

McLean County Museum of History

Funk Family Collection

Processed by
Jana Kiefer
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1817-2024
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:	See also: The Funk Brothers Seed Company Collection

Brief History

Brothers Isaac and Absalom Funk came to Illinois via Ohio in 1824. Working together the brothers raised cattle, hogs, and grew their first large corn crop near Fort Clark, now Peoria, IL. Absalom then started a meat packing concern in Chicago while his brother Isaac became a Central Illinois "Cattle King," eventually amassing some 25,000 acres in McLean County alone. Funks Grove's original chapel and cemetery are still active today, and the Funk Prairie Home and the Gem and Rock Museum are available for tours by appointment. Other Funk descendants are included in this collection.

Scope

The collection contains the genealogy of Adam Funk and descendants beginning in 1758. Much of the collection focuses on several generations of Isaac Funk's family, with family histories and reminiscences, correspondence, and newspaper clippings.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Adam Funk and Descendants

- 1.1 Photocopies of Genealogy, "1758-1889 - Adam Funk and His Descendants," unknown author, nd., 10 pp.

Folder 2: Funk Family Genealogy

- 2.1 "Genealogy of Funk of Funk's Grove," compiled from Family Records by E. D. Funk, Jr., 1951, 2 pp.
- 2.2 "Genealogy of Funk of Funk's Grove," booklet compiled from family records by E. D. Funk, Jr., April 25, 1952, 17 pp.
- 2.3 "Genealogy of Isaac Funk Family," compiled from family records by E. D. Funk, Jr., 1959, 8 pp., 1959, (2 copies).
- 2.4 Marquis De LaFayette Funk genealogy chart, compiled by E. D. Funk, Jr., 1959
- 2.5 "History of Funk and Stubblefield Families and Funks Grove Timber Area," speech by unknown author, presented to Illinois Historical Society, October 19, 1980, 11 pp.

Folder 3: Funk Family in Fayette County, Ohio (photocopies)

- 3.1 "History of Fayette County," Historic Notes on the Northwest, the State of Ohio, published 1881, 3 pp.
- 3.2 1830 United States Federal Census for Moses Hougham, Tazewell County.
- 3.3 "Notice is Hereby Given," by Adam Funk, *Supporter*, Chillicothe, Ohio, regarding fraudulent notes and securities, October 7, 1917.
- 3.4 "A Great Bargain," by Absalom Funk, regarding selling a tavern, *Scioto Gazette*, Chillicothe, Ohio, July 23, 1819.

- 3.5 "Battle Royal," *Hillsborough Gazette*, about a Funk accused as a counterfeiter and an altercation with a man named Trumbo, January 18, 1821.
- 3.6 Email from Mark Dunn to Museum Librarian Bill Kemp about the bad boys Peter and Jacob Funk in Fayette County, Ohio, November 25, 2013, 4 pp.

Folder 4: E. D. Funk speech

- 4.1 Speech delivered by E. D. Funk to Masonic Lodge #582, about the town of Shirley, November 30, 1943, 9 pp.

Folder 5: Francis Marion "Pete" Funk

- 5.1 "The Rest Eternal," Obituary and Biographical Sketch of Francis M. Funk, *Pantagraph*, September 11, 1899.
- 5.2 "Big Sale at Shirley, Disposition of F. M. Funk's (sic) Property Nets a Large Sum," *Daily Bulletin*, October 31, 1899.
- 5.3 Typewritten sheet giving information of Francis Marion "Pete" Funk's holdings, sale and reference for further information, unknown author, nd.

Folder 6: Frank Hamilton Funk

- 6.1 Brief biographical information of Funk, Benjamin Franklin, and Funk, Frank Hamilton, from the Biographical Directory of the United State Congress, On-line, nd.

