events for more details on these happenings.

So thrill again to the roar of the fast express, to the images of luxury and fine travel, and climb aboard for a trip down steel rails to the past at the McLean County Historical Society.

Computers, Computers, Everywhere

Thanks to several sources the Historical Society has recently received two new computers. One, in the Library, is the result of a challenge grant with the State Library in Springfield. The State Library, through the Library Services and Construction Act Title III, awarded us approximately half of the cost of a new computer to be used in the Library.

The second personal computer is a gift from Hewlett-Packard Corporation. This computer will reside in Sue Stott’s office and will be used as an addition office computer. Sue may also have a few ideas as to the uses for this machine.

The McLean County Genealogical Society is getting in on the act. They have recently purchased a computer to be used in the Library by the public. They are in the process of setting up the databases of names for people to search for their ancestors.



Poster, ca. 1943, Preston Ensign Collection

New Additions to the Archives

By Bill Todtz, Librarian/Archivist

The Historical Society recently received an excellent addition to our advertising collection. In the late 1930’s a company known as States Display Art Services serviced the advertising needs of several local companies. States Display, headed by Preston Ensign and Don Shirley, did silk screen printing for such companies as Prairie Farms, Beich’s Candy and Purity Baking.

Mr. Ensign, who is retired from ISU, has been holding on to these examples of his work since 1943. Ensign was one of the founding artists at States Display when he left to join ISU. His donation consists of 95 posters, a metal sign and a reverse-painted glass sign.

You will be able to see some of Mr. Ensign’s work next Fall in an exhibit chronicling WW II in McLean County.

The poster illustrated here is one Mr. Ensign did for Beich’s Candy Company in the late 1930s.

December 10, 1992 Normalite Weekly Newspaper
PAGE 1

HISTORY OF THE ILLINOIS SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Published in 1940 By Robert Cass

The Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School is located in the central part of Illinois, at Normal, two miles north of Bloomington. It is conveniently reached by the C. & A. and the I.C. railroads and the state highways 66 and 51. The school covers a total acreage of 160 acres and consists of more than fifty buildings. The average population is 636, 240 girls and 375 boys.

The institution had its inception in a public meeting held January 19, 1864, from which the people of Bloomington sent a memorial to the state legislature calling attention to the need of an institution to care for the dependent children of Civil War soldiers.

The site for the school was selected by a commission appointed by Governor Oglesby.

Normal made many gifts of land and money for the establishment of the school. Mr. Jesse Fell, an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln, contributed 2,000 acres of land.

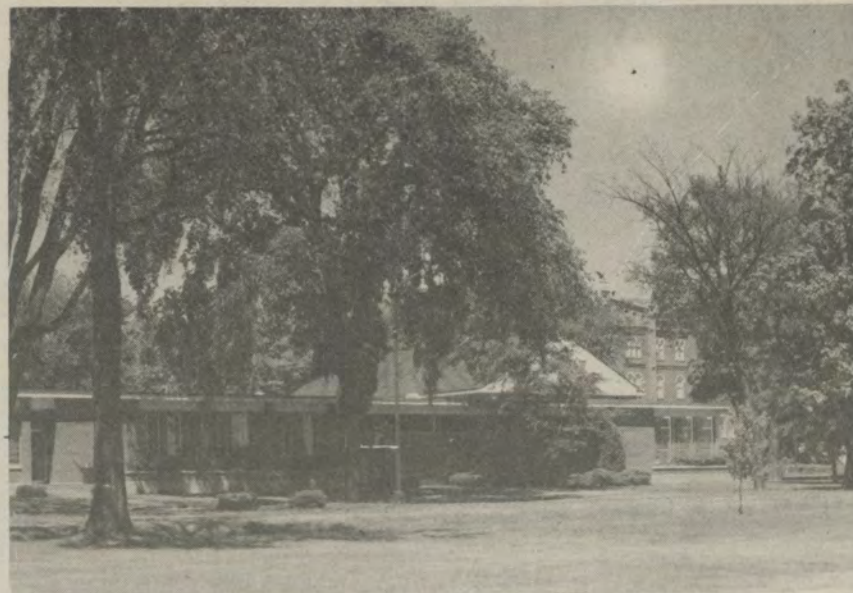
Other donators were: D. Davis, 80 acres; K. H. Fell, 160 acres; W. H. Mann, land amounting to \$1,000; H. P. Taylor, 20 acres; W. A. Pennell, \$1,000; N. Nixon, land amounting to \$1,000; F. K. Phoenix, 20 acres; and W. H. Allin, G. Diedrich, and C. C. McClure gave \$1,000 each. The C. & A. railroad donated freight haulage to the amount of \$10,000.

Normal's offer amounted to \$50,220; Springfield pledged cash and land at \$60,000; and Rock Island offered cash and land worth \$15,000. Decatur and Irving also offered land.

The board of trustees at the earliest practical date proceeded to erect an imposing building, and on June 17, 1869, its was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. It is still standing and is the Administration building today.

As soon as a location had been chosen and steps had been taken to erect buildings for the Soldiers' Orphans' home, the applications for admission became very numerous and so urgent that some time before the first building was completed, the trustees decided to open a temporary home. On August 5, 1867, one was opened in Bloomington. It was a success from the beginning and was soon filled to overflowing. A second home of this type was opened in 1867, during November. It was located in a building called Praire City House, on the corners of Praire and North, now Monroe Street.

In February, 1868, it became necessary for a third such home which was located in Springfield, with Mrs. Virginia C. Ohr as superintendent. Upon the occupying of the new institution, Mrs. Ohr was made superintendent and stayed for nearly twenty years.



The Town of Normal will take over the cafeteria building at ISSCS campus, the ball diamond next to it and the property south.



Eagle saved at ISSCS. Don Jennings of Hillview, Illinois, a former resident of the Soldiers & Sailors Home in Normal, gathers as much information about the famous institution that had as many as 850 residents in the 1940s. He loaned us the wonderful picture of the old administration building with some old cars in front. The Town of Normal Parks and Recreation Department will be getting involved with the grounds in the near future. Don noted the eagle that sits atop the building is in the basement of the McLean County Historical Society and they may give it back to Normal to help with a monument for the home. Don's wife and sister serve the equally famous breakfasts at Zorba's in Normal, so he gets to make the trip once a week to Normal from Hillview, located near Jacksonville.

Normalite wkly Newspaper
December 17, 1992

While you are here, please be sure to stop in our giftshop on the second floor and pick up a unique reminder of your visit here.

Thank you for visiting.



Group Visits

We encourage tour groups and school classes to visit the museum. If you plan to bring a group to the museum, please call ahead to let us know.

Membership/Volunteer

We welcome new members to the Historical Society. You can find out about becoming a member or volunteering here by picking up a brochure at the Receptionist desk.



McLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

200 North Main
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309) 827-0428
FAX (309) 827-0100

Admission:

Adults \$2.00

Children \$1.00

Free admission on Tuesdays

Special rates for school groups.

Hours:

M, W, Th, F, Sat. 10-5

Tues. 10-9

Sun. closed

Public restrooms are located in the basement.
Drinking fountains may be found on each floor.

The Old Courthouse is handicapped accessible.



Welcome to the McLean County Historical Society!

This guide will help you find your way around our building. While you are visiting the Old Courthouse we hope you will explore the entire building. From "Encounter on the Prairie" on the first floor to the "Pioneer Neighborhood" on the third floor, we have many things to see and do here. Please allow yourself at least an hour to visit.

First Floor

“Encounter on the Prairie”

People Gallery

We ask you to start your visit in the People Gallery. The written history of our county begins with the people who came to settle in the early 1820s. Before that we have only archaeological evidence of the Native Americans that were here. Take a look at the different ethnic groups which have made the successful community we have today.

Politics Gallery

In the Politics Gallery we tell the story of the people who came here to start a community. Many important legal precedents have come from the courts in McLean County. McLean County citizens have also been involved in every war since 1832. You will have the chance to learn about them in this gallery.



Work Gallery

This gallery is devoted to the industriousness of our citizens. From the C & A Railroad to the recreated State Farm Office, you will be able to see how this county has built itself into one of the wealthiest in downstate Illinois.

Farming Gallery

The wealth of McLean County, the largest in the state of Illinois at 1173 square miles, has always been based on its agriculture. From the earliest Native Americans to the Funk Seed Company and its experiments with corn and soybean hybrids you will be able to see how farming has always played a preeminent role in our history.

Second Floor

Library / Archives

The McLean County Historical Society, along with The McLean County Genealogical Society and the DAR, also maintains a library and archives for the use of historians, students, genealogists and anyone else who has an interest in our county's history. The library is staffed by a full-time professional librarian. The library's hours are the same as those for the museum.

Old Circuit Courtroom

Directly across the rotunda from the library is the Old Circuit Courtroom. This room is available for special events, meetings and wedding receptions.

Third Floor

“Pioneer Neighborhood”

Be sure to visit the Pioneer Neighborhood on the third floor. Through a variety of hands-on activities you'll be able to get a feel for how life was different in an 1850s log cabin.



Changing & Travelling Exhibits

These two galleries feature artifacts from our permanent collection as well as travelling shows from outside the community.

Textile Demonstration Room

On Thursdays the Historical Society has a group of quilters demonstrating this skill. They are always looking for experienced quilters to join in.

_____New Member _____Renewal Phone_____ Do you have an IBM
Compatible Computer?_____

PLEASE SHOW NAME & ADDRESS THE WAY YOU WANT IT ON MAILING LABEL

NAME _____ \$15.00

SPOUSE (\$5.00) _____

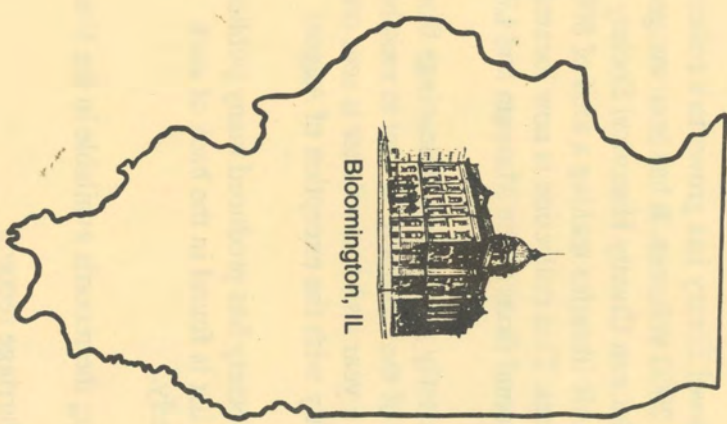
Add'l MEMBERSHIPS (\$5.00 each) _____

ADDRESS _____

TOTAL
PAID _____

Surnames searching in McLean County _____

The McLean County Genealogical Society



Located in

McLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM and LIBRARY
The Courthouse Square
202-10 N. Main St.
Bloomington, IL

1993

THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

was organized in 1966 by a group who had attended Mrs. Edgar Lundeen's adult education class on genealogy. There were 22 charter members. The Society has grown to the present membership of over 300.

