

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Ruth Carpenter Collection**

Processed by  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1862-1995
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

**Historical Sketch**

Ruth Talbott was born on August 9, 1909 in the small community of Potomac, Illinois. She was the daughter of Benjamin Alfred and Anna Louvenia Tyler Talbott. She had a brother, Paul and a sister, Mary (married name was Yard). In 1931 Ruth graduated from the Brokaw Hospital Training School and became a registered nurse.

Ruth married Joe Mack Carpenter on October 15, 1932. The couple settled in Shirley, Illinois where Mrs. Carpenter resided for 67 years. Mrs. Carpenter worked various jobs including a private duty nurse, a nurse in a doctor's office, the Fairview T.B. Sanatorium, and a nurse at General Electric in Bloomington, Illinois. Mrs. Carpenter also spent many years cataloging the obituaries for Bloomington-Normal's newspaper, *The Pantagraph*.

Mrs. Carpenter was a member of the Park United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Martha Circle and the Crusaders Sunday School Class. Mrs. Carpenter was also a charter member of the McLean County Genealogical Society, the McLean County Historical Society, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Joe Mack Carpenter died on August 19, 1976. Mrs. Carpenter moved to Peachtree City, Georgia to live with her nephew a few years before her death on May 29, 2000.

### **Scope and Content**

The Ruth Carpenter Collection contains one box of eighteen individual items and fourteen folders ranging from 1862 to 1995.

The items include various notebooks containing Carpenter's genealogical research on Shirley. The notebooks include notes and many newspaper obituary clippings. There are also various published histories of the sights in Shirley, among them, a short history on the Park United Methodist Church, co-authored by Carpenter. There is a manuscript entitled "A Democratic Prayer" given by the mayor of Irwin at the Democratic Convention (n.d.). Most of the items present refer to the history of Shirley and McLean County, however there are a few personal items: a wooden postcard addressed to Mr. and Mrs. O.V. Douglas, postmarked Biloxi, Mississippi, a payment booklet from J.A. Keck Furniture Co. starting in 1933, a small, black leather account book, and a ration book from World War II.

The folders include maps, newspaper clippings, an essay by a seventh grader about the McIlvain School, more genealogical research, "note of classification" cards pertaining to Mr. Carpenter's military ability, correspondence from Carpenter's sister, Mary J. Yard, and photocopied census records of Shirley in 1995.

### **Folder Inventory**

#### **Folders**

- 1 Maps of McLean County
- 2 Various newspaper clippings (The Pantagraph)
- 3 Various newspaper clippings, early 1900s
- 4 Essay entitled "The McIlvain School" by Joe Koons
- 5 Notes relating to the Hinshaw/Henshaw families
- 6 Contains loose-leaf daykeeper pages and letters from Mary Yard, Florence Lyle and Leola Cossout
- 7 Misc. items: "Note of Classification" cards for Joe Carpenter (circa World War II), newspaper clippings, returned checks, fake bank note as an advertisement for Central Loan, and Shirley Christian Church cards and envelopes.
- 8 Photocopied census records of Shirley, 1995 and a selected chronology of Bloomington-Normal written by Paul Holsinger of Illinois State University.
- 9 Genealogical notes on the Talbott-Paisous family
- 10 Manuscript about Carpenter's trip to California
- 11 Misc. newspaper clippings about Shirley
- 12 History of the Shirley Christian Church
- 13 Misc. Pantagraph newspaper clippings

14 Shirley Christian Church record, 1862-1910

### **Ephemera**

- 1 Green folder labeled "Notes on Interest Lodges Shirley, Illinois" Also contains notes by Carpenter, the "A Democratic Prayer", a manuscript entitled "History of Shirley Lodge Given November 30, 1943" and several other histories about Shirley
- 2 Black folder labeled "Dale Township"
- 3 Manuscript entitled, "Pathways on the Prairie: a field guide approach to Allen Township, McLean County, Illinois" by Lyla Coppess, Department of Geography-Geology, Illinois State University, 1990
- 4 "Atlas and Plat Book McLean County, Illinois," 1977
- 5 "Farm and Home Plat and Directory" McLean County, 1995 priced at \$25.00
- 6 "Illinois McLean County Cemeteries" Volume 12, Mount Hope Township, Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society
- 7 Green folder entitled "Stanford-Covell Centennial July 26, 27, 28, 1968" Enclosed newspaper clippings and photocopies and a book on the history of Stanford-Covell
- 8 "History of Lawndale, Martin, and Anchor Townships and the Villages of Colfax and Anchor" 1976 Bi-centennial 1776-1976
- 9 1963 Farmer's Almanac
- 10 Five loose-leaf pages all entitled "The 'Little' Daily Reporter" with different dates in 1969
- 11 Three copies of "Highlights of American History 1869-1969" published by the People's Bank of Bloomington
- 12 Three copies of "125 Years History of Shirley Christian Church and Shirley, Illinois" written and prepared by Ruth Carpenter and Theodora Karr Johnson. One copy is taped together and in-between the leaves are photos, newspaper clippings, personal notations, and letters
- 13 Blue folder entitled "Shirley, Illinois, 125 Years" a possible rough draft of "125 Years History of Shirley Christian Church"
- 14 Wooden postcard addressed to Mr. and Mrs. O.V. Douglas signed "The Three Teals" and postmarked Biloxi, Mississippi
- 15 Payment booklet and receipt of payments from J.A. Keck Furniture, Co. starting in 1933
- 16 Small, black leather account book
- 17 6x7 red ration book folder with several ration books, stamped World War II
- 18 Blue binder with Carpenter's notes on Shirley, her family, obituaries, personal diary, labeled "Shirley and Diary"