



The

Generation

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

318 West Main Street
Lexington, Illinois
61753

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday – Saturday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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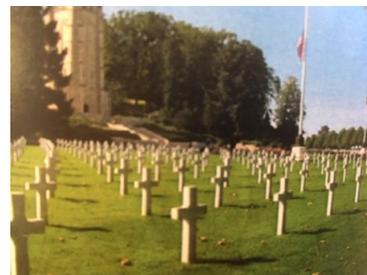
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Fall Activities at THE FORT

Our annual Mystery Party had a WILD WEST theme this year in October and it was fun for all who attended!

On November 8th THE FORT gave a program about WWI for the Joy Club of Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. Our topic was our Adopt a Grave project in 2018 to commemorate McLean County soldiers who died in WWI. We presented photos of the cleaned and decorated graves, stories of some soldiers honored in the project, and live music of the time provided by two of our talented volunteers, Bea Lowery and Lucy Loper. Project developer, Suzanne Kraus from Chicago, presented the final phase of her ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR project—a trip to France to visit the graves of McLean County soldiers, planned for October 8—17, 2020, departing from Chicago and visiting Paris and the WWI cemeteries and battlefields. More information about the trip is available at ww1.suzannekraus@gmail.com This is a thoughtfully planned and locally organized trip of a lifetime, so take advantage if you can!



Lexington’s Chamber of Commerce held LADIES NIGHT OUT in late November for a shopping spree night on Lexington’s Main Street. Our local shops were complimented by many visiting booths set up for the event to offer an amazing display of wares for everyone’s shopping pleasure. THE FORT joined in as a rest stop and warming station where we signed in over 100 visitors to welcome many who had never entered the Genealogical and Historical Society before.

Christmas on the Prairie offered a multitude of booths at the school gym along with Breakfast with Santa and a children’s shopping stop where secret purchases and gift wrapping helped each child get surprises for family members. The event continued around town with specials at many of the local stores and restaurants and the Chamber of Commerce’s “Deck the Walls, Halls, and All” display and silent auction of beautifully decorated donated items to raise money for the HS scholarship program. THE FORT offered the “Beary Christmas Tree” shown here. It was a group project: Susan found the tree, Norm & Laura donated the bear, Diana set the theme with popcorn/cranberry garland, homespun fabric, and old wooden box to hold the tree, many hands worked on the decorations, Jackie facilitated delivery on a rolling FORT chair, and a nice lady made the generous \$100 purchase. We hope she had a very “beary” Christmas this year!



FAG Updates Yield Interesting Stories!

With the www.findagrave.com website becoming a more popular resource for people looking for ancestral ties, we have been continuing to update the online data with cemetery information, our obituaries, and local sexton records. We can report that Gridley, Waldo, Chenoa, Graceland and Lexington cemeteries have been our recent focus, so check them out to see our work in progress. So much good information is there to be shared, and we want our local cemeteries to have the best and most correct facts posted. But be aware that anyone is allowed to post on the site with no requirement to show resources, so always double check with documentation to make sure the info is reliable. If you find errors, feel free to offer edits to keep the site as accurate as possible. And the best part is.....IT'S ALL FREE TO USE!!!

Checking the FIND A GRAVE information has led us to some interesting discoveries and the poignant reminder that each burial can lead us to an interesting story! Here are just a few of our interesting finds.....

Photo requests for Amelia and Verdie Dawson's graves led us on a hunt to find a family plot for their burials in Lexington Cemetery. We found Verdie's parents, Ezra and Ella Dawson who share a stone in Section 2. A check of the cemetery map led us to the fact that many Dawsons are buried on this large family plot, originally purchased by Ezra's parents Croghan and Elizabeth Dawson, that reaches from road to road across section 2. Further searching led us to the fact that all of the 9 Dawson children, except 1, are also buried in Lexington, but they were not linked together as one family on Find A Grave. Some had lived in Lexington their entire lives and some were brought back to Lexington for burial. Elizabeth and Croghan were married about 1845 and she bore children in 4 decades—two in the 40's, three in the 50's, two in the 60's, and two in the 70's. There is one infant, Emma, that each sibling listed in their obit, —so 10 Dawson children altogether. We also located daughter Ella who is buried in Colorado and linked her with the family, too. So many new updates to 100 year old data! Fantastic! We even got a “thank you” from a great-granddaughter who had been looking for more information for years.

