

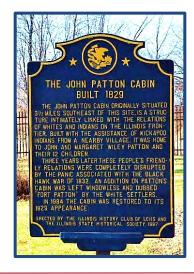
G L E A N I N G S

FROM THE HEART OF THE CORNBELT

The McLean County Genealogical Society Bloomington, Illinois

For the Love of a Cemetery





Honoring one of our own
Cemeteries

 Restoration

 Sleuthing, and more



Volume 54 Number 1

Winter 2021

The McLean County Genealogical Society

Welcomes you to the Stevenson-Ives Library & Archives Located on the second floor of



What's in the Library?

Internet-based Databases (Free access)

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org Family Search affiliate !!
- Illinois State Archives databases
- Pantagraph negative photo collection
- Library book catalog

Books (16,000+)

- -McLean County history and genealogy
- -genealogical publications (around U.S.)
- -family histories & ethnic groups
- -local authors
- -Illinois history
- -Midwestern social life/culture
- -agriculture and agribusiness
- -education and teacher training
- -transportation
- -Illinois and McLean County politics
- -city directories & school yearbooks
- -and much more

Often a genealogy volunteer is in the library to assist you!

Bring your laptop - free WIFI !!

Microfilm

-1862-63 Illinois Civil War military census -pre-1900 McLean County birth & death records -pre-1900 Illinois marriage index (incomplete) -grantor/grantee index to McLean County deeds 1831-1967 -McLean County Circuit Clerk records 1831-1907 -Archival Land Records Illinois **Township Plats** -papers of Jesse Fell -misc Central Illinois newspapers -Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter NSDAR scrapbook

Please sign the guest register. Large bags or purses must remain in the reading room. Please use a pencil for note-taking. Please call ahead with questions.

GLEANINGS FROM THE HEART OF THE CORNBELT

A Semi-Annual Publication of The McLean County Genealogical Society

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Mailing ad	dress:		ean County Genealogical Society 488, Normal, IL 61761-0488
The Society's Library Location:		The McLean County Museum of History Courthouse Square, 202-210 North Main Street Bloomington, IL 61701	
Email:	mcgs.directors@gmail.cor	<u>n</u>	Website: <u>https://www.tmcgs.org</u>

Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM Monday and Wednesday through Saturday, and 9 AM to 9 PM Tuesday (Free), 10 AM to 2 PM Sunday (May-September)

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We invite suggestions and submissions relevant to McLean County, Illinois history and genealogy. Submitted materials may be in the form of articles, transcriptions, photographs, queries, etc. For questions, or submissions, please email the Editor: mcgs.journal@gmail.com

COVER:	Front	1) Carpenter headstone. Photo Bob and Nancy Cannon.
		2) Patton Cabin sign. Photo Rand Veerman.
		3) Broken Wheel. Photo Don and Nancy Sails.
	Back	McLean County Museum of History. Photo William P. LaBounty.

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

I hope you will enjoy this issue of <u>*Gleanings*</u>. It is my first time as Editor, but to be frank, I was blessed to have Susie Pope guiding and contributing all the way - Susie is a former *Gleanings* editor.

This issue is the first since our new website went live: tmcgs.org

We feature two of the articles from past *Gleanings* in this issue. We republish Ruth Carpenter's article about nursing in McLean County to coincide with the COVID crisis and to highlight the contributions Ruth made to the Society. An article about Ruth and the Shirley Cemetery follows; she was a past Cemetery Director. Ruth's contributions were recognized with a Life Membership.

The second reprint is about the McLean County Poor Farm. Director Cheryl Budde has worked on a comprehensive spreadsheet of interments, which we are making available on the website in the member's area. We are encouraging others with information to submit it and have it added to the list.

This issue highlights what type of content is available in our past *Gleanings*. It is the Board's wish that members have access to all the wonderful contributions made in the past. Everyone can access our two *Gleanings* indexes to check out what is available and facilitate their research.

I enjoy the research of Genealogy as surprises come up often. In "The Broken Wheel" and "Adding Charles Dunk" I show how research can be fun, interesting, and make a contribution.

Thanks to our previous editor Carol Genung, for her efforts and talent contributed to make the prior <u>*Gleanings*</u> happen. Thanks to Director Ruth Wilkerson for her invaluable help digitizing publications and making them available and thanks to President Pat Perkins for running the show.