Newspaper articles (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 6.2 "Senator F. H. Funk Joins New Party," July 29, 1912.
- 6.3 "Frank H. Funk In Final Appeal," November 2, 1912.
- 6.4 "Rotarians Hear Hon. Frank Funk," June 9, 1923.
- 6.5 "Funk Successor of Joe Cannon," December 10, 1923.
- 6.6 "Funk Endorsed By Illinoisans," February 12, 1927.
- 6.7 "Funk In Race For Congress," September 29, 1929.
- 6.8 "Funk Charges Facts' Absurd," March 14, 1932.
- 6.9 "Dr. Gailey Buys Frank Funk Home for Eye Clinic Site," August 1, 1940.
- 6.10 "Frank H. Funk Dies; Served in Congress," November 25, 1940.
- 6.11 "Frank H. Funk Served Well in Public Office," November 26, 1940.
- 6.12 "Funk made history as 3rd-party governor candidate," October 29, 2006.

Campaign Literature/advertisements

- 6.13 "Frank H. Funk of Bloomington," Illinois Candidate for Governor on Progressive Ticket, 1912.
- 6.14 "Why not vote the straight Bull Moose ticket?" *Pantagraph or Bulletin*, October 31, 1912.
- 6.15 "Congressman Frank H. Funk," April 6, 1926.
- 6.16 "Legislator Farmer Taxpayer," March 10, 1934

Correspondence

- 6.17 Hon. Frank H. Funk, House of Representatives, From Washington Gardener, Commissioner Dept. of the Interior, concerning a pension for Mary Downey, a soldier's widow, January 16, 1923.

- 6.18 Frank H. Funk, From Washington Gardener, Commissioner Dept. of the Interior, regarding pension for Mary Downey, March 26, 1923.
- 6.19 Mrs. Mary P. Downey, From Frank H. Funk, House of Representatives, informing Mrs. Downey of her pension, March 28, 1923.

Handwritten manuscript

- 6.20 "A Dog's Life," no signature, nd., 3 pp.

Miscellany

- 6.21 Email, June 24, 2009, from McLean County Museum of History Curator Susan Hartzold to Jeff Woodard, on display of Funk-donated flag in the old Courthouse, now museum, rotunda.

Folder 7: Isaac Funk

- 7.1 "Isaac Funk Letters 1862-1864," Corrected copy from original letters, 48 pp., when Funk was an Illinois State Senator. Letters are typed from originals and are addressed to Mr. Funk unless noted otherwise. Includes copy of speech that generated the letters and brief background of the letters.
- 7.2 Mr. Funk's famous speech delivered on or shortly before February 14, 1863, denouncing "traitors and secessionists at heart" who were against appropriations in support of the state government.
- 7.3 Latitia Moody, Feb. 18, 1863, praising Funk for speech.
- 7.4 C. S. Beath, 117 Reg. Ills. Vols., sent from Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tennessee, February 19, 1863. Letter mentions receiving a Springfield newspaper with an account of the speech but also has an extensive report of actions of the regiment. 4 pp.
- 7.5 J. A. Vewell of Putnam County, Ohio, dated February 19, 1863, praising "my worthy old friend" for his speech.
- 7.6 Luke Douglas of Chillicothe (sic), Ohio, Dated February 19, 1863, thanking Mr. Funk for his speech. Reference to knowing Isaac's family.
- 7.7 J. B. Turner of Jacksonville, dated February 20, 1863, letting Mr. Funk "know with what extreme delight I read the report of your speech." 2 pp.
- 7.8 James C. Rice, 44th N.Y.V., Army of the Potomac Camp near Falmouth, Virginia, dated February 22, 1863. Refers to the "gloriously eloquent and patriotic speech."
- 7.9 L. Jennie David, dated February 23, 1863, praising the speech.
- 7.10 Alexander Patterson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, dated February 24, 1863. As a grandson of Peter (?) Funk, he was asking for possible information on his mother who had gone to Illinois to live with Peter Funk.
- 7.11 Alfred H. Pratt, C. M. W. Cholefield, C. F. Briggs, W. F. Warren, Charles Stetson, and Christopher Pullman in New York City, dated February 25, 1863, 2 pp.
- 7.12 Dr. Barns of Weston, West Virginia, Feb. 26, 1863.
- 7.13 T. Davis of Pawtucket, dated February 28, 1863, thanking Mr. Funk for his speech.
- 7.14 Sam G. Howe of Boston, dated February 28, 1863, thanking Mr. Funk for "your bold and manly utterance."
- 7.15 C. S. Henry of Newburgh, New York, thanking Funk for his "outburst of patriotic indignation," dated February 28, 1863, responding to the speech.

