



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

at the HISTORIC CATTLE BANK

Special Collections Graduate Practicum

Description

Found in the Champaign County History Museum's collection are some truly interesting donations that have regional and national significance. These donations after being accessioned and digitized go into their own section as a special collection. The last special collection an intern worked on was the letters of the Chapin/McNeil family who lived in Champaign County during the mid-1800s and had family members who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. We are currently working on our next special collection about William Springer, a previous member of the House of Representatives. This graduate student will work with recent donations to organize them into researchable special collections and curate a digital exhibition. The secondary responsibility involves writing a publication on their work on our museum's blog and assisting with other research-related needs. The time requirement for these interns will range from 8-10 hours per week based on the practicum student's availability and desired credit hours and will culminate into 100 hours over the semester.

Responsibilities

Primary responsibilities will include:

- Conduct and accumulate research for special collections with artifacts found in the Champaign County History Museum's collection and through digital archives.
- Digitize letters and documents found in the William Springer Special Collection
- Build a digital exhibition about the William Springer Collection on Omeka

Secondary responsibilities will include:

- Write an article on research progress and process for publication on the museum's blog
- Assist other museum collections interns with provenance and historical research

About the Museum:

The Champaign County History Museum has existed in two different locations during its lifetime. Beginning in 1972 at the historic Wilbur Mansion the museum hosted many community events, and exhibitions, and became a staple of the local community until 1997 when the museum moved to its present location at the oldest commercial building, the Cattle Bank. Since then, the museum has hosted a volunteer and internship program that has seen over 3,000 volunteer hours per year and over 800 intern hours. In 2023, interns worked directly with artifacts and special collections, researched and wrote academic articles for publishing on our museum blog and digital exhibition page on our website, and engaged with local community members at events and exhibition receptions. If you are interested in this practicum opportunity please contact Museum Manager Will Best at wbest@champaigncountyhistory.org for more information.