Lexington's “old veteran butcher” Miles Waybright (1823-1901) is buried in Lexington Cemetery with no marker, and several months ago someone requested a photo of his grave. In our research for a family plot we knew he had married twice but we could find neither of his wives buried in Lexington. After much digging his first wife Anna Rebecca Waybright (d. 1869) was found on the 1870 Mortality Schedule (the listing of all those who died and missed being counted on the census) and after 150 years we have a record of her death and can be pretty sure she, too, is buried with Miles. We also found a news item—thanks to a digital search of the Pantagraph—that Telitha Batterton Waybright, the second wife of Miles Waybright, died in 1933 at age 95 in her home near Stockport, Iowa. Even though we have no info about her burial, we could link her to Miles and her parents so her information will not be lost again. This is still a work in progress until we can locate a likely Waybright grave location.

The Arbogast search was another interesting one as the family plot is marked by a huge natural rock but with no markers for individual burials. Father Benjamin's grave is marked by a smaller engraved rock with his name and dates and we logically assume that the rest of the family is there, too, as son Emmitt Arbogast owns the adjoining plot. One map also shows the name Tull, so it appears that the Arbogast daughter who married a Tull and died in childbirth and her mother-in-law Mary Tull are likely laid to rest in that spot, too. It's good to remake these local connections that have been lost over the years!

Just to the west of the Arbogast Rock is a stone shared by POPEJOY and LISTER. This came to our attention because someone had posted a Find a Grave page for Harriett Lister and requested a photo of the stone, but the dates on the page did not match the dates in our records or on the stone for our Harriett Lister. For a while we thought there must be two different burials, but as we investigated, more and more of the information seemed intertwined. A major research project resulted and took us back to census reports of 1850 looking for little Harriett Hutchison born in Blooming Grove, McLean County, Illinois as stated in her obit. The family member who posted the page on FAG had followed a path to a different Harriett, but we finally got it all straightened out as best we can. We linked Harriett to her other children along with the Popejoy daughter with whom she shares a stone. Another mystery solved after only 106 years—as Harriett was buried in 1914!

FIND A GRAVE is easy to navigate, contains much good information, and is free to use. Check it out and you might like what you see!



We have access to the Pantagraph Archives since 1850 and will be happy to help you find items like obits, articles, photos, stories, ads, and memories from the news of the past.....

Just \$1 per item sent right to your email!

Our New “Old Maps”

One of our local long-time supporters, Judd Stover, recently donated copies of a set of original survey maps he acquired from the state archives along with a written explanation of their origin. The maps show **1824 Lexington and Money Creek Townships** at the time of the first survey made in this area to divide the land into measurable sections and to record the “lay of the land.” It’s hard for us to imagine the task and conditions for that team of surveyors as they gathered the facts and made the marks that still prove to be accurate today!

Judd copied and enlarged the small maps the state sent him so the maps can be easily seen and studied. Besides showing the timberlines, rivers, and some elevations, it shows the “new” section lines and it notes the encampments of Indians in the area. We weren’t surprised to see the markings in Section 21 of Lexington Township showing where the Kickapoo Tribe lived. That area would later become Pleasant Hill, where the Patton cabin was erected about 1829, and Indian Field Cemetery stands today.



But on further examination we all were surprised to see marks indicating that a tribe of Delaware Indians lived in Section 36 at that same time! That area is the far southeast corner of Lexington Township where Lexington, Lawndale, Martin, and Blue Mound Townships meet and no evidence of an Indian town remains there today. Thanks, Judd, for taking the time and effort to acquire and share with THE FORT this valuable resource of the history of our central Illinois area.

“Up Against a Brick Wall....”