The small library has grown to a collection of some 2000 volumes. It has been merged with the McLean County Historical Society and the DAR libraries making a total of 8000 volumes. This collection is now located on the second floor of the Museum and Library.

A quarterly publication "Gleanings from the Heart of the Cornbelt" is sent to members four times a year and a newsletter is sent out monthly with the exception of August.

The Society has produced many publications and a list is found in the back of each quarterly.

Among the records available in the library are:

Marriage records
Birth and death records
Cemetery records
International Genealogical Index on micro
fiche
Atlases
Family histories
Central Illinois County histories
Microfilm and microfiche readers

THE McLEAN COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping its members prepare their family genealogies, and to preserving and publishing genealogical records and articles. Membership is open to all with a genuine in genealogy and history.

The library is located on the second floor of the McLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 202-10 N. Main St. Bloomington Illinois. (The Courthouse Square)

The Genealogical Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, with the exception of August and December.

We invite you to attend a meeting and join if interested. Local newspapers give the details of each meeting, or write to the Society for information.

Queries may be put in the quarterly.

Research will be done for a fee, plus cost of copying and a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope by writing to THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Box 488, Normal, Illinois 61761.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

TO: The McLean County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 488
Normal, Illinois 61761-0488

(Note: Enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to receive membership card.)

Enclosed find check for dues for the year 19__, as indicated below:

Membership starts on January 1 and ends on December 31 annually. Others residing at the same address may join the Society for an additional \$5.00 each. Membership entitles you to FREE ENTRANCE to THE McLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY as well as receive our quarterly publication, entitled "Gleanings from the Heart of the Cornbelt", which publishes articles for McLean County and the surrounding areas; a monthly Newsletter with the exception of August; and copies of the "Forum" magazine issued by the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

____ \$15.00 U.S. & Canada

____ \$20.00 Outside the U.S. & Canada

THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1993 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	Donna Jenkins	662-3740
VICE-PRESIDENT	Liz Veselack	452-4505
RECORDING SECRETARY	Sue King	663-2959
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Joy Craig	452-6824
TREASURER	Dorothy Allen	452-4686

DIRECTORS:

ACQUISITIONS	Nola Marquardt	1-376-6310
CEMETERY	Mary Goldsmith	827-8937
DISTRIBUTION	Ruth Wilkerson	452-0630
FINANCE	Art Dornaus	1-747-3097
LIBRARY	Marge Mehlberg	452-0809
LONG RANGE PLANNING	Marian Spratt	1-962-9117
MCHS LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE	George Perkins	454-4371
MEMBERSHIP	Lucille Smith	829-5877
MIMEOGRAPH	Peggy Fuller	452-3583
NEWSLETTER	June Parr	1-473-2457
PROGRAM	Eleanor Mede	454-2688
PUBLICATIONS	Phyllis Abner	452-6312
PUBLICITY	Eleanor Watson	828-3515
QUARTERLY	Laurel Quaid	663-8289

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

We are happy to announce that Michele McNabb has accepted the position of Librarian/Archivist for the McLean County Historical Society. She was selected from a field of several candidates. Michele is an honors graduate of the University of California - Berkeley where she received her M.A. in Scandinavian languages. She received her M.L.S. from the University of Illinois, and served an internship in the Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She worked in a library in Waterloo, Ontario, for five years while a resident there. She has worked the past ten years in the Urbana Free Library's Champaign County Historical Archives. Michele is a member of the American Library Association, Genealogy Committee, and has been a speaker for several genealogical societies in Central Illinois. She has a deep interest in the subject of family and local history, plus a special interest in immigration and migration patterns, women's studies and the utilization of local history sources in genealogical research. She is excited about working with a collection such as ours where the historical, genealogical, and DAR materials are integrated. She said she will be glad to help translate Scandinavian languages, just call for an appointment.

We have completed bar-coding the books in the Library to be put on the OCLC System. The collection includes the McLean County Historical Society, The McLean County Genealogical Society, and DAR. This system will put us in a nation wide data base. With access to the OCLC, people will be able to list a book and see where it is available. If it is in our Library, they can come and look at it, or write for xerox copies of certain pages. The McLean County Historical Society received a grant for this project. The MCHS has received a computer and it has been placed in the reading room with ours. Their computer has a Resource Sharing Association (RSA) available. The Corn Belt System is one of the four current Library Systems in that database. This means that several hundred libraries in Illinois can be checked for certain books and received through inter library loan.

Our Society is the first of over 800 libraries in the State of Illinois, to be able to lease the FamilySearch program for our patrons' use. This program, which is owned by the LDS, was previously only available in their History Centers. Our lease, which is very expensive, will make the program available during our 46 hour week. The program contains the Ancestral File with more than 13 million names; the Family History Library Lists of over 2 million entries; and the International Genealogical Index for the United States and Canada with several million names. We hope to see a lot of you take advantage of this opportunity and come visit us soon.

Donna M. Jenkins
President

McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 488

NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

Dear New Member:

It is a pleasure to welcome you as a member of The McLean County Genealogical Society. We hope you will share your ideas and suggestions with us and, when possible, participate in the work of one of our committees of your choosing.

Membership is for the calendar year. During the year you will receive four issues of the quarterly, "Gleanings from the Heart of the Corn Belt" and a monthly Newsletter. Back issues of the quarterly may be ordered for a fee, so long as they are available.

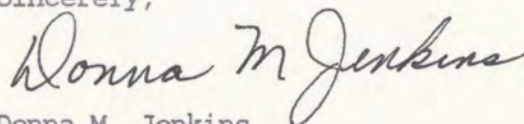
A free genealogical query may be submitted for each issue of the quarterly. We presently have members in twenty-seven states in addition to Illinois, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Your membership card, a receipt, and an ancestor chart are enclosed. The ancestor chart is to be filled out as completely as possible. Should you not have sufficient information to complete the form, send what you have to the above address. Also, please indicate on the reverse side of the chart whether you will allow the Society to publish the chart and/or names from it in a surname index.

We hope your association with our Society will be both interesting and helpful to you. We would like to see members who live in the area attend the monthly meetings, and invite those who live away to attend when you are in the area. Details are in each month's newsletter. We also invite you to use our library. We have now merged the McLean County Historical Society, The McLean County Genealogical Society and NSDAR libraries. Our new location is located in the McLean County Historical Society Museum and Library, The Courthouse Square, 200 North Main Street, Bloomington, IL. The entrance is the door on the Main Street side. The current temporary operating hours of the library are Monday thru Friday - 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The extended hours will be Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Tuesday, Thursday, 10:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.; and Sunday, 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. following the Grand Re-opening of the Museum and Library.

We recommend you carry your paid membership card with you at all times, it will be necessary to present it for admittance to the Museum and Library or pay the \$2.00 admittance fee. The McLean County Historical Society has elected to have free admissions to the general public on Tuesdays.

Sincerely,



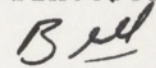
Donna M. Jenkins
President

Donna Jenkins, President
The McLean County Genealogical Society

Dear Donna,

This letter is to inform you that as of January 12, 1993, I will no longer be employed by the McLean County Historical Society. I have chosen to accept a position at Bradley University in Peoria. My association with the Genealogical Society has always been cordial and, I believe, beneficial to both of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Todtz' or similar, written over the printed name.

William Todtz
Librarian/Archivist

wct.

FamilySearch®
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located at 200 N Main, Bloomington, Illinois 61701

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Distributor will:

- (a) assume the defense of any suit brought against Licensee for infringement of any patent, copyright, or trade secret arising from the use or sale of the Program under this Agreement,
- (b) defray the expense of such defense, and
- (c) indemnify the Licensee against any monetary damages and/or costs including attorney's fees in such suit;

provided that:

- (a) Distributor is given sole and exclusive control of the defense of such suit and any negotiations relative to the settlement thereof,
- (b) the liability claimed shall have arisen solely because of design or selection of the Program and that the Program is used by the Licensee in the form, state, or condition as delivered,
- (c) Licensee shall have substantially performed all its obligations as set forth in this Agreement, and
- (d) Licensee provides timely written notice to Distributor of any claim with which Licensee asserts responsibility under this section.

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7. Enforcement by COP

Licensee agrees that this Agreement may, at any time, be directly enforced by COP.

In witness whereof, the parties executed this Agreement as of March 9, 1993.

Distributor:

By: Saul S. S. S.

Title: Marketing Mgr.

15 Mar 1993

Licensee:

By: Conna M. Jenkins

Title: President

SPECIAL SPRING CONFERENCE 1993

FOUNDER'S DAY REUNION

The Illinois State Genealogical Society
in cooperation with the McLean County Genealogical Society
invites all members and friends
to join us for a special banquet
to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the organization meetings
to establish The Society in 1969

Saturday, June 12th, 1993
10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Banquet at 12:00 noon
McLean County Historical Society
(old McLean County courthouse)
200 North Main Street
Bloomington, Illinois

Program by our own Carl O. Reed
with some special musical entertainment

Details of banquet meal and costs to be arranged

Please mark June 12, 1993 on your calendar. In the morning we will enjoy tours of the renovated courthouse and time in the McLean County Genealogical Society library. Join all of us for fun, conversation and entertainment at the banquet. The first organizational meetings for the establishment of the Illinois State Genealogical Society were held around dining room tables in the summer of 1969, with the first of these being in Bloomington, IL. We hope all of those who helped establish the society, plus charter members, all former officers and committee chairmen and members during the past 25 years will come to reminisce and to get better acquainted as we honor the work of the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

Founders Day Reunion

*The Illinois State Genealogical Society
in cooperation with the McLean County Genealogical Society
invites our members and founders
to join us for a special luncheon
to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the organization meetings
to establish The Society in 1968*

SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH, 1993

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(OLD MCLEAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE)

200 NORTH MAIN STREET

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

9:30 a.m. Coffee and muffins

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tours of the renovated courthouse and the genealogical library

Dinner 12 noon

Menu

Salad Rolls

Stuffed pork chops

Parsley potatoes Green beans

Anniversary cake

Program 1:30 p.m.

Reminisce with Carl Reed

Folk songs and stories by Marita Brake

Cost \$15.00

Register early, seating capacity is limited to 120 persons

REGISTRATION FORM

FOUNDERS DAY REUNION - June 12, 1993

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please list whether charter or life member and offices held _____

Price: \$15.00 each. Number registered _____ Amount enclosed _____

Register early: Final registration by May 12.

Send to ISGS, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-1095

Feb 11, 1993
Normalite

Genealogical Society to hold February meeting

The February meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society will be held Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Bldg. at 200 N. Main, Bloomington on the second floor in the court room.

David Kent Coy, an experienced Central Illinois researcher and a member of our society, will speak on the topic, "Your Union Civil War Veteran." Mr. Coy will inform us about the various Civil War sources he has found in our vicinity.

MARCH 11, 1993
Normalite

Genealogical Society to hold public meeting

The McLean County Genealogical Society public meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 16 in the McLean County Historical Museum, 200 N. Main in Bloomington.

