



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](mailto:thefortoflex@aol.com)  
Hope to hear from you soon.

From Your  
**FORT Volunteers**

## [Clarksville Cemetery Clean-Up and Repair Project Begins This Fall](#)



A chance meeting and discussion between a Find A Grave photographer and the man who does the mowing and trimming at Clarksville Cemetery got the ball rolling and now a plan is coming together to do some clean up and repairs this fall at the rural Lexington cemetery that is home to about 165 pioneers, soldiers, children, and relatives. The old cemetery in Money Creek Township is the burial ground that was behind the United Brethren Church at Clarksville. Originally platted as a 3 acre site, it appears much smaller now, with many markers in various states of disrepair. Money Creek Township, our local FFA advisor and teacher Brian Wiltz, his stu-

dents, and several Lexington citizens are hoping to get Pontiac Granite's advice on preserving, cleaning, and repairing the old markers that are down, tilting, sinking, and needing some TLC! If you have relatives buried in this old cemetery, let us know and we will check the status of your stones and report back to you. We foresee this project as a multi-year endeavor to retain the old cemetery a while longer.

## **Lexington Sexton and Crew Go Above and Beyond!**



**David Elder, who followed his dad as sexton at Lexington Cemetery, recently worked with us at THE FORT to update records and allow us to add information to the pages of Find A Grave for Lexington Cemetery from the sexton records. As we conferred on the project, we mentioned some of the markers that were in need of some TLC. Dave and his hard working helpers listened and reacted to our concerns. We now have many old markers that have been power washed, reset, looking so good and ready to brave many more winters in the brutal Illinois weather.**

**One of the oldest markers (1854) for Alexander Blake had been brought over from Scrogin Cemetery by father-in-law Jacob Spawr. It was down in the dirt with grass almost covering it. They dug it up, found it in good shape, so they stood it back up as pictured here. Gray area was all that was visible before. What a beautiful job!!!**

**Another unique marker we call "little bird" had been damaged with the pieces laying on the base. Dave not only put it all back together, he cleaned it up so we could finally see the name -Earl Wood Busby, 2 year old grandson of Shadrack Busby, whose lot he is buried on. And these are only two of the many stones they have cleaned and repaired! Kudos to our sexton and his crew who go the extra mile to keep the Lexington Cemetery looking so beautiful. Let them know you appreciate their extra care and concern!**



**Goodman Research Success Story** .....Rick Goodman of Ohio contacted THE FORT in search of a burial location for his Grandma and Grandpa Gillan. We found them in Wiley Cemetery at Colfax along with lots of news from the local paper about other family members, marriages, and many more family connections. The Gillans had been in this area for generations, so we went further and found family all the way back to the old Irishman who came here originally. Along the way we found that great-grandfather Jim T. Gillan had been married a second time in the mid-50's to Myra Gwin, sister to Richard Gwin, former owner of the VanDolah Castle at Lexington. As we were deciphering all this new information, an email arrived at THE FORT from Florida...from Richard Gwin!!! Turned out to be from the son of Myra Gwin, Ric Gwin, asking if we could send him an obit for his mother who is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. We sent the obit and also asked if he knew Jim Gillan, who had been his mother's husband from 1953 to 1957? He never knew they had been married, but he remembered a photo of them with a Cadillac and a travel trailer, which he was going to try to find and share with Rick Goodman, a new relative by marriage, who crossed paths at THE FORT in Lexington!!!

Rick and his sister Debbie traveled to Illinois with their mates in August to visit the old home places and the family graves at Wiley Cemetery. They were amazed at all the information we had gathered for them when they arrived in Lexington. We had a pleasant visit at THE FORT before they continued their adventure to Colfax and the places they had not seen since they were small children. All that came from one simple question....so if you are stuck in your research...don't hesitate to ask....It might happen for you, too!