I often wonder if anyone reads these pages, so feel free to give a shout and let me know what you think. Tell me what our group can do to help you and how we can make *Gleanings* better: mcgs.treasurer@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays 2021 Rand Veerman

The McLean County Genealogical Society

Announces New Website

tmcgs.org

Features:

✓ Online Publication Store – Purchase and download our publications in minutes; digital publications are much less expensive than our prior paper products. Members get additional 25% off. Please contact us if you are interested in print publications.

✓ Online Presentation – Members can access our recent presentation by Tina Beaird on Illinois Digital Resources. Don't miss this hour-plus program on everything that Illinois can offer through your computer. Tina's handouts of information and links make it easier than ever to find "the good stuff." Watch it, pause it, click a link, then start it back up – so much fun. We plan to make more presentations available as they happen.

 \checkmark Online *Gleanings* Access – Members have complete immediate access to Gleanings back to 1967. Our Gleanings indexes are available to everyone to name check and research.

✓ Free Resources for Everyone – We have made several of our publications free to all; our guide to McLean County Cemeteries with directions and maps, B-N street names, more.

 \checkmark Event Calendar – Want to know what we are up to, just check the HOME page. Our ZOOM meetings will bring genealogy right to you. Not sure how to ZOOM? Please contact us and we will help.

✓ Online Join/Renew Ability – Join and renew your Society membership thru the website and instantly receive your login credentials to take advantage of member activities and benefits. Gleanings, presentations, and discount publications can be vours in minutes.

NURSES' TRAINING 1928-1931 By Ruth Carpenter



Kathy Johnson, Ruth Carpenter, and Romaine Oyer modeling nursing uniforms of different eras. (*The Pantagraph*, January 17, 1965)

August 1, 1928, found me ready to enter nurses' training days at Brokaw Hospital, Normal, Illinois.

At that time, we had to make our own uniforms. They were made of blue and white chambray. They had short sleeves, a waistband with a gathered skirt. In 1986, I donated one of my original uniforms to the nurses' school at Illinois Wesleyan for their display department and I could still wear it. It included an apron, bib, collar, and cuffs. They already had one of my caps.

After six months we received our cap and bib. We were always very proud of our caps. Now and then, we would lose our cap. If we didn't always do as we should, we lost our cap for a certain period.

I well remember my first tour of duty. It was in the surgery department. There we learned to scrub anything that needed to be scrubbed, such as walls, surgical instruments, and so on. While still in that department, one of my jobs was to hold the foot while they were doing an amputation.

As a rule, we served three to six months on a service such as obstetrical, surgery, medical floors. Then, for pediatrics, we went to James Whitcomb Riley Children's Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana. Spent three months there and it was a very good experience for all of us, although we did get pretty lonesome.

On the surgical floor, we had two major surgical rooms, two rooms for doing tonsils and eye surgery, another room that was used for cystoscopy exams, rooms for the surgical instruments, another for doctor dressing rooms. In the east end of the floor, we had a couple of work rooms—for doing surgical packs and washing and drying gloves.

I served my service in surgery during the summer months. I remember Dr. Edson Hart fixing up his brand of air conditioning. It was large tubs with large chunks of ice and then he would set electric fans behind them. It served the purpose.

In those days, we did not have the prepared solutions as now. We didn't give IVs then and seldom gave a blood transfusion. A blood transfusion was by the direct method. Had the donor lying outside the room and, really quick-like, take it into the patient's room and start. Many times, you had to stop in the middle because the patient went into shock. They didn't do much in the way of matching up the blood, mostly just the type such as by numbers 1,2,3,4 and universal donors and universal recipients.

In those days, the delivery rooms were on the west end of the building we always called the new building (1912).

FOR THE LOVE OF A CEMETERY By Patricia Perkins, MCGS President

Reeta Ruth Talbott Carpenter was born on August 14, 1909 to Benjamin Alfred Talbot (1880-1965) and Anna Tyler Talbott (1883-1914) in Potomac, Vermilion County, Illinois. On October 15, 1932, Ruth married Joe Mack Carpenter (1907-1976) in Pontiac, Illinois. By 1933, Joe and Ruth had moved to Shirley, Mclean County, Illinois where she lived for the next 67 years. Thus begins the story of her love for the cemetery in Shirley, Illinois. Something she was able to see from her kitchen window, daily.