Terri Ryburn-Lamonte, a professor at ISU and two of her students, Laura Long and Jay Marten, will present a program on the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Children's School in Normal. Visitors are Welcome.

The Normalite
June 10, 1993

Genealogical Society to hold June 15 meeting

You are cordially invited to the June meeting of the McLean County Genealogy Society Tuesday, June 15 at 7:00 pm, in the McLean County Historical Building, 200 N. Main Street, on the 2nd floor, in the Old Court Room.

Martin Wyckoff, of Martin A. Wyckoff & Associates, will lecture on one of his professional topics, "Preservation of Documents." Mr. Wyckoff is a historian, researcher, preservationist, artist and curator with an interest for McLean County history. Genealogists love to preserve "things." Future generation family historians will appreciate your well preserved records.

The Normalite
Sept 16, 1993

Society to meet Sept. 21

The September meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society will be held Tuesday, September 21, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 North Main Street, in the Old Court Room.

Michele McNabb, Librarian
Archivist for the McLean County

Historical Society, will present, "What's New in the Library."

Come prepared for an informative meeting on how to use the many resources in our Library. Bring along your genealogy work papers and any questions you might have about where to find things in our Library.

Doris Hilton

Doris Angleton Hilton, 78, of 2501 E. Washington St., Bloomington, died at 5:20 a.m. yesterday (May 14, 1993) at Martin Health Center, Bloomington. She had been ill the past five months.

Her funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Metzler-Froelich Memorial Home, the Rev. Philip D. Queen officiating. Burial will be in East Lawn Cemetery, Bloomington.



Doris
Hilton

Visitation will be 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the memorial home.

Mrs. Hilton was born May 9, 1915, at Bulpitt, a daughter of Jay B. and Bessie Minnis Angleton. She married Elmer L. Hilton Aug. 24, 1940, at Bloomington. He died Oct. 20, 1960.

PANTAGRAPH
MAY 15, 1993

Survivors include a son, Jay Michael Hilton, rural Bloomington; a daughter, Helen Kay Dalrymple, Normal; and five grandchildren.

One sister preceded her in death.

Mrs. Hilton was a member of Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, and an active volunteer at BroMenn Lifecare Center.

She was a member and regent of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in addition to holding several other offices in the chapter.

She was a member of the McLean County Historical Society and was instrumental in the organization of the McLean County and State of Illinois Genealogical Societies, where she held various offices.

Mrs. Hilton was a member and former chapter and state officer of the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century.

A 1937 graduate of Illinois State Normal University, she had been employed as an accounting and statistical clerk for State Farm Insurance Cos. for 32 years, retiring in 1981.

While at State Farm, she served as a member of the Employee Activities Board of Directors for 22 years.

Following her retirement, she had been an extensive world traveler.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, or the American Diabetes Association.

June 1993

MEMORIAM

DORIS ANGLETON HILTON, a charter member and past president (1974) of our Society passed away on May 14, 1993. She was born on May 9, 1915, at Bulpitt, a daughter of Jay B. and Bessie Minnis Angleton. She married Elmer L. Hilton on August 24, 1940, in Bloomington. He passed away Oct. 20, 1960. She is survived by a son, Jay Michael Hilton; a daughter, Helen Kay Dalrymple; and five grandchildren.

Doris was the current regent of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a member of the McLean County Historical Society, and the Colonial Dames of the 17th Century. She was a member and past president (1979) of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, a 1937 graduate of Illinois State Normal University, a 32 year employee of State Farm Insurance Company, retiring in 1981, and a volunteer at BroMenn Lifecare Center.

Lucille Reynolds

The funeral of Lucille Lewis Reynolds, 81, of 2540 W. Maryland, Phoenix, Ariz., formerly of 503 W. Miller St., Bloomington, will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Beck Memorial Home, Bloomington.



Lucille Reynolds

The Rev. Herbert Knudsen will officiate. Burial will be in Park Hill Cemetery, Bloomington.

Visitation will be 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the memorial home.

Mrs. Reynolds died at 9:15 a.m. Saturday (Jan. 30, 1993) at Community Hospital Medical Center, Phoenix.

She was born Dec. 22, 1911, in Canton, a daughter of William and Grace Schofield Douglas Clark. She

married Archie H. Lewis May 7, 1938, in Kentland, Ind. He died June 10, 1967. She later married John E. Reynolds July 20, 1968, in Bloomington. He died Jan. 6, 1982.

Survivors include four daughters, Patricia Bertram, Phoenix; Judy Wills, 39 Brandywine Court, Bloomington; Cinda Lewis, Galt, Calif.; and Laura Lee Eperson, Phoenix; 13 grandchildren; 13 stepgrandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A brother preceded her in death.

Mrs. Reynolds was a former member of First Christian Church, Bloomington. She was past president of Photo Colorists; past officer for McLean Genealogical Society; served on the board of directors of the state Genealogical Society; and was a member of the American Legion Post 56 Auxiliary.

Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Families given tool to research roots

System places library among nation's 'elite'

By MELINDA ZEHR
Pantagraph staff

Of the more than 1,000 public libraries in Illinois, the one in the old McLean County courthouse has become the first in the state to offer a computer program that may make searching for ancestors easier.

The McLean County Genealogical Society has purchased the Familysearch computer program, the most powerful computer genealogical program in the world, according to members of the society.

With the purchase, the society joins an "elite" group of only about two dozen libraries — including the famous New England Historical and Genealogical Society in Boston — that have the program, said Society President Donna Jenkins.

The Familysearch computer program was designed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which attaches great importance to genealogy and has long had an extensive library at its Family History Library in Salt Lake City and branch libraries throughout the United States, including Champaign and Peoria.

The computer program is just part of the McLean County Genealogical Society's goal to create a "great research center that would draw people from all over," said Marian Spratt, chairwoman of the society's long-range planning committee.

For its efforts, the library earlier this year received the Federation of Genealogical Societies' "Award of Merit for 1993" — an award coveted by genealogy societies. The honor was accepted by George Perkins of Normal, a member and past president of the society who was instrumental in bringing the computer system here.

The McLean County Genealogical Society's library has been combined with that of the Historical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution and is on the second floor of the former McLean County courthouse, 200 N. Main St., Bloomington.

The library is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday. People may sign up at the library for use of the computer; no phone reservations are accepted.

Volunteers are available to assist with use of the computer, which costs users 50 cents per half hour and 5 cents for every page printed.

The Familysearch programs include the Ancestral File, which contains more than 13 million names. People searching the file may find ancestor names, family groups and the name of the person who contributed the information.

Genealogists also may scan the International Genealogical Index that includes names and



The Pantagraph/STEVE INGRAHAM

McLean County Genealogical Society President Donna Jenkins and past president George Perkins showed how Familysearch can help users track their ancestry.

vital information, such as birth and marriage dates, for more than 20 million deceased Americans and Canadians, mostly dating from the 1600s to about 1990.

The Familysearch program also includes the Family History Library Catalog, which lists more than 2 million titles in the Family History Library of Salt Lake City.

Users of the society's computers also may access the Social Security Death Benefit Index, although it is not part of Familysearch. The index contains information — names, social security numbers, dates of birth, dates of death and locations of death — for about 42 million deceased people who had Social Security numbers and whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration from 1934 to 1989.

An index to the 1850 Census of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hamp-

shire, Rhode Island and Vermont also may be accessed through the computers.

Also available on computer is a complete listing for early marriages to about 1825 for the states of Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Virginia, and the ILLINET OnLine system, which gives access to the card catalogs of more than 800 Illinois libraries.

In addition, members of the society have begun entering McLean County cemetery and obituary records, as well as local genealogical society members' pedigrees into the computer system, and hope to have all of them available for access within the next few years.

Besides computer indexes, the library has a collection of 10,000 volumes, ranging from local families' histories and city directories to genealogical societies' quarterly publications and early U.S. Census records.

MOGS BECOMES NUMBER 1

The Board of The McLean County Genealogical Society is proud to announce the following:

There are over 1000 libraries in the State of Illinois and your McLean County Genealogical Society Library has become the first library outside the LDS Family History Centers to have the FAMILYSEARCH program available to its' members.

The FAMILYSEARCH program is the most powerful computer genealogical program in the world. At this writing only about two dozen libraries have this program. Among those are the famous Allen County Public Library and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. This makes The McLean County Genealogical Society among a very elite group.

Available at our library is the ANCESTRAL FILE (which contains over 13 million names), Family History Library Catalog (which lists over 2 million entries from the largest genealogical library in the world) and the International Genealogical Index for the United States and Canada (which has over 20 million names listed).

We are always striving to make our library a show place for genealogical research. The lease of FAMILYSEARCH program is quite expensive, so we hope that our members and friends will take advantage of this outstanding opportunity in genealogical research.

The FAMILYSEARCH program will be available to the public on July 6, 1993. Unlike most Family History Centers which are open only about 12 hrs a week; our library is open a full 46 hrs a week.

To better serve our members and friends our library staff and volunteers are presently being trained on the FAMILYSEARCH program. We have one of the finest libraries of its type in Illinois and we are certainly looking forward to seeing you and helping you find your ancestors. Come in and pay us a visit.

Salt Lake Library Comes to McLean County, Illinois

The McLean County Genealogical Society Library Continues to Lead the State and Country

The McLean County Genealogical Society is proud to announce that they have been selected as one of only twenty libraries across the United States and Canada to be given full inter-library loan privileges with the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Society becomes the first library in Illinois to have inter-library loan access to over 2,000,000 rolls of microfilm available in the Salt Lake City Library. These two million rolls represent over six million three-hundred-page books. No other collection in the world is as large. This is the first time that the L.D.S. Church has made its world renowned microfilm collection available outside of its own Family History Centers. The McLean County Society was selected to pilot a test program with the L.D.S. Library.

The McLean County Genealogical Society is very proud to offer this service to its members and patrons. The Society has been on the leading edge in use of computer technologies in the State of Illinois and maintains one of the finest genealogical society libraries in the state. It was the first society in the State of Illinois to make computers available to its members and patrons in many different ways, including FamilySearch, ILLINET ONLINE, GRS, RSA, and INTERNET. The society has committed itself to exploring and utilizing computer technologies to enhance its library.

The library is located on the second floor of the Old Courthouse Museum at 200 North Main Street, Bloomington, Illinois. Library hours are 10-5 on Monday through Saturday; Tuesdays the library is open till 9:00 p.m. Admittance to the Museum and Library is free to MCGS/MCHS members. There is a \$2.00 fee to enter the Museum and Library for non-members. Admittance to the Museum and Library is free on Tuesdays.

Starting in November there will be two exhibits on WWII, many lectures on various WWII subjects, plus Christmas At The Courthouse.

When your 1994 dues are paid, the mailing sticker on the newsletter and quarterly will be updated to the new year. If the year does not show 1994 on the January mailings, then your 1994 dues has not been paid. Be sure to check the label for the correct address. The post office does not forward bulk mailings. If the address is incorrect, they return it to the Society and we are required to pay an enormous postage for all returns.

Donna M. Jenkins, President

The PANTAGRAPH-1992 Genealogy society programs scheduled through October

Several special programs are planned by the McLean County Genealogical Society this month and in October.

