



The

Generation

Next

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Our Web Site is located at: [www.lexingtonillinoisfort.org](http://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 about starting or continuing to work on your family tree.

We still **check our email daily and we can try to answer questions 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**

### FIND A GRAVE Benefits from "Stay At Home" Order

Our society volunteers began updating information on FAG in some local cemeteries when we realized how popular that website had become. We have offered much new information to the pages in Graceland at Fairbury, IL., Chenoa Cemetery, Gridley Cemetery, Lexington Cemetery, McNaught Cemetery, Waldo Cemetery, and Clarksville at Money Creek, with Pleasant Hill at Lexington and Pennell at Towanda just getting started by volunteers working from home.

As we dig into the pages of our obituary books, we find so many interesting stories that are worthy of sharing as a point of pride in our local history. Facts from our research led us to present a 10 part series in the *Lexingtonian Newspaper* encouraging local residents to drive through the Lexington Cemetery during the "shut down" to see the graves of local people who left interesting stories to share. Here is one that we found very fascinating .....

About 1890 the 3 sons of Lexington farmer James Kennedy turned some of their daily chores into an exhibition by staging a race between a tamed steer and a horse. Eventually they produced the elaborate Kennedy Bros Circus and Vaudeville Show that headlined in Bloomington in 1900 and was the featured attraction for Lexington's 4<sup>th</sup> of July in 1901. **C.L. and James Victor Kennedy** later became business partners of their brother Col. William H. Kennedy's Wild West Show which first took Oklahoma Indians to the eastern states for shows and gave Will Rogers his first big job. Other cowboy showmen they started were Hoot Gibson, Tom Mix, and Buck Jones who traveled with the 10 different shows in the Kennedy Company. In later years portions of the show even appeared in movies...and it all started with a tamed Lexington Jersey steer and three farm boys who sought the spotlight! Look for the Kennedy markers in **SECTION 6 LOT 216**.



Hope you will check out pages on FAG to notice the links and updates we have made to make this site more reliable and informative as an online archive. Feel free to suggest edits if you have further information to share. Always remember that **anyone can add information or pages**, so one must be particularly careful to match the information given there with other factual resources. Please let us know if you find errors that we can recheck to make entries as correct as possible.

### "When is My Membership Due???"

With our move to electronic newsletters, we lost our easy way to keep each member informed of their date to renew the annual membership fee. We have not come up with a good way to individually let each member get that information, but in fall 2018 when we launched our **online payment feature with FLIPCAUSE** we offered blanket coverage through 2020 to anyone who used the service, and those are now soon due. Most member's dues are coming due by the end of 2020 or early 2021. Here's a deal for you.....**pay your annual dues by our August 1 FORT Annual Meeting date** —(still just \$15/individual or \$20/couple)- and you will not be due again until January 2022! Mail your check to THE FORT or, even easier, go to our website and click on **CONTACT US** which will show you the steps to pay online with your credit card. We have online service at a fee, so by your usage we know the service is something our members use, appreciate, and we should keep.

**Does this "short version" newsletter satisfy? Make it monthly? Comments welcome!**