

The logo is an oval shape with a dark border. Inside, the text "McHenry County" is at the top, "Historic Preservation" is in the middle, and "Commission" is at the bottom, all in a serif font.

**McHenry County  
Historic Preservation  
Commission**

The text "Historical Resources Guide" is centered on the page in a large, dark serif font. The background is a photograph of a two-story brick building with a gabled roof and four windows.

**Historical Resources  
Guide**

The text is located at the bottom of the page, enclosed in a dark rectangular box. It is written in a white serif font.

**A Compendium of Museums, Organizations,  
Groups, and Research Resources  
in McHenry County, Illinois**

The McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission is proud to offer this resource guide highlighting the many people and organizations dedicated to preserving our county's history.

*The past is not the property of historians; it is a public possession. It belongs to anyone who is aware of it, and it grows by being shared. It sustains the whole society, which always needs the identity that only the past can give.*

- Dr. Walter Havighurst

---

## Contents

3. The McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission. Projects, Scenic Roads, Landmarks

12. Organizations, Museums, Historical Societies and other resources

22. Library Collections

24. Online History Resources and Genealogy Sources

---

**This project has been funded in part by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation that was made possible by a gift from the Donnelley Family Endowed Fund.**

**Published in 2011**

# Historic Preservation in McHenry County



*The Origins of the McHenry  
County Historic Preservation  
Commission*

Illinois passed the County Historic Preservation Act, giving counties the authority to establish historic preservation commissions.

The act called upon counties to -

- Identify, protect, preserve, and restore features of historic significance.
- Foster educational interest and pride in the past.
- Promote economic development through historic tourism.
- Insure harmonious development and encourage cooperation in historic preservation between municipalities and the counties.

In 1985, the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development completed a countywide structure survey, funded cooperatively by the state and McHenry County. The study documented 4,867 structures of historic age (pre 1945) including barns, homes and out buildings. Five years later, the McHenry County Planning Commission recommended that the McHenry County Board establish a Historic Preservation Study Committee. In turn, the study committee's findings resulted in the County Board creating the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

The nine Commissioners are selected from applicants living throughout McHenry County and they bring a variety of specialties and training. From architecture to history to archeology and more, each furthers the Commission's goals related to historic preservation.

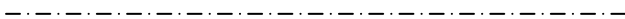
# **The Purposes of the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission**

Ten main purposes delineate the HPC's work within in the arena of McHenry County's historic preservation.

These include:

1. To identify, designate, protect, preserve and encourage the restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptation for continued use of those properties and structures which represent or reflect the prehistoric, historic, cultural, artistic, social, economic, ethnic, or political heritage of the Nation, State of Illinois, or County of McHenry, or which may be representative of an architectural or engineering type inherently valuable for the study of style, period, craftsmanship, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.
2. To safeguard the county's historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such structures, landscape features, and areas as seen in such examples as houses, factories, mills, creameries, barns, silos, total farm sites, bridges, and iron fences.
3. To stabilize and improve the economic vitality and value of designated landmarks and preservation districts in particular and of the County of McHenry in general.
4. To educate the general public, government officials, and commercial and industrial interests on historic preservation and the need for preservation to be fostered continually through the preservation ordinance.
5. To work with county and municipal zoning, planning and building departments in the development and application of a historic preservation program.
6. To encourage municipalities to adopt the county preservation ordinance or to write and pass an ordinance of their own.

7. To foster civic pride in the technological accomplishments, beauty, and nobility of the past.
8. To protect and enhance the county's attraction to tourists and visitors, and to support and provide stimulus to business and industry.
9. To strengthen the economy of the County of McHenry.
10. To promote the use of historic districts, landmarks, and landscapes for the education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens of McHenry County.



Since its inception, the HPC has initiated a number of programs to fulfill these ten purposes. Currently our major initiatives include:

### **Landmarks**

From brick paved streets in Huntley and the stone gate of Trout Valley, to pioneer cemeteries and surveyor witness trees, to old farms and historic houses, our designated landmarks are protected pieces of McHenry County history.

### **The Rural Intensive Survey of McHenry County**

The on-going survey evaluates and documents all structures on pre-1950 rural architectural sites. To date, of our county's 17 townships, about half have been completed. This statistical information tells us how unique or common a structure is in the county, thereby guiding understanding and encouragement of historic preservation.

### **Scenic Roads Program**

Our Scenic Roads program is an honorary designation of the most picturesque drives in the county. An afternoon drive will take you past a unique landscape of expansive vistas, fertile farmlands, ancient oak groves, historic homes, and winding waterways.