Michele McNabb, McLean County Historical Society librarian/archivist, will discuss "What's New in the Library" at the Tuesday meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the courtroom of the Historical Society.

The capabilities of two computers will be featured in the discussion. The computers store information available only through the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The library houses the 10,000 volume collections of the Historical Society, Genealogical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Sept. 30, George Perkins will present an adult education course at Heartland Community College for beginners in genealogy. He is an award-winning member of the McLean County Genealogical Society. The six classes will meet in Bloomington High School Room 105 from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Ray Gooldy of Ye Olde Genealogy Shoppe will present a seminar from 4 to 8 p.m. Oct. 5 at the society building. His lectures will be "Migrations" and "No Vital Statistics." He also will display and sell genealogical materials. Reservation forms are available at the society library.

"Brick Walls and Breakthrough" will be presented at 7 p.m. Oct. 19. Participants will be given the opportunity to field a question on how to solve a research problem.

Lincoln meeting

829-6104. Gratefully yours, Donna Jenkins

BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS:

George Perkins, our MCHS Representative, has indicated that there has been an interest shown in a "Beginning Genealogy Class". He has announced that he will be teaching such a class beginning September 30th. The classes will be held on Thursdays, for 6 weeks, at the Bloomington High School, Room 105, from 7-9 p.m. Registration forms are available by contacting the Community Education Program at Heartland Community College, 1226 Towanda Plaza, Bloomington, Illinois, 61701 phone (309) 827-0500 extension 0.

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER:

Tuesday, August 17th, was a milestone for the Library: our first 1500 holdings appeared in the Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA) database and we also had our first interlibrary loan and patron requests for books found by searching the database at distant libraries! After this summer's labors by many MCHS volunteers, it is great to begin seeing some fruits! -- For those of you who are or wish to be Library volunteers, please plan on attending one of two mandatory (re-)training workshops scheduled for September 25th (9-11 a.m.) or September 28th (7-9 p.m.). A new library volunteer handbook will be handed out and we'll be discussing

The PANTAGRAPH - 1993



The Pantagraph/MAUREEN O'CONNOR

History on the move

Greg Koos, far right, executive director of the McLean County Historical Society, gave a walking tour of downtown Bloomington during last night's McLean County Genealogical Society meeting. He described the oldest downtown building at the corner of Main and Front streets. The tour will be repeated every Friday at noon and Saturday at 1 p.m. until the end of August.

Ruth H. Winterroth

THE PANTAGRAPH, Sunday, Sept. 12, 1993

Ruth H. Winterroth, 70, of 803 N. School St., Normal, a retired junior high school English teacher, died at 10:25 a.m. yesterday (Sept. 11, 1993) at BroMenn Regional Medical Center, Normal, where she had been a patient since Aug. 17.

Her funeral will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. John's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, the Rev. Ron R. Lee officiating. Burial will be in Funks Grove Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at Metzler-Froelich Memorial Home, Bloomington.

Mrs. Winterroth was born Aug. 24, 1923, in Normal, a daughter of Tony C. and Essie McWilliams Hostettler. She married Shirley Fred Winterroth April 6, 1945, in Bloomington. He died April 12, 1978.

Survivors include two sons, Dr. Timm Winterroth, Monticello, and Fred Winterroth, Hanna City; five daughters, Shirleyann Maeker, Bloomington; Susan McConnell, Galveston, Texas; Lise Tuttle, Houston; Kay Emmert, Coarsegold, Calif.; and Jamie Kaisershot, Aurora; one sister, Dorothy Jean Fitzgerald, Devon, Pa.; one brother, John Hostettler, Glendale, Ariz.; and 11 grandchildren.

One grandson preceded her in death.

Mrs. Winterroth was educated in Minier schools and graduated from Minier High School and Illinois State Normal University. She taught English at Chiddix Junior High School, Normal, for many years.

She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and the Muffin Club.

Mrs. Winterroth was an amateur genealogist and was a member and past vice president of the McLean County Genealogical Society. She was a volunteer researcher for the family history organization and had been a member of several of its committees. She had been a volunteer library assistant and typist for several periodicals, including several of the genealogical society's latest federal census publications.

She also was a member of the McLean County Historical Society and the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. She had been a member and past first vice president of the League of Women Voters.

Memorials may be made to the McLean County Genealogical Society or to her church.

In Memory Of
Mrs. Ruth H. Winterroth

Born
August 24, 1923

Passed Away
September 11, 1993

Services
St. John's Lutheran Church
11:00 A.M. Tuesday
September 14, 1993

Clergy
Rev. R. Ron Lee
Rev. Debra Bengtson-Ahrendt
Rev. Scott Noon

Organist
Rev. S. Blake Duncan

Interment
Funks Grove Cemetery
Funks Grove, Illinois

Metzler-Froelich Memorial Home
Bloomington, Illinois

Psalms 143:8

Let me hear of your lovingkindness

in the morning,

for I put my trust in you.

Show me the road that I must walk,

for I lift up my soul to you.

Psalms 143:8

MEMORIAM

WE LOSE ANOTHER 20 YEAR MEMBER

RUTH HOSTETTTLER WINTERROTH passed away on September 11, 1993. Ruth was born August 24, 1923, in Normal, IL, a daughter of Tony C. and Essie (McWilliams) Hostettler. She married Shirley Fred Winterroth on April 6, 1945, in Bloomington, IL. He preceded her in death. She is survived by two sons, five daughters, and 11 grandchildren.

Ruth was a graduate of Miner High School and Illinois State Normal University. She was a retired junior high school English teacher from Unit # 5 School system in Normal, IL.

Ruth joined The McLean County Genealogical Society in 1973. She was a past vice-president, and a very active volunteer (spending many hours per month), doing research, library assistant, typing publications and periodicals. She was also a member of the McLean County Historical Society, the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, past vice-present of the League of Women Voters, and St. John's Lutheran Church.

Memorials may be made to The McLean County Genealogical Society in memory of Ruth Winterroth.

Bloomington-Normal

Beatrice Armstrong

Beatrice Armstrong, 78, of 2025 E. Lincoln St., Bloomington, formerly of Cooksville, died at 8:30 a.m. yesterday (Oct. 10, 1993) at BroMenn Regional Medical Center, Normal.

Her funeral will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Metzler-Froelich Memorial Home, Bloomington, the Rev. Kenneth Couch officiating. Burial will be in East Lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington.



Beatrice Armstrong

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home and one hour before the service Tuesday.

She was born Sept. 12, 1915, at Hudson, the daughter of William Campbell and Alma Belle Cope Blagg. She married Donald G. Armstrong June 29, 1938, at Cooksville. He died June 11, 1991.

Surviving are one daughter, Beverly J. Micek, Cooksville; one brother-in-law, with whom she lived for five years, Murray Armstrong, Williamsburg, Iowa; and three grandchildren.

A graduate of Cooksville High School, she received her two-year teaching certificate from Illinois State Normal University and taught in one-room country schools in McLean County.

She was a member of Union Church of Cooksville and attended the Ellsworth United Methodist Church. She had taught Sunday school for many years and was a past president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the church and a past district president of WSCS.

Mrs. Armstrong was a member of Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution and had served as regent from 1974 to 1976 and was a past state membership chairwoman.

THE PANTAGRAPH, Monday, Oct. 11, 1993

She was a member of the National Huguenot Society, National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, the National Society of the Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century, the National Society of Daughters of Colonial Wars Inc., McLean County Home Extension, McLean County Historical Society and the McLean County Genealogical Society.

She was a charter member of the Eastern McLean County Ambulance Association and had served as 4-H leader at Cooksville.

Mrs. Armstrong and her husband were lifelong farmers at Cooksville.

Memorials may be made to the Eastern McLean County Ambulance Association, McLean County Historical Society or the McLean County Genealogical Society.

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The McLean County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Nov. 1993

MEMORIALS

BEATRICE ARMSTRONG passed away October 10, 1993. She was born on September 12, 1915, at Hudson, IL, a daughter of William Campbell and Alma Belle Cope Blagg. She married Donald G. Armstrong on June 29, 1938, at Cooksville, IL. He preceded her is death. She is survived by one daughter, Beverly J. Micek and three grandchildren at Cooksville.

Beatrice was a graduate of Cooksville High School and received a two-year teaching certificate from Illinois State Normal University. She taught in one-room country schools in McLean County.

Beatrice joined The McLean County Genealogical Society in 1972. She served as President in 1972 and 1973. She was also a member of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution and the McLean County Historical Society as well as a member of many National Societies pertaining to Genealogy.

Memorials may be made to The McLean County Genealogical Society in memory of Beatrice Armstrong.

CAROLE F. HUGHES passed away October 9, 1993. She was born January 12, 1926, in Paxton, IL, a daughter of William Russell and Gladys Kuntz Blissard. She married William Hughes on February 27, 1954, in Gibson City, IL. She is survived by her husband, two sons (Allen and David), one daughter (Virginia Storm), three grandchildren, and her parents, two brothers, and one sister.

Carole was a graduate of Gibson City High School in 1953, and worked at Sears for more than 10 years. Carole was a ten year member of The McLean County Genealogical Society and had previously served as Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

Community Bulletin Board

The McLean County Genealogical Society will meet Tuesday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sirloin Stockade, 1700 Parkway Plaza Drive and Veterans Parkway, Normal, in the meeting room. This is the Annual Meeting for the Society. There will be an election and installation of officers and a skit by Grandma Spratt. The general public is invited to the Society meetings.

McLean County Genealogical Society — annual meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Sirloin Stockade; election and installation of officers; comedy skit by Grandma Spratt.

McLean County Genealogy Study Group — 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at McLean County Historical Society Library; program, "Let's Check MCGS Recataloging," by Donna Jenkins; this is a change of time and program; information, Donna Jenkins, 662-3740.

Genealogical Society to meet Tuesday

The McLean County Genealogical Society's meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Building, 200 N. Main St., Bloomington.

The nominating committee will present the 1994 slate of officers.

The program "Brick Walls and Breakthrough" will give attendees an opportunity to ask questions about some unsolved mysteries.

The Normalite
Oct 14, 1993

C6 THE PANTAGRAPH, Thursday, Oct. 14, 1993 •

DEATHS

Central Illinois

Carole F. Hughes

HEYWORTH — The funeral of Carole F. Hughes, 57, of Heyworth, was at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Calvert-Belangee-Bruce Funeral Home, Heyworth. The Rev. Paul Middlesworth officiated.

Burial was in East Lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington.

Mrs. Hughes died at 7 a.m. Saturday (Oct. 9, 1993) at her home. She had been ill.

She was born Jan. 12, 1936, in Paxton, the daughter of William Russell and Gladys Kuntz Blissard. She married William Hughes Feb. 27, 1954, in Gibson City. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Allen, Phoenix, Ariz., and David, Heyworth; one daughter, Virginia Storm, Winter Haven, Fla.; her parents, Gibson City; two brothers, Rowe Blissard, Strawn, and John Blissard, Gibson City; one sister, Donna Poe, Gibson City; and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Hughes worked for more than 10 years at Sears Roebuck in Bloomington. She attended United Church of Heyworth and was a 1953 graduate of Gibson City High School.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society.

