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May/June 2016

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**Looking back at
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Keeping history alive

**Our local history
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**One dog,
different stories**

**Education important
part of community**

**Remember when:
Honoring Dr. McLean**

**Honoring our
forefathers**

Views from the past





contents

McLeansboro NOW MAGAZINE

Publisher

Bonnie Pratt
bonnie.pratt@register-news.com

Managing Editor

Tesa Glass
tesa.glass@register-news.com

Writers

Robbie Edwards
robbie.edwards@mcleansborotimesleader.com

Travis Morse
travis.morse@register-news.com

Sean York

Circulation Director

Todd Buenker

Advertising

Account Executives

Brenda Tarlton
Alana Parker

Design Layout

Alana Parker

Street Address

200 S. Washington, Suite 2
McLeansboro, Illinois 62859

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 489 • Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864

Phone Numbers

618-643-2387 Fax 618-643-3426

Web Site

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from the cover

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Keeping history alive

Story by Robbie Edwards

Every family has their own history and that box or album of old photos with stories that are shared among the generations.

Three ladies from the Hamilton County Historical Society are looking for those stories and information to help them piece together the rich history of Hamilton County that they fear will be lost.

Miki Faruzzi said it is more important than ever to get the missing pieces of history of this area.

“Especially when you think about the services stations, the cafes and the different businesses that were in

town and you may think, well that was in the ‘50s or ‘60s but that is our history and in another 10 or 15 years those people who made that history is going to be gone,” Faruzzi

days and even years researching and compiling information as well as identifying people and things in old photographs.

Faruzzi said they are now reaching out to the community more than ever to help them expand on several different projects that they have been working on.

Each of the women have a certain focus of research that they are working on although

the three work hand in hand in all the work they do. “Donetta is working on the names and locations and the names of all the



said. Faruzzi, Donetta Malone and Doris Nelson have spent countless hours,

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gas stations and service stations also all the cafes,” and Doris is working on everything,” Faruzzi said with a smile.

Faruzzi said along with the gas and service stations they are also working on locating and all the hotels that used to be inside the city limits and assisting the fire department on gathering information on past fire chiefs.

“We have been helping out the fire department trying to compile historical information on all the different fire chief because a lot of them are not even mentioned,” Faruzzi said.

Faruzzi said Nelson has been going though the old city records to find any mention of past fire chiefs.

“If we can find the names then we will try and track down the families of these men,” Faruzzi said. “We are trying to nail down all the information we can with the sketchy records that we have, unfortunately a lot of that information was lost so we are trying to piece it back together.”

Faruzzi said a lot of people don’t realize some of the interesting facts that make up McLeansboro and

there is a lot young and old can learn.

“A lot of people don’t realize that from 1900 to 1910 there were 10,000 people who lived within the city limits of McLeansboro and all these business and that was going on here,” Faruzzi said.

Faruzzi said even the old Hamilton County Fair has an interesting fact about it. She said in the early 1900s city and county officials decided they no longer wanted the fair.

“So it was moved to DuQuoin, so that DuQuoin fair started out that big here,” Faruzzi said. “At that time, people would come from other counties to bring their race



Photos by Robbie Edwards

horses here in older to race them.”

Even with all the information, pictures and other historical records at the McCoy Memorial Library, the ladies say there are just as many pieces to the puzzles that need to be filled.

Faruzzi said she and the other ladies hope that a younger generation would get involved and to get excited about history that way the torch can be passed on.

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“We want them to get excited about what was here and what you pass everyday you didn’t realize what was there,” Donetta Malone said. “There is just so much of that out there and its just exciting to ask people to bring forward pictures they never even thought about.”

Malone said once people start looking at the old photos they have they will start reminiscing and that is when small findings turn into the missing name or place that the Genealogy Department has been searching for.

The women said a lot of people have boxes of photos that they don’t realize could be the missing photo they have been searching for.

The ladies welcome anyone to bring any photos, information, family stories or anything that could help them.

“We invite them to come up here, nothing is too trivial,” Malone said. “We will even come to them we have been everyplace to try and track these things down,” Malone said.





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Looking **back** at the **early** years

Story by Pat Russell

It's hard to imagine today's McLeansboro as nothing but wooded hills and valleys with forests all around that were full of wild, fierce and dangerous animals. It's also hard to imagine the swamp lands that existed in areas out from McLeansboro that were later drained to become fertile farm land.