At the beginning, the cemetery was nicely laid out with 96 plots. In 1905, part of the cemetery was lost when the railroad came through the area. After that, the cemetery became abandoned, hidden from view and hard to visit. Dense, tall weeds and trees made it impossible to walk through. Because of the lack of an access road and no upkeep, this cemetery lay abandoned for 40 years.

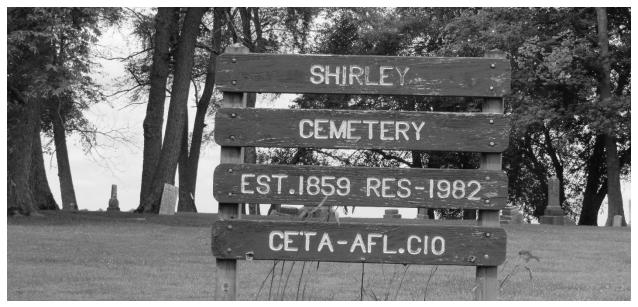


Photo Pat Perkins.

In early 1982 a local Boy Scout took on the project of cleaning up the cemetery and recruited other members of his troop to help. They discovered the earliest readable stone was from 1859. According to information in another article, the oldest person buried there was born in Massachusetts in 1787 and died in 1871. This place represents the history of the residents of the community. This is where their ancestors were buried. The history can be traced through some of the inscriptions on the stones. At that time, the writing on some of the stones could still be read. On others, the inscriptions are blurred and impossible to read.

In an article from 1972, volunteers were recruited and organized by Ruth Carpenter and Milo Marquis from Normal as well as members of the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society (now The McLean County Genealogical Society) to "clean up" the cemetery. This volunteer effort was spurred on by the knowledge that the township could receive \$300 annually to maintain the

THE MCLEAN COUNTY POOR FARM by William P. LaBounty in *Gleanings*, Fall 2004, Vol 38, No 2

[Editor's Note: The following reprint is from the fall 2004 *Gleanings*, William P. LaBounty, Editor. For anyone interested in the McLean County Poor Farm, that issue of *Gleanings* is entirely devoted to its history. It contains, in addition to this article, information and excerpts from *The Pantagraph* issues July 29, 1869; June 1, 1877, January 14, 1916, March 31, 1925, April 21, 1949, September 21, 1951, May 28, 1973, October 10, 1973, July 21, 1974, and January 4, 1998; historical sketch by Corlin Ferguson; photos courtesy of the Whitted family; and information from the McLean County Museum of History Archives. For additional resources visit: https://www.mchistory.org/research/finding-aids/collection/mclean-county-poor-farm]

Homeless, a word we are all familiar with in today's society. Homeless people of today, have shelters and food available to them, if they so chose to use it. Some shelters require the homeless to leave early in the morning, so many wonder the streets looking for a place to get in out of the winter's cold elements or summer's heat. However, improvements are being made to better take care of the poor and homeless in this area. But then what about the homeless and the poor of years past, what were their options for food, shelter and health care. Journey back in time and history with me, to see what became of those homeless and destitute souls.

In March of 1851, by court order, three men were chosen to find a proper location for a "poor house" for McLean County. A house was located and set up for the poor, however, in March of 1854, the owner of said house complained to the County that his house had a lot of damage and wanted compensation, the damages of \$45.00 were paid. The County decided to rent forty acres with buildings from a William Thomas, where the poor could reside, he was paid \$200 in advance.

Some time in 1859, a committee of three men was appointed to find at least 80 acres that could be purchased for the purpose of establishing a County poor farm. In September of 1859, the committee recommended the county purchase 220 acres of farmland owned by Jno. G Myers, located four miles south of Bloomington. This track of land also included 10 acres of timber ground, which would have given them 230 acres. The board agreed to purchase the 220 acres of farmland for \$25.00 per acre, with \$2,000 due March 1, 1860 and the balance due in three equal payments with a 10% annual interest charge.

In March of 1860, with bond of \$5,000. and one quarter's salary of \$487.00, Mr. David Simmons was appointed the first Superintendent, and then in September of 1862, James Grover was appointed Superintendent at \$2300.00 per year salary. Isaac Lash was appointed in 1864 through 1868 with a \$775.00 salary per year, Dr Hill was the County Physician at that time. He reported in 1868 that most of the men and boy's were in good health, they helped with the farm work, and others could be found helping around the house and yards. There were a few older women and a couple of small children that seemed listless and didn't want to do any type work.