- 7.16 Job Angell of New Hamburg, agreeing with Funk's speech, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 1, 1863.
- 7.17 Gertrude Bloede of Brooklyn, L. I., dated March 2, 1863, congratulating Mr. Funk for his speech, 2 pp.
- 7.18 Hiram Funk of New York, dated March 7, 1863, sending congratulations on the speech and exploring possible kinship.
- 7.19 Eliza Story of Salem, on behalf of his patriotic 89-year-old father, commending Funk for his speech, March 8, 1863.
- 7.20 W. Mathison of Decatur dated November 10, 1862, to Hon. D. Davis regarding circulars distributed for Mr. Funk seeking votes.
- 7.21 J. H. Wiekizer (or Wickizer) of Young's Point, Louisiana, dated March 23, 1863, congratulating Mr. Funk for the "stunning blows you have been giving to treason and traitors." An undated item or addendum follows the letter and gives the alternate name spelling, 2 pp.
- 7.22 W. Vanseoyed of Senex, Illinois, dated May 23, 1863, asking for permission to heard (sic) some cattle on Funk land and relating information about a man opposed to Funk's ideals.
- 7.23 Western Agency American Tract Society, Boston, for the States and Territories West of the Ohio, sent from Chicago, Illinois, April 4, 1864, with Rev. G. S. Savage and Rev. Lemuel Porter identified as secretaries. Specimens of the publication were included with an invitation to support their ministry financially.
- 7.24 Capt. A. B. Conaway, 10th Iowa Infantry, sent from Springfield, Missouri, April 11, 1863, offering thanks for the speech.
- 7.25 Lyman Sharp of Calumet, Ohio, dated April 12, 1863, and addressed to "Dear Uncle and Aunt." Contains family news and requests photos for relatives in Ohio, 2 pp.
- 7.26 John Deitrich of Kretsinger, Starret & Dietrick, Wholesale Dealers in Woolsons's Cleveland Stores sent from Chicago, Illinois, April 24, 1863, asking for a copy of the speech.
- 7.27 J. McNulta, Camp, 94th Ill. Inf., Lake Spring, Missouri, dated May 9, 1863, inviting Funk to spend a week or two with the regiment.
- 7.28 H. Burr, A.A.G., Army of The Frontier, from Headquarters, 3 Division, Camp Lake Spring, Missouri, dated May 20, 1863, expressing disappointment that plans for a visit to the Regiment have been abandoned and mentioning some morale issues.
- 7.29 Jesse Bishop of Bloomington, Illinois, dated June 3, 1863, asking for Mr. Funk's assistance in becoming a Prosecuting Attorney.
- 7.30 C. H. Moon of Springfield, Illinois, dated June 3, 1863, requesting assistance in getting his partner, H. S. Grum, appointed States Attorney.
- 7.31 A. Gridley of Bloomington, dated June 5, 1863, seeking assistance in the Senate for a railroad through the north end of McLean County.
- 7.32 Jesse Bishop of Bloomington, Illinois, dated June 5, 1863, introducing friends who would like letter of reference (if needed) to facilitate a trip to Memphis to visit the troops.
- 7.33 Sam'l B. Kinsey, written from Fort Pickering, Memphis, Tennessee, dated August 12, 1863, indicating medical problems of several men and reflections on the wars progress. Isaac Funk, Jr., was reported as being well, 2 pp.
- 7.34 Gov. Rich. Yates, Springfield, Illinois, dated December 10, 1864, regarding support for his candidacy to be a U.S. Senator, 2 pp.
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- 7.35 Chas. A. Meigs, a broker and banker from New York, dated March 4, 1863, indicating he had reprinted the speech and circulated a few thousand of them. He also requested an autograph to “hand down, with your Speech, as a Legacy to my Children.”
- 7.36 “Isaac Funk, the Farmer and Legislator,” an address by Thomas C. Kerrick at Illinois State University, January 22, 1913, 21 pp.
- 7.37 “The Loyalists Ammunition” (Philadelphia: Printed by Henry B. Ashmead, 1863), includes Funk’s speech, 16 pp.
- 7.38 Receipt, request from Buford Phillips to pay bearer John Vandoshen \$50 bounty due to Harvey Harris, March 14, 1864.
- 7.39 Notice of Helen Cavanagh’s *Funk of Funk’s Grove* (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Society, 1968).
- 7.40 Receipt signed by Isaac Funk (likely Isaac Funk II), 1844-1909.
- 7.41 “Isaac Funk: Pioneer Farmer and Livestock Grower,” *The Prairie Farmer*,” photocopy, Chicago, July 3, 1915.