If you have been doing genealogy for a while you have probably heard the term “up against a brick wall”meaning you have come to a place where the facts and information you seek seem not available to be found. If you truly have “the genealogical disease” this minor setback doesn’t stop you, but forces you to begin a new investigation until you meet another “brick wall.” But we never give it up because it’s so much fun to search and find the answers!

Madeline Jones, THE FORT’s seasoned researcher and “our walking encyclopedia of area history,” has quite a message to share. Many of you are familiar with Madeline’s expertise in genealogy and historical matters and have benefited from her knowledge and suggestions with your hunts since she has been one of our valued volunteers almost since the beginning of THE FORT. She recently shared a victorious moment that is a testament to her continued efforts to

break those brick walls.

One afternoon as Madeline volunteered at THE FORT with her Wednesday partner E. Kay Berry, she inquired about a tactic she had recently seen Kay use on the computer to locate information. With a few hints from Kay, Madeline was soon busy on the computer digging deep into a place she had not been before, but some things were looking familiar, so she kept at it.

The next afternoon she came into THE FORT with the excitement and happiness of a kid on Christmas morning! She joyfully explained to the Thursday volunteers that, not only had she broken through a long standing brick wall, she had been able to find an answer to the question her husband Walter had asked 40 years ago that had sparked her original interest and participation in genealogy! What a statement and example to never give up!

Luckily, with so much historical information and data being stored online and made available for public use, it’s a whole new world out there for researchers. Congratulations, Madeline, and thanks for sharing this triumph with those of us who understand your success! We know Walt is still cheering you on!

We love our patrons! Here are some projects of THE FORT in the last six months.

Norm Hiser and Laura Walden of THE OLD HOUSE SOCIETY in Bloomington continue to share interesting finds.

Debbie Barnard volunteers hours at THE FORT for the State Farm Match for employees and retirees.

Suzanne Kraus of the ADOPT A SOLDIER project to find 132 graves of McLean Co. WWI soldiers who died in the war now plans the final phase—a trip to visit the graves in Belgium and France in October 2020. Contact us for more information.

Bill Kemp retired his weekly historical article in the Pantagraph. Those bits of history will be sorely missed! Thanks, Bill.

Jackie Rever continues indexing of the complex Graceland Cem @ Fairbury and updating our info with many Find-A-Grave pages.

Stephanie Delaurenti found Minerva Potter at Graceland but it took a field trip to find all the answers.

Readers send thank you notes to Susan McGuire for the fine historical articles from THE FORT in the **Lexingtonian** each week.

Mark Bounds and Jodee Cesario are McLean County Research Genealogists for the Clerks office. Give them a call.

Ed & Julie Polonus continue to share obscure info. She is a Nancy Miller cohort so no wonder she is a digger!

Juanita Clark continues to work with us on updating the many pages on FIND A GRAVE for Lexington Cemetery.

Marjorie Devore still has hopes to track down the origins of Rosanna Wreath and the McDowell relatives.

Joan Burm has sent info on the Farr/Page family to add to our collection.

Marty Gerwick shared several items from the Mimi Travers Collection.

Carol Dorward researcher from Washington, IL collaborates on research and shares the Tazewell Co. Newsletters each month.

Denowitz Family Book was donated and is available for your enjoyment. Lots of photos and interesting info!

Jean Greabeial our Canadian connection joins **Helga Jochim** of Germany to make THE FORT an international organization!

Lisa Glidden looking for Stan Lewandowski death cert—should be easy with a name like that! NOPE...lots of them in Chicago!

Ruth Oesch asked for a program on ADOPT A GRAVE for Second Presbyterian Joy Club November meeting with THE FORT.

Johnnie Johnson wanted Sarah Hefner photos for his historic house in California that Sarah's brother built in the early days.

Michael Murphy seeks Murphy family info from Nevada Township in Livingston County.

Sandy Kaufman found out that her relative G. Frerichs Americanized his name to George Franks—and we found a picture, too!

Christine Reeves asked for help in finding 3 little girls who lived at the Girls Industrial Home—and we found them all!