The obituary is being reprinted to correct the date of death and survivors.

McLean County Genealogical Society sets annual meeting

The November meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society will be held Tuesday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sirloin Stockade, 1700 Parkway Plaza Drive and Veteran's Parkway (close to Menard's) in the meeting room.

This is the annual meeting for the Society. There will be an election and installation of officers and a skit by Grandma Spratt. Bring your appetite and laughter.

The general public is always invited to the society's meetings.

Fire snuffed Lincoln's paper trail

By MELINDA ZEHR
Pantagraph staff

Michael Duncan and Chris Schnell this month are feeling the effects of a fire June 19, 1900, in downtown Bloomington.

The Lincoln Legal Papers researchers are in town scouring McLean County's court records for anything that documents Abraham Lincoln's 24-year legal career.

But in a town where Lincoln is known to have spent a great deal of time representing clients in legal matters, there isn't much for Duncan and Schnell to find.

That's because the fire destroyed all case files, except those for probate, which were in another part of the building, when the fire swept through a portion of the old courthouse.

Had it not been for the fire, McLean County likely would have been second only to Sangamon County in the number of Lincoln documents located by The Lincoln Legal Papers, said Bill Beard, the project's assistant editor.

The Lincoln Legal Papers is a project

Please see LINCOLN, back page.

LINCOLN

From A1

of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency that began in 1986 with the goal of locating every document of Lincoln's legal career, from 1837 to 1861.

"It (McLean County) was a big county in Lincoln's practice," said project director Cullom Davis. "The trouble is it will be difficult to document that because of the fire, but we're doing the best that we can from the docket books and from old newspapers as well."

And the lack of documents hasn't caused Duncan and Schnell to be any less zealous in their search in the dimly lighted room in the basement of the McLean County Law & Justice Center where old cases and court docket books are stored.

"Maybe one of these boxes will turn up something. We just never know," Duncan said yesterday, as he stood in front of a towering stack of drawers containing probate cases from the mid-1800s.

"The fact that out there, anywhere, would be Lincoln's handwriting, that's what keeps me going," Schnell added.

Duncan and Schnell started their search in McLean County last week and suspect it will take them a month to complete their work here. Without the fire, the two would have been in town for about three months.

Based on information contained in other publications, The Lincoln Legal Papers is aware of 95 McLean County cases handled by Lincoln.

Lincoln's most-noted McLean County case is one in which he successfully argued Illinois Central Railroad should not have to pay certain McLean County taxes, saving the railroad a lot of money, Davis said. And when the railroad failed or refused to pay Lincoln his \$5,000 fee for handling the case, he sued them and won.

Duncan and Schnell are looking for evidence of that case, as well as

Talk to outline paper search

People attending next week's public meeting of the McLean County Genealogical Society will receive a first-hand update of The Lincoln Legal Papers project.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 in the second floor courtroom of the McLean County Historical Society Museum in downtown Bloomington.

Michael Duncan, one of two researchers in Bloomington to search for documents pertaining to Abraham Lincoln's law career, will address those in attendance and provide copies of Lincoln documents already found.

others, in the docket books that record actions taken in cases. They do that by looking at the penmanship — difficult for an untrained eye to read — for a mention of Lincoln's involvement in the case.

In addition to the docket books, Duncan and Schnell will search 20 to 25 drawers containing as many as 50 probate cases each before their work will be done. They will look for Lincoln's handwriting, as well as any mention of Lincoln.

Duncan and Schnell encourage people who have any information or documents concerning any Lincoln law case to contact them or The Lincoln Legal Papers office in the old courthouse in Springfield. They stressed that originals won't be confiscated; they are only interested in photocopying the materials.

The Lincoln Legal Papers originally was going to search the court records of 35 or 40 counties. That number has increased to 72 counties, of which researchers already have visited 62, Davis said.

At the onset, it was believed that researchers would find 50,000 to



The Pantagraph/LORI ANN COOK

Chris Schnell, left, and Michael Duncan searched through probate case files at the McLean County Law and Justice Department. The Lincoln Legal Papers researchers are checking court files from 1837-1861, the period when Abraham Lincoln practiced law.

70,000 documents that indicate Lincoln was involved in a case, either individually or through his law partners. But the researchers already have found 80,000 documents, and Davis expects that, in the end, the number will exceed 100,000.

Davis said no one believed at the start of the project that any Lincoln originals — documents in his handwriting — would be found, but

to date 150 have been found, including some in surrounding Tazewell, DeWitt and Woodford counties.

Davis said the research is to end this year, at which time work will begin on putting all the documents onto computer files; which will be available in 1997. A five-volume collection, highlighting 150 of Lincoln's best cases, also will be published by 2002.

September 1993

On left: Greg Koos

On right: George Perkins



September 1993

On left: Michele McNabb

On right: George Perkins



September 1993

On left: Michele McNabb

On right: George Perkins



September 1993
Mary Goldsmith



Stacks
Quarterly exchange section
September 1993



September 1993
On left: Michele McNabb
On right: George Perkins



THE MCLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1994 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	Mary E. Veselack	452-4505
VICE-PRESIDENT	Arthur Dornaus	1-747-3097
RECORDING SECRETARY	Reva Merrick	1-963-4897
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Joy Craig	452-6824
TREASURER	Donna Jenkins	662-3740

DIRECTORS:

ACQUISITIONS	Nola Marquardt	1-376-6310
CEMETERY	Mary Goldsmith	827-8937
COMPUTER	George Perkins	454-4371
DISTRIBUTION	Ruth Wilkerson	452-0630
FINANCE	Peggy Fuller	452-3583
LIBRARY	Marqe Mehlberg	452-0809
LONG RANGE PLANNING		
MCBS LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE	George Perkins	454-4371
MEMBERSHIP	Lucille Smith	829-5877
NEWSLETTER	June Parr	1-473-2457
PROGRAM	Eleanor Mede	454-2688
PUBLICATIONS	Lynn Simpson	963-4842
PUBLICITY	Eleanor Watson	828-3515
QUARTERLY	Laurel Quaid	663-8289

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PROGRAM	Eleanor Mede	454-2688
PUBLICATIONS	Lynn Simpson	963-4842
PUBLICITY	Eleanor Watson	828-3515
QUARTERLY	Laurel Quaid	663-8289







Above: Steve Wannemacher, treasurer for the McLean County Historical Society board of directors, gave the opening speech Monday evening. His wife Deb, and daughter Sarah, 9, are both volunteers.



Above: From left to right, Jean McCrossin, Normal; Evelyn Spillman, Bloomington; and Maureen Cochran, Shirley, all attended the McLean County Historical Society's Volunteer Recognition Banquet.



The Pantagraph/TODD HEISLER

Above: Lynn and Bertha Simpson, Bloomington, took a break from their dessert. Lynn has logged 842 volunteer hours, the highest number this year.



The Pantagraph/TODD HEISLER

Above: Dan Deenan, Bloomington, and Mary Jo Johnson, Stanford, both volunteers for Special Olympics fund-raisers smiled as they noticed another volunteer who attended the banquet. **Below:** Committee member Paula Sweeney talked with volunteers Steve and JoAnn Sweeney, Bloomington, at the banquet.



The McLean County Historical Society held a recognition banquet for volunteers Monday evening at the old courthouse. The evening was kicked off with a little dessert, which gave volunteers time to chat with each other.

Heart of Illinois Special Olympics volunteers received a proverbial pat on the back during an appreciation night held at

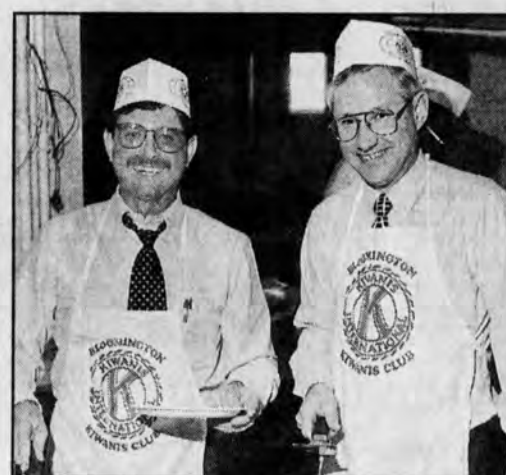


Bloomington's Knights of Columbus hall, last Friday. The Special Olympics committee showed appreciation for the behind the scenes people that sometimes go unnoticed.

The Kiwanis Club served its annual pancake and sausage meals last Friday and Saturday at the Scottish Rite Temple in Bloomington. The event helped raise funds for Camp Limberlost, part of the Easter Seals organization.



Above: Special Olympics volunteer Connie Raistrich, left, Normal, looked on as Mari Fritz, St. Charles, and Heart of Illinois' Special Olympics Director Barb Alldridge watched a video of their last fund-raiser.

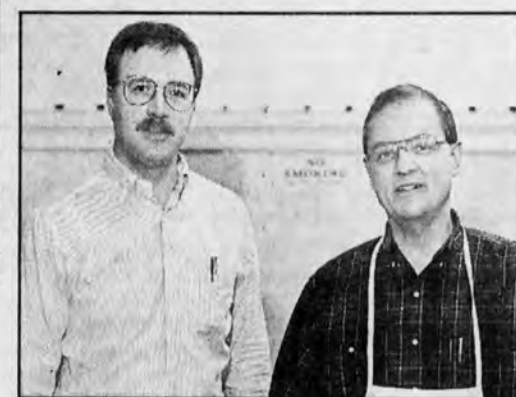


Above: Kiwanis pancake cooks Bob Starckovich, (left), and Rick Mehall served up another platter of cakes for the pancake breakfast.



The Pantagraph/LLOYD YOUNG

Above: State Farm employees Janice Dozier and Eric Wilks stopped at the pancake meal during their lunch hour last week. **Below:** Mike Short (left) chairman of the Kiwanis pancake committee and Barry Weer took tickets at the annual pancake and sausage meal last week at the Scottish Rite Temple.



Elizabeth Stevenson Ives

6/28/94

Elizabeth Stevenson Ives, 96, of 1316 E. Washington St., Bloomington, and Paint Hill Farm, Southern Pines, N.C., born into a nationally prominent political family, died Monday (June 27, 1994). A story is on Page A1.

No funeral arrangements were announced Monday. Beck Memorial Home, Bloomington, is in charge of arrangements.



Elizabeth Stevenson Ives

Mrs. Ives, only sister of Adlai Ewing Stevenson II, ambassador to the United Nations and Democratic candidate for president of the United States in 1952 and 1956, served as her brother's hostess when he was governor of Illinois from 1948 to 1952.

She was born July 16, 1897, a daughter of Lewis Green and Helen Davis Stevenson, at her mother's family home, Chestnut and Clinton streets, Bloomington. Her grandfather, W.O. Davis, was owner of The Pantagraph.

