

MCHS SPEAKER SERIES

Past Programs



2026

AM I ON THE RIGHT BUS?: Desegregation through the Eyes of a Child

Presenter: Willbert Glasper

AN INTRODUCTION TO RAILROADS: With a Focus on Illinois and Madison County

Presenter: Kendrick Bisset

WEATHERBIRD AND CARTOONS OF THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Presenter: Dan Martin

THE SEARCH FOR FORT RUSSELL

Presenters: Don Cook with Jeff Pauk and Steve Kromraj

2025

SUPERHERO FROM ANOTHER AGE: The Legend and Mythology of Abraham Lincoln

Presenter: Stephen Hansen

BATTLE HYMNS: The Power and Popularity of Music in the Civil War

Presenter: Christian McWhirter

HARRIET TUBMAN: Moses of the Underground Railroad – A Reenactment

Presenter: Kathryn Harris

LOVING LINCOLN: Stories About Women and Abraham Lincoln

Presenter: Stacy Lynn

2024

CHIP-A-CANOE: Building a Dugout Canoe Using Only Stone Tools, An Experimental Archaeology Project

Presenter: Larry Kinsella

LINCOLN AND GUSTAVE KOERNER: At the Crossroads of History

Presenters: Jack LeChien and Mollie McKenzie

FAMOUS BUT FORGOTTEN: Residents Who Were Famous in Their Time, But Now Forgotten

Presenter: Cindy Reinhardt

2023

EXPLORING THE MITCHELL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Presenter: Don Booth

“WHEN THE STARS CAME OUT”: Stories of the Mississippi River Festival

Presenter: Mark Pierce

AN INTRODUCTION TO ARMENIAN CULTURE, HISTORY, AND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Presenter: Norma Asadorian

MORE THAN COMPANIONS: Relationships Between Women Faculty at Monticello Female Seminary

Presenter: Mary Z. Rose

2022

FIRST DO NO HARM: An Introduction to Cemetery Preservation*

Presenter: Jeff Pauk

RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE USING DNA

Presenter: Debi Burgess

MADISON COUNTY'S INDIAN CAPTIVITY STORY: What Really Happened to the Gillhams?

Presenter: Mary Z. Rose

SUNDOWN TOWNS IN MADISON COUNTY*

Presenter: Dr. Bryan Jack

2021

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE GEHRING SITE*

Presenter: Professor Julie Zimmermann

FROM MODEL VILLAGE TO MODERN VILLAGE*

Presenter: Bob Gill

ITALIAN IMMIGRATION TO MADISON COUNTY*

Presenter: Joann Condellone

THE LYNCHING OF ROBERT PRAGER: A World War I Hate Crime for Uncle Sam*

Presenter: Peter Stehman

RESEARCHING PIN OAK COLONY: A Colony of Free Blacks Who Lived at Pin Oak before the Civil War*

Presenter: J. Eric Robinson

FAKE NEWS, LYING POLITICIANS, AND DIRTY TRICKS: Madison County on the Eve of the Presidential Election, 1860 (or 2020?)

Presenter: Steve Hansen

2020

Abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy

Presenter: Steve Hansen

2019

THE RAMEY TABLET AND OTHER MISSISSIPPIAN SHALE TABLETS

Presenter: Bill Iseminger

ILLINOIS 9TH VOLUNTEER COMPANY INFANTRY IN THE CIVIL WAR

Presenter: Paul Shetly

EASTERN EUROPEAN COSTUMES AND IMMIGRATION TO MADISON COUNTY

Presenter: Marvin Moehle

FINDING NEW PHILADELPHIA

Presenters: Gerald McWorter and Katie Williams- McWorter

THE WOOD RIVER MASSACRE

Presenter: Jon Parkin

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Presenter: J. Eric Robinson

2018

EDWARD COLES: Emancipation Leader

Presenter: Jon Parkin

WORLD WAR I AND MADISON COUNTY

Presenter: Emeritus Professor James Weingartner

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION IN ILLINOIS

Presenter: Brad Winn

SLAVERY AND EMANCIPATION IN ILLINOIS

Presenter: Professor Bryan Jack

ROBERT WADLOW: Alton's Gentle Giant

Presenter: The History Chix

2017

THE REMAINING LEGACY OF MADISON COUNTY COAL MINING

Presenter: Robert Gibson

CLARA BARTON

Presenter: Barbara Kay

HISTORY OF AND USES OF HERBS

Presenter: Edwardsville Garden Club

STEEL AND SOLIDARITY IN GRANITE CITY

Presenter: Gary Gaines

ILLINOIS WOMEN OF 66

Presenter: Cheryl Eichar Jett

2016

THE ALTON CIVIL WAR PRISON

Presenter: Donald J. Huber

TREASURES IN THE PROBATE FILES

Presenter: Mary Westerhold

REMEMBERING THE OLD SETTLERS UNION

Presenter: Cindy Reinhardt

2015

JOHN M. OLIN: A History of the Olin Mansion and Nilo Farms

Presenter: Larry Reid

LINCOLN PLACE HERITAGE

Presenter: Norma Asadorian

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION: How to Structure a Non-Fiction Book

Presenter: Cheryl Eichar Jett

2014

ROUTE 66 IN ILLINOIS

Presenters: Cheryl Eichar Jett and Joe Sonderman

PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES

Presenter: Mary Westerhold

VETS and FEDS IN THE FAMILY TREE

Presenter: Cindy Reinhardt

2013

GETTING YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

Presenter: Cheryl Eichar Jett

200 YEARS OF MADISON COUNTY

Presenter: Mary Westerhold

OLD TALES AND NEW DISCOVERIES: The Edwards Trace

Presenter: David Brady

HISTORY OF SURVEYING IN MADISON COUNTY

Presenter: Jeff Pauk

* Denotes video available online