Lynda Sharp asked about Lexington's Edwards Family and we found another interesting "hidden story" at the cemetery.

Barbara Jacobs needed obits of the Scouler Family in Graceland and she helped us make connections to offspring, too.

Tracy Williams gave us a new experience with translated communication for the deaf in his search for Ed Johnson of M Creek.

Todd and Sandy Gleason walked in looking for the exact person we were updating on FAG! What are the chances of that!

Ann Fincham led us on a fascinating search for the story of Ina Unger in Clarksville Cem and her four marriages!

Lynne Ream helped us with the correct information on Harriett Lister who is buried at Lexington with her Popejoy daughter.

Teresa Mingle was looking for the children of Civil War CPL Daniel Liston after his death in 1880 ...and we found them all!

J Runge seeks to find the burial of Lydia Holmes Eymhizer so we found her mother and sister in Marshall Co. and sent her there.

Jennifer Schoonover received grandpa's adoption info and it led to lady who spent years at Lex Nursing Home; found pic, too!

Dr. Jack Sturrock got obits and pictures of stones at Conant Cemetery in Dwight; Kim Drechsel helped with maps, too.

Kim Taylor is new to genealogy and on her visit from ElPaso she found many links in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

So if you have a question, give us a chance to help you find an answer!

New additions to "THE FORT" thanks to donations...

May 2019—Jan 2020

Special Donations

State Farm	Matching Volunteer Donations
State Farm Donation Match	Ruth Stewart
State Farm Donation Match	Marie Leutchtenberg
40 hours of volunteer service	Debbie Barnard
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation	Judy Lindsay Donation
Old House Society	Sale of various items
Items from Travers Collection	Marty Gerwick
Parker Kemp Foundation	Parker Kemp
Jody Williams Plumbing & Heating	Jody Williams
David and Claire Sullivan	more Larkin Family Research
Myers Donation	Paula and Dennis Myers
Photos of Mystery Party in news	Barb and Laurie Sleeter
Carol Dorward	Tazewell Co Newsletters
Judd Stover	1824 Survey Plat Maps and Data
Chuck Wright	Peter Hefner House Collection
Leila Carlson Collection	Leila Carlson
Steiner Book	Nola Marquardt of McLean Co Hist Library
Dale Kridner	Sexton help at Chenoa Cem
Dave Elder	Sexton help at Lexington Cem
Joan Burm	Farr/Page Collection
Brown/Dishon/Lowery	Used Ink Cartridges
Linda Barnickel of Nashville Museum	Pearl Kemp Letter

May 2019-Jan 2020

Cash Donations:

Kathy Bowen IL	Laurel Busch NV
Parker Kemp IL	Scott Alexander IL
Steve Robeson CA	Robert McCombs
Julie Busse IL	Debbie Barnard IL
Ann Fincham VA	Dennis & Paula Myers IL
Bob Underwood TN	Dan Hefner IL
John Kestler WashDC	Judy Lindsay IL
Ruth Stewart IL	Linda Cundiff IL
Marian R Elson IL	S Delaurendi
Skye Richendrfer	John & Sally Breese IL
Jean Greabeiel - Canada	Nancy Miller IL
Scott Fritz	Liz Pegg IL
Marjorie Devore IL	David McLaughlin IL
Geoff Carlson IL	Todd Sandi Gleason IN
Joan Bohlin NMex	Pati Daubs WI
Carol Dorward IL	MaryLou Norman MN
Iris Staubus MN	Robin Geraughty IL
Kim Venne VA	Nancy Conley Hawaii
Gwen Kennedy IL	Jan Dishon WA
Mary Stack IL	Kim Taylor IL
Gary Blakney IL	Diane Rose Smith WA
Chuck & MB Wright IL	Barbara Jacobs MT
Lona Juers IL	Christine Reeves WI
Mary Arvidson IL	Lee Bettis VA
Faye Clark FL	Dr. J Sturrock FL



Business Updates January 2020

REQUESTS FOR RESEARCH

We complete most requests by e-mail now. It is so important to have your questions in writing along with a return address or email for clear communication.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Our method to notify members of their renewal date changed with the newer method of sending our newsletters by email, so now we send a group email according to your due date. Renewal is so easy with our online service. Go to the web site below, click on CONTACT US, then on Memberships & Donations to follow the steps to renew your membership.

