

2011 Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk

Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2
Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9

11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day

302 E. Miller Street, Bloomington, IL
(three blocks east of Gene's Ice Cream Drive-In on Main St.)

For more information about this event, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or via email at education@mchistory.org

"As a unit, her citizens will rally at the call of their country, and, come life or come death, together they will stand or together they will fall in support of the National Government!"
(*"Glorious Demonstration," The Daily Pantagraph, April 24, 1861, p.3, col. 1*)

Like so many other counties across the United States, the citizens of McLean County responded to the outbreak of the Civil War with an outpouring of support in the form of troops and supplies, even while some of the county's citizens sympathized with the Southern cause. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk will feature citizens from McLean County whose lives were impacted by this historic war. Whether they served as soldiers fighting to preserve the Union, supported the war from afar on the home front, or faced persecution for sympathizing with the Southern cause, these stories will illustrate how the War affected the citizens of McLean County. The Walk will show how our county's people struggled to preserve the Union of the United States-at any cost.

This year's event will also feature performances of Civil War era music by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band before each tour time of the Walk. Like the original band, the musicians were recruited from the same geographical area in Illinois and come from all walks of life. The band is an authentic reenactment of the actual Civil War Era band that was mustered in at Illinois State Normal University in 1861.

Advanced ticket sales begin Tuesday, September 6th, 2011. Locations to be announced.

\$14.00 General Public
\$12.00 Museum Members
\$4.00 children and students w/ID

Advance Ticket Discount: receive a \$2.00 off public and member tickets when purchased at least 24 hours before the performance. No discount on Student Tickets

Characters for 2011 Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk

John C. Roeder (1836-1905) a German immigrant will tell his tale of hunting Confederate guerilla forces in Western Missouri; a lawless class of outlaws and desperadoes who ravaged the countryside and attacked Union forces.

Private William Horine (1840-1907) of the McLean County Regiment, wrote colorful letters home on the “swill and slop” soldiers ate, the blood-sucking fleas and bedbugs they endured, the “gray-backed Secesh” prisoners he was charged with guarding, and more.

Martha Rice (1817-1904) suffered personal indignities while living in Bloomington during the Civil War. A southerner married to a southern sympathizer, her husband was hung in effigy on the courthouse square.

Eliza Esque (1845-1914) celebrated her African American heritage by participating in and organizing events in honor of the Emancipation Proclamation and the return of African American Civil War veterans.

Dr. George Stipp (1799-1879) and Dr. Lee Smith (1832-1911) experienced together the horrific conditions surgeons and patients faced at the Union Hotel Hospital — an ill-equipped, over-crowded former hotel on the outskirts of Washington D. C.

Colonel John McNulta (1837-1900) commander of the McLean County Regiment, had a technique for drilling his troops that protected them from enemy fire. His methods kept his unit from suffering heavy losses throughout the war.

Lewis E. Ijams (1841-1919) served with the 16th Illinois Cavalry. He was severely wounded during the Battle of Jonesville. Left for dead by the Confederates, he struggled to reach Union lines and then home.

George P. Ela (1832-1898) and Frances Harriet Rowell Ela's (1835-1924) letters reveal a young couple in love, but separated by war. Through their letters they maintained an unwavering commitment and patriotism to each other and the Union.