We are told that it wasn't until around Abraham Lincoln's birth in 1809 that the first white men settled here. Oh, not in the very area where McLeansboro sits but in the forests and areas around. Perhaps 100 or less families log cabins were widely scattered in the county. Before that, this was the home of the Indian; proof being the stone age artifacts that have been found in the county.

After roaming the hills of this area, Dr. William Byars McLean, who lived in Christian County, Kentucky, at that time, entered his quarter section of land on September 9, 1818 at Shawneetown. At that time his new land here was near the center of west township, White County, and some of his nearest neighbors were his former neighbors and acquaintances in Kentucky.

In 1821 Dr. William Byars McLean owned the land that was the original McLeansboro (McLeansborough) and where much of the present city was platted.

It was Feb. 8, 1821, that the western part of White County was approved by the State Legislature to be separated and a new County; the County of

Hamilton to be formed. It was named for Alexander Hamilton, who was a statesman, author, soldier and the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States. Also on that same date, five men were appointed Commissioners to set the county seat in Hamilton County. Only three of the Commissioners met on April 9, 1821, for their first County

of McLeansboro (McLeansborough) but the deed wasn't recorded until June 8, 1823, two years after the agreement and \$1,000 was shown to be the consideration. This money was from the sale of lots after the surveying and platting cost was taken out.

McLeansboro was named from Dr. William Byars McLean.

It was also on April 1821 when the first County Commissioners: William Wheeler, Townsend Tarleton and Little-Page Proctor were elected with Jesse C. Lockwood elected clerk of the court at the first session of the Commissioners court. They advertised to let out the

contract to build a courthouse. At this meeting Thomas Sloo, Jr., the county surveyor was employed to survey and make a plat of the town. It was on June 2, 1821 that Thomas Sloo, Jr. surveyed it and it contained eighty-four lots. He also reserved a large courthouse square for the County.

Dr. McLean's log cabin home was not in the original town but on the side of a hill immediately to the east of what is now Locust Street. It was McLeansborough's first stage station.

Two men born in McLeansboro became State Governors. John Stelle and Henry Clay Warmouth, who was born in a little log house on the north side of the public square on May 9, 1842. He was the grandson



Commissioners Court at the cabin home of John Anderson, who was a pioneer from Kentucky. His cabin was in the southeast corner of today's fairgrounds. The commissioners were Joel Pace from Jefferson County, Samuel Leach from Wayne County, and James Ratcliff from White County. These men chose a twenty acre tract, which was a part of the farm of Dr. William Byars McLean to be the county seat. They marked a black Oak tree with the letter C in the center of this twenty acres after Dr. McLean donated this to the County.

Twenty more acres were later added and a deed for forty acres of land was made by Dr. William B. McLean and his wife Margaret for the original town

of the State Senator Leven Lane. Mr. Warmoth was a lawyer and after his service in the Civil War, he was elected Governor of Louisiana in 1868.

McLeansboro was incorporated in 1842. The first additions were Marshall's and Heard's which were made in 1854. McLeansboro was incorporated as a village in 1874 and a city in 1886.

Records indicate that a two-story courthouse of log was built by Benjamin Hood for \$379. The contract was let in September 1821 to William Hall to build a log jail for \$780. The log courthouse was replaced by a brick one in 1840-'43, which burned in 1894 and was not replaced until our present courthouse was built in 1938 and dedicated on October 20, 1939.

James Hall was the first Sheriff.

Lemuel Powell fitted a large room in his house and superintended a Sunday School there before McLeansboro had a church. The house was later a part of the Commercial Hotel, owned by F. M. Blades, the father of the baseball star, Ray Blades of the Cardinals.

The first church in McLeansboro

was a frame Methodist Episcopal Church. It was destroyed by fire and for years church services and Sunday School was held in the old Colonial courthouse. Judge Samuel Scott Marshall was a Congressman that often quoted the Bible in Congress. One day after quoting from the Bible, a fellow colleague from Philadelphia rose and stated that the Congressman from Illinois who quotes so fluently from the Bible, lives in a town without a single church house. When he returned to McLeansboro he resolved to work to get a church building built. In no time the Presbyterian Church was built in the Heard's Addition on South Washington Street. This was known as the old school Presbyterian Church. It later was devided and was organized as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1850.

