



The

Generation

Next

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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

A Little Mystery At Pleasant Hill Cemetery...Halloween 2020



A story that's more interesting than scary...but still worth sharing....this unusual marker was discovered by our volunteers, Marie and her sister Carol, as they worked to map and record the old cemetery this fall.

They found a stone marker in the middle of a tree! At first they thought it was a chunk placed in there, but the stone is fractured as if the tree has compressed it over time. If ever they remove the old tree, our girls want to be there to read the inscription on the marker! Now that's what you call dedicated volunteers!!



INSIDE TREE

Kansas Couple Makes Fall Trip to Lawndale Cemetery and THE FORT

Dan and Joan Brum let us know that they were coming in mid October to check on the family plot at Lawndale Cemetery, about 6 miles east of Lexington, and caretaker Kevin Poppe made sure things were well mowed and trimmed for their visit. They were hoping to find a marker for ancestor Samuel Resin Farr, but it appears that he is buried next to his wife without a stone. Sadly, they found the Farr family stones in need of some TLC, so we are trying to make that happen with cooperation of the cemetery officials, Pontiac Granite, and volunteer helpers.

The Farr name may be familiar to some Lexington "old-timers" as one of the original gas stations on Old Route 4/66 was owned by their relative—John Farr. During their visit we dug out the information left by Elmo Page (another Farr relation) and determined that the Farr Station was located in the old laundromat building on South Grove Street. Elmo had shared that there were at least 9 gas stations between the south end of Memory Lane and the S end of Grove Street in the heyday of Route 66, before it moved west, in 1948, to the double lane configuration.



Another question recently came up about the original Texaco Station. It was reportedly moved to Lake Bloomington to make room for the new construction in 1948. Left photo shows original and right shows cabin at lake today. Do you think they could be the same building?

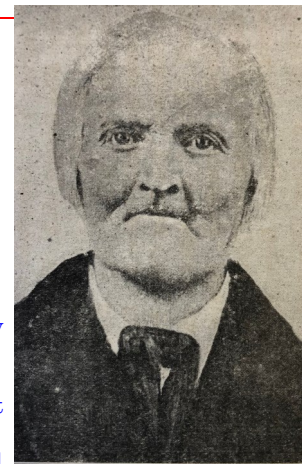


Did you know that....we have some wonderful treasures tucked away at THE FORT!!!

Sometimes it might take us a while to locate it, but when we are "on the hunt" we usually find the illusive piece and confirm that it was there all the time!!! Recently the search was on for a book or pamphlet with photos we remembered of War of 1812 Soldiers. As we searched the likely places, we questioned our memory—as photography was new about the time of the Civil War, so how could they have made photos of the older soldiers of 1812?

We finally located the 1912 pamphlet, "**Soldiers of the Revolution and the War of 1812 Buried in McLean County, IL**" by Milo Custer, a local historian who spent his years documenting the history of McLean County, especially relating to soldiers and the conflicts that involved local heroes. We are certainly thankful for all the special works he left for us.

Sure enough, there were likenesses presented in the book of at least a dozen old soldiers—but they were not photographs! They were called "crayon drawings" and we believe the originals might be part of the McLean County Collection at the Old Courthouse Museum. A recent find of the large marker in Greenwood Cemetery for soldier Thomas Reid had prompted us to look for this old document that did contain a nice picture of the old gentleman, which we added to his page on Find A Grave and will share here with you, too.



THOMAS REID.