

McLean County Museum of History
Fifer School (Danvers Township) Collection

Processed by Lucas Chase
Spring 2026

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1865 – 1941
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:	

Brief History

Fifer School was originally known as Brick School and was constructed in 1855. Brick School was destroyed in the “11-11-11” windstorm of November 11, 1911, and a new school was built. The school was renamed for former Governor Joseph “Private Joe” Fifer, as he had lived in the rural neighborhood as a boy. Fifer School closed in 1940.

Scope Note

This collection includes mostly registers used by teachers to track class attendance and grades. There are also three registers from the school district board recording meetings and finances. Folder 1 contains general school history.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1: School History

- 1.1.1 Fifer School section from William B. Brigham's preparatory scrapbook for *The Story of McLean County And Its Schools*, 2 pp. Handwritten history of the school and picture marked "1912," likely of the first class at the reconstructed Fifer School. Note: Full scrapbook can be found in the museum's archives.
- 1.1.2 Brief history of Brick School and Fifer School from *The Story of McLean County And Its Schools* by William B. Brigham, p. 156.
- 1.1.3 "Old School House Demolished." *Pantagraph*, November 14, 1911.
- 1.1.4 "Danvers to Vote on School Question," *Pantagraph*, July 29, 1912.
- 1.1.5 "Danvers Notes," *Pantagraph*, August 14, 1912. School built in place of Brick school is named "Fifer School."

Loose Items

- 1.2.1 District Register 1865-1899, 9" by 14." Meeting minutes, register of directors 1865-1899; censuses for those under 21 1865-1894; cashbook 1865-1897; and teacher salaries 1866-1899.
- 1.2.2 Register 1887-1908, 11.5" by 9." Attendance, visitor names, grades by subject, list of textbooks used, list of graduates, and daily programs. It appears that students have scribbled in some of the pages.
- 1.2.3 District Record 1898-1918, 9.5" by 12." Elections, attendance and meeting minutes, finances, and teachers' contracts.
- 1.2.4 Register 1905-1912, 11" by 8.5," cover missing. Attendance and register of visitors.
- 1.2.5 Register 1906-1917, 8.5" by 14." Attendance, programs, class schedules, and textbooks. Tucked in is a typed civics lesson plan.
- 1.2.6 District Register 1921-1939 9.5" by 12." Meeting minutes and finances. Tucked in is a check from Corn Belt Electric Cooperative and a receipt from Lakeside Coal Company.

Oversized Box

- 2.1.1 Register 1919-1923, 11" by 15." Attendance, grades, and daily program.
- 2.1.2 Register 1923-1924, 11" by 15." Attendance, grades, and daily program.
- 2.1.3 Register 1929-1935, 11" by 16.5." Attendance, grades, daily program, and annual reports.
- 2.1.4 Register 1935-1941, 12" by 16." Attendance, grades, and annual reports.