Also in 1868, a committee was appointed to find additional farm ground, preferably 80 acres that would be adjoining to their current property.

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representative supplied a new State legal standards and the number of beds that would be needed, to the planning committee.

The Public Aid Director made a strong plea for having enough beds. He stated he had to find beds for twelve McLean county patients in another county because local nursing homes could not accept more public aid patients. The director stated the cost of \$500. to \$600. per month, per patient, was not possible for many elderly persons, and private nursing home beds were not always available for public aid patients.

After much discussion and many meetings, the County Board of Supervisor's decided they had four options and they needed to decide on one at the September 1970 board meeting. Those options included: 1) Do nothing and let the operation head toward phasing out all nursing home patients. 2) Decide now to go Sheltered care and admit no more nursing care patients. 3) Decide to go Intermediate care by spending more than \$175,000 to modernize a building erected in the late 1880's, or 4) Plan to build a new facility which could have an increased capacity and could provide skilled, intermediate and shelter care to patients.

The county board again discussed the use of Fairview Sanitarium in December of 1970, the estimated cost of \$53,500. to remodel Fairview against the estimated \$471,500. to build a new nursing home had to be considered. Some members felt Fairview should not be changed, since its purpose was to take care of TB patients, also it appeared, legally, money received from the Sanitarium needed to be used again for the same purpose and care of TB patients.

There was also discussion if the board wanted to complete and furnish all wings of a new nursing home or if they wanted to just complete one or two wings and not finish the other wings until the need would arise. The nursing home committee was authorized to interview an Architect for construction costs. Eventually the board decided to complete the whole 150-bed space at one time. The project fell behind schedule, instead of being completed in December of 1973, it was completed and ready to use in May of 1974. The first Administrator at the new nursing home was Howard Nehlig from 1974 until 1971 when Don Lee became Administrator; he remains in that position in 2004.

The County Board again made a major decision, and that was to put the former County poor farm, Maple Grove nursing home property up for sale. Fourteen board members felt it was time to sell, while nine members felt it was not the right time to sell the farm. Members opposed to the sale, said the farm will bring a better price when the board can offer immediate possession, they referred to the fact that Maple Grove was still occupied at that time and would be until the new nursing home was completed.

Some board members felt the property value had appreciated because of the proposed U.S. Route 51 supplemental freeway, which would bisect the property leaving parcels on the opposite side of the highway. A past County board had passed a motion to tie proceeds from any farm sale to retirement bonds for a new County nursing home.

In July of 1974, the County farm was put up for sale and sold by parcels. Russell O Shirk of Bloomington, bid a total of \$832,207.00 for 319.62 acres of farm ground and buildings, the

remaining parcel of 41.28 acres was sold to Thomas F Jones, David Davis and Dr Robert Novotny. The total sale of the 360 acre farm and buildings was \$943,663, the auctioneer was J.C. Ebach, and the sale was held on the County Courthouse lawn in downtown Bloomington. The Potter's field cemetery remains at the location formally owned by the County, also 2.7 acres was given to the McLean County Animal Control for their use, both properties are still owned by the County.

McLean County gave its poor and homeless a place to call home where they were given food and shelter as well as being treated with dignity. Resident inmates as well as the working couples, who lived and worked on the farm, enjoyed the peaceful setting where they could quietly enjoy nature's beauty and serenity. The long tree lined lane that led up to this little self supporting city has changed as well, time has taken its toll on the McLean County poor farm and Maple Grove nursing home.

POOR FARM CEMETERY Four Hundred-Plus Burials By Cheryl Budde, MCGS Director, Cemetery Director mailto:mcgs.research@gmail.com?subject=Poor Farm

I've lived all my life in McLean County and have many times heard the words, "Poor Farm." I've driven by the McLean County farm with the stone sign at the foot of the long drive on south Route 51 in Bloomington, which stated that the farm was established in 1860.

Though housing for "the poor and homeless" had been mandated in McLean County as early as 1851, It has only been over the past decade that I began to think about the lives of the people who lived at the poor farm and, ultimately where they were buried. Some were taken back to their hometowns: Saybrook, LeRoy, Hudson, etc. Others were buried in the cemetery on the Poor Farm itself.