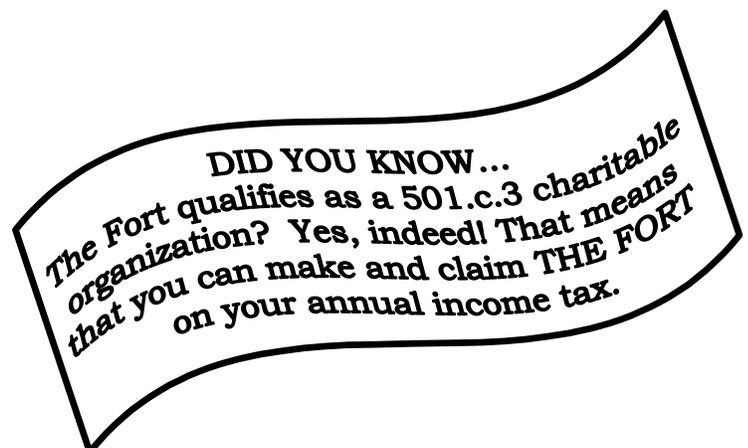
Send questions to our email at

thefortoflex@aol.com

Website: www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org

Open hours at THE FORT are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. TUESDAY—SATURDAY each week. We try to keep regular hours, but the weather might cause us to be closed for safety. Call ahead to be sure!

We have items that make a very unique gift. Stop in soon to visit and see what's new at THE FORT!



Board of Directors

Board Officers:

Diana Frerichs President
 Susan McGuire Vice President
 Pati Pease Treasurer
 Jan Heuer Secretary/Editor

Board Members:

Rebecca Pentecost Building Chairperson
 Jackie Rever Properties Chairperson
 Madeline Jones Obit Chairperson
 Linda Sumrall Membership
 Open Outreach Chairperson

Daily Volunteers

Weekly Schedule:

Susan McGuire
 Pati Pease, Rebecca Pentecost
Tuesday

Kay Berry & Madeline Jones
Wednesday

Linda Lanzer, Jan Heuer
 Pati Pease, Debbie Barnard
Thursday

Dorothy Myers, Jackie Rever
 Linda Sumrall
Friday

Jan Heuer & Delores Perry
Saturday

Other Volunteers

Warren Borchers	Ford Co. Papers
Sally Breese	Projects
Bill Clark	Projects
John Colclasure	Writer; Performer
Diana Frerichs	Projects
Gene Gangloff	Woodford Obits
Norm Hiser	Old House Society
Lucy Loper	Projects
Nancy Miller	Library Connection
Larry McGuire	Projects
Mike Rever	Projects
Dan	Technology helper
Sue Seegmiller	Research helper
Amy Steidinger	Facebook
Alan Streber	Maintenance
Laura Walden	Old House Society

Many other supporters, members, and patrons help us keep the 50 year legacy alive!

NOTE: Membership expiration used to be on the mailing labels, but we have started sending the newsletter by email so that method is no longer available to us. We will mention the dues renewal in the body of the email and you may renew online or with the paper form. Please notify us of any address change or email address update or if you think there is an error with your expiration date.

Lexington Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc.

318 West Main Street Lexington, IL 61753

Phone (309) 365-4591

Membership Application / Renewal
 (Memberships run 12 months)

Mr. Ms Mrs. Miss _____ Date _____ Member # _____

Mr. Ms Mrs. Miss _____ ** add this line for Couple memberships

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

Please check box if no membership card is desired.

Please check box if you request a new card.

_____ New Single Membership \$20.00 _____ Single Membership Renewal \$15.00

_____ New Couple Membership \$25.00 _____ Couple Membership Renewal \$20.00

**Couples living in the same household

_____ Check Enclosed (# _____)