She was educated at Washington School in Bloomington and University High School in Normal. She later attended Lake Shore Drive School for Girls in Chicago and Miss Wright's School, Bryn Mawr, Pa. She took special courses at Zurich, Switzerland, with Dr. Carl Jung.

A director of the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Mrs. Ives was a winner of the Cannon Award for her work in restoration and preservation of many buildings in North Carolina.

She continued her preservation activities with the purchase and restoration of the Chenoa home where her grandparents, Letitia Green and Adlai Ewing Stevenson I, were married in 1866 and where her father was born.

The house, built by Matthew T. Scott, land developer and founder of Chenoa, is open to the public.

While on a vacation in Valmont, Switzerland in 1926, she met Ernest Linwood Ives, a Norfolk, Va., native who was first secretary of the American embassy in Istanbul, Turkey. They were married Feb. 5, 1927, in Naples.

They lived in Turkey until Mr. Ives was transferred to Copenhagen as first secretary of the legation. Mrs. Ives was presented at the Court of Denmark and the Court of St. James in London in June 1931.

They also lived in Union of South Africa, Washington, D.C., Algeria, Stockholm and Belfast. In July 1939, after 30 years in the Foreign Service, Mr. Ives retired and the family settled on a small farm at Southern Pines, living in a restored log cabin.

During World War II, Mrs. Ives organized and was a captain of the first Red Cross Motor Corps for Moore County, N.C. She was a plane spotter.

Mrs. Ives was a life member of the Illinois State and McLean County historical societies, Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation and Kenmore Association. She was founder of the Moore County Historical Association and was its president until 1956.

She also was a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, named for her grandmother, the second president general of the National Society, DAR.

Mrs. Ives was a member of the Unitarian Church in Bloomington, founded by her Quaker great-grandfather, Jesse Fell, founder of Normal and friend of Abraham Lincoln.

Survivors include her son, Timothy Read Ives, R.R. 1, Bloomington; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be made to the Scott House Charitable Foundation in care of her son, Tim R. Ives, of rural Bloomington; the McLean County Historical Society; or the Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Lectures, in care of Bruce Breitweiser, 202 N. Center St., Bloomington.

MEMORIALS

LEO M. BUIS passed away November 4, 1994, at Normal, IL. He was born on February 12, 1906, at Louisville, a son of Marcellus and Florence Hockman Buis. He married Agnes E. Dietz on July 1, 1933, at Bloomington, IL. He is survived by his wife, one son, two daughters, and three sisters, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Leo was a former real estate agent in Bloomington-Normal for many years. He first joined our Society in 1967.

DENSIE VIRENE CRISSEY passed away December 5, 1994. She was born July 10, 1912, at London, England, a daughter of George and Rena Lawsha. She married Elwell Crissey on June 9, 1945, at New York City. He died February 28, 1992. She is survived by one son, one daughter, and five grandchildren. One sister preceded her in death.

Densie was a secretary and puppeteer. She operated Crissey's Puppet Parade and performed in New York City as well as over 250 shows in Central Illinois. She was a former member of Puppeteers of America and a charter member of the Central Illinois Puppetry Guild. She first joined our Society in 1986.

Rev. LOTUS TROYER passed away December 19, 1994. He was born July 17, 1915, at Fairview, MI, the son of Ellsworth and Elva Dean Troyer. He married Hilda Kline on May 14, 1941, at Waterloo, IN. He is survived by his wife, one son, two daughters, 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

He served as a minister in Carlock, Flanagan and Meadows Mennonite churches. He was a graduate of Goshen College and did graduate work at Ohio State University and was ordained in 1947 as a minister. He first joined our Society in 1993.

May 24, 1994



Jeannette Do Cole
4608 Caples Cir
El Paso, TX 79903-1511

Dear Lyn,

I was so pleased to find your address in M. C. G. S. membership list. I'm sure that you will enjoy knowing that through your assistance and the Society membership list (I wrote to Le Roy addresses) I learned the information on the Dooley family that interested me. None compared with the article that Elaine Pavlik found. You really helped me.

Thank you,

Jeannette Cole

Reception to honor Mrs. Patton

LEXINGTON — Helen M. Patton of Lexington will be honored for her 95th birthday with an open reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Lexington Community Center.

She was born May 31, 1899, in Greenville, one of nine children of Robert and Margaret Miller Swartz. She taught in country schools in Southern Illinois for several years before moving to Lex-



Helen
Patton

ington and teaching at Popejoy School. She married Tilden M. Patton Dec. 9, 1925, in Lexington.

Mrs. Patton still plans reunions with some of her students from the Popejoy School, some of whom are in their 80s. She also taught Sunday school at Lexington Methodist Church for 36 years.

She and her husband owned T.M. Patton Insurance Agency. They were avid bell collectors and active members of The American Bell Association. She has a collection of about 1,800 bells.

She is a member of Lexington Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Lexington Woman's Club, Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of DAR, several genealogical societies and is a past member of the Lexington Welfare Association.

Mrs. Patton enjoys dining out, reading and visiting with family and friends. She has kept a daily dairy since 1915.

Pantagraph - 5/24/94

\$14,300 in grants

GTE honors volunteers' efforts

By Pantagraph staff

Eleven Bloomington-Normal area organizations have received \$14,300 in GTE grants because of the volunteer efforts of GTE employees.

The grants were made through Volunteer Initiatives Program, established in 1984 to encourage and recognize GTE employees who contribute to the well-being and betterment of their communities through volunteer work.

The Bloomington Cultural Festival Inc. received \$900, which will be used to attract professional musical entertainment to the festival. The grant was made on behalf of Shirley Boykin, Bloomington communications representative; Judith Jones, Bloomington courier; and Kathy McSwain, Bloomington regional administration support for Illinois/Wisconsin.

The Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal received \$1,000, which will be used to teach leadership and motivation through activities. The grant was made on behalf of Bertha Chambers, Bloomington assistant in quality control.

A \$1,000 grant has been awarded to the Cedar Lakes Fellowship, Bloomington, to purchase a public address system and furnishings. The grant was made on behalf of Charlotte Folks, Bloomington facility technician-assignment.

The GTE Amateur Radio Club, Bloomington, received \$2,000 to replace equipment. The grant was made on behalf of Gary McCandless, Bloomington senior administrator in division resources; Russell Murray, Bloomington administrator in network services; William Shank, Normal engineer-OSP; and Larry Venezia, Bloomington service technician.

A \$900 grant has been awarded to Bloomington's LIFE-Center for Independent Living to purchase equipment for the deaf-services program. The grant was made on behalf of James Litwiller, Bloomington accounting clerk IV.

The volunteer efforts of Gregory Curtis, Bloomington technical assistant, has resulted in a \$1,000 grant for the McLean County Disaster Council. The money will be used to purchase a trailer to transport medical supplies to disaster sites.

McLean County PONY Baseball has received a \$1,500 grant to purchase an inlet/outlet valve for the water retention basin and irrigation pond. The grant was made on behalf of Charles Branham, Bloomington sales engineer-voice/CPE applications; Myra Bowling, Bloomington secretary III; Richard Goldman, Bloomington storekeeper; Richard Morrow, Bloomington administrator in exchange planning; Bradley Patterson, Bloomington staff accountant in payroll taxes; and Thomas Reed Jr., Bloomington area administrator-MC/PC equipment management.

The volunteer efforts of George Perkins, Bloomington records control clerk, have resulted in a \$1,000 grant for the McLean County Genealogical Society. The grant will be used to purchase a microfilm reader/printer.

Project Oz has received a \$1,000 grant to write a fourth- and fifth-grade drug and violence prevention curriculum. The grant was on behalf of Dan Hansen, Bloomington engineer/network engineering.

See GTE, Page C4

Amateur archaeologists unearthing Normal's black history

by DAVID WICKERT
Antagraph staff

When Bond Lamme volunteered for a four-week amateur archaeology project, she didn't know it would entail digging through the remains of old outhouses in sweltering 5-degree heat.

Then again, Wilbur Barton never would have guessed his family outhouses were particularly historic.

But Barton's childhood home and



Wilbur
Barton

Lamme's curiosity brought the 80-year-old retiree and the University High School junior together recently for an ongoing study of early black life in McLean County.

Seven volunteers and three McLean County Historical Society officials are digging through the backyard of Barton's Normal home this month to learn more about how his family lived. The project is co-sponsored by the Black History Consortium.

Barton, a retired teacher and junior high school principal who has lived in Indianapolis most of his adult life, said he had no idea the house he owns but does not live in was historic. "This has been quite educational for me, too," he said.

The son of a successful copper and tinsmith, Barton was among the first black students to attend University High School. He later attended Illinois State University, then moved to Indiana to teach.

His family remained, even after his parents died. Through the years, the house has been occupied by various relatives, until the death of Barton's sister four years ago.

Now Barton visits on weekends. And though the house has many modern conveniences and has been remodeled on numerous occasions, clues to its late 19th-century origin abound: the narrow, steep staircase; the parlor that now serves as a bedroom; the rear entrance into the basement.

Because of his father's skills, Barton said, his family was prosperous and well-received by whites. "In Normal, I really didn't know I was colored," he said. "The white kids didn't know I was colored. You kind of lost your identity."

Maybe that's because most people were in the same boat. Without electricity or plumbing, owning a nice home still meant conditions now considered rustic or unsanitary. In the days before garbage collection, most people threw their trash in their back yard, according to Ed Jelks, the retired ISU professor heading the Barton home excavation.

It is exactly that garbage that Jelks and his volunteers are in-

vestigating. Armed with shovels, trowels and picks, they are excavating portions of the back yard, sifting the dirt for artifacts and mapping outhouses, a horse barn, a smokehouse and a well — all of which long ago disappeared.

"It's kind of like detective work," Jelks said.

The outhouses — or "privies," as Jelks refers to them — are a natural starting point for excavation because families often used them as garbage pits as well as bathrooms, according to Jelks.

That is why the volunteers have spent a good deal of the past two weeks tracing the outlines and sifting through the contents of

See UNEARTH, Page A8



The Pantagraph/PATTI FRANK

UNEARTH

From A1

those privies. They wear gloves, but there is little chance of disease, as the contents have been buried for more than half a century, Jelks said.

The thought of sifting through 50-year-old sewage didn't seem to daunt Miss Lammey, among five high school and junior high students who volunteered. "That's where you find most of the good stuff," she said matter-of-factly.

'There wasn't anybody sitting around recording what ordinary people were doing.

— Ed Jelks
retired professor

Most of the volunteers signed on out of curiosity or for fun. "I like digging, period," declared Kelly Cole, an eighth-grader at Bloomington Junior High School. "Old stuff can be cool sometimes, depending on what it is."

"I've always been interested in history," said Mary Goldsmith, a Bloomington retiree and volunteer. "I should have done it when I was in school, and I didn't."

Miss Lammey said she is considering archaeology or anthropology as a career. "Learning how this kind of stuff relates to present-day man seems interesting to me," she said.

However, some of the students seemed surprised when they found where they'd be digging. "I didn't



quite imagine it looking like somebody's back yard," said Monica Hesse, an eighth-grader at Metcalf School.