Folder 8: James Funk / “Funk Case”

- 8.1 Email from Amu Sams to Alysse Rasmussen, Lu-C Leisermann, Querida Funck, James Funk, rebecca funk@gmail.com, Bill Kemp regarding legitimacy of James Funk as an heir. Includes transcription (by Amy Sams) of marriage records from Fayette County, Ohio and photocopy of original record, 1867, 3 pp.
- 8.2 Email from Amy Sams to Alysse Rasmussen, Lu-C Leisermann, Querida Funck, James Funk, Bill Kemp, regarding James Funk vs. George Funk lawsuit. Includes photocopy of handwritten Bill for Relief and Change of Venue, 1866-1868, 3 pp.
- 8.3 *Chicago Legal News*, “Informal Marriages,” on the subject of an irregular marriage, and legal ramifications for heirs, October 1868.
- 8.4 Genealogy, “1758-1889 - Adam Funk and His Descendants,” unknown author, 10 pp., nd.
- 8.5 “The Funk Case,” *The Daily Pantagraph*, Friday, July 9, 1869, and Tuesday, July 20, 1869.
- 8.6 “The Funk Case,” *Decatur Republication*, July 15, 1869.
- 8.7 “Our city has been filled with strangers...,” and “Personal,” listing visiting attorneys involved in the Funk Case, *Decatur Republican*, July 8, 1869.
- 8.8 James Funk vs. George Funk, et. al. Bill for Partition, involving legitimacy, Argument, By Weldon, Tipton & Benjamin, Council for Complainant, nd., 22 pp.

Folder 9: Robison Funk Mortgage Bonds

- 9.1 Four different \$500 Mortgage Bonds taken out by Robison Funk, payable to Importers and Traders National Bank, New York, 1872.

Folder 10: Sophronia Funk – European Vacation

- 10.1 Transcribed letters from Sophronia (Van de Vender) Funk to her mother chronicling her year-long European honeymoon. Includes Introduction and historical information compiled by transcriptionist, Hazel Funk Holmes, daughter of the writer, June 25, 1870 – May 24, 1871, 36 pp.

Folder 11: Adam Funk Genealogy

- 11.1 Photocopy of Adam Funk Genealogy, compiled by Stephen Funk, Shirley, Illinois, n.d., 8 pp., including cover.

Folder 12: Gladys Funk Rehtmeyer Crawford

- 12.1 "Remembering" by Gladys Funk Rehtmeyer Crawford about the Funk family from a five year old's "inside the family" perspective. February 22, 1955, 21 pp.

Folder 13: Isaac Funk Biography

- 13.1 Biography of Isaac Funk by O.U. Douglas enumerating Funk's achievements, circa 1943, 6 pp., (2 copies).

Folder 14: Funk - Holt Caterpillar Connection

- 14.1 Photocopy of early Caterpillar tractors with typed annotations about Julius Funk being the first customer of Peoria-built tractor, nd., 2 pp.

Folder 15: Recognition Dinner – Eugene D. Funk, Jr.

- 15.1 Program from dinner honoring Eugene D. Funk and his wife for their contributions and service to the community, the agricultural industry, and to Funk Brothers Seed Company, includes a page of handwritten notes listing Funk's achievements, August 7, 1969, (4 copies).

Folder 16: Eugene D. Funk Speech

- 19.11 Talk presented by Eugene Funk to the State Historical Society, October 1980, 13 pp.