McLeansboro began in 1821 with a spacious court yard and still has the most spacious one around. As today, the streets around the square were Washington, Main, Jackson, and Market. There were eighty-four lots around the outside of these streets and

on the outside of the lots there was South Border Street (now Cherry); East Border Street (now Locust); North Border Street (now Jefferson) and West Border Street (now pearl). This was the original town of McLeansborough.

In 2021 McLeansboro will be 200 years old and the city, as well as the Hamilton County Historical Society are planning some special events.



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Education important part of community

By Jeff Fetcho, Unit 10 Superintendent

Has education really changed over the years? Well, it depends on how you view the big picture. If you look from the perspective of education to mean students having an opportunity to learn and plan for their future, you realize that education has not seen much of a change. However, if you look at it from the changes in communication and methods of teaching, education has changed dramatically. While the material students learn is still somewhat similar, the methods teachers now use to deliver instruction is vastly different. Why have these dramatic education reforms happened? One does not have to look much farther than a national report published in 1983 entitled "A Nation at Risk". This report generated a strong push for new teacher evaluations, standards, new curricula, and new tests. From there, you begin adding in the fast-paced advancement in technology, and you can quickly see the dramatic changes that have taken place in our nation's schools.

The enormous amount of paperwork required for today's teacher evaluations has decreased the time for meaningful conversations that administrators use to have with their teachers. Likewise, teachers and students spend less time in meaningful discussions and more time worrying about the tests that will help decide those teacher's evaluations scores and quite possibly, the student's possible college options. Teachers use to be evaluated on how well they knew their content, delivery of instruction, classroom management, etc. but with the latest legislation, student growth – often measured by standardized tests - now plays a significant factor in the teacher evaluation process. The standardized tests have been an ever changing, moving target over the last 20 years (IGAP, Goals 2000, ISAT, PSAE, ACT, and now PARCC). In addition to standardized tests being a major factor in teacher evaluations, those very tests have become the main indicator of how schools are perceived to be performing.

One shortfall that "A Nation at Risk" failed to address in any detail was standardized testing, which was later addressed with the passage of "No Child Left Behind" in 2002. The intention of NCLB was to identify achievement gaps between children that fell along racial and economic lines, and to hold schools accountable for closing those gaps. Thus, the emergence of requiring schools to be evaluated on whether all students achieved proficiency on standardized tests. Embedded in the standardized tests are the learning standards established by the state that students are to be able to perform. Tests that were once administered one time per year have evolved into multiple standardized tests for students each year. Common Core Standards are an example of how expectations are rising. These new standards call for critical thinking and creative problem-solving. Originally, 45 states adopted Common Core, but several have dropped out in the past couple of years. With the move toward the digital age, in 2015-16, for the first time, more state standardized tests were

administered via technology than by paper and pencil.

Many of us have heard of the three R's (reading, riting, and rithmatic) and those are still in our schools today, however, they have now all gone digital. With the new digital age the function of a teacher has moved from a disseminator of information to that of a facilitator of education. Back in "the day" teachers used record players, tape players, filmstrips, radios, and TV's to teach a lesson. Today, digital technology (worldwide web, computers, netbooks, cell phones, etc.) has become the major factor in the education of students. Black boards and chalk have been replaced with smart boards, digital projectors, video streaming, and document scanners. There is no doubt, that 21st century technology has changed the ways in which we communicate and go about our daily lives. Very few educators would disagree with the notion that technology has dramatically changed the teaching and learning process.

Almost every school still has a library, but today so much of a student's research and learning is now more web-based. What used to take hours to find in the library can now be found in an instant. So one could conclude, that because it takes less time to find