The McLean County Genealogical Society produced an extensive overview of the Poor Farm in Gleanings, Volume 34, No. 4, fall, 2004. There are over 100 cemeteries in McLean County. One of the most forgotten is the Poor Farm Cemetery. The following sample is from our color-coded spreadsheet of 400 plus burials.

My request is that if you have any information about any of the individuals buried at the McLean County Poor Farm Cemetery, please email me at the address above and include any documentation that you have about an individual's life and/or death that would provide more of an identity to those buried there.

Thank you for any information you can share. The entire spreadsheet is posted on the Members Only page of <u>The McLean County Genealogical Society</u> website. We will update it as information comes in.

AUCTIONEERS LIST, 1963 AND "COLONEL" HAROLD KINDRED

By McLean County Museum of History volunteer Barb Franklin and Museum Librarian Bill Kemp



Pantagraph advertisement featuring area auctioneers, November 22, 1963

We stumbled across this 1963 advertisement featuring 42 area auctioneers, each with a photo, name, and hometown. Twenty of those listed were from McLean County-with seven from Bloomington-Normal. The remaining auctioneers were from the outlying counties of the Pantagraph circulation area.

THE BROKEN WHEEL A Tribute to the SOULE_family

I can imagine a picture that resembles a wheel, It was made of wood but was as strong as steel.

The Hub was made of a block of wood, Which grew back East, where the sturdy Oaks stood.

This New England block of wood, with its beauty and grain, Was blended with the choiciest of the Old Scotch strain.

It was molded and shaped with chisels of steel, Till it was a perfect Hub of a beautiful wheel.

The Spokes in this wheel in number were, Eight, They were fitted and glued and most perfectly straight.

And so this wheel, made so sturdy and strong, Just kept rolling and rolling and rolling along.

The name of the Hub, (now, keep under control,) Was Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Soule.

The oldest spoke, Louis, is quite old and can feel, The burden of carrying the load of the wheel.

The spoke called Harry, defective, unsound, Was the first to give way and fall to the ground.

The next spoke, Helen, the loveliest one, Heard the call of the Master, -- another spoke gone.

The next spoke to crack, to break and to fall Was Viola, with kindness and love for us all.

With the Hub all gone and three Spokes missing, The strength of the wheel is fast decreasing.

So this wheel, once so true and sturdy and strong, Is weak and quite wobbly, but keeps rolling along.

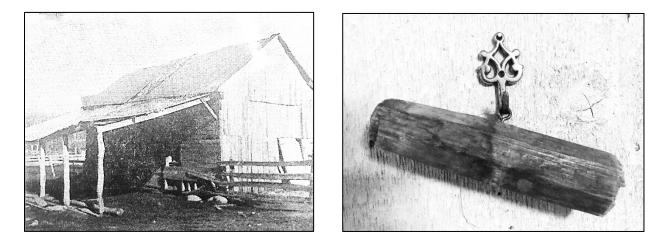
May we consider ourselves a Hub or a Spoke, Ready to carry each other's burden and yoke.

And when our services here on earth are all o'er, Meet our friends and loved ones on yonder bright shore.

J. F. Mueller

RESTORATION OF PATTON CABIN IS UNDERWAY

Original article published in *Gleanings* in 1969 Rewritten and updated by Cheryl Budde, MCGS Corresponding Secretary



Patton Cabin 1960s prior to deconstruction, and a souvenier peg given the day my family helped dismantle the cabin. Photos, author's collection.

I am a 5th generation descendant of four of McLean County's earliest white settlers: John Patton (1781-1854) and Margaret Wiley Patton (1785-1850) and John James Henline (1787-1869) and Mary Darnell Henline (1791-1865). The John Patton cabin at Lexington, Illinois, is possibly the only house still standing in Illinois which was built with the help of Indians. In a 1904 *Lexington Unit* article, A.V. Pierson notes: "It is said that when this house was built there was not another house between it and Chicago. The Chicago of that time consisted of Fort Dearborn, a few Traders cabins and some Indian wigwams."

In 1965, my grandfather, my father and my two brothers were asked to help with the dismantling of the Patton cabin from its location on Mrs. Ruth Reynolds farm to a storage area. It was later moved to the current location in the Lexington Park. We have vivid memories and a solid connection to John Patton and his descendants kept alive by family genealogists, annual trips to Pleasant Hill Cemetery and to Lexington with visiting relatives.