Folder 17: Articles (newspapers and other publications)

(*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 17.1 Collection of newspaper articles (6) about various Funk Family members, nd.
17.2 "Great Farm Achievement," July 3, 1915
17.3 "Isaac Funk And Robert Stubblefield; McLean County Pioneers; Are Honored," October 3, 1924.
17.4 "Large Boulder To Be Dedicated," October 3, 1924
17.5 "Big barns on way out," July 15, 1973.
17.6 "A flower grows in Illinois," April 25, 1976.
17.7 "Original Funk's Salve to be marketed globally," no source, nd.
17.8 "Funk Farms from Pioneers to the Present, Celebrating 200- Years of Agricultural Influence," and "Raising the Steaks, Funk Farms Continues 200-year Legacy of Farming in McLean County," special county Farm Bureau section, 2024.
17.9 "Funk Family Celebrates 200 Years in McLean County," by Rand Veerman, art by Deana Moore Schoolcraft, from *Gleanings*, MCHS publication, Winter 2004, pp. 19-21.
17.10 Untitled booklet with brief history of Funks Grove Timber, Site of Log School, Funks Grove Church, The Chapel of the Templed Trees, Research Acres and Timber Creek, written by Helen M. Cavanagh and compiled by Funk Bros. Seed Co., Bloomington, Illinois 1957, 4 pp.

Folder 18: Chicago Cattle Trail

- 18.1 "Chicago Cattle Trail" typescript by G. W. Funk, transcribed by E. W. Prince. Handwritten copy, nd., 6 pp., (2 copies, not identical, and original handwritten copy, 8 pp.).
- 18.2 "'Old Chicago Trail' Now Nearly Obliterated, Being Retraced in this Vicinity," *Pantagraph*, April 26, 1931, 2 pp.
- 18.3 "Old Timers Tracing Pioneer Trail Look Up as Mail Plane Passes," and "Where Log School Stood Beside Trail," *The Sunday Pantagraph*, " April 26, 1931.
- 18.4 "Old and New Spokes in McLean County Highway Hub," *Pantagraph*, April 26, 1931.

Folder 19: Funk Prairie Home / Gem & Mineral Museum

- 19.1 "The Funk Gem and Mineral Museum," booklet about the collection of LaFayette Funk II of Shirley, Illinois, nd., 35 pp.
- 19.2 "The Funk Gem and Mineral Museum," booklet put together by Jim Roe, circa 1975, 4 pp. including cover, (2 copies).
- 19.3 "The Weekly Orange Judd Farmer," which highlights the Funk Family Home, July 1, 1911, 3 double sided pages.
- 19.4 "The Funk Prairie Home & Gem & Mineral Museums," synopsis of Funk Prairie Home history, n.d. (2 copies).
- 19.5 "Welcome to the 1990 Candlelight Tour," program of the combined effort of Funk Prairie Home Museum and McLean County Historical Society, bi-fold, 1990.
- 19.6 "A Guided Tour of "Prairie Home," Lafayette Funk Residence at Shirley, Illinois, 1864-1919, 43 pp. (2 copies).

Folder 20: ACES Library

- 20.1 "Jewel of the ACES Campus," spiral bound book highlighting contributions to the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) Library, October 2001, 32 pp. and blank pages for notes.

Folder 21: Empty**Folder 22: Absolom Funk Reminiscence**

- 22.1 "In Reminiscences Of Chicago During The Forties and Fifties," by Mabel McIlvane, quoting Charles Cleaver about Absolom Funk and his beef cattle, article published 1992.

Folder 23 Paul A. Funk Memorial Concert

- 23.1 "A Concert Dedicated to the Memory of Paul A. Funk," program honoring Paul Funk held at Funks Grove Chapel, October 15, 1967, 4 pp. including cover.
- 23.2 "Paul A. Funk, Seed Firm Partner, Dies," *The Pantagraph*, May 10, 1967.

Folder 24 Robinson Paper

- 24.1 "The Influence of the Funk Family on Illinois, the Nation, and the World," paper prepared for Advanced Placement United States History by David Robinson, February 11, 2002, 24 pp.