### **Heritage Groves Program**

The oak hickory groves of McHenry County are essential to the historic integrity of the area. This new honorary program acknowledges these treasures and fosters pride in our remaining historic groves.

## **Intergovernmental Agreements**

The HPC enters into intergovernmental agreements to allow the landmarking/plaquin of sites within municipal boundaries.

The HPC is also involved in community outreach:

## **The Joint Council of Historical Groups and Historical Societies**

Meeting twice a year, the Joint Council consists of historically-minded groups that come together to share ideas, strategies and topics of mutual interest - namely preserving the historical integrity of McHenry County.

## **Victory Garden**

Through world wars, food rationing and shortages, Victory Gardens have seen our county through rough times. Then as now, citizens come together in this worthwhile endeavor. Our Victory Garden program is still relatively new. Aside from educating the public on a concept of self sufficiency from the last century, it produced 250 pounds of fresh produce for the area's food pantries.

## **Old House Support Group**

A loose association of old house owners who share the trials and joys of owning an older home. A potential resource for related information.

## **Various Public Presentations**

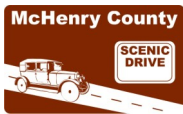
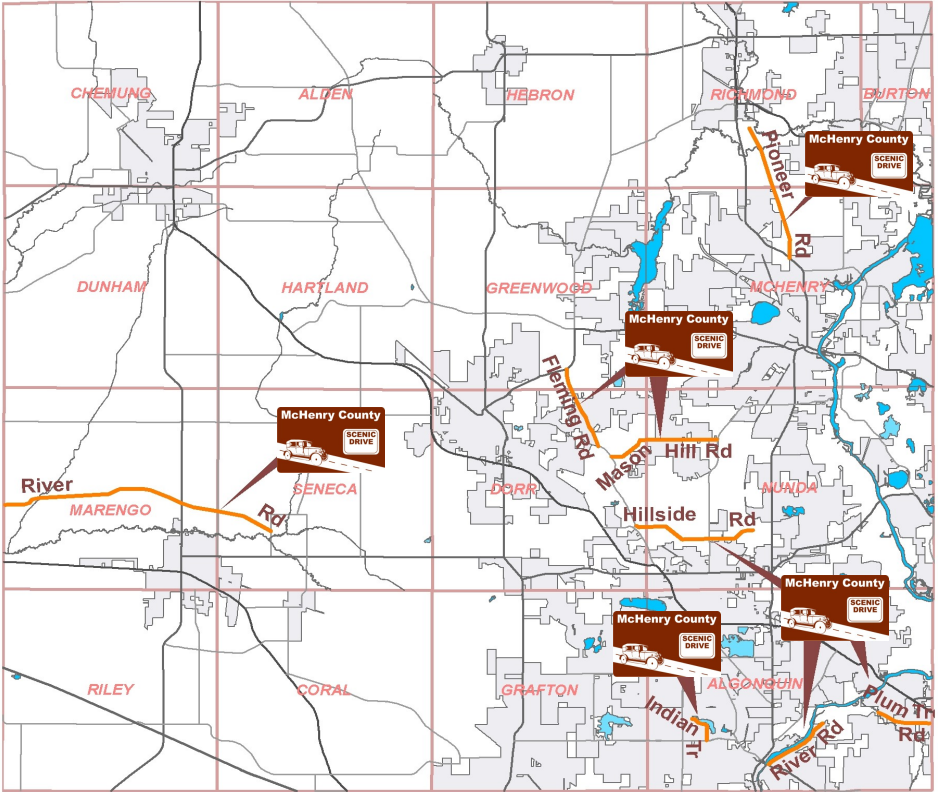
To schools, local organizations, seminars etc.

---

HPC meetings are open to the public on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd. off of Route 47 in Woodstock IL

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission  
c/o McHenry County Planning & Development Department  
2200 N. Seminary Ave.  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
[www.mchhpc.org](http://www.mchhpc.org)

# McHenry County's Scenic Roads



*Look for our Scenic Road Signs!*

As of this printing, the county has eight Scenic Roads for you to enjoy.

