

Introducing the Jesse Fell Legacy Society

The *Jesse Fell Legacy Society* is being launched to recognize individuals who choose to support the Museum through a planned gift made from estate assets. A legacy gift is a planned future gift that designates some part of an individual's estate as a donation to the Museum. Jesse Fell's legacy was critical to the early development of McLean County. He had simple tastes and was less given to luxury and show—he used his wealth to enhance his community.

A **charitable bequest** is one of the easiest and most flexible ways you can leave a legacy gift to the McLean County Museum of History (MCMH) that will have a lasting impact. With the help of an attorney, you can include language in your will or trust specifying gifts to be made to family, friends, and MCMH as part of your estate plan. Another simple way to create a legacy gift is to designate MCMH as the recipient of assets from Life Insurance, IRAs, or Pension Plans by naming the Museum as a recipient through a "**beneficiary designation**"—a contract between you and your insurance company or pension plan administrator to transfer the asset at your death to the person(s) or institution(s) you have designated. You do not need to have a will, or change a will, to take advantage of this opportunity.

Legacy gifts have historic significance for MCMH and have been instrumental in building an endowment to support the Museum's mission of preservation and sharing of the rich history of McLean County residents. The Museum's endowment, first created in 1920, has grown over the years to support our work and is critical to the health of the organization during both good and uncertain times, such as the pandemic. **Our mission is timeless and your support makes a difference.**

The biggest barrier to charitable legacy gifts is planning—approximately 56% of those over the age of 50 have done no estate planning. While 80% of Americans engage in philanthropy every year, only 6% transfer dollars to charity upon death. Of those who transfer dollars to charity, the most common types of gifts include bequests, followed by beneficiary designations for other assets.

Documenting your legacy gift intent with the Museum is simple and helps ensure your wishes are met with respect to designating a specific purpose for your investment. Documenting your intentions also allows the Museum to honor you now as a member of our Jesse Fell Legacy Society and may

inspire others to consider a similar gift that will help to ensure our mission and its goals to preserve collections, learn with our communities, and share the stories of our history. **Will the next chapter of your life story include a legacy gift for the Museum?**

For more information or to document your legacy, contact Norris Porter at development@mchistory.org or by phone at (309) 827-0428 ext. 104



Jesse Fell

Jesse Fell's influence, vision, and impact are evident throughout Bloomington-Normal and Central Illinois. He was the first attorney in Bloomington and speculated in land acquisition and development, having a hand in the founding of Normal, Clinton, Towanda, Pontiac, Lexington, LeRoy, and El Paso. He founded the first newspaper in Bloomington, helped introduce Abraham Lincoln to the nation, was a key player in the development of local railroads, and was responsible for Illinois State University being located in McLean County.



McLean County Historical Society
DBA: McLean County Museum of History
200 N. Main Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309) 827-0428

Tax Identification Number: **37-1414038**
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR AN ESTATE OR DEFERRED GIFT COMMITMENT

As evidence of my/our desire to provide a legacy of support for the McLean County Museum of History (MCMH), I/we hereby inform MCMH that I/we have made provisions for a gift to MCMH in my/our estate plans. I/we understand that this commitment can be modified by me/us at any time.

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Gift Type

Bequest through a will/trust:

Percentage of estate _____% (or) Specific amount \$_____

Other (please describe): _____

Estimated Gift Value

Understanding that the value is subject to change, as of today, I/we estimate the value of my/our deferred commitment to be approximately \$_____. **I/we understand that, by stating the amount, my/our estate is not legally bound by this statement, and I/we may choose to modify this bequest at any time, at my/our sole discretion.**

Gift Designation

The gift is unrestricted and may be used where the need is greatest at MCMH.

Please designate the gift for this specific purpose:

Recognition

I/we accept recognition in the **Fell Legacy Society** as a result of this commitment and authorize MCMH to list my/our name(s) among those of other donors in recognition communications.

I/we do not wish to receive any recognition by MCMH.

Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____

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