

McLean County Historical Society

Farrell Family Collection

Processed by
John Whitney Learned Fall 2015
& JoAnna Mink Fall 2016

Collection Information

Volume of Collection:	One Box.
Collection Dates:	1910-1949.
Restrictions:	Some brittle documents. Use photocopies unless authorized by Librarian / Archivist.
Reproduction Rights:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History.
Location:	Archives
Notes:	See photos: Ambrose Corn Huskers, 1910; and Ezra Farrell on the Barrett farm near El Paso.

Brief History

Ezra Thomas Farrell (1884-1962) and Sylvia G. Walston Farrell (1882-1964) farmed in Hudson, until about 1918, when they relocated to Gridley. By the early 1940s, they were living in Towanda.

Ezra Farrell was born in Foster, Missouri, son of William and Anna Farrell. He married Sylvia Walston in 1907 and they later had one daughter, Hazel. The couple is buried in Hinthorn Chapel Cemetery, Lake Bloomington.

Scope and Content Notes

Items in the collection include postcards, recipes, and documents relating to the Farrell family, plus a scrapbook of *Pantagraph* newspaper clippings.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General postcards

Many cards are addressed to Ezra and Sylvia Farrell.

The images and drawings on the cards vary; some show photographs of an Illinois Central train wreck near Bridge Park in Yorkville, IL on August 14, 1912.

Subjects of the correspondence vary from crop/farming information to notes from overseas during WWI. One unused postcard was printed in Australia.

Folder 2: Birthday postcards

The majority of the birthday postcards were never sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

Most of the cards appear to be from relatives plus some friends or acquaintances. The senders include Stanley; Wm. H. Farrell; Lester Bigger; Stella; Stanley Gaston; Mrs.

Walston; Millie Rob; Amanda Buck; Ezra's mother, Anna; Marie O'Neal;

Folder 3: Holiday cards

These beautiful holiday postcards dated from 1910 to 1949 mostly hand-delivered. Senders include Eliza Brown; Gola; Josie; Grace Nalston; Jesse; Stub; Grace; Herman; "Mother"; "Mama"; Hettie; Stanley; Sarah E. Manor; Susan Brown; Lola; Jeannette. The addressees include Ezra Farrell, Sylvia Farrell, and Amanda Buck.

Folder 4: Wedding cards

This folder contains four wedding cards from Jay and Ada Miller; Vernon and Zella; Marian and Gene Youngblood; Fran, "your real Sis and Brother". None of the cards indicate names of the intended recipients. A letter inside a card from Ada Miller was addressed to Hazel.

Folder 5: Monthly Report from Ezra Farrell's Teacher

1.5.1 Teacher's monthly report for Ezra Farrell in the year of 189_ signed by Emma Koehler. No school specified.

Folder 6: Estate of William Farrell

1.6.1 A Petition for Probate of Will and Letters Testamentary signed and filed in McLean County, Illinois dated August 29, 1917, signed by the County Clerk, P.A. Guthrie. The petition is for Anna Farrell, the widow of William Farrell who died on July 15, 1917, in Hudson, IL. The petition lists his seven children plus a granddaughter.

Folder 7: Miscellaneous Books

1.7.1 Written notes indicate both weights and dollar values of products from the farm field. The bound notepad has many various notes pertaining to borrowed money from family as well as other persons. Other notations are random numbers with sums (e.g., addition of crops or money borrowed and repaid). 1924-33.

1.7.2 A personal composition notebook containing many recipes as well as "hints for the home" pertaining (e.g., how to remove marks from the wall, removing eggs from linen, etc...).

1.7.3 One recipe with green tomatoes, cabbage, onions, and celery.

- 1.7.4 Composition notebook apparently belonging to Hazel Farrell of Towanda, IL. Containing many recipes.

Folder 8: Miscellaneous Family Items

- 1.8.1 Ezra Farrell vehicle license plate registration from December 5, 1944, for a Chevrolet Town Sedan, model year 1937.
- 1.8.2 Flemings Vest-Pocket Veterinary Adviser with an inscription on the inside front cover of "Ezra." The copyright is 1914 by Fleming Brothers.
- 1.8.3 Removed pages from what appears to be Red Riding Hood.
- 1.8.4 Historical data on Savannah, Georgia, published in 1949.
- 1.8.5 Event program from "the New London Waterford Speed Bowl." Undated.

Folder 9: Recipe newspaper clippings

- 1.9.1 Ruled journal with multiple recipes from newspaper(s).

Folder 10: Sears, Roebuck and Company

- 1.10.1 Ezra Farrell of Towanda, IL charge to Sears, Roebuck and Company.
- 1.10.2 Certificate of Guaranty for a vehicle
- 1.10.3 Invoice for an Organ addressed to Anna Farrell from Sears Roebuck and Company dated July 3, 1903.

Folder 11: World War II Rationing Materials

- 1.11.1 War ration book
- 1.11.2 War Ration Book No. 3 Identification stub numbered 103270.
- 1.11.3 OPA Form R-579; Notice to all holders of Basic "A" and supplemental "B" or "C" Rations.
- 1.11.4 War ration pledge signed by Ezra Farrell of Towanda, IL.
- 1.11.5 Mileage ration stamps.
- 1.11.6 Mileage ration identification cards issued to Ezra Farrell.
- 1.11.7 War ration books assigned to Sylvia Farrell and Ezra Farrell.
- 1.11.8 Special sugar coupon.
- 1.11.9 Home canning sugar coupon assigned to Ezra Farrell, Towanda, IL.

LOOSE SCRAPBOOK:

A spiral-bound notebook, 11 x 15". Pasted into it are newspaper clippings from the *Pantagraph*, 1928-1940. Most are about residents of Hudson, Towanda, LeRoy, and Danvers, or places and events of local interest. There is no obvious organization.