Miss Lammey agreed. "It amazed me there was a site in this town," she said. "Because usually you think of out west of something like that."

The fruits of their labor have been chicken and pork bones,

Above, Ed Jelks, center, a retired Illinois State University professor, dug a new section for excavation for the archaeological project in the yard of Wilbur Barton's Normal home. Kelly Cole of Bloomington, left, Monica Hesse of Normal, right, and Mary Goldsmith of Bloomington, back, assisted with the work in the area of the home's former outhouse. Left, Goldsmith sifted through another sector. Some of the items the volunteers have found include broken plates and dolls.

pieces of broken dishes, dismembered dolls and other debris. Jelks said the material will be labeled and studied later. Along with census and other records and oral histories, it will be used to reconstruct an era many don't think of as "history."

"There wasn't anybody sitting around recording what ordinary people were doing," Jelks said.

GENERAL MEETING

- o The January meeting will be held TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. Mary Wilkins, from the Healing Hearts adoption support group, will speak on how family members have been found. This topic could help you locate that elusive member in your family.

GENERAL MEETING

- o The February meeting will be held TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. The program for the evening will be "Circuit Court Records and the Lincoln Legal Papers Project". Sandra Parker, Circuit Court Clerk and Michael Duncan, researcher for the Lincoln Legal Papers Project, will speak on what can be found in the Circuit Court records and what Lincoln documents have been found in our county by the project researchers.

GENERAL MEETING

- o The March meeting will be held TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. The program for the evening features, Sate of Illinois Archivist, M. Cody Wright, a Civil War enthusiast and his video presentation "Illinois' Memory of the Civil War". Mr. Wright will tell about information available for Civil War research at the Illinois State Archives, and speak about McLean County's Veterans.

Vol. 28, No. 7

July 1994

MEMORIAL

JOANNA J. PEIFER passed away June 19, 1994. She was born on Jan. 4, 1923, in Ames, IA, a daughter of Dean and Georgia Zimmerman Buckles. She married Edward L. Peifer, Jr. May 30, 1948, in Bloomington. He died July 10, 1990. She is survived by one daughter (Susan Baker, Bloomington) two sons (David J.D. and Edward Charles Lee "Butch" III), two brothers and two sisters. Two sisters preceded her in death.

Joanna and her husband were former owners of Peifer's Market at 111 S. Main St., Bloomington.

Joanna's membership will be transferred to Susan for the remainder of 1994. Anyone wishing to donate a memorial to the MMRP Fund in memory of Joanna would be welcomed by the Society.

McLean County Genealogical Society - 7 p.m. Tuesday at McLean County Historical Society, second floor court room; topic, "Family Reunions," with information on themes and how to gather together various generations; to take ideas and samples of family celebrations.

Central Illinois

4/17/94

MEMORIAL

It is with sad thoughts to announce that M. M. BICKET's widow, Dorothy, has informed us of the death of her husband. He is also survived by three sons, James, William, and John and three grandchildren.

In searching our records, we have found he first joined our Society in 1976. He will be missed by many.

Vol. 28, No. 11

December, 1994

Page 17

The McLean County Genealogical Society Newsletter

MEMORIAM

EDWARD BURTON CERUTI MERCIER, a member of our Society, passed away on January 17, 1994, at BroMenn Regional Medical Center. He had been shoveling snow from his driveway. He was born May 30, 1927, in Normal, the son of Charles Alexander and Ruth Ceruti Mercier. He married Mary Lou Gooding April 9, 1949, at Kempton. He is survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters, one brother, and one sister. His parents and two sisters preceded him in death.

He was chief executive officer of Bloomington Offset Press, and a member or officer of many organizations in the area.

MEMORIAL

DOROTHY W. HOBSON passed away February 12, 1994. She was born on July 2, 1922, at Kannapolis, SC, a daughter of Frankie Mae Sowers and Roy Worth Wampler. She was owner/operator of several general merchandise, arts and crafts shops in the Little River, SC area. She is survived by two sons, (David Graham and Donald Cary Hobson), a brother and six grandchildren.

Dorothy has been a member of our society since 1983. David has chosen to continue his mother's genealogical efforts. Her remaining 1994 membership has been transferred to him.

Vol. 28, No. 5

May, 1994

Summer Sunday Super Sleuthin' Session

Stevenson-Ives Library lock-in
A Marathon in Research!

July 31st
1pm - 11pm
\$12 fee
30 reserved seats

Sign-up for Computer
& microfilm time

Bring Headphones
listen to
Conference Tapes
Watch a Video

Tutorial help
available

Translations

Bring a Sack
Supper

Snacks &
Beverages
available

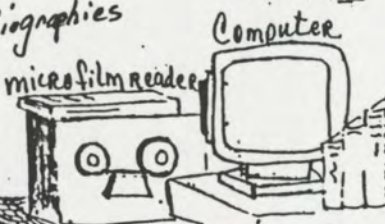
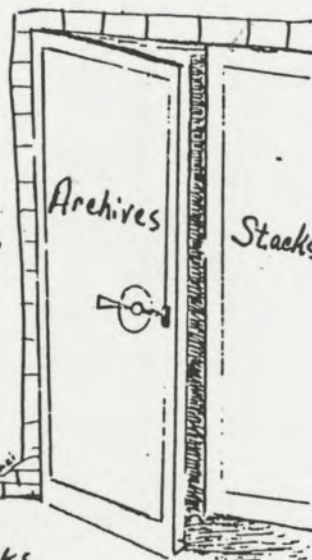


Local Histories
Maps & Plat Books

Genealogies & Biographies

Census Records
& films

Naturalization
records



Advance Registration Required

Deadline: July 18, 1994

\$12 Registration fee enclosed, payable to:
McLean County Genealogical Society
1107 So. Pine Ridge Ct.
Normal, IL 61761

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Sign up for Computer and Microfilm time.

Computer: (C)	1:30 _____	4:30 _____	7:30 _____
Microfilm: (M)	2:00 _____	5:00 _____	8:00 _____
Choice: 1, 2, 3	2:30 _____	5:30 _____	8:30 _____
	3:00 _____	6:00 _____	9:00 _____
	3:30 _____	6:30 _____	9:30 _____
	4:00 _____	7:00 _____	10:00 _____

Koos enjoys history's past, future

Historical society director
B-N history buff since youth

Greg Koos, whose first exposure to history involved long talks with a reminiscing grandfather, is executive director of the McLean County Historical Society.

Koos started with the Society, which operates the Old Courthouse Museum, by painting exhibit platforms in 1977, working his way up to executive director in 1989.

The 45-year-old Bloomington native enjoys reading and writing history, and appropriately, lives in an old house in Bloomington. He is married and has two cats and a dog.

Q: How did you first get interested in history?

A: "I spent a lot of time as a child with my grandfather, Bert Rodgers, whose family operated two shoe stores in downtown Bloomington. I spent every Sunday with him, we'd drive around town and he'd tell me what happened where. He died in 1967.

Q: How did you get your job with the historical society?

A: "I started with the historical society in 1977, hired for six weeks to paint exhibit platforms. I found out that they had \$400 left and I told them I'd organize their archives for \$1 an hour. They liked me. Barbara Dunbar was executive director at the time and she decided to take me on. She had the guts and courage to take the museum to where it is today."

Q: Was organizing the archives difficult?

A: "I read my way through 50 linear feet of papers, diaries and documents of people's lives. I'm a fast reader, probably reading about 800 words a minute. They (the historical society) got a good deal and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was great to do because you got to open a letter that hadn't probably been opened in 95 years and read about a guy describing the taking of Vicksburg."

Q: What was your next big project?

A: "That was the Miller-Davis project. That started in 1979-80 and was a building renovation at Main and Front (streets) in Bloomington. The board of directors managed a fund drive and we hired an architect and contractor. I was essentially the project manager. We won

The Interview

a national award for the restoration."

Q: How unusual is it to have a museum of this quality in a county this size?

A: "I'd say extraordinary. The community should be proud of the fact that the county preserved the building and that the museum is of this quality. People who have not been here fail to understand the quality of the exhibits and programs. We really made an effort to take a brand new look at the history of McLean County."

Q: Tell a little about the county's history.

A: "This is not an area that was settled by just by one kind of person. This is an area settled by people from Africa, Germany, Ireland, Yankees and Southerners. One group never had a leg up on another. That makes for a dynamic kind of community."

Q: How far back into McLean County history do your ancestors go?

A: "That's probably one of the reasons I appreciate history is that I've heard the community history all my life. The first of my family to show up were the O'Neils who came from Ireland in about 1850, a family of nine immigrants fleeing a famine. The Koos family arrived about 1868."

Q: Is your work as executive director mostly administrative or research?

A: "Eighty-five percent of my work is administrative at this point in time. What I enjoy about that is the ability to see to it that what this institution stands for is expressed in a clear, truthful manner. I like the end results we get here, but the detail takes a lot of work."

Q: What do you do in your spare time?

A: "I like to read history, write history. I love political argument. I enjoy a bit of computer bulletin board stuff. I am a terrible banjo player, but as long as I keep it in the privacy of my house I only bother the cats."



The Pantagraph/MAUREEN O'CONNOR

Greg Koos, executive director of the McLean County Historical Society, has been fascinated by the history around him since listening as a child to his grandfather's recollections.

Q: Do you have some favorite historical figures?

A: "I guess my all-time favorite American is H.L. Menken. He was a journalist and social critic and observer of the American scene. I don't think you can understand who we are as Americans without understanding Menken. As far as people who I think have changed America and who I've enjoyed reading about, I like to look at some of the leaders of the early union movement. I appreciate leaders who come from the people."

Q: What are some of the benefits of studying history?

A: "It can advise us, console us. It can inform us, but it won't change us."

Q: What is the first museum you remember visiting?

A: "It was probably the McLean County Historical Society. I was taken there as a kid."

Q: What's in the future for the museum?

A: "The museum has doubled in size in the past few years and so in that process we're experiencing growing pains, so the museum will be working on stabilizing its financial outlook and continuing to provide quality programs and exhibits. We believe we have a winning combination of sound scholarship and pertinent exhibits of interest to people. We have some uncompleted projects. We'd like to open more galleries and we'd like to do some more interior restoration."

Interview by Bob Holliday
Photo by Maureen O'Connor



The Pantagraph/LLOYD YOUNG



Left, Verda Gerwick of Lexington has done extensive research at Lexington Cemetery. Above, Gerwick helped move these headstones dating back to the 1850s to the town's newer cemetery.

Historian leaves no stones unturned in search

By DON CAVALLINI
Pantagraph correspondent

LEXINGTON — Verda Gerwick is a driven woman — driven by her long-standing devotion for the past and driven to recognize and honor the soldiers who are buried in rural cemeteries throughout McLean County.

By her own account, she is obsessed with history. And Gerwick has surrounded herself with history — it's all there in a building on Lexington's Main Street, known as The Fort.

Inside the brick walls is an amazing collection of artifacts, documents, pictures and memorabilia all crammed into the small, but cozy, headquarters of the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society.