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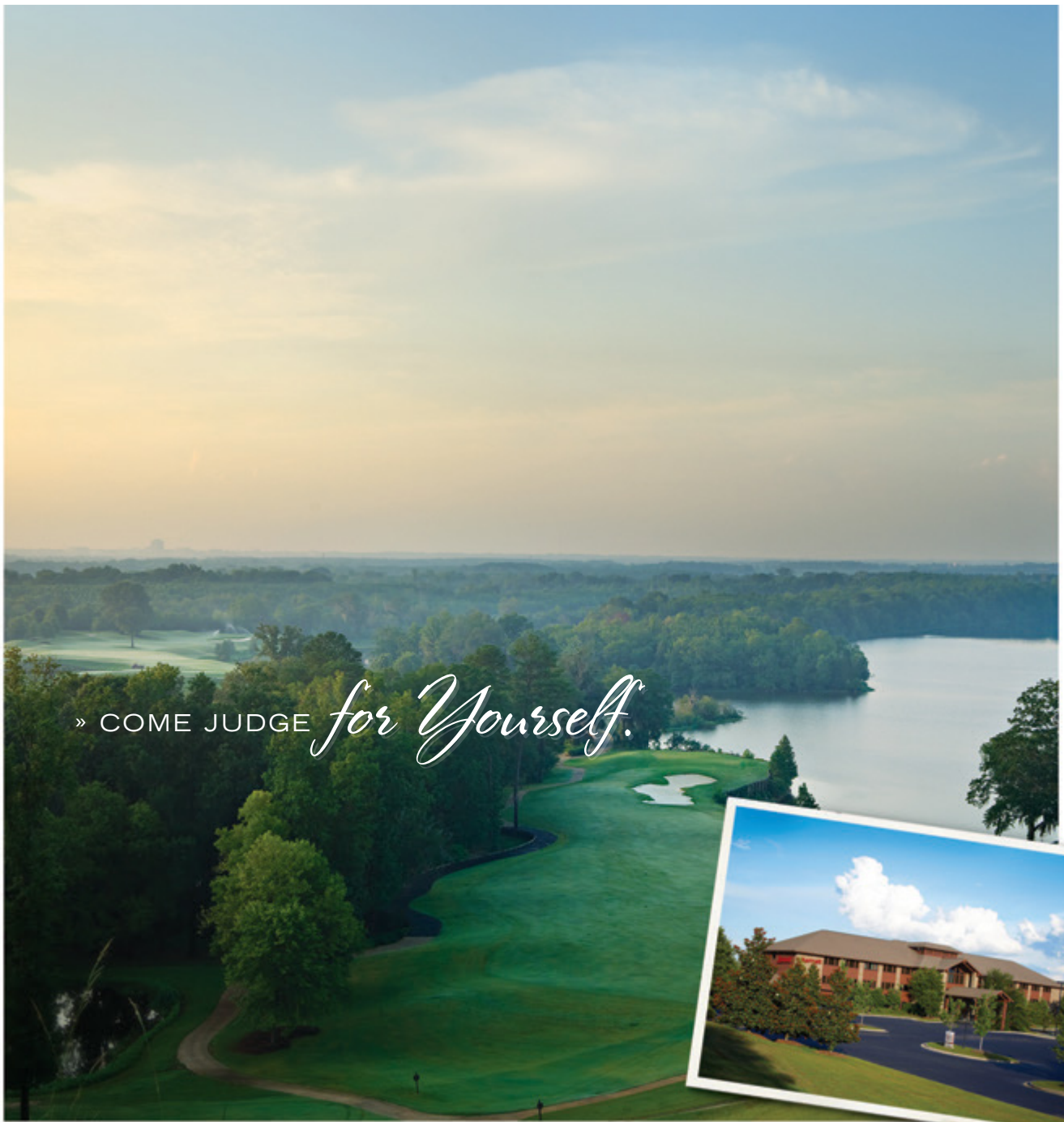


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the information that more time is spent digesting, thinking, and learning about new information??

The way we think of textbooks is completely changing. They are no longer limited to just text and pictures. Today's textbooks often have web-based sites that include assessments, animations, additional materials, videos, and other materials to support learning of new content. There are even many of today's school that only provide on-line textbooks.

As a teacher, you used to see students passing notes in class; you don't see much of that anymore. Today's students text one another. This has transitioned into a dialect that many of us older adults do not always understand. For example, lol (laugh out loud), smh (shaking my head), idk (I don't know), idc (I don't care), and probably hundreds more. Oh, and I certainly do not want to leave out Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube and the list goes on and on of the various ways in which students of today communicate with each other and the world. I bet poor Alexander Graham Bell would roll over in his grave. (lol)

Funding of Illinois schools has seen its share of changes over the past several years. For those schools that rely heavily on state funding (General State Aid), the financial landscape has seen some dramatic change. General State Aid, which used to be paid at 100%, over the past few years GSA has been prorated to 89% costing Illinois school districts millions and millions of dollars in revenue. In

addition, some state payments are paid quarterly and used to be paid on time, now, they are anywhere from 90 to 120 days behind. The state used to have a budget prepared by late spring so that school districts knew what their revenue was going to be for the next year prior to the time when budget reductions had to be made. Now, the state consistently struggles to have a timely budget in place, if one at all, forcing schools to have to make "blind" cuts in fear of further state reductions in their revenue.

In the last several years we have witness several Illinois rural schools disappear. The state has forced many school districts into consolidation. The impact has left many districts with over-crowded classrooms and a loss of small community pride. Schools that once stood in many small communities are now vacant or have been transformed into storage space.

While the global view of education has not changed much, schools still provide students with the opportunity to learn and plan for their future, but the way teachers and students communicate and the methods of the instruction has changed dramatically. Probably the greatest changes in educating are how students and teachers now communicate and the infusion of technology into the classrooms. In order for students to move into a vocation pathway or a career, they must be taught the skills necessary to survive in a 21st century work environment.



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Remember when: Honoring Dr. McLean

Story by Pat Russell

McLeansboro's Dr. William Byars McLean was a descendant of one of the early Scottish immigrant families that was forced from Scotland into America by persecution. His grandfather, Col. Charles McLean, was one of his family that was born in Scotland. Many of these Scottish families settled in the Carolinas, as did his parents.

Dr. McLean was born in North Carolina in 1792, but his family moved on to Kentucky where Dr. McLean grew up in Logan County.

His parents were Ephraim and Elizabeth (Byars) McLean. Ephraim was the first Minister to be ordained by the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination on February 4, 1810 in Dixon County, Tennessee.

Near Russellville Dr. McLean graduated from Lebanon Academy and he served in the War of 1812. In 1813 he married Margaret Prather McKinney in Logan County, Kentucky.

Dr. William McLean, his wife and family, along with four of his brothers:

John, James, McGee and Charles moved from Kentucky to Illinois; first to Shawneetown and the Salt Works Settlement near Equality. His brother Charles moved on to the Missouri Territory where he bought a lot of land and was a merchant there. McGee later went back to operate the family farm in Kentucky some time after their father, Ephraim's death in 1813.

After Dr. William B. McLean deeded the 40 acres to the Hamilton County Commissioners on June 18, 1823, he bought 4 lots in McLeansboro the next day and others of the McLean family bought lots as well.

His brother John was the first Congressman from Illinois and later a U. S. Senator. He died while still in this office in 1830. He was buried in Shawneetown. McLean County, Illinois was named for John McLean.

They had another brother, Finis Ewing McLean, who served in Congress from his home district in Kentucky.

Dr. William B. McLean, his wife and family spent very little time in McLeansboro before they moved on west to Missouri in the 1830's. Dr. McLean had always loved the freedom of the frontier and hunting wild game, but as McLeansboro became more populated there wasn't as much wild game to hunt. His nature seemed to be very adventurous and all this was probably a factor in their move to Randolph County, Missouri which was Daniel Boone country. However, more than one thing enticed his westward move. One being the wilderness abounding with wild game near the Missouri River; another fact was that his brother, Charles had lived in this area for many years and Mrs. McLean's people, the McKinney's were living there, but another large factor probably was the slave question.

Dr. McLean bought some of his land in Randolph County, Missouri from his brother, Charles and Dr. McLean and Margaret owned many

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black bondservants in Missouri.

In 1838 Dr. McLean and wife used an agent to sell the quarter section of his remaining acreage in McLeansboro for \$1,000. It seems he had 119 acres more or less of land not sold to the Hamilton County Commissioners and in 1839 he sold some more of his land, also through an agent.

Charles McLean was planning a move from Missouri to Texas, where some of the McKinney's had already moved, but he died in 1845 before moving. It is not known where he was buried.

Margaret Prather (McKinney) McLean died on March 29, 1845. She was aged 47 years, 7 months and about 22 days. She was buried in a small cemetery there in Randolph County, Missouri that was enclosed by a decorative iron fence.

Dr. William Byars McLean died on February 3, 1846 and at that time he had 12 slaves. He was buried in the McKinney- McLean-Anderson Cemetery there in Randolph County, Missouri, beside his beloved wife, Margaret.

Dr. McLean and his wife, Margaret had five children living that he placed in his will. A daughter Artemisia Prather (McLean) McKinney and Son, Ephraim Howard McLean, who were both born in Christian County, Kentucky. A son, John McLean, a daughter, Sally F. (McLean) Taylor, who's husband was Levi Taylor and another daughter, Susan Mary McLean who was under 21. These three were born in Hamilton County in the little log cabin immediately east of the original McLeansboro.

Children that must have died after birth in Hamilton County were: Elinor W., William, and Margaret. Nancy Amanda was born about 1838 and probably died after birth in Missouri.

Dr. McLean left his gold watch to his granddaughter, Margaret Ann Taylor. His son, John was probably a Doctor and the evidence seems to be mainly the silver ladle, Dr.



McLen's medical books, instruments and medicines that he left to John. Dr. John married Laura Kingsberry and he died in 1868 there in Randolph County, Missouri also.

Dr. William McLean's will stated that the residue of Dr. McLean's property was to be equally divided among his children and granddaughter. Each were to receive land, material or money enough to be estimated at \$2,150. (A lot of wealth for a man that lived in the 1800's.) The 12 slaves were also to be divided among the children and granddaughter. That's a little more into the life of the man that was responsible for McLeansboro.



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Our local history is important

Story by Andy Rubenacker, President, Hamilton County Historical Society

I was fortunate enough as a young man to receive some valuable advice, to prepare for the future have a five year plan, nothing is ever accomplished overnight. In a little less than five years, 2021, McLeansboro and Hamilton County will have a birthday.

The 200th year anniversary of Hamilton County gives us a moment in time to reflect on the past and the accomplishments of our ancestors. If your family has lived



here one year or one hundred years, the same questions can be asked. Why did you or your ancestors move to Hamilton County? What was so special about this place or did the wagon just break down here? Both sides of my family came to the area in the 1840's, Calvin Shell came from Tennessee and Tobias Brummer emigrated from Ersingen, Germany through the Port of New Orleans. I have been tracking the weather in Ersingen this winter. The high and low temperatures there were almost identical to this year in Southern Illinois. But, then it may have



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been religion, price of land or employment. I do know by looking at 1800's censuses information that in both cases several families moved to the Hamilton County area together. They had history together and could depend on each other. That didn't mean they didn't argue and fuss at each other. But, it did mean that if a roof was blown off in a storm, it got fixed the next day.

So, why is local history important to a community? Why preserve a building, graveyard or a court record? How does knowing your family roots make you a better person? History gives us benchmarks of past events, people and places to base our accomplishments on. Are we as individuals and communities living up to the accomplishments of our forefathers? It reminds us of who we are, where we came from and what people have died for. History instills us with a sense of pride and a sense of a place to come back to. Our history is the common thread that ties us all together and brings communities together. Our history is our inheritance from past generations that have been passed down through traditions, achievements and beliefs.

The 200th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to build memories with our family, promote the community and become part of history. So, Hamilton County you have a birthday coming, cut the grass, paint the fence and put your Sunday best on.

The next time you're in McLeansboro come in and visit us at the McCoy Library or better yet, join us in preserving your history.



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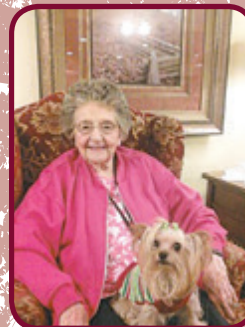
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Improving Lives, Serving Communities, Making A Difference

One dog, different stories

Story by Robbie Edwards

Many conversations have been had through the years about the dog standing on the front lawn of the McCoy Memorial Library.

The first question most asked by residents about the dog on the lawn of the library is, "is it the statue of the Cloud family's favorite dog?"

According to local historian Micki Faruzzi, the dog statue found its first home at the Sadie Wilson house which was on Pearl Street.

The date the dog may have been purchased has been said to have taken place in early 1900s.

"That house was built by Aaron Cloud for his second wife," Faruzzi

said. "Its a Sears kit house. From the story I was told ... the dog was purchased through Sears for that house and after (Aaron Cloud) died she moved back east to where she was from. The dog was brought over here to this house which is now the McCoy Memorial Library."

Faruzzi said at the time the dog was bought, people could buy just about anything out of a Sears catalog.

Faruzzi said over the years there have been many stories told about the lone dog who stands like a watchdog for the library.

"We have pictures of this house (library) before the wrought-iron

fence was put in," Faruzzi said. "The reason that was put in was, the boys used to sit on that concert terrace that is out front to watch the girls go by on the weekend. That upset Mary Ellen, so she had the fence put up."

Faruzzi added the dog was at the site long before the fence.

"The dog statue was bought out of a catalog and wasn't the pet of the family," Faruzzi said.

The date of the dog's move from the house on Pearl Street to the library site remains uncertain, but it seems likely to have happened some time in 1921. The dog was on the library lawn for the library open

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house held in December 1921.

Doris Nelson, local historian, said she has even seen the same dog statue at a location in West Frankfort.

Other rumors that Faruzzi has heard is that there is an actual dog buried underneath the statue, which she said is untrue. She also recalls that a few ornery students from the '50s pulled a class prank by moving the dog statue to the courthouse lawn.

There are even conflicting reports as to whether it's mold came from cast iron or metal. Faruzzi said it doesn't really matter how the dog got there, or even where it came

from. The fact of the matter is, the dog is a conversational piece for

everyone who visits the library from the young to the elderly.

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Honoring our forefathers

Story by Tesa Glass

For decades, the McLeansboro Cemetery sat forgotten in a corner of the city. Houses were built, driveways and businesses sprung up all around, but the cemetery and its boundaries were a thing of the past.

Then, a discussion with the city from a new property owner in the area prompted a survey and an archeological survey of the property that has re-invigorated the once-forgotten resting place of many of the city's first residents.

"The City paid to determine the actual boundaries and has notified neighbors who have unintentionally encroached on the boundaries," said City Clerk Fred Vallowe. "The encroachments are grandfathered in, but there will be no new expansions."

In addition, J.W. Reynolds Monument Company has volunteered to come in this summer and reset the gravestones that have fallen. The city is saving topsoil from other projects, and will spread the soil out on the areas that have seen heavy use in more recent years — as driveways — and reseed the entire area.

"A year from now, it all will look like a cemetery instead of a construction zone," Vallowe predicted.

The west side of the cemetery has been used for years as a driveway and a neighboring former property owner built a garage 4-foot onto the cemetery property. When the new property owner asked about getting a survey due to a tree issue, the Renaissance of the cemetery started.

"I'm glad they asked," Vallowe said. "We found out the cemetery is bigger than we thought it was. ... In my heart of hearts, I don't think there was any intentional encroachment. Times just changed, some people didn't have



head stones set up, families moved, and houses were built around the old cemetery. I don't think anyone ever intended to have a driveway in the cemetery where people are buried. ... People just forgot."

Forgot to the point that at one time, the cemetery had to be mowed with a bush hog. Some older residents still remember when there was a wrought-

iron fence surrounding the cemetery more than 80 years ago, but no one knows when it was dismantled. Last summer, Eastern Illinois University came to the site and conducted an archeological survey, digging test strips. One of the things located was some old posts they think was part of a gate to the cemetery.

"The students established the

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researched, it's not known exactly who is buried in the cemetery, as no official records were kept by those responsible for its management.

"I think we have secured its future and continue to raise awareness of it," Vallowe said. "One day in the future, when technology is there, I hope they will use it to locate the individual graves and know exactly where those graves are. There are no records, but some local historians have extrapolated

a proposed burial list based on Times-Leader clippings of the time. But, those are exact, since back then, if you weren't a city worthy, there's a good chance your name wouldn't have been in the paper when you passed away. It just wasn't done in that time period."

Vallowe said he believes it is important to

maintain the cemetery from this point forward, for many reasons.

"It's important that we respect the past and honor those men and women who contributed to the early development of McLeansboro and secure their final resting place," Vallowe said. "Also, it's the oldest public cemetery in Hamilton County. There are several private cemeteries, but this is the only public one that still exists."

cemetery is pretty much full," Vallowe said. "So, we want to be sure we secure those graves on the western part by making sure it's a cemetery, and not a driveway."

Temporary blockades have been put up by the city so the driveway can no longer be used, and the area will be reclaimed.

Although some local historians have

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