



The

Generation

Next

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Our Web Site is located at: 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
Hope to hear from you soon.

From Your
FORT Volunteers

Special Thanks to Members/Supporters—YOU!

Last week we updated email addresses with the membership list, just to make sure we both had the same data. As we worked through the list of nearly 200 names, we found a few on one list and not the other, but for the most part we matched. **What always impresses us is the long list of FORT supporters who have, not only been with us for a sustained period, but continue to support our organization year after year.** What a feeling of pride for our volunteers who continue the work of FORT founder Verda Gerwick and her dedicated supporters. They organized back in 1965, feared that everything would be "over" when Verda was gone, but 20 years after her leadership ended, we are stronger than ever! Our membership roster includes many from Illinois and neighboring states, but also some as far away as Hawaii, California, Washington, Vermont, Florida, Texas, and even Canada, and Germany, making this an international organization!

We are happy to report that many already took advantage of our "dues special" and are now paid in advance up to January of 2022! **The special is extended until August 15—"pay your dues for the year by August 15 and expiration is extended until January 2022."** This newsletter is sent in batches depending on when your dues are payable, so check the email message with this newsletter. It mentions if you are paid in full, now due, or overdue and about to be dropped from our membership list. Sometimes we also send a newsletter to "friends of THE FORT" and this special offer also applies to anyone who would like to join our society. Mail a check or pay online. **THANK YOU ALL FOR THE GREAT SUPPORT!!!!**

Hot Off the Press! Learn About it Here first!



The 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band Inc. was re-created in 1996, and like the original Civil War band, the musicians were recruited from the same geographical area in Illinois and come from all walks of life. The band is an authentic re-creation of the actual Civil War Era band that was mustered at State Normal University in 1861 with leaders from Lexington! A recent

FORT visitor, John Hamann, one of the 33rd's members, confided that they are forming a civilian band and are using the historic name **LEXINGTON CORNET BAND** for the new revival based on an old photo of the 1890 Lexington band that we had recently shared with them. Stay tuned for more information. Check the Civil War Band's website at www.33rdband.com.



August's FORT Annual Meeting Cancelled for 2020

The FORT board recently continued the CLOSED status of our society and decided not to try to host our ANNUAL MEETING in August due to the virus threat this year. We will miss seeing so many local supporters who usually come together for a program and election of officers on a pleasant summer evening. Our Chamber of Commerce recently gave us hope by setting tentative dates for Ladies Day Out and Christmas on the Prairie in Nov and Dec 2020, so maybe we will also be able to hold our meeting later. Until then, we still can answer your requests by email, have a visitor in the building by appointment, and continue to help you find those clues that might "break down a brick wall." Best days to call us are Fri and Sat.

This is QUICK NEWSLETTER #2 to stay in touch, remind you that we here to assist with genealogical and historical questions, and thank you for your continued support!