In the paperwork submitted for the Patton Cabin being placed on the National Register of Historic Places, we are provided with a vivid description of what housing would have been like in 1829:

If dovetail notching oriented east to west. It featured a half dovetail notched hewn log firebox with a stick and clay chimney. A battened door and window were located in the north wall. Gabel ends were covered with horizontally laid rived (split) clapboards. The roof was finished with 4' long rived shingles held with weight poles. Interior work included pegs for domestic utensils, puncheon (short post) flooring, a six-foot fireplace, and a puncheon bed.

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The McLean County Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping its members study their family genealogies, and to preserving and publishing genealogical records and articles. Our only qualification for membership is a genuine interest in genealogy and history. Our website is <u>https://tmcgs.org</u>

The Society normally meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August and December. In case of cancellation or meeting changes watch the website and local newspapers for details of meetings, or email the Society for information: <u>Directors@MCGS.org</u>

Individual Membership is \$20.00 and Family Membership is \$25.00 for U.S. & Canada. For mailing to other countries, please inquire. Membership starts on January 1 and ends on December 31 annually. Family membership allows up to 5 persons at the same address to join as a family. Membership entitles you to:

1) FREE ENTRANCE to the McLean County Museum of History and Library;

2) Our publication, *Gleanings from the Heart of the Cornbelt*, containing articles and records of McLean County and surrounding areas.

3) Our bi-monthly newsletter, with the exception of August.

4) Access to the members area of our website <u>https://tmcgs.org</u> which includes immediate access to all prior Gleanings, past presentations and trainings, additional free content, and a 25% discount on purchases of digital publications thru the site.

Our Library is located on the 2nd floor of the McLean County Museum of History, on the Courthouse Square, 202-210 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701. The main entrance, handicapped accessible, is on Washington Street (South Side) of the building. There is an elevator available.



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NOTE: NEW M	NOTE: NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES: INDIVIDUAL - \$20 OR FAMILY - \$25					FAMILY - \$25
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Name						
Address						
City	State Zip + 4					
Phone	Email Email					
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We welcome new MCGS Board members. If you have a desire to participate and share your ideas and knowledge, please contact us at mcgs.directors@gmail.com						
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED !! Ask what you can do to help.						
Data entry / typist are always needed						
You could write an article for the Journal sharing your Genealogy and how it relates to McLean County						
Suggestions for programs for the public meetings are needed.						
Become a Board Member or Committee Member						
Send Newsletters & Journals via USPS (additional \$15.00 required for printing & postage enclosed) DONATIONS TO MCGS Please enter \$ amounts enclosed:						
Undesignated donations will be applied to our Endowment Fund.						
We appreciate your tax-deduc	tible donations towa	ards:		ndividual members	ship @ \$20	\$
Acquisitions \$			1	Family membershi	p @ \$25	\$
Endowment \$				USPS mailing	= \$15	\$
Equipment \$				Total Donations		\$
Website \$				TOTAL ENCLOS	ED	\$

Mailing charges are based on members living in the 48 contiguous states. If you live in Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, or another country, please feel free to contact MCGS at mcgs.directors@gmail.com for printing and postage fee requirement.

Family membership consists of up to 5 additional people in the same household. They can be a spouse and/or children under the age of 21.

Revision Date: October 25, 2021

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THE McLEAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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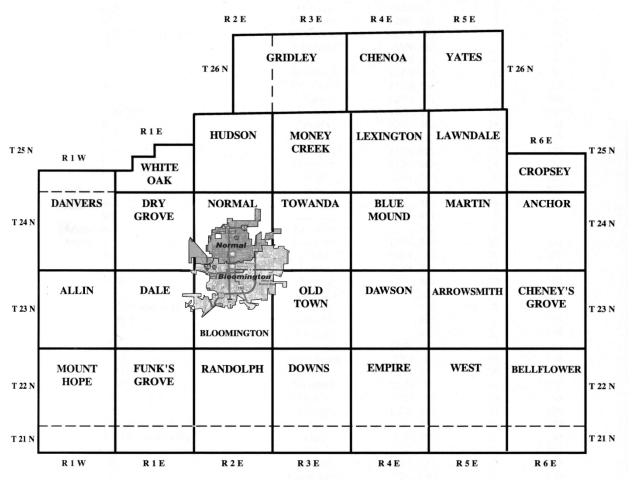
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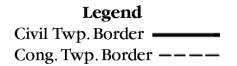
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McLean County Townships



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