**Plum Tree Road** - 1.5 miles. Villages of Barrington Hills and Fox River Grove

**Mason Hill Road** - 3.2 miles. Village of Bull Valley, Woodstock

**North River Road** - 4.7 miles. Village of Algonquin

**River Road** - 7.8 miles. Marengo and Seneca Townships

**Pioneer Road** - 4 miles. McHenry and Richmond Townships

**Indian Trail** - .7 miles. Lake in the Hills

**Hillside Road** - 3.6 miles. Nunda and Dorr Townships

**Fleming Road** - 2.5 miles. Bull Valley Greenwood and Dorr Townships

# McHenry County Landmarks Plaqued by the McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

---

## **Tryon Grove Farm** - Hebron Township

This outstanding example of cross-gabled bracketed Italianate architecture was once the residence of Captain Charles Hopkins Tryon. Built in the mid 1800's, the farm retains many of its original structures. Later structures reflect advances made in American agricultural practices.

## **John B. Walkup House** - Nunda Township

Erected in 1856 by John B. Walkup, one of the first settlers of McHenry County, this cobblestone Greek Revival house is built of stones brought from Lake Michigan and is one of the few remaining cobblestone houses in the county.

## **Old Greenwood School House** - Greenwood Township

Built in 1859 by subscription or special order of yellow, Milwaukee brick, the Greenwood School is Greek Revival in style. The two-story building had one-room classrooms on each of the two floors, the upper being used for the high school classes. The school was in service until 1948.

## **Diggins School House** - Seneca Township

Built in 1914, the Diggins School has excellent architectural integrity. Its *hooded* front entry sets it apart from the average wood frame school houses in the county. Though the bell-tower was removed, it is still on the property as is the original merry-go-round, teeter-totter and flagpole. Although the school is now being used as a private residence, the original light fixtures, water coolers, desks and chalkboard are still inside.

## **Ormsby - Starck House** - Dorr Township

The original portion of the William and Lucia Ormsby house was built in 1861. In 1946, noted architect, John Vincent Anderson, remodeled the original house, resulting in a 22-room, 6,500 square-foot home with added details that included marble-slabbed bathrooms, a large walk-in cooler, white-tiled terra cotta walls in the kitchen area and white-oak paneled walls in the library that sports a secret closet.



### **John James House** - Greenwood Township

Built by noted citizen John James in 1842, this brick house with 12 inch thick walls is thought to have been part of the Underground Railroad due to its kitchen trap door and hidden stairway in the basement. Although this house has some Greek Revival features, due to its layout and symmetry, it is considered to be of the Georgian architectural style.

### **Holcombville School** - Nunda Township

This one-room schoolhouse sits on a one-half acre of land purchased by school directors from Sutherland Ingersoll in 1858 for a cost of \$12.25. Its decorative brickwork at the cornices features dentils and cornice returns. The building was never converted to alternate uses and is in the original condition. It operated as a school until 1946 when it closed due to consolidation.

### **The Newman House** - Dunham Township

Built in 1873, this Italianate style structure used bricks that are believed to have been made by Newman and his father-in-law, Washington Hammond. Both men were brick masons by trade and are thought to have operated a brickyard on site. Several initials and names are pressed into the bricks and these imprints are clearly visible in the outer walls.

### **Ostend Cemetery** - McHenry Township

When Apollos Thompson came from Ohio to settle in this area in 1842, his wife Lucinda died shortly after, prompting him to set aside an acre of land for a cemetery. This cemetery was originally known as the *Thompson Burying Grounds* and was eventually used by other early settlers to the Ostend area.

### **Christopher Walkup House** - Dorr Township

Built on land purchased by Christopher Walkup in 1835, the square Italianate styled-house was actually built by his son, William in 1869. Pictured in the 1872 Plat Book of McHenry County, the house has been restored to much of its original appearance.

### **Miller Chapel - McHenry Township**

Built in 1863, the Miller family chapel stands as a testament to the strengths of the early settlers. Mary Miller, a widow struggling to raise her six children, prayed to keep her family together and in her prayer promised to build a chapel. Years later, in fulfillment of that promise, this tiny Catholic chapel was built by her son John. The chapel stands as it was originally built with no electricity or running water.

### **Mount Auburn Cemetery - Dunham Township**

Built in 1936 with field stone contributed by the residents of Harvard, this cemetery is a tribute to Harvard's founding fathers, whose graves were moved here from the original Harvard cemetery. Central within this tranquil resting place is a stone chapel. With magnificent gardens, shrubs, and trees, it is said at least one hundred species of birds call the cemetery home.

### **Rudolphus Hutchinson House - Chemung Township**

Also referred to as the house of Seven Gables, this brick Gothic Revival style house has steep-pitched roofs and gables sporting decorative finials that are said to represent each of the seven zodiac signs. Started in 1838, construction took two years to complete. Hutchinson was the Justice-of-the-Peace who entertained such notables as Chief Big Foot of the Potawatomi Indians. Aside from entertaining houseguests for the night, the house once served as the courthouse, jail, and stage stop.

