



The

Generation

Next

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Our Web Site is located at: www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org

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Even though **our building on Main Street in Lexington is closed 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

Hope to hear from you soon.

From Your
FORT Volunteers



Member Joyce Ufford of Oregon shared an online find about the family **Bible of John Royston Wiley**, buried in Clarksville Cemetery 1851. Family names include Sampson, Henline, and Cunningham. Check on FAG.

Visit McLean County Museum's Online Exhibits



With closures due to Covid 19, the county museum in the old courthouse on the Bloomington city square decided to make lots more offerings available online at www.mchistory.org. One of our volunteers shared that she visited the site recently and found so many "real gems" that she had to eventually make herself stop. Her new discovery this time was the photo collection given to the museum by the *Pantagraph newspaper* several years ago. The oldest ones from the 1930's and 40's have been digitized and added to the Illinois Secretary of State's Digital Collection which can be freely accessed and searched by the public at www.idaillinois.org. Bill Kemp's Sunday article in the Dec. 13 *Pantagraph* was about Christmas in the Depression and was illustrated with a photo and details of the collection.. In my search of the collection I found this photo of Durwood West as a former back in 1939 at the Gym Circus, an annual event produced by students at Lexington High School. He is the uncle of one of our local volunteers, so I couldn't resist sharing this image.

To easily find the photo collection, go to the museum site and click on RESEARCH. Then click on RESOURCES to find the **Pantagraph Negative Collection**. Each group of photos can be accessed by subject, date, or alphabetically. So far, they have digitized collections for 1930 to 1939, 1940 to 45, and 1946 to 1949. (They have 80,000 photos through 2000!) These photos were taken for a story, and the entire set has been published when, at the time of the story in the paper, only one of the photos might have appeared in print. Many have names, dates, and place ID. Some are labeled unknown but often photos in the set relate. There are also many other wonderful offerings on this site that we are sure will bring you back for more visits to our McLean County Museum. Enjoy!



Did You Know...The 5 mile area around Lexington has at least 9 cemeteries! Pleasant Hill Cemetery has the earliest documented burial—1829 for the burial of the Foster children. The next burial was in Dawson Cemetery in Lexington Township in 1831—with a readable tombstone for Elizabeth Bartholomew Epler that's still there to prove it! Many Kickapoo Indians and pioneers lived and died in this area and their burials were noted in oral histories, too. If you have relatives buried in the Lexington area, you will want to read the illustrated histories of each Lexington cemetery on our updated web page.

THE FORT: Web Page Updates...if you remember our webpage from the early days of internet outreach, it was filled with lots of historical information and presented a monthly article to entice readership by our members and those who scrolled the internet. In any search for things in Lexington, our web address was usually first on the list. After 2015 technology changed and our old way of making pages became obsolete, so we changed over to a new platform and a static page of basic information. Summer of 2020 brought a **new format to the page** making it more informative for our followers. Links to current activities (all on hold for now) and historical articles - posted right on the home page with items about our city, schools, churches, and cemeteries, so far. All of the newsletters of 2020 are also posted along with an easy way to pay dues, research fees, or easily make a donation. After you check it out, if you have suggestions or wishes for more info...drop us an email with suggestions for further postings. We would so appreciate your ideas for making it better!

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEB PAGE UPDATES
go to.....www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org

We can monitor visitor numbers now, so please help us finish the year with a huge number of viewers!!!