



The

Generation

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Our Web Site is located at: [www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org](http://www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org)

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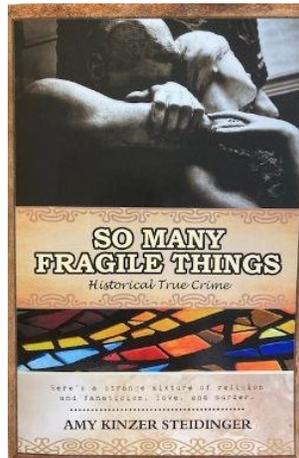
Even though **you can't visit our building on Main Street in Lexington right now**, the volunteers of THE FORT- Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society- are willing and able to help you with any questions you might have or needs for historical research.

We still **check our email daily and we can try to find answers for you**, so just email us and explain what you are looking for and we will put an experienced volunteer in contact with you for some personal help.

We are only an email away at [thefortoflex@aol.com](mailto:thefortoflex@aol.com)  
Hope to hear from you soon.  
**From Your FORT Volunteers**

**Special Thanks to Members/Supporters** who took the opportunity to extend dues with our August offer to pay NOW and receive bonus months for just the regular \$15 dues. Your generous response has kept our bank account steady during this shutdown, and with this email we are extending the deadline a final time until the end of the month for those few members who still can benefit. **So pay online or mail a check before Aug 31 and your new due date becomes Jan 2022! Final offer!!!!**

**Hot off the Press!!!!**



Our own long-time member Amy Steidinger, mom, wife, teacher, and genealogy expert from Forrest, IL has published her first book! Over the last 20 years Amy has shared her triumphs and pitfalls as she struggled to discover the facts of this fascinating tale of "Historical True Crime" in central Illinois. Comments heard at THE FORT a few days after she brought us some of the first copies were... "I can't put it down!" "Stopped reading 'cus I don't want it to end!" "It really stays in your brain and heart!" The true story unfolds in Woodford and McLean counties about 1900. Years ago when Amy called an elderly relative about the story, she was curtly told, "We don't talk about that!" and the phone slammed down... Well, we're sure talking about it now, thanks to a wonderful telling, not only of the true story, but also the fascinating way Amy uncovered the facts!

**SO MANY FRAGILE THINGS** is available at local outlets and also on Amazon.com. It is **highly recommended** by your FORT friends!

Sad news in Lexington with the passing of Jim Morrison on Monday, August 10. Jim was a great friend of THE FORT over the years although he seldom came in or visited regularly. But whenever we sorted, organized, or asked where things came from, often the answer was....oh, that's from Jim Morrison. Jim grew up in Lexington and Pleasant Hill and lived here his entire life. Married to Trish and father of Tom, Kathy, and Sam he was in the farming business his entire life. He also appreciated historical things and seemed to be in the right spot at the right time to rescue things that ended up at THE FORT. He lived next door to the house of Louis Smith, whose daughter Bessie was the Lexington librarian for years. Jim saved glass photography plates, scrapbooks, photos, and other memorabilia from that interesting place and much of it is still in our collection. Thank you so much, Mr. Morrison!!



On Thursday, Aug 13 a traveling artist Jeff Baumgartner from Michigan City, Ind. set up his easel right in front of THE FORT for an afternoon of painting on Main Street. He is with a theater company shut down by the virus, so he is fulfilling a bucket list item of traveling down Old Route 66, stopping to paint iconic sights and meeting folks along the way. Pontiac made him a VIP with a button for his shirt, so our Mayor Johannsen gave him a Lexington button and a tee shirt! Can you just imagine his collection from central Illinois when he finally gets home!!!

NOTE THE COMMUNITY TENT FOR DINING IN BACKGROUND!!