The Fort is a former bank with a large steel vault that makes an ideal depository for historic records. On a frigid morning 13 years ago, a fire destroyed the building. But the efforts of many individuals saved numerous materials.

Now, no chances are taken. Gerwick has purchased computers and transfers handwritten records from her notebooks into the electronic storage files.

The historical society formed July 17, 1962, when Gerwick attended a Ladies Aid meeting at Lake Bloomington. She said relatives and friends got into an argument over who built the church and gave the land for the Hinthorn Cemetery.

"That's not what the meeting was supposed to be about," she said. "So I came home that night and started the history of the church. I

got up at dawn the next morning and went out to record my first cemetery and haven't been back to a Ladies Aid meeting since."

Her next venture was Indian Field — her "love of life" — a cemetery located south of Lexington. Here, early white settlers and native Indians share a common burial ground.

Over the years, she has recorded cemeteries in three entire counties — McLean, Woodford and Livingston. So many, in fact, that she has lost count of the exact number. She is now aggressively recording cemeteries in Ford County. About half have been finished.

Gerwick's next project is to discover people who do not have tombstones. "I've maintained for some time that there are as many people who lack tombstones as have one," she said, "and I don't think I'm far from wrong."

What accounts for the missing stones? Some individuals were buried without them because relatives couldn't afford them. Other stones have been vandalized or destroyed by deer. Some worked their way underground. "We have the undertaker records of where a body was placed, the sextant record that he received it, death certificates, but no stones," said Gerwick.

She doesn't give up easily. She will go back and probe with a metal rod or long pole looking for them underground and has dug up over 129 stones this way.

Gerwick is not a one-woman show. She has numerous volunteers assisting her. The

number of local volunteers has actually fallen off, but the number of people from surrounding towns has increased. Dennis Hieronymous, who lives in Silverdale, Wash., donates three weeks every summer. Jean LaGue from Westerville, Ohio, gives two weeks of her summer time.

Then there are the visitors. Many come to get answers to specific questions about their families. The majority of them had ancestors in the area.

Gerwick, no matter how busy, also manages to find time to help high school and college students. Students she assisted in high school remember her and come back seeking her advice when writing college research papers.

The work has paid off. Suzie Wahls and Crystal Wall's project on the Hefner School received a state award. The same can be said for Derrick Baker, whose research paper on local railroad history secured a superior rating at both regional and state history contests.

Gerwick has a number of irons in the fire. But nothing captures her imagination so much as her deep love and devotion for her "soldier boys." She and her husband, Webb, have personally seen to it that soldiers who are buried in forgotten cemeteries are remembered.

She is most proud of the nine bronze markers indicating soldiers buried in Scrogin Cemetery.

And for those families who could not provide their loved ones with a stone, the Gerwicks have created homemade tombstones.

The Pantagraph 9/13/94

GENERAL MEETING

- o The May meeting will be held TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. Janet Coble, a researcher on the Orphan Trail Project, will speak about the history of the Orphan Train, which traveled west from New York City, in the middle 1800's, bringing children from the inner city asylums, to the frontier communities, where they were adopted or indentured. She has 25 names of children who were placed in McLean County.
- o The July meeting will feature George Wiman, photographic restorer.

GENERAL MEETING

- o The May meeting will be held TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. Mary Wilkins, from the Healing Hearts adoption support group, will speak on how family members have been found. This topic could help you locate that elusive member in your family.
- o The June topic will be the Orphan Train. Janet Coble, a researcher on this subject, will speak on Illinois orphans from this train.

GENERAL MEETING

- o The July meeting will be held TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room.

George Wiman, of Wiman's Camera, is a restorer of old photographs. His slide presentation will help answer your questions about how to save and store old photographs of any kind. He will discuss the value of having museum quality reproductions made for your future family generations.

*****SUMMER SUNDAY SUPER SLEUTHIN' SESSION*****

STEVENSON-IVES LIBRARY LOCK-IN

THE STACKS, ARCHIVES, COMPUTER & MICROFILM READERS

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION July 18th

July 31st. A MARATHON IN RESEARCH. How long can you research?

GENERAL MEETING

- o The September meeting will be held TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. Prof. Larry McBride, at Illinois State University, will speak on IRISH EMIGRATION AND SOURCES FOR IRISH RESEARCH. Prof. McBride has been involved with Professors in Ireland, who are researching the migration patterns of the Irish people who left Ireland for America. They have researched portions of Canada and the New England Coast, hopefully they will receive a grant to do research here in the Midwest. Prof. McBride will be able to help you with a research problem as early as 6:30 p.m. so practice your brogue and bring clan questions to the meeting.

GENERAL MEETING

- o The October meeting will be held TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1994, at 7:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. The nominations for Officers and Directors for 1995 will be presented. The program will be BRICK WALLS AND BREAK THROUGH. This problem and solution type program, with attendee participation, is a favorite among the Society members. Bring your friends. The public is always invited to our meetings. This is a friendly program encouraging everyone to respond with suggestions for tough problems.

GENERAL MEETING

- o The November meeting will be held TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1994, at 6:00 p.m. in the McLean County Historical Society Building, 200 N. Main Street, Bloomington, on the 2nd floor, in the old Court Room. The evening will begin with a Pot Luck Supper at 6 p.m. The Installation of Officers and the program entitled "A Family Heirloom" will follow. Everyone is encouraged to bring an Heirloom, be it a story, a picture, an ornament, or a present received that relates to an ancestor. Please bring a food dish to share, along with your own table service. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be served.

There will be no General Meeting in DECEMBER.



Genealogist Verda Gerwick, founder and president of the Not-for-Profit Society, discusses a matter with volunteer Phyllis Kumlar.

Some people call her a "cemetery chaser."

Verda Gerwick objects. "They've got it all wrong! How does one chase a cemetery? What I do is rescue cherished data hidden on neglected tombstones - information so important that people from every state and from Europe call, write or visit me to obtain."

Verda Gerwick, Lexington's one-woman historian and information provider, is a prime example of what one woman can do - and does!

Some folks will point to a cemetery and quip - "people just die to get in there." Not so with Verda Gerwick! At a sprightly 75, Verda has entered and exited more cemeteries than almost everyone.

Moreover, this lady, who has been described as "hanging out

Lexington Woman documents Stories Tombstones tell

Photos and Story by H. Woody Bailey

extensive repository of genealogical information.

The Fort, an historic brick building in the center of town, is a veritable fact-filled library of facts she personally has gleaned from tombstones in three decades of painstaking effort.

Actually, the Fort is the name of the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc. It's a non-profit service founded in 1965, which she operates today, as president, with volunteer helpers.

Lost Data Unearthed

Inquiries come to Lexington's Fort from every state in the USA and from foreign countries because certain family-tree information can be found only here. Thousands of names of deceased, along with family-tree relations, are logged here on file cards, in hardcover volumes and now on computer discs.

Verda and helpers have traced people as far back as the 1830s.

Going tombstone to tombstone, Verda says, "We've recorded every birth, death and marriage in McLean, Woodford and Livingston Counties and half of Ford County, going back to 1900." She adds, "We've discovered cemeteries that some counties didn't know existed."

She's discovered other things, too, in her searches among grave stones. Once she landed upon a rattlesnake nest. She says, "That's when I took six lightning-fast giant strides and covered about an acre



Patron Dorothy Whitehouse of Bloomington uses filed information from the Fort's vast library of date. Thousands of names, dates and family history facts are stored here.

Verda has figured out how to deal with pesky chiggers. "I sprinkle some sulfur into my shoes - no more chiggers."

How It All Began

Thirty plus years ago a group of church women turned Verda Gerwick in a new direction - although they were not aware of it.

"The ladies said women wasted time," so Verda says, "gabbing about who owned the church cemetery - instead of tending to the society's affairs. I got disgusted and haven't been back since."

At that meeting, however, Mrs. Gerwick decided once and for all to dig up the cemetery facts. Since 1965, she has become obsessed with uncovering facts often nearly obliterated on tombstones. Getting on hands and knees, Verda paws aside weeds and sticks and finally amasses volumes of priceless information - at least priceless to still-living loved ones.

Some of her diggings in earth as well as from paper documents have revealed genealogies of Playboy founder Hugh Hefner's father and of singer Mel Tillis' family.

The Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomington "took 50 notebooks to record all the materials," she says. One cemetery in Pontiac was

so expansive (17 acres) that in order to satisfy some who disputed boundaries, Verda hired an airplane and photographer and settled the matter with a photo from the sky.

While the Not-for-Profit society she operates from the Fort in Lexington is kept alive through memberships and donations, Verda

(continued on page 15)



Verda Gerwick reflects on a framed drawing done for and about her cemetery adventures. The artist used cartoon techniques and humor to tell Verda's story.

with the dead" has built a lively and most complete genealogical service. The service she offers is far from dead - is so far-reaching it surprises many people.

Single-handedly, Mrs. Gerwick has attracted more people and mail to the small community of Lexington (pop. 1800) than any one person.

For 35 years she's been the town's police matron, keeping her ear tuned to her police radio. For 30 years, Verda has operated what is said to be the state's most

of ground."

While exploring "those old graveyards in the boondocks" she gets so excited about her "finds" that she forgets about snakes and other problems. "Only afterward, it dawns on me - idiot, there had to be snakes back in there."

Other more troublesome enemies are the "big three" - ivy, oak and sumac poisons. They've sent her to a hospital emergency room every summer. "It's happened so often, the doctor screams at her 'stay out of cemeteries.'"



Bronze grave markers were sandblasted by Verda to reveal that, indeed, the markers were coded with numbers to identify War of 1812 soldiers.



This community-personalities tree graces one wall. It's lighted with pictures of prominent early day settlers.

Lexington Woman documents Stories Tombstones tell

(continued from page 14)

says, "I shelled out a bundle of my own money to provide families the important material they wanted."

Pointing to a display of bronze grave markers hung over the Fort's front window, Verda declares, "They are the pride of my life ... for six years I fought with government and state people trying to convince them that each one of those bronze markers had a number that was assigned to a certain fallen soldier of the War of 1812."

Although it took some doing, she at last proved that indeed those markers were numbered separately for certain individuals.

"Of the 117 assigned to 1812 soldiers in her files, only 15 remain," she says with sadness. "Some of them were stolen off the graves."

With help, Verda has recorded facts from some 350 cemetery locations in central Illinois. Her Lexington genealogical files are "the best around" according to Tom and Dorothy Whitehouse who visit often from Bloomington. They have gathered names and dates about Tom's parents and grandparents as well as Dorothy's parents and grandparents.

"There's just a whole lot of information stored here," the Whitehouses said. "Verda is a tremendous help; she's the best source around."

Honoring The Dead

In probing cemetery grounds, Verda Gerwick and volunteers have located at least 150 tombstones that were totally buried underground.

Bronze markers, often randomly placed on the wrong graves, were correctly placed after Verda's research and diligence proved that, indeed, the markers cast in Boston were numbered to represent individual soldiers of the 1812 war.

Help regarding area genealogical matters is readily available at The Fort, 318 W. Main Street, Lexington, IL or by phone (309) 365-4591.