



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 **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](mailto:thefortoflex@aol.com)

Hope to hear from you soon.

From Your  
FORT Volunteers

## DNA Kits for Gifts?



Millions of people will unwrap DNA testing kits this holiday season and eagerly swab their cheek and mail in the saliva, hoping their DNA will unlock clues about their heritage or reveal long-lost relatives. The reasonably priced test kits offer entertainment, a chance to uncover family secrets, and have become very popular over the past few years.

Now experts warn consumers to consider privacy issues before they hand over their DNA with hackers lurking, law enforcement searching DNA databases to solve cases, and medical researchers seeking profitable DNA solutions. Lawmakers need to clarify the privacy of DNA, and companies should update policies on use of DNA by police and researchers, but government is slow to catch up with the fast-moving science behind DNA tests, and most individuals are not even aware of the privacy risk. The simple contract with a genealogy company asks a customer to agree that their DNA can be shared with research partners to match with relatives and nearly all customers want this to happen. **We all think it's mostly for fun! Many of us already have our DNA on file, but as the industry grows, it seems we might be sorry someday.**

Experts say to consider these 5 Risks before you "give away" your DNA....

- 1 Hacking – The DNA industry has a unique set of data about consumers that could be a prime focus for hackers from around the world as the databases grow.**
- 2 Who can profit? Not you! - Consumers have a positive view of DNA companies as 80% agree to share DNA with research partners. As data is shared with many partners, the testing companies can't ensure what those partners are doing with your DNA. If your DNA yields profitable results, it certainly won't profit you!**
- 3 Current laws are not broad enough - Your genetic data is uniquely yours. It identifies you, so if you are going to entrust it to a company, you should contemplate the consequences. Current law is too narrow in its focus, banning only employers or insurance companies from accessing this information, so protection for you is still very low.**
- 4 Law Enforcement Requests - When you provide your genetic information to a DNA testing company, you are also providing information about those related to you — including distant cousins. When your relatives, including ones you may not even know, give their DNA, they are also providing genetic information about you. The ability of law enforcement to target family DNA through testing companies is a growing issue.**
- 5 Companies change — they are bought, sold, and go out of business — and what happens to your data then? You can opt out, but how do you really know if all DNA samples and data have been removed everywhere?**

## Covid Cancels Display of Original Gettysburg Address

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum in Springfield planned to display the Illinois copy of the Gettysburg Address for a special two week period this month, but instead the museum was closed again and will do the display in 2021. This copy of the speech is one of only 5 originals written by President Lincoln in 1863. The old document is usually kept in a climate-controlled vault at the museum to protect it from light and humidity. The state of Illinois acquired this copy when it went on sale in the 1940's. Illinois schoolchildren collected pennies, nickels, and dimes to build a fund and make a bid on the coveted item. The \$60,000 bid was successful so the state is a proud owner of the precious document echoing the speech Mr. Lincoln made for the dedication of Pennsylvania's Gettysburg Cemetery during the Civil War when soldiers from the Battle of Gettysburg were buried there.



The Lexington FFA students and teacher Brian Wiltz have started the clean-up and restoration work at Clarksville Cemetery with assistance from caretaker Jeremy Meints and the support of the Money Creek Township board. Thank you all!!

**TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEB PAGE UPDATES**  
go to.....[www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org](http://www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org)

**We have posted historical info on churches, schools, cemeteries and the city of Lexington so far.....**