### **Coral Township Witness Tree - Coral Township**

#### **South Coral Road, Marengo/Coral 1837**

This 200 year-old tree stands as witness to the development of McHenry County. In 1837, John Thompson and his survey crew scribed or marked this tree as a quarter-section post in the original survey so that land could then be legally described and therefore bought and sold. This burr oak tree is specifically referred to in their 1837 field notes. Few witness trees have survived, but this tree and the surrounding area (50-foot circle) are now ordinance protected for the future.

### **Allendale Steel Truss Bridge - Greenwood Township**

#### **LOST LANDMARK**

Removed from Allendale Road due to safety issues.

### **Huntley's Woodstock & North Streets - Grafton Township**

Mature trees and turn-of-the-century homes line this historic main thoroughfare through Huntley. With their the original paving bricks, they are one of the few remaining examples of historic brick paving in the county. The hill on Woodstock Street made the bricks necessary for farmers bringing their milk into town for processing.

### **Carr-Harrison Cemetery - McHenry Township**

Joseph Carr purchased land including one half of this cemetery in 1837. John Harrison purchased land that included the other half in 1842. The two families were eventually joined by matrimony in 1860 and this double cemetery became one. Although there are several early burials, the deeds for this cemetery were not recorded until 1891 and 1899. It is still in use by the family 160 years later.

### **Stowell-Deicke Farmstead - Grafton Township**

One of the earliest farmsteads in the area, both barn and house were constructed of hand-hewn posts and beams with angled braces mortised and tenoned with wooden pegs. Other outbuildings predate 1880 and have survived on the site, including the silo, a stone-lined well, a stone smokehouse, a chicken coop, and the original grain/corn crib built with square nails. This farmstead eventually became part of a five-farm collective known as *Sun Valley Farms*.

### **Trout Valley Stonegate Entrance - Algonquin Township**

The decorative iron and cut limestone gate at the entrance to Stonegate Road opens into Trout Valley, a quiet neighborhood with a colorful past. Yellow Cab and Hertz Rental Car mogul, John D. Hertz, is believed to have had the gate constructed during the 1920's.

### **Chunn's Burying Ground - Algonquin Township**

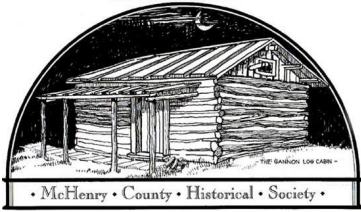
One of the oldest pioneer grave sites in the county, this cemetery plot dates back to the early 1800's. The last burial is said to have been in 1910. In 1989 volunteers restored and rededicated the grounds.

### **Barber Cemetery - Riley Township**

The first interment took place in 1852. The small cemetery is the resting place for veterans of the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

# The McHenry County Historical Society

*Preserving one's community provides its citizenry  
with a visual collective memory.*



Organized in November, 1963, as a not-for-profit corporation, the McHenry County Historical Society's mission is to provide life-enrichment by showcasing McHenry County History. Membership is always welcomed.

The Museum's comprehensive collection includes several preserved buildings: An 1843 log cabin; an 1867 limestone school house; an 1885 town hall; an 1895 one-room school house used for c. 1900 school programs; an 1898 country church; and a 20<sup>th</sup> Century modern tourist cabin, and a mobile museum called *The James*. One of the purposes of the museum is to acquire, catalogue and preserve documentary materials relating to the history of McHenry County and its people. These materials may be made available to the public for research, study, and promotional purposes in the Research Library. An appointment must be made **at least 24 hours in advance**.

Besides operating the museum, the Society gives honorary plaques of recognition to historic sites and structures, and holds adult workshops, classes, traveling exhibits, and arranges a wide variety of school, scout and other group programs.

The office is open year round, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The McHenry County Historical Society

6422 Main Street

Box 434

Union, IL 60180

(815) 923-2267

[www.mchsonline.org](http://www.mchsonline.org)

Museum membership includes  
the Historical Society's  
TRACER newsletter

# The McHenry County Historical Barn Preservation Association

*Saving our barns means saving our rural heritage.*



McHenry County, the onetime dairy capital of the Midwest, is crisscrossed with rail lines that once carried milk and cheese bound for Chicago, Milwaukee and beyond. The county's historic barns housed the dairy operations which allowed McHenry County to prosper.

In response to the need to protect and preserve these historic structures, the group formed in 1997 as a 501C3 not-for-profit organization with 11 Board positions and approximately 90 Members.

They focus their efforts on providing community awareness, knowledge, and resources as well as facilitating a grass-roots community effort to preserve the barns and agricultural history of McHenry County. Consider supporting the Association and its mission by becoming a member, donating, or volunteering your time on one of their many projects.

To learn more about what their dedicated volunteers do, visit their website. There find the group's calendar of events, meeting info and their interesting newsletter - The Barn Post as well as learn about their annual coach bus Barn Tour hosted by the McHenry County College.

John Hammer, President  
McHenry County Historical Barn Preservation Association  
P.O. Box 1143  
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Website: [www.mchenrycountybarns.org](http://www.mchenrycountybarns.org)  
e-mail: [info@mchenrycountybarns.org](mailto:info@mchenrycountybarns.org)

# The McHenry County Conservation District

*Protecting McHenry County's last great places*



To date, the McHenry County Conservation District manages over 24,800 acres of open space for the county, including 17 dedicated State Nature Preserves.

Twenty-nine sites are open to the public to enjoy nature at its finest. Environmental education programs for all ages are offered throughout the year including several history-related programs. The Powers-Walker House at Glacial Park is an 1850's Greek Revival Farm house being renovated by volunteers. Open for special programs throughout the year to allow the public to see the project as it progresses including, stone masonry, plaster and lath work, old window glazing, woodworking etc.

The public open space protected by the District preserves some of the best examples of *living* historical landscapes such as unplowed prairies, spring fed wetlands and nineteenth century oak groves. These natural communities are examples of the wilderness landscape from which McHenry County settlers would build the homes, barns and roadways that are now considered historic cultural resources.

In addition the undisturbed ground of the District's holdings preserves numerous known and as of yet undiscovered archeological sites representative of the county's Native American prehistory. The District's commitment to these resources began shortly after its formation in 1971, with sponsorship of the Sauk Trail archeological Group as well as partnering in the county's first comprehensive archeological survey.

The District's public research library housed at the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park is available for visitors to research land use history and ecological changes since settlement began. Use of the library is free, but visitors should make an appointment prior to scheduling a visit. 815-678-4532

For a complete list of MCCD sites and contact information call the MCCD administrative Offices at 815-338-6223 or visit the website at [www.mccdistrct.org](http://www.mccdistrct.org)

# The Crystal Lake Historical Society

*Learn about our exciting heritage  
and help plan for our future*



The Crystal Lake Historical Society was founded by local residents concerned that the history of their community was not being preserved for future generations. Their purpose is to identify, preserve, present and promote the history of Crystal Lake through education. The Society offers a wide variety of research materials from an online index of obituaries and newspaper death notices to a research and archive reading room staffed with someone to assist you. It's best to call ahead to make certain help will be available. The Crystal Lake Historical Society is at the intersection of Rt. 176 and Terra Cotta Rd. in Crystal Lake in the Colonel Palmer House

Crystal Lake Historical Society

P.O Box 1151

Crystal Lake, IL 60039-1151

815-455-1151

[www.cl-hs.org](http://www.cl-hs.org)

Hours of Operation are:

Tuesdays 3 p.m. - 7p.m.

Thursdays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fridays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



## The Woodstock Historic Preservation Commission

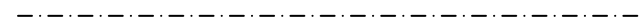
The Woodstock Historic Preservation Commission, established in 1996, is governed by seven commissioners appointed by the mayor for three year terms. The WHPC encourages interest in historic preservation, formulates historic standards and regulations, conducts surveys, issue certificates of appropriateness or hardship, and holds public hearings on proposed landmarks. They also provide testimony on matters affecting potential or designated landmarks, and nominates properties to the National Register of Historic Places. Meetings are on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun Street, and are open to the public. Information can be found on the City of Woodstock's website: [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov) or by calling the Community & Economic Development Department: 815-338-4305.

# Polly Crandall Questers of Crystal Lake

*Aiding those who professionally care for our  
history, artifacts, and sites*



Part of the much larger non-profit international Questers Organization, the Polly Crandall Questers of Crystal Lake is a group dedicated to the research, study and preservation of historical buildings and local landmarks. The study of antiques plays an important role as well. They also help fund the preservation and restoration of artifacts, existing memorials, historic buildings, landmarks, and other educational purposes along those lines. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. For more information call:



## The City of McHenry Landmark Commission

*Representing the city's heritage for the present and future*



The City of McHenry Landmark Commission's mission is to encourage preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptation of structures, landscapes and areas representing the city's heritage for the present and future citizens of McHenry. They do this through on-going activities in education, technology, special events, surveys, interviews and various recognitions. They've also created walking tours as well as a Façade Improvement Grant. Very active in community outreach, their Petersen Farm programs cross significant eras in history from the days of Lincoln to the Homefront of WWII.

The Landmark Commission meets monthly, the first Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the McHenry Municipal Center and are open to the public. For further information, please call the City Administration desk at: 815-363-2100



# Marengo Society for Historic Preservation

*Preserving the past to enhance the future*



The Marengo Society for Historic Preservation (MSHP) was organized in 2002 as a not-for-profit, tax exempt group. Their goal is to create an awareness and appreciation for the benefits available to the Marengo community through historic preservation projects. While the Society has its own projects to that end, it works closely

with other preservation groups including the McHenry County Historical Society, the Marengo Historic Preservation Commission, and the Main Street program.

Visitors are welcome to attend their meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the basement fellowship room of the United Methodist Church, 132 E. Washington Street.

Contact persons:

Dorothy Otis, 815-568-5485,  
Shirley Kitchen, 815-568-7548  
Karen Lee, 815-568-7118

Mailing address:

P. O box 506 or c/o Leon Tonyan  
439 W. Grant Highway  
Marengo, IL. 60152  
Website: [www.marengohistory.org](http://www.marengohistory.org)

Stop by their website. The MSHP virtual bookstore features books and other publications concerning the history of Marengo including historical data on all the homes fronting on Grant Highway, Washington, and Prairie Streets.

# Algonquin Historic Commission

*To foster the research, development and preservation of Algonquin's history for current and future generations*



The Algonquin Historic Commission is a Village Board appointed commission. Charged with fostering the research, development, and preservation of Algonquin history for current and future generations. Their work includes: To that end, the Commission has amassed a substantial archive of written information and photographic history, architectural surveys, artifacts and memorabilia pertaining to the history of the Village of Algonquin and its residents, buildings, events, businesses, organizations, schools, and churches. They also have a resource library and database of local history containing over 16,000 entries. They encourage public involvement and have many volunteer opportunities. Anyone interested in local history is welcome.

- Perpetuating events, actions, and distinctive characteristics of the Village which represent and reflect the Village of Algonquin's history.
- Safeguarding the Village's historic aesthetic, cultural, and community heritage through appropriate preservation.
- Promoting the use of annals of history, artifacts, and memorabilia of the Village for the education of its residents.

To learn more visit [www.algonquin.org](http://www.algonquin.org) or [www.aldalgonquin.net](http://www.aldalgonquin.net)  
Email: [historiccommission@algonquin.org](mailto:historiccommission@algonquin.org)

---

## Huntley Historical Society

*Learn about Huntley's proud and fascinating history*



The Huntley Historical Society is a new, not-for-profit organization. They meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Huntley Park District Community Center on Mill Street.

Further information and membership forms are available on their website: [www.huntleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.huntleyhistoricalsociety.org).

# Barrington Area Historical Society

*Lighting the way from the past to the future*



The Barrington Area Historical Society was founded in 1968 by local residents dedicated to preserving the history and culture of the Barrington area. Since that time, the Society has become an integral part of the Barrington area communities. The Society houses many

interesting exhibits and is fortunate to have a complete archive facility right in the building. There they archive, catalog and store the collective memories of the area such as maps, letters, glass negatives, photos, and print material.

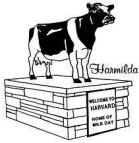
Old Barrington Center  
212 W. Main Street  
Barrington, IL.  
[www.bahsil.org](http://www.bahsil.org)

Offices are open Monday through  
Saturday 10am to 4pm. Please call  
847 381 1730 for information

---

## Greater Harvard Area Historical Society

*Harvard has a proud and fascinating history*



The museum has two floors of exhibits and houses various collections of Harvard area artifacts, reference materials, and items of Harvard's unique history, including Starline products and Milk Days memorabilia. Tours are offered to schools and

interested parties. They also offer monthly Sunday afternoon programs. Volunteer operated, this small museum depends upon membership dues and donations to be able to continue this important community service.

308 N Hart St  
Harvard, IL 60033  
Phone: 815.943.6141

Open May through October.  
Sundays 1:30 - 4:00  
Wednesdays 9:30 - Noon  
and by appointment

# The Kishwaukee Trail Chapter of the DAR

## The Daughters of the American Revolution

*Promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education*



Founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the DAR, is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

As one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country, DAR boasts 168,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. Any woman 18 years or older-regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background-who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. With its premier genealogical research centers, it contributes thousands of pages of non-published genealogical records to local and other libraries each year.

Catherine Carlton, Regent  
Marcia Flanagan, Registrar  
kishwaukeetraildar@gmail.com

National DAR Website  
[www.dar.org/natsociety/whoweare.cfm](http://www.dar.org/natsociety/whoweare.cfm)

Illinois DAR Website



## The Dole Mansion

The Lakeside Legacy Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, oversees the restoration of the Dole Mansion in Crystal Lake IL, as well as

the beautiful arts education center and park. Historic tours are given on a limited basis. It's an opportunity to see restoration up close. With plenty of advance notice, depending upon their volunteer docents' schedules, a personal tour might be arranged for you and your group. Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lakeside Legacy Foundation  
Historic Dole Mansion  
401 Country Club Road

[www.lakesidelegacy.org](http://www.lakesidelegacy.org)  
Terry Legare, Executive Director  
Email: [tlegare@lakesidelegacy.org](mailto:tlegare@lakesidelegacy.org)

# Cary-Grove Historical Society



Currently under construction. For information on cemetery records and other resources contact:  
Shirley Beene  
847-639-3790

---

## Personal Collections of Resource Materials

There are resource contacts in McHenry County not affiliated with societies, groups or commissions. Please bear in mind that, while each person listed below has agreed to be in this publication, such personal contact information often changes over time.

### Alden

As a one person resource, Margo Van Dan has been collecting oral histories in Alden and has written a book on the timeline of Alden activities from 1836-2010.

Margo Van Dan  
9018 Alden Road  
Harvard, IL 60033  
815-648-2662  
email: [mvandan@stans.com](mailto:mvandan@stans.com)

### Spring Grove

As the Village of Spring Grove's unofficial historian, Laura Frumet, keeps files and photos on the history of Spring Grove and the early families who settled there. Historical information such as photos and family histories are often shared by visitors to the Village Municipal Center at 7401 Meyer Rd. She's happy to share whatever information she has and also does on-going research when time permits.

Laura Frumet  
Deputy Clerk  
Village of Spring Grove  
Email: [LFrumet@springgrovevillage.com](mailto:LFrumet@springgrovevillage.com)

# Libraries

From Benjamin Franklin's 1742 Library Company of Philadelphia to the estimated 122,101 libraries of all kinds in the United States today, libraries are an asset to research. Resources and reference materials, personal collections, maps, newspapers, obituaries and cemetery records, family histories, year books, old phone books and more are just some of things libraries have to offer. Here are a few to get you started:

## **The Lincoln Library**

*Many databases can be accessed at home*

[www.lincolnlibrary.info/index.html](http://www.lincolnlibrary.info/index.html)

## **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

### **Oral History Program**

*Dedicated to preserving the stories and memories of Illinois' citizens*

[www.alplm.org/oral\\_history/home.html](http://www.alplm.org/oral_history/home.html)

## **Library of Congress Digital Archives**

*Access to print, pictorial and audio-visual collections*

[www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html](http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html)

## **Illinois Association of Museums**

*Members will find a wealth of information in the organization's Lending Library*

[www.illinoismuseums.org](http://www.illinoismuseums.org)

## **National Museum of American History Library**

*A premier American history collection and part of the twenty Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, DC*

[www.sil.si.edu/libraries/nmah](http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/nmah)

## **McHenry County Historical Society Research Library**

*An appointment must be made at least 24 hours in advance.*

815- 923 - 2267

[www.mchsonline.org](http://www.mchsonline.org)

Email: [info@mchsonline.org](mailto:info@mchsonline.org)

# McHenry County Libraries

Call ahead to learn what your local library has to offer  
or go discover for yourself!

Algonquin Area Public Library  
2600 Harnish Drive  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
Phone: (847) 458-6060  
[www.aapld.org](http://www.aapld.org)

Cary Area Public Library  
1606 Three Oaks Road  
Cary, IL 60013  
Phone: (847) 639-4210  
[www.caryarealibrary.info](http://www.caryarealibrary.info)

Crystal Lake Public Library  
126 Paddock Street  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
Phone: (815) 459-1687  
[www.crystallakelibrary.org](http://www.crystallakelibrary.org)

Fox River Grove Public Library  
407 Lincoln Avenue  
Fox River Grove, IL 60021  
Phone: (847) 639-2274  
[www.frgml.lib.il.us](http://www.frgml.lib.il.us)

Harvard Diggins Library  
900 E McKinley Street  
Harvard, IL 60033  
Phone: (815) 943-4671  
[www.harvard-diggins.org](http://www.harvard-diggins.org)

Johnsburg Public Library  
3000 N Johnsborg Road  
Johnsburg, IL 60051  
Phone: (815) 344-0077  
[www.johnsburglibrary.org](http://www.johnsburglibrary.org)

McHenry Public Library

# Online Resources

The internet is a wonderful resource for anyone interested in history. These well-known sites are a good place to begin.

## **The National Register of Historic Places**

*The official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation*

[www.cr.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/)

## **Landmarks Illinois**

*The state's leading voice for historic preservation*

[www.landmarks.org](http://www.landmarks.org)

## **The National Trust for Historic Preservation**

*Helping people protect, enhance, and enjoy the places that matter to them*

[www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

## **Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**

*Administers state and federal historic preservation and incentive programs in Illinois*

[www.state.il.us/HPA/](http://www.state.il.us/HPA/)

Free download: *Illinois History* magazine

## **Illinois State Archives**

*The depository of public records of state and local governmental agencies*

[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html)

## **Illinois State Historical Society**

*Supports the State Historical Library and encourages research and writing on subjects of Illinois history*

[www.historyillinois.org](http://www.historyillinois.org)

## **McHenry County Civil War Round Table**

*With a database consisting of 980 veterans buried in the county*



## **Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet**

*A categorized, cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet*

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

## **Family Trackers**

*Free Services for Genealogists and Genealogical Societies*

[www.familytrackers.com](http://www.familytrackers.com)

## **McHenry County Roots Web**

*A variety of records - Military, Cemetery, Census etc*

<http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/USA/IL/McHenry/>

## **Epodunk - the Power of Place**

*Obituaries, Immigration, Court, vintage Illinois postcards, etc.*

[www.epodunk.com](http://www.epodunk.com)

## **Family Search**

*(Church of Latter-day Saints)*

*Online birth, marriage, death, census, church and other indexes*

[www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp)

## **Illinois State Genealogical Society**

*Links and resources related to Illinois genealogical research*

[www.ilgensoc.org](http://www.ilgensoc.org)

## **McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society**

*Provides instruction in family research methods and practices*

[www.mcigs.org](http://www.mcigs.org)

## **Chicago History Museum**

*Offers a number of online resources*

[www.chicagohs.org/research/resources/online-resources/online](http://www.chicagohs.org/research/resources/online-resources/online)

## **Illinois Department of Vital Records**

*Illinois Birth Certificates, Death Records, Marriage Licenses, etc.*

[www.vitalrec.com/il.html](http://www.vitalrec.com/il.html)

## **Social Security Death Index**

<http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com>

## **Printable Illinois township plat maps (1804-1891)**

<http://landplats.ilsos.net>

# Online Resources cont.

## **American Folklife Center**

*A process of documenting our diverse traditional culture*

[www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/)

## **Board for Certification of Genealogists**

[www.bcgcertification.org/](http://www.bcgcertification.org/)

## **McHenry County Gov. Public Property Search Viewer**

<http://gis.mchenrycountygis.org/athena/>

## **The Nationwide Gravesite Locator**

*Includes burial records from many sources*

<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>

## **Illinois Old High School & College Yearbooks**

[www3.old-yearbooks.com/category/states/illinois](http://www3.old-yearbooks.com/category/states/illinois)

## **McHenry County Cemeteries**

[www.graveyards.com](http://www.graveyards.com)

## **DeadFred**

*Genealogy photo archive. Helps solve the mystery of unknown people in old photographs*

[www.deadfred.com](http://www.deadfred.com)

## **Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records**

*Federal land title records*

[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

## **HeritageQuest Online**

*If your library is connected to this valuable site, as a patron you can access from home*

[www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com)

## **eHistory**

*Hundreds of fully searchable historic maps*

[www.ehistory.osu.edu](http://www.ehistory.osu.edu)

**Free Downloadable  
Genealogy Tools**

[www.1stopfreeshop.com/genealogy.htm](http://www.1stopfreeshop.com/genealogy.htm)

**Free Family Tree Charts**

[www.obituarieshelp.org/free\\_printable\\_blank\\_family\\_tree.html](http://www.obituarieshelp.org/free_printable_blank_family_tree.html)

**Guide for Interviewing  
Family Members**

*An oral history question list*

---

# Notes

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission 2011 Resource Guide  
designed & created by Denise Collins, Chair, Education Committee

Grant work by Steven Greeley, Chair, Budget Committee

McHenry County Planning & Development support, Audrey Martin & Sean Foley



**For additional copies of this booklet,  
contact the McHenry County  
Planning & Development